

The Board Report

Monday, April 7, 2025



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

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| 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

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|--------------------------------------|---|
| <i>Dr. Michael Loughead</i> | <i>Superintendent of Schools</i> |
| <i>Dr. Rebecca Cunningham</i> | <i>Assistant Superintendent</i> |
| <i>Dr. Jacquelyn Removcik</i> | <i>Assistant Superintendent</i> |
| <i>Ms. Tammi Kinzel</i> | <i>Assistant Director of Administrative Services</i> |
| <i>Dr. Ed McKaveney</i> | <i>Director of Technology</i> |
| <i>Mr. Josh Kellogg</i> | <i>Assistant Director of Technology</i> |
| <i>Dr. Sharon Smith</i> | <i>Director of Special Education</i> |
| <i>Mr. Michael Gavlik</i> | <i>Director of Athletics</i> |
| <i>Dr. Amy Kern</i> | <i>Central Elementary School Principal</i> |

April 7, 2025

Voting Meeting

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

Student Awards

Mrs. Hamlin called the meeting to order, and a roll call was taken. All Board Members were present. On behalf of the Board, Mrs. Midgley presented the Student Awards.

The Board congratulated the following students on winning awards in the 2025 Scholastic Art & Writing competition in the Pittsburgh region:

- Sienna Lasek: Gold Key award for “Control (Portfolio)”
- Elyse Fontana: Gold Key award for “Forever with Love”
- Suraj Ratnavale: Silver Key award for “Fox”
- Lordyn Schomaeker: Silver Key award for “Tyson”
- Olivia Hoffman: Honorable Mention for “Echoes of Motherhood (Portfolio)”
- Olivia Graswick: Honorable Mention for “Bright Beginnings”
- Marin Katona-Bock: Honorable Mention for “Season 8”
- Bella Korn: Honorable Mention for “Black and White”
- Mackenzie McGinnis: Honorable Mention for “Monkey”
- Steven Nguyen: Honorable Mention for “Little Trinkets”
- Spencer Obendorfer: Honorable Mention for “711”
- Elizabeth Sheets: Honorable Mention for “Elsie”
- Alice Wagner: Honorable Mention for “Willow”
- Taylor Whitman: Honorable Mention for “Soulmates”

Girls Swimming and Diving

- The following members of the girls’ team won the 2A Section 3 Championship and placed 6th overall in the PIAA Championship and 5th overall in the WPIAL Championship.

Meghan Armstrong

Giada Grimm

Abigail Legal

Kevyn Fish

Alaina Sheets

Sofia Welsh

Autumn Ricketts

Lily Colonna

Gabriella Elk

Madison Bruce

Addison Kass

Jordyn Moyer

Elizabeth Sheets
Katelyn Watkins

Gracyn Daugherty Daniela Khoury
Maya Daugherty

Additionally, the Board recognized Hampton's winter sports teams and individuals for the following accomplishments:

- Gabriella Elk placed 1st at the State PIAA AA State Diving Championships and 1st at the WPIALS AA Diving Championships.
- Elizabeth Sheets was a member of the 200 Medley Relay team, which placed 7th at States and 4th at WPIALS, and was a member of the 400 Freestyle Relay team, which placed 7th at States and 5th at WPIALS. Individually, at WPIALS, Libby placed 6th in the 200 Individual Medley and 6th in the 100 Backstroke.
- Alaina Sheets was a member of the 200 Medley Relay team, which placed 7th at States and 4th at WPIALS, and was a member of the 400 Freestyle Relay team, which placed 7th at States and 5th at WPIALS. Individually, Lainey placed 3rd at PIAA in the 100 Backstroke and 2nd at WPIALS, and placed 2nd at PIAA in the 100 Butterfly and 2nd at WPIALS.
- Gracyn Daugherty was a member of the 200 Medley Relay team, which placed 7th at States and 4th at WPIALS, and was a member of the 200 Freestyle Relay team, which placed 6th at WPIALS.
- Maya Daugherty was a member of the 200 Medley Relay team, which placed 7th at States and 4th at WPIALS, and was a member of the 200 Freestyle Relay team, which placed 6th at WPIALS.
- Kevyn Fish was a member of the 400 Freestyle Relay team, which placed 7th at States and 5th at WPIALS, and was a member of the 200 Freestyle Relay team, which placed 6th at WPIALS.
- Addison Kass was a member of the 400 Freestyle Relay team, which placed 7th at States and 5th at WPIALS, and was a member of the 200 Freestyle Relay team, which placed 6th at WPIALS.

Boys Swimming and Diving

- Members of the boys' team were recognized for placing 7th in the PIAA Championship and 3rd in the WPIAL Championships.
- Chris Belch was a member of the 200 Medley Relay team; he placed 3rd at States and 2nd at WPIALS, and as a member of the 400 Freestyle Relay, he placed 7th at States and 2nd at WPIALS. Individually, Chris placed 2nd in the 100 Butterfly at States and 2nd at WPIALS, and in the 100 Backstroke, he placed 2nd at States and came in 1st place at WPIALS.
- Scott Watkins was a member of the 200 Medley Relay team; he placed 3rd at States and 2nd at WPIALS, and as a member of the 400 Freestyle Relay, he placed 7th at States and 2nd at WPIALS. Individually, Scott placed 7th at WPIALS in the 50 Freestyle and 8th place in the 100 Freestyle at WPIALS.
- Connor Sutterlin was a member of the 200 Medley Relay team; he placed 3rd at States and 2nd at WPIALS and as a member of the 400 Freestyle Relay, he placed 7th at States and 2nd at WPIALS. Individually, Connor placed 4th at WPIALS in the 100 Backstroke and in 3rd place at

WPIALS in the 100 Butterfly.

- Isaac Retsch was a member of the 400 Freestyle Relay; he placed 7th at States and 2nd at WPIALS, and as a member of the 200 Freestyle Relay, he came in 7th place at WPIALS. Individually, Issac placed 7th at WPIALS in the 200 Individual Medley and in 8th place in the 500 Freestyle at WPIALS.
- William Cramer was a member of the 200 Medley Relay team; he placed 3rd at States and 2nd at WPIALS, and as a member of the 200 Freestyle Relay, he came in 7th place at WPIALS.
- Evan Adler was a member of the 200 Freestyle Relay, which came in 7th place at WPIALS.
- Jack Bauer was a member of the 200 Freestyle Relay, which came in 7th place at WPIALS.

Gymnastics

- Ella Lattimore was recognized for receiving a 4th place medal for her performance on the Beam at WPIALS.
- Avery Straub was recognized for receiving a 7th place medal for her performance on the Bars at WPIALS.

School Presentation

Prior to the meeting, the Board heard a presentation from representatives of Central Elementary School highlighting the work of the Central Design Team, the faculty's work to integrate the Portrait of a Talbot Competencies across grade levels, as well as a fifth-grade pilot of the Junior Achievement program, BizTown.

Student Affairs

Mr. Jarrell introduced Daniela Khoury and Madelyn Rossi, who presented the Student Council Representatives Report. They highlighted the winter sports teams' successful seasons and wished student-athletes the best of luck in the spring season. They also provided an update on the upcoming Talbot Thon event, scheduled for April 26th, with a fundraising goal of \$39,000 for childhood cancer research. They discussed the challenges with sign-ups and t-shirt orders but assured the Board that the Student Council is actively working to boost participation. The representatives introduced the concept of a Delay Day, where students would bring in donations to delay the start of classes, and encouraged support for their Amazon Wish List for event supplies. They also mentioned the success of the high school's spring musical *Hadestown: Teen Edition*, and the upcoming prom on May 2nd, themed "Down at the Bayou."

Mr. Jarrell also presented the following action items to be considered for Board approval at the April 14th Voting Meeting:

- PMEA All-State Orchestra Field Trip to Kalahari Convention Center in Pocono Manor, Pennsylvania, from April 9, 2025 to April 12, 2025 at no cost to the District.

Dr. Cunningham noted that sophomore Zachary Jiang, who plays the violin, is the first Hampton

student in several years to perform in the PMEA All-State Orchestra.

- High School Marching Band field trip to Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida, from March 10, 2026, to March 15, 2026.

Dr. Cunningham noted that students will miss two days of school to participate in the Walt Disney World Parade and workshops.

- Hampton High School Future Business Leaders of American (FBLA) Field Trip to New York City, New York, from April 22, 2026 to April 26, 2026, at no cost to the District.

Dr. Cunningham highlighted high school teacher Mr. Tony Howard's work in planning this annual field trip, which provides a valuable experience for students with an excellent itinerary.

Facilities

Mrs. Midgley introduced Dr. Loughead and Mr. Gavlik to present a proposal for an automated lower gate at Fridley Field. The proposed gate aims to address safety and security concerns related to access, particularly during after hours and weekend use. The automated gate would maintain the existing structure, featuring programmable timing systems and remote access for the administration. The estimated cost for the project is \$15,000, which would be covered using available funds from a previously sequestered project at the field. The Board is scheduled to vote on approving the project at the April 14th Voting Meeting.

Educational Programs

Ms. Perkins presented the following action item to be considered for Board approval at the April 14th Voting Meeting:

- Special Education Plan.

Dr. Smith presented the Special Education Plan, which is required for submission to the Pennsylvania Department of Education every three years. This year's plan is due by May 1, 2025 and has been available for public review. The multi-page document includes data comparisons, with the number of students receiving special education services increasing from 281 in 2022 (10.4% of the student population) to 324 in 2025 (12.6% of the student population). Dr. Smith highlighted that the state has identified no areas for improvement in the District's plan. The District's efforts to support students in the least restrictive environment were also discussed, with significant progress in reducing out-of-district placements from nearly 6% in December 2024 to just over 3% in March 2025. Dr. Smith emphasized the importance of positive behavior support systems in place across all buildings and the District's commitment to training staff and families on a variety of special education-related topics.

2025-2026 Curricular Resource Proposed Budget

Dr. Removcik presented the 2025-2026 Curricular Resource Proposed Budget. The budget for textbooks and consumables focuses on maintaining current programming, with a decrease in the

overall print budget due to the second-year payment for Into Math. The budget for electronics increased, primarily due to the inclusion of Waggle, an online program that supports Into Math. The middle and high school sections of the budget show few changes, with some decreases in textbook spending, such as the replacement of French textbooks for levels 4 and 5. Additionally, a district-wide software update is being proposed, which is essential for maintaining services, and will be reviewed by the Board for approval in June.

Technology

There were no action items on the agenda. However, Dr. McKaveney and Mr. Kellogg presented the 2025-2026 Technology Proposed Budget. The budget for the 2025-2026 school year is \$877,500, a \$100,000 reduction than the previous year. Approximately \$229,000 of the budget is allocated for prior-year leases for student and employee devices. A major change for elementary students in grade four is the shift from receiving laptops to keeping their iPads, which will now include keyboard cases. The District is also bundling its student safety application with the internet filter, resulting in cost savings and improved functionality.

Dr. Loughead commended Dr. McKaveney and the technology team in rethinking how devices are used at the elementary level. The Board will vote to approve lease agreements for the acquisition of student devices for the 2025-2026 School Year on April 14th.

Finance

Mr. Vasko presented the following action items to be considered for Board approval at the April 14th Voting Meeting:

- Budget Transfer totaling \$5,500.

Dr. Cunningham explained that this budget transfer is to fund a new employee ID machine to replace the current machine at the high school, which is nearing the end of its functionality. The current machine is used for badging new employees and providing photo IDs for freshmen. The new machine will be housed at the District Office to properly badge new employees and freshmen students annually.

- Sun Life proposal for the District's Basic Life and AD&D Benefit Carrier for the 3-year period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028. Rates are as follows:
 - Basic Life Insuranceeq \$0.085 per \$1,000 of coverage (increase of \$0.006)
 - AD&D \$0.016 per \$1,000 of coverage
 - LTD \$0.40 per \$1,000 of coverage

Ms. Kinzel explained that there is a minor increase to basic life insurance, but no increases to AD&D or LTD.

- Contract renewal for vision benefits with Vision Benefits of America, July 01, 2025 through June 30, 2027 as follows:
 - Individual \$5.15/month
 - Family \$15.25/month

There are no rate increases from the current contract.

- Food Service Management Contract with Metz Culinary Management for the 2025-2026 School Year.

Ms. Kinzel noted that the District is considering a \$0.10 increase in meal prices, which could generate an additional \$37,000 in revenue. This increase would help cover the costs of necessary equipment upgrades at the middle school and high school, addressing concerns about potential equipment failures and maintaining quality food services.

2025-2026 Medical & Dental Rates through ACSHIC

Ms. Kinzel reported that the Allegheny County Schools Health Insurance Consortium (ACSHIC) confirmed a 5.7% increase for the 2025-2026 school year, which is much lower than the previously anticipated increase, resulting in a favorable outcome for the District.

Local Tax Revenue Update

Ms. Kinzel presented the local tax revenue update as of March 31, 2025, highlighting that the District is trending well compared to the previous year in real estate taxes, earned income taxes, and delinquent real estate taxes. As of March 31, the District has collected 96.85% of the budgeted amount, compared to 96.08% at the same time last year.

Personnel

Ms. Balason presented the following action items to be considered for Board approval at the April 14th meeting:

Resignations

- Mr. Kevin Green, who is retiring after 34 years with the District, effective June 30, 2025. Mr. Green is a Social Studies Teacher at Hampton High School.
- Mrs. Lisa Ferrero, who is retiring after 26 years with the District, effective June 30, 2025. Mrs. Ferrero is a Grade 6 Math Teacher at Hampton Middle School.
- Ms. Angela Lamers, who is retiring after 17 years with the District, effective June 10, 2025. Ms. Lamers is a Grade 7 Science Teacher at Hampton Middle School.
- Mr. Joseph Lafko, who is retiring after 29 years with the District, effective June 30, 2025. Mr. Lafko is a Social Studies Teacher at Hampton High School.
- Mrs. Deniene Gillis, who is retiring after 31 years with the District, effective June 30, 2025. Mrs. Gillis is an Elementary Teacher at Poff Elementary School.
- Ms. Heather Paxton, who is resigning after 10 years with the District, effective August 15, 2025. Ms. Paxton is a Health Office Nurse at Poff Elementary School.

Teachers

- Ms. Lauren Towner as a Long-Term Substitute World Language (German) Teacher, effective April 2, 2025 through the end of the 2024-2025 School Year. Salary is \$37,500, prorated based on actual days worked. Ms. Towner is substituting for Mrs. Kelsey Ehnle.
- Change in status for Ms. Emily McWilliams, moving from a Building Substitute Teacher at Poff Elementary School to a Long-Term Substitute Grade 3 Teacher at Poff Elementary School, effective April 2, 2025 through the end of the 2024-2025 School Year. Salary is \$37,500, prorated based on actual days worked. Ms. McWilliams is substituting for Mrs. Lauren Humbert.
- Mrs. Addeline Devlin as a Long-Term Substitute Special Education Teacher, effective April 2, 2025 through the end of the 2024-2025 School Year. Salary is \$37,500, prorated based on actual days worked. Mrs. Devlin is substituting for Mrs. Elizabeth Barnes.
- The following teachers as Mentors for the 2024-2025 School Year:
 - Amy Faith
 - Jessica Heranic
 - Lisa Milsom
- The following as Guest Substitute Teachers for the Hampton Township School District, effective April 2, 2025. Salary is \$120 per day. These substitutes will be utilized on an as-needed basis.
 - Zachary Flowers
 - Joan Haley
 - Dipti Indapawar
 - Grace Johnson
 - Tyler Opre

Paraprofessionals, Paraeducators, and Administrative Assistants

- Ms. Shelby Padden as a Paraeducator (Class III) at Hampton Middle School effective April 14, 2025. Hourly rate is \$19.09 for the 60-day probationary period and \$19.34 per hour thereafter. Ms. Padden is replacing Ms. Heather Hutchings.
- Ms. Grace Johnson as a Substitute Administrative Assistant effective April 2, 2025. Salary is \$15.00 per hour for days 1-20, and \$15.50 per hour thereafter.
- The following Substitute Paraeducators/Paraprofessionals effective April 2, 2025. Salary is \$15.00 per hour for days 1-20, and \$15.50 per hour thereafter.
 - Grace Johnson
 - Joan Haley
 - Zachary Flowers

Custodial/Maintenance

- Change in status for Mr. Lucas Rodgers moving from a 12 month/8 hour custodian at Hampton High School to the HVAC 2nd Assistant, effective March 10, 2025. There is no change in the hourly rate.

Policy and Legislative Affairs

Mr. Shages presented the following items to be considered for Board approval at the April 14th meeting:

- Second Reading and Adoption of Policy #806: Mandated Reporting of Child/Student Abuse.
- First Reading of Policy #909: Municipal Government Relations.

Mr. Shages noted that changes to Policy #909 were made to clarify the District's working relationship and cooperation with its sole municipality, Hampton Township.

On the legislative side, Mr. Shages shared highlights from the AIU's legislative session that took place on March 27th. The main topic discussed was the potential impact of significant federal funding cuts on the state budget, which could affect education.

Transportation

There were no action items on the agenda.

Public Comment & Adjournment

There were no comments at the end of the meeting; Mrs. Hamlin motioned to adjourn. The Board held a brief executive session to discuss legal and personnel matters.