

The Board Report

Monday, November 4, 2024



Disclaimer: The Board Report is a synopsis of the Hampton Township School Board meetings and is not intended as a replacement for any official Board minutes.

~ A Tradition of Excellence ~

The Hampton Township Board of School Directors

Mrs. Jill Hamlin

Mr. Matt Jarrell

Ms. Denise Balason

Mrs. Jenny Kennedy

Mrs. Joy Midgley

Mrs. Maureen Perkins

Mr. Robert Shages

Mr. Greg Stein*

Mr. Larry Vasko

Board President

Board Vice President/Student Affairs Chair

Board Secretary/Personnel Chair

Transportation Chair

Facilities Chair

Educational Programs Chair

Treasurer/Policy & Legislative Affairs Chair

Technology Chair

Finance Chair

This Hampton Township School Board Meeting was held in person at the Hampton Middle School Library. The meeting was recorded so community members could view it after it concluded.

Members of Administration in Attendance

Dr. Michael Loughead

Dr. Rebecca Cunningham

Mr. Jeff Kline

Dr. Marguerite Imbarlina

Superintendent of Schools

Assistant Superintendent

Director of Administrative Services

High School Principal

** absent*

*** attended remotely*

A video recording of the meeting can be viewed using the link posted on the district website.

Call to Order

Prior to the meeting, the Board heard a presentation from representatives from Hampton High School about a pilot project developed over the summer. The pilot focuses on the six Portrait of a Talbot competencies. The pilot includes 16 students, four from each grade level (9-12). These students will create portfolios demonstrating their growth in each competency and will showcase their work at a Celebration of Learning in May.

The Board also heard about Hampton High School's recent participation in the Eradicate Hate Student Summit in Pittsburgh. Ten students from Hampton High School attended the event, which included viewing the films *Repairing the World: Stories from the Tree of Life*, and *A Cure for Hate*, as well as participating in a REACH panel featuring community members affected by the Tree of Life massacre. The students were awarded a \$1,000 grant through the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU), which they plan to use to bring some of the programs from the summit to the high school.

Student Affairs

Student Council Representatives Report

Mr. Jarrell introduced Joshua Dunmire and Parker Valentine who presented the Student Council Representatives Report. Their report highlighted the various athletics accomplishments this fall, including the Girls Cross Country Team winning the WPIAL Championship, Grace Stitt finishing WPIAL runner-up in Girls Tennis, and the Girls Volleyball team reaching the WPIAL semifinal. The students also discussed Talbot Thon planning and the announcement of the spring musical, *Hadestown*.

The Board also proudly recognized the following student musicians who were selected for the PMEA Honors Band, and/or the PMEA Senior High District West Band, and the PMEA Orchestra:

- Meghan Armstrong - PMEA Honors Band and PMEA District 1 West Band for Clarinet
- Brady Fanuele - PMEA Honors Band and PMEA District 1 West Band for Tuba
- Jinho So – PMEA Honors Band and PMEA District 1 West Band for Clarinet
- Celia Vitiello - PMEA Honors Band and PMEA District 1 West Band for Bass Clarinet
- Molly Ehman – PMEA District 1 West Band for Flute

- Nolan Smith - PMEA District 1 West Band for Clarinet
- Zachary Jiang – PMEA Honors Orchestra for Violin
- Nahvy Baek - PMEA Honors Orchestra for Violin

Mr. Jarrell introduced the following action item to be considered for Board approval at the November 11th Voting Meeting:

- Hampton High School Forensics Team Field Trip to the PA High School Speech League State Tournament at Bloomsburg University, Bloomsburg, PA, March 20-22, 2025 at a cost to the District not to exceed \$2,000.00.

Dr. Cunningham noted that students must qualify to participate in this tournament and will miss 1.5 days of school. The team is looking to combine transportation with other school districts to reduce travel costs.

Facilities

There was no report this evening.

Educational Programs

There was no report this evening.

Finance

Mr. Vasko presented the following action items to be considered for Board approval at the November 11th Voting Meeting:

- Authorize Renodis (formerly Eric Ryan Corporation) to secure bids for the District's electricity commodity for a 6-month period, beginning December 2024, and authorize Dr. Loughead and Mr. Kline to secure the bid at a rate not to exceed \$0.080/kWh. The expiring rate is \$0.0764/kWh and the indication for the 6-month renewal is \$0.0761/kWh.

Mr. Kline explained that there were higher usage and some issues with load factors at the high school in the past year. He suggests investigating those load factors in the spring to get a better sense of usage and costs, allowing for a more informed decision when renewing the contract. He noted that if the contract were extended for a full year, the price could rise to 8 or 9 cents per kilowatt-hour.

- 2025-2026 Allegheny Intermediate Unit Joint purchasing Agreement and Resolution.

Mr. Kline noted that this is an annual approval. Currently, the District uses this joint purchasing agreement for diesel fuel and natural gas.

Local Tax Revenue Update

Mr. Kline presented the District’s local tax revenue update as of October 31, 2024. Real estate taxes have increased by 5.67% compared to the same time last year, slightly above the millage rate increase of 5.3%. Earned income taxes, which were down last month, have risen by 1.89%. Additionally, real estate transfer taxes are up by 21.11%, a positive rebound after a slow year. However, delinquent real estate taxes are down by 56.96%, lagging behind last year’s figures.

2025-2026 Budget Calendar

The Board will review the Planning Document and 2025-2026 Proposed Preliminary Budget at the January 6th Work Session. On January 13th, the Board will consider passing the Act 1 Resolution to not raise taxes above the Act 1 index, which is 4.0% for 2025-2026. The traditional budget process will then continue, with the Board reviewing the Preliminary Budget in April. The Proposed Final Budget will be presented on May 5th, with final approval scheduled for June 9th.

Personnel

Ms. Balason presented the following action items to be considered for Board approval at the November 11th meeting:

Resignations

- Ms. Gwen Cohen who is retiring after 31 years with the District effective November 20, 2024. Ms. Cohen is an Enrichment/Instructional Coach at Hampton Middle School.
- Mrs. Karen Murphy who is resigning after 6 years with the District, effective date to be determined. Mrs. Murphy is an Administrative Assistant to the Principal at Central Elementary School.

Teachers

- Ms. Victoria Querry as a Long-Term Substitute Music Teacher at Central Elementary School, effective December 6, 2024, through approximately May 21, 2025. Salary is \$37,500, prorated based on actual days worked. Ms. Querry would be substituting for Mr. Sean Desguin.
- The following as Guest Substitute Teachers for the Hampton Township School District, effective November 5, 2024. Salary is \$120 per day. These substitutes will be utilized on an as-needed basis.

Carlotta Bukowski	Richard Moore	Diane Prem
Angella DiPasquale	Stephanie Nardello	Amy Rayko
Kimberly Girard	Erin Nunnery	Kate Simeone
Jaclyn Joseph	Christianne Pamplona-Gentil	Nandry Smith
Gavin Mayer		

Paraprofessionals, Paraeducators, and Administrative Assistants

- The following Substitute Paraeducators/Substitute Paraprofessionals listed below, effective October 29, 2024. Hourly rate is \$15.00 per hour for days 1-20, and \$15.50 per hour thereafter.

Carlotta Bukowski	Iris Rugerio
Jaclyn Joseph	Angela Sciullo
Christianne Pamplona-Gentile	Nandry Smith
Diane Prem	

Club Sponsors

- Makenzie Tresser as a co-sponsor of the Grade 6 Track Club.

Supplemental Contracts

The following conditional appointments for 2024-2025, each at a rate of \$152 per point, with each such appointment being conditioned on the District making a subsequent determination that the supplementary position and work associated with such position is needed and approved. Each appointment shall be effective only where the position is approved and operational and where the work associated with such position is actually being performed. This conditional appointment does not obligate the District to approve some, all or any of the supplementary positions for 2024-2025 and does not guarantee any of the persons listed in the document below that his or her supplementary position will be needed and in place, or that it will continue uninterrupted, in 2024-2025.

Name	Position	School	Points	Stipend
Chris DeJidas	Girls' Basketball 7th Grade Coach	Middle School	23	\$3,496
Matthew Belch	Swimming Assistant Coach	High School	30	\$4,560

Administration

- Appoint Dr. Rebecca Cunningham to continue as Assistant Superintendent for the District for a five-year term commencing July 1, 2025 and ending on June 30, 2030 and approve the Contract for Employment for the District Assistant Superintendent.

Technology

There was no report this evening.

Policy and Legislative Affairs

Mr. Shages presented the following items to be considered for Board approval at the November 11th Voting Meeting:

- Second Reading and Adoption of Policy #607: Tuition Income
- First Reading of Policy #113.1: Discipline of Students with Disabilities.
- First Reading of Policy #113.2: Behavior Support.

Transportation

There was no report this evening.

Public Comment & Adjournment

Mrs. Hamlin opened the meeting to public comment, but there were no comments at this time.

The Board highlighted the wonderful Hampton Heroes program that took place on Monday, November 4th. They expressed their appreciation for the middle school students and Principal Dr. Marlynn Lux for planning and executing such an inspiring and uplifting event.

Additionally, Mr. Vasko reminded everyone that the Operation Troop Appreciation Veterans Day 5K Race is on Sunday, November 10th at 9 a.m. Registration is available [here](#).

Mrs. Hamlin motioned to adjourn the meeting, and the Board held an executive session to discuss legal and personnel matters.