

The Board Report

Monday, December 09, 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	Board President
Mr. Matt Jarrell	Board Vice President/Student Affairs Chair
Ms. Denise Balason	Board Secretary/Personnel Chair
Mrs. Jenny Kennedy	Transportation Chair
Mrs. Joy Midgley	Facilities Chair
Mrs. Maureen Perkins	Educational Programs Chair
Mr. Robert Shages	Treasurer/Policy & Legislative Affairs Chair
Mr. Greg Stein	Technology Chair
Mr. Larry Vasko	Finance Chair

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

Members of Administration in Attendance

Dr. Michael Loughead	Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Rebecca Cunningham	Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Jackie Removcik	Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Tammi Kinzel	Assistant Director of Administrative Services
Dr. Marguerite Imbarlina	High School Principal
Dr. Joseph Sebestyen	High School Assistant Principal
Dr. Josh Cable	High School Assistant Principal
Dr. Colleen Hannagan	Poff Elementary School Principal

** absent*

*** attended remotely*

December 9, 2024

Reorganization/Voting Meeting

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

Student Awards

On behalf of the Board, Mr. Jarrell recognized and congratulated the following students and teams for their recent achievements. In addition, he commented how impressed he is with all of our students as he encounters them throughout our community.

- Abigail Hall, a senior at Hampton High School, who was honored with the 2024 Distinguished Student Award by the Pennsylvania Association of Gifted Education. Read more about Abigail's achievement [here](#).
- Grace Stitt, who is a WPIAL AA Singles Tournament Silver Medalist in Girls Tennis.
- Boys Cross Country runners Chris Belch, WPIAL Class 2A silver medalist, and Luciano Santos, WPIAL Class 2A 11th place medalist.
- The Girls Cross Country Team, who are the 2024 AA WPIAL Team Champions: Marissa Bigante; Karina Bonnar; Kevyn Fish, who is also a WPIAL 3rd Place Medalist; Abigail Hall, who is also a WPIAL 9th Place Medalist; Rebekah Hall, who is also a WPIAL 22nd Place Medalist; Sienna Lasek; Claire McKinney, who is also a WPIAL 7th Place Medalist; and Charlee Sciulli.

Student Council Representatives Report

Brady Smith, Senior Class Treasurer, updated the Board on their Talbot Thon planning efforts. The annual fundraiser for pediatric cancer research will feature games, food vendors, basket raffles, and more. Scheduled for March 21st, the event is open to the public. His report also highlighted recent Student Council events such as "Deck the Doors" and upcoming fundraisers, including a Boys Basketball "Shoot-a-Thon" on January 4th and a middle school pickleball tournament on December 13th.

Call to Order

Mrs. Hamlin called the Reorganization Meeting to order, and a roll call was taken. All Board members were present.

The Board nominated and re-elected Mrs. Hamlin to serve as President and Mr. Jarrell to serve as Vice President for the 2024-2025 school year. Additionally, the Board voted to establish meeting times for next school year, with Work Sessions designated for the first Monday of each month and Voting Meetings the second Monday.

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

Voting Meeting

Mrs. Hamlin called the Voting Meeting to order.

President's Report

Mrs. Hamlin announced that the Board had held one Executive Session to discuss legal and personnel matters since the last meeting.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Loughead's report highlighted the District's academics, arts, and athletics. He announced that Hampton Middle School recently received the PA Don Eichhorn Schools: "Schools to Watch" designation for the third time. He commended Dr. Marlynn Lux, Principal, and the middle school team for receiving this distinction, which recognizes HMS as a premier middle school that supports students through adolescence. Additionally, Dr. Loughead encouraged attendance at the ongoing winter concert series, praising the students' musical talents. He also acknowledged the start of the winter sports season, expressing hopes for a successful season following a strong fall season.

Approval of Minutes

The Board unanimously approved the Minutes from the November 11, 2024 Board of School Directors Voting Meeting.

Student Affairs

Mr. Jarrell presented the following action items that were unanimously approved by the Board:

- Hampton High School Baseball Spring Training Trip to Myrtle Beach, SC, March 19, 2025 to March 23, 2025, at no cost to the District.

Dr. Cunningham stated that while students will miss 2.5 days of school, they are looking forward to building team camaraderie and playing in exhibitions during their trip.

- Hampton High School Chess League Club.

Educational Programs

Mrs. Perkins introduced three new items of business: High School Schedule Presentation, Teacher on Special Assignment, and Grable Foundation Pilot Program.

High School Schedule Presentation

Dr. Imbarlina, Dr. Cable, and Dr. Sebestyen [presented a proposal](#) for a new high school schedule: 3, 2, Flex. This reimagined schedule aims to provide students with better access to tutoring, enrichment, and time for deeper engagement with learning material.

The current high school schedule has nine 41-minute periods, with one period used for lunch and one often for study hall. Their presentation highlighted current challenges for students seeking additional support from teachers during the school day due to unaligned schedules. High School administrators began researching high school schedules during the 2019-2020 school year. Since then, they have visited Kiski Area HS, Fox Chapel HS, Quaker Valley HS, Upper St. Clair HS, McClean HS (Virginia), and Radnor HS to study their schedules. The High School also tested a modified block schedule

during the 2021-2022 school year and formed a committee to discuss priorities in determining scheduling “must-haves.”

The High School is currently recommending a 3, 2, Flex schedule beginning at the start of the 2025-2026 school year, which includes traditional 42 minute eight-period days for three days a week and an 80-minute four-period day schedule on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Recommended High School Schedule (3, 2, Flex)

Monday (42 Minute Periods)	Tuesday (42 Minute Periods)	Wednesday (80 Minute Periods)	Thursday (80 Minute Periods)	Friday (42 Minute Periods)
Period 1	Period 1	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1
Period 2	Period 2			Period 2
Period 3	Period 3	Period 3	Period 4	Period 3
Period 4	Period 4			Period 4
Period 5	Period 5	Lunch & Learn		Period 5
Period 6	Period 6	Period 5	Period 6	Period 6
Period 7	Period 7	Period 7	Period 8	Period 7
Period 8	Period 8			Period 8

The 3, 2, Flex scheduling would also allow for 75-minute Lunch and Learn periods, offering students the choice to use this time for lunch, tutoring, making up quizzes and tests, enrichment activities, club meetings, and other opportunities. The proposed schedule also supports senior release time and students attending A.W. Beattie.

Board members received various clarifications from High School administrators regarding the proposed schedule, including concerns about teacher training, student absenteeism, and potential scheduling conflicts.

The Board expressed a consensus to adopt the High School’s 2025-2026 Program of Studies in January, which will align with the proposed 3, 2, Flex schedule.

Teacher on Special Assignment

Dr. Removcik’s presentation highlighted an exciting grant the District received from the Grable Foundation to support a new elementary school instructional coach position dedicated to integrating the Portrait of a Talbot competencies at the elementary level. The District would look to fill this position internally and use the grant funding to hire a long-term substitute for this person for the second semester of this school year.

The District successfully staffs instructional coaches at both the middle and high schools. The proposed elementary school instructional coach would integrate the Portrait of Talbot competencies into curriculum and instruction, support elementary school-based design teams, and provide professional development anchored in pedagogy aligned to the Portrait of Talbot competencies. Dr. Loughead expressed enthusiasm about potential candidates within the District who could fill this position.

Grable Foundation Pilot Program

Dr. Loughead and Dr. Hannagan presented a proposal for a pilot program funded by the Grable Foundation to explore the concept of a chief experience officer in education, a concept inspired by the private sector. Dr. Hannagan outlined her vision for her role as Hampton's chief experience officer, focusing on gathering feedback from students and families to understand their needs and interests and then designing school experiences to meet those needs. She emphasized the importance of student voice, choice, and creating engaging learning experiences.

This six-month pilot program would be a collaboration with Brentwood Borough School District. The District would also begin interviewing for a substitute principal at Poff Elementary to cover Dr. Hannagan's responsibilities while she is working on the pilot program two days each week. The Board expressed support for the innovative program, recognizing its potential to enhance student engagement and foster community partnerships.

Finance

Mr. Vasko presented and the Board voted 8-0, with one abstention to approve the proposal from Waste Management Services for the refuse and recycling services from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2027 as follows:

- Refuse/Recycling 2025 – \$32,475.00
- Refuse/Recycling 2026 – \$34,223.50
- Refuse/Recycling 2027 – \$36,272.93

Mr. Vasko noted that Waste Management was the low bidder. Dr. Loughead expressed excitement about this agreement as it aligns with the Township's existing contract.

Personnel

Ms. Balason presented the following action items which were unanimously approved by the Board:

Teachers

- Mrs. Erika Yigdall as a TPE .80 Health and Physical Education Teacher and a .20 Building Substitute at Poff Elementary School, effective December 9, 2024. Salary is Bachelor's Step 2 at \$52,329, prorated based on actual days worked for the Health and Physical Education Teacher position, and \$5,700, prorated based on actual days worked for the Building Substitute position. Mrs. Yigdall is replacing Mr. Ben McConnell.
- Mr. Dainen Holler as a Mentor for the 2024-2025 School Year.

Transportation/Health Office Nurse

- Ms. Kelley Schnur as the Transportation/Health Office Nurse for the Hampton Township School District effective January 2, 2025. The hourly rate is \$30.00 per hour. This is a new position due to increased student enrollment.

Dr. Loughead noted that this approval will result in significant cost savings for the District.

Paraprofessionals, Paraeducators, and Administrative Assistants

- Mrs. Bonita McCabe as a Substitute Administrative Assistant effective December 10, 2024. Salary is \$15.00 per hour for days 1-20, and \$15.50 per hour thereafter.
- Ms. Jaime Jones as a Paraeducator (Class III) at Central Elementary School, effective December 3, 2024. Hourly rate is \$19.09 for the 60-day probationary period and \$19.34 per hour thereafter. Ms. Jones is replacing Mrs. Dawn Grindland's position.

Custodial/Maintenance

- Change in status for Mr. Lewis Tupper moving from a 10-month/8-hour custodian at Central Elementary School to a 12-month/8-hour custodian at Poff Elementary School, effective November 20, 2024. There is no change in hourly rate. Mr. Tupper is replacing Mr. Ziccarelli.

Club Sponsor

- Ms. Victoria Querry as a Club Sponsor for the Middle School Jazz Band Club and for the Middle School Symphonic Band Club for the remainder of the 2024-2025 School Year.

Policy and Legislative Affairs

Mr. Shages recommended, and the Board unanimously approved, the following policies:

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

Public Comment & Adjournment

Mrs. Hamlin opened the meeting to public comment. A community member expressed enthusiasm for the new initiatives presented this evening, particularly the proposed high school schedule.

Mrs. Hamlin motioned to adjourn the meeting.