



HAMDEN BOARD OF EDUCATION
JANUARY 14, 2025
MEETING MINUTES

Melissa Kaplan, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.

Board Members: Melissa Kaplan, Peter Downhour, David Asbery (virtual), Marcia Brown, Mario Ciccarini, Nancy Hill, Greta Johnson (virtual), Christopher Piscitelli, and Andrew Tammaro.

Student Representative: Matilda Ryder

Staff: Gary Highsmith, Tom Ariola, Erin Bailey, and Susan Smey

SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD RECOGNITION

The Superintendent along with Ridge Hill School Principal Mrs. Stacie D'Antonio introduced the January Hamden Heroes.

4th Grader Kaylon McElveen

Crossing Guard Winnie Batts

Community Member Valentino Caruso, CVS Pharmacy Manager

The Superintendent along with West Woods School Principal Mr. Dan Levy introduced the January Hamden Heroes.

6th Grader Ananya Singh

Head Custodian Dan Griggs

Community Member Richard Andreozzi, Volunteer Lunch/Recess Aide

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Board Chair, Melissa Kaplan, added the language effective March 1, 2025 to Item 10.b.i. Approval to adopt policy Use of Private Technological Devices by Students (Second Read, Policy Committee, December 2024).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Move to approve the minutes from the December 10, 2024 Board of Education meeting

Kaplan

Seconded by: Downhour

In Favor: Kaplan, Downhour, Asbery, Brown, Ciccarini, Hill, Johnson, Piscitelli and Tammaro

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

CORRESPONDENCE

Peter Downhour reported there were three correspondence to the Board since the last meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

The following person spoke during Public Comments on Agenda Items: Anna Andrews.

The following people sent in Public Comments on Agenda Items: Thea Cooper Saerys, Laura Davidson, Melissa Dettmer Schild, Kelly Hebrank and Jonathan Genn, Cat Balco, Shari Rahamim, Emily Grosshuesch, and Alex Grennan

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Matilda Ryder stated that the PA system is still not working and that she is looking forward to midterms next week.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ACES/Wintergreen - Board Representative, Greta Johnson, stated she attended the meeting with nothing to report.

Curriculum Committee - Committee Chair, Mario Ciccarini, reported on the activities of the committee.

Finance Committee - Committee Chair, Peter Downhour, reported on the activities of the committee.

Goals and Evaluations Committee – Committee Chair, Andrew Tamaro, stated there was nothing to report at this time.

Operations Committee - Committee Chair, Greta Johnson, reported on the activities of the committee.

Personnel Committee - Committee Chair, David Asbery, reported on the activities of the committee.

Policy Committee - Committee Chair, Christopher Piscitelli, reported on the activities of the committee.

INFORMATION ITEMS

The Superintendent stated that he provided 5 or 6 options for the 2025-2026 District Calendar for the Board to consider. The Board Chair and Board members asked questions and mentioned their preference for which calendar option they would prefer.

ACTION ITEMS

PENDING ACTIONS

2. Move to approve the 2025-2026 District Calendar, option 4.

Kaplan

Seconded by: Downhour

In Favor: Kaplan, Downhour, Asbery, Brown, Ciccarini, Hill, Johnson, Piscitelli and Tamaro

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

CONSENT AGENDA

3. Move to approve the Consent Agenda.

Kaplan

Seconded by: Hill

In Favor: Kaplan, Downhour, Asbery, Brown, Ciccarini, Hill, Johnson, Piscitelli and Tamaro

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

i. Approval to adopt policy Use of Private Technological Devices by Students, effective March 1, 2025 (Second Read, Policy Committee, December 2024)

ii. Approval of the Hamden High Ski Club field trip to Jiminy Peak in Hancock, MA on February 28, 2025 for their end of the season trip (Special Curriculum Committee, December 2024)

- iii. Approval of media center discards from West Woods, Spring Glen and Hamden Middle School (Special Curriculum Committee, December 2024)
- iv. Approval of the Town of Hamden moving forward with bus camera request for proposal (RFP) (Operations Committee, January 2025)
- v. Approval of the building use by the Hamden Heronettes to use the pool and locker rooms at Hamden High School on February 8, 2025 from 10:30am- 6:00pm for CT Association Winter Classic (Operations Committee, January 2025)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 4. Move to Executive Session at 7:53 P.M. to have a discussion concerning the employment of a Hamden Public Schools employee. Along with the Board, the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Erin Bailey were invited to Executive Session.

Kaplan

Seconded by: Downhour

In Favor: Kaplan, Downhour, Asbery, Brown, Ciccarini, Hill, Johnson, Piscitelli and Tammaro

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Return to Public Session at 8:34 P.M.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

The Superintendent reported on the Teacher Contract having been approved by the Education & Culture Committee and will go to the Full Council meeting on January 21, 2025 for a vote.

The Superintendent reported on a LEAP grant that was received to help combat Chronic Absenteeism at HCLC. The Superintendent spoke on the percentages of absenteeism.

The Superintendent reported on "On Track To Graduation" percentages. On Track To Graduation is defined as a student having earned 6 credits by the end of 9th grade.

The Superintendent stated the 2025-2026 Budget was being worked on and was hopeful to have a meeting to present to the Board on January 30, 2025.

The Superintendent reported on the PA system at Hamden High School. He stated all parts are now ordered and the last of the parts should be arriving in a week to a week and a half. The company that will be installing the parts is ready to go as soon as the parts arrive.

ADJOURNMENT

- 5. Move to adjourn at 8:41 P.M.

Kaplan

Seconded by: Downhour

In Favor: Kaplan, Downhour, Asbery, Brown, Ciccarini, Hill, Johnson, Piscitelli and Tammaro

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter Downhour, Board Secretary