



HAMDEN BOARD OF EDUCATION  
FEBRUARY 11, 2025  
MEETING MINUTES

Melissa Kaplan, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

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

Student Representative: Matilda Ryder

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

#### SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD RECOGNITION

The Superintendent along with Michelle Coogan, HMS Principal, Jessica Coffey and Hector Ortiz, HMS Assistant Principals

Juliette Cocchiaro, HMS 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Student

Alessandro Marroquin, HMS 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Student

Kara Breen, HMS Staff

Matt Tremper, HMS Staff

Aracely Pena, HMS Community Member

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Move to Executive Session at 7:16 PM to have a discussion concerning approval of a tentative agreement with the Clerk/Paraprofessional Union. Along with the Board, the Superintendent and Attorney Ryan were invited to Executive Session.

Kaplan

Seconded by: Downhour

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

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Return To Public Session at 7:45 P.M.

#### ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Board Chair, Melissa Kaplan is adding a Chair Statement after Public Comment on Agenda Items.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Move to approve the minutes from the January 14, 2025 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 was no correspondences since the last meeting

## PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

There was no Public Comments on Agenda Items

## BOARD CHAIR STATEMENT

Board Chair, Melissa Kaplan, read a statement.

## STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Matilda Ryder stated that the PA and Fire Alarms still aren't working. She also stated that there was a paper shortage and teachers were not able to make copies.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

ACES/Wintergreen - Board Representative, Greta Johnson, stated there was nothing to report.

Curriculum Committee - Committee Chair, Mario Ciccarini, stated there would be a special meeting.

Finance Committee - Committee Chair, Peter Downhour, stated there was nothing to report.

Goals and Evaluations Committee - Committee Chair, Andrew Tamaro, stated there was nothing to report.

Operations Committee - Committee Chair, Nancy Hill stated there was nothing to report.

Personnel Committee - Committee Chair, David Asbery, stated there was nothing to report

Policy Committee - Committee Chair, Christopher Piscitelli, stated there was no meeting.

## INFORMATION ITEMS

The Superintendent presented the 2025-2026 Superintendent's Budget.

## ACTION ITEMS

### PENDING ACTIONS

3. Move to approve a tentative agreement with the Clerk/Paraprofessional Union  
Kaplan

Seconded by: Downhour

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

## MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Board Secretary, Peter Downhour, asked for 12.b.x. Approval of budget transfers (Finance Committee, February 2025) be removed from the Consent Agenda.

## CONSENT AGENDA

### 4. Move to approve the Consent Agenda.

Kaplan

Seconded by: Downhour

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

### MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

- i. Approval of the building use by the Hamden Fathers' Football and Cheerleading Association to use the gym at all schools on Wednesdays from February 26- April 2, 2025 from 6pm- 8:00pm for winter football practice (Operations Committee, February 2025)
- ii. Approval of the building use by the Hamden Fathers' Football and Cheerleading Association to use the fields at Hamden High and Middle School from April 27- July 13, 2025 from 10:00am- 5:00pm for Spring Flag Football (Operations Committee, February 2025)
- iii. Approval of the building use by the Hamden Park and Rec Department to use the gym, C107, the café and classrooms at Hamden High from June 30 – August 8, 2025 from 7:00am- 6:00pm for Green & Gold Dragon Camps (Operations Committee, February 2025)
- iv. Approval of the building use by the Hamden Park and Rec Department to use the gym, the café and classrooms at Shepherd Glen School from June 30 – August 8, 2025 from 7:00am- 6:00pm for Munchkins and Rascals Summer Camps (Operations Committee, February 2025)
- v. Approval of the building use by the Hamden Park and Rec Department to use the art room at Spring Glen School from July 7-July 25, 2025 from 9:00am- 12:00pm for Creative Kids Summer Camp (Operations Committee, February 2025)
- vi. Approval of the building use by the Hamden Park and Rec Department to use the art room at Hamden Middle School from July 7-July 25, 2025 from 7:30am- 3:30pm for Mad Science Summer Camp (Operations Committee, February 2025)
- vii. Approval of the building use by the Hamden Park and Rec Department to use Room 173 at Hamden Middle School from July 7-July 25, 2025 from 7:30am- 3:30pm for Build with Ricky Summer Camp(Operations Committee, February 2025)
- viii. Approval of the building use by the Hamden Park and Rec Department to use the gym at Hamden Middle School from July 21-July 25, 2025 from 8:30am- 1:00pm for Basketball Summer Camp (Operations Committee, February 2025)
- ix. Approval of the Hamden High School Travel Club trip to Berlin, Prague, Krakow, Budapest April 12-21, 2025 (Special Curriculum Committee, February 2025)

## SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

The Superintendent stated that the initial research project concerning the IIC classroom was approved. Hamden was one of eight districts that was chosen out of the many districts that applied. He and the Assistant Superintendent had a meeting with the researcher, submitted their full proposal and look forward to working on the project.

The Superintendent stated that the Community Readers program will be on March 3 and there is still a need for volunteers to read to the students.

The Superintendent is working with the partners at PEL to take a team of teachers, parents, administrators and students on a learning visit to a high school in Arizona.

The Superintendent and Tom Ariola spoke about the PA system at the high school. The Fire Alarm system is fixed and the PA system is being worked on. Tom mentioned there is a sizable amount of money that will be in the Capital budget for an upgrade to the entire FA/PA system.

#### ADJOURNMENT

5. Move to adjourn at 8:30 P.M.

Kaplan

Seconded by: Hill

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

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter Downhour, Board Secretary