



HAMDEN BOARD OF EDUCATION

APRIL 8, 2025

MEETING MINUTES

Melissa Kaplan, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:06 P.M.

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

Student Representative: Matilda Ryder and Kalu Ogbaa (7:12 P.M.)

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

SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD RECOGNITION

The Superintendent introduced the SCASA Award nominees and mentioned there would be a luncheon next month to honor them:

Ava Ducran- West Woods School

Jemma Pisani- Spring Glen School

Olivia Song- Hamden Middle School

Michael Paez Hernandez- Hamden Middle School

Alexa Leibowitz- Hamden High School

Aryan Singla- Hamden High School

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Peter Downhour asked to add Budget Transfers to be added to the Consent Agenda as 9.b.xv.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Move to approve the minutes from the March 11, 2025 Board of Education meeting.

Downhour

Seconded by: Piscitelli

In Favor: Downhour, Brown, Ciccarini, Johnson, Piscitelli and Tamaro

Abstain: Kaplan and Hill

MOTION PASSES

CORRESPONDENCE

Peter Downhour reported there was no correspondence since the last meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were no Public Comments on Agenda Items.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student Representative, Matilda Ryder stated that the cell phone policy was going well and the bells are officially working.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ACES/Wintergreen – Committee Member, Great Johnson, stated she attended the last meeting.
Curriculum Committee - Committee Chair, Mario Ciccarini, stated he wasn't able to attend the last meeting and that Peter Downhour and Christopher Piscitelli held the meeting.

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

Operations Committee – Committee Chair, stated there was no meeting

Personnel Committee – There was no report tonight.

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

ACTION ITEMS

PENDING ACTIONS

2. Move to approve the of the proposal to replace the fuel cell at Hamden High School

Kaplan

Seconded by: Downhour

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

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

3. Move to approve the of the reauthorization of the annual Healthy Food Certification under Section 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes. Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Hamden Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

Kaplan

Seconded by: Downhour

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

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

4. Move to approve the of the Food Exemption under Section 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes. The Hamden Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The "regular school day" is the period from

midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food sales.

Downhour

Seconded by: Hill

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

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

5. Move to approve of exemptions for beverages that do not comply under Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes. The Hamden Board of Education will allow the sale to students of beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the beverages are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. The "school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the beverage sales.

Downhour

Seconded by: Piscitelli

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

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

CONSENT AGENDA

6. Move to approve the Consent Agenda

Kaplan

Seconded by: Downhour

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

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

a. Consent Agenda

- i. Approval of HHS student exchange program trip to Italy for the 2025-26 school year (Curriculum Committee, March 2025)
- ii. Approval of BHSU Historically Black Colleges and Universities Tour April 7- April 10, 2025 (Curriculum Committee, March 2025)
- iii. Approval of the Spanish Year 2/3 field trip to visit El Museo del Barrio & Havana Central Times Square on April 24, 2025 (Curriculum Committee, March 2025)
- iv. Approval of the Spanish Club field trip to visit Six Flags New England on May 2, 2025 (Curriculum Committee, March 2025)
- v. Approval for Hamden High School to host a Dunkin' Mid-Day Refresh event on April 23, 2025 (Curriculum Committee, March 2025)
- vi. Approval for UCONN ECE Spanish (Curriculum Committee, March 2025)
- vii. Approval of a monetary donation (\$1,500) for AP exam fees from the Dominate the Day Foundation (Curriculum Committee, March 2025)
- viii. Approval for Hamden Public Schools to be the recipient of a menstrual products drive from the Accessibility Pillar of Quinnipiac University's Honors Program (Curriculum Committee, March 2025)

- ix. Approval to revise 1250 Visits to the Schools (First read, Policy Committee, March 2025)
- x. Approval to adopt policy 5131.914 Connecticut School Climate (First read, Policy Committee, March 2025)
- xi. Approval to adopt policy 5144.2 Restorative Practices Response (First read, Policy Committee, March 2025)
- xii. Approval to adopt policy 1411 School Security and Safety (First read, Policy Committee, March 2025)
- xiii. Approval to repeal policy 5131.911 Bullying Prevention and Intervention (First read, Policy Committee, March 2025)
- xiv. Approval to revise policy 3516 Safety (First read, Policy Committee, March 2025)
- xv. Approval of Budget Transfers (Finance Committee, April 2025)

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

The Superintendent reported that over the next week or so he will begin and hopefully finish a cyber security grant.

The Superintendent reported that there are 10 candidates that they will be interviewing for the Assistant Superintendent position. Five of those candidates are internal and five are external.

The Superintendent reported that the Elementary School Principal position is set to close soon and they will interview after the school break.

ADJOURNMENT

7. Move to adjourn at 7:28 P.M.

Kaplan

Seconded by: Downhour

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

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter Downhour, Board Secretary

<u>HAMDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS</u>					
	FY 2024-2025 - Budget		\$ 97,893,675.00		
	YTD Expenditures		\$ 77,667,776.00		
	YTD Encumbrances		\$ 4,531,471.00		
	Less Grants/Town Funds		\$ 111,047.00		
	Remaining Budget - FY 2024-2025		\$ 15,805,475.00		
Object #	Object Code Description	TO:	FROM:	TO: NET:	FROM: NET:
550	Printing - Guidance HHS		\$ 500.00	\$ -	
613	Other Supplies - Guidance HHS	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ -	
	Grand Totals	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ -
	<u>Reason for Request</u>				
	Director no longer print the Program of Studies Book and would like to create an effective and welcoming Career Center at HHS.				
643	Periodicals - Guidance HHS		\$ 100.00	\$ -	
613	Other Supplies - Guidance HHS	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ -	
	Grand Totals	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ -
	<u>Reason for Request</u>				
	Director no longer print the Program of Studies Book and would like to create an effective and welcoming Career Center at HHS.				
582	Conferences - Business ED - CO		\$ 1,250.00	\$ -	
325	Curriculum Writing - Business ED - CO	\$ 1,250.00	\$ -	\$ -	
	Grand Totals	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,250.00	\$ -	\$ -
	<u>Reason for Request</u>				
	Director: Use conference funds for curriculum work as new courses are developing.				
582	Conferences - Business ED - CO		\$ 1,250.00	\$ -	
325	Curriculum Writing - Business ED - CO	\$ 1,250.00	\$ -	\$ -	
	Grand Totals	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,250.00	\$ -	\$ -
	<u>Reason for Request</u>				
	Director: Use conference funds for curriculum work as new courses are developing.				
582	Conferences - Vocational ED - CO		\$ 1,250.00	\$ -	
325	Curriculum Writing - Vocational ED - CO	\$ 1,250.00	\$ -	\$ -	
	Grand Totals	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,250.00	\$ -	\$ -
	<u>Reason for Request</u>				
	Director: Use conference funds for curriculum work as new courses are developing.				
550	Printing - Adult Ed		\$ 900.00	\$ -	
613	Other Supplies - Adult Ed	\$ 900.00	\$ -	\$ -	
	Grand Totals	\$ 900.00	\$ 900.00	\$ -	\$ -
	<u>Reason for Request</u>				
	Office supplies / copy paper needed				
810	Dues and Fees - Adult Ed		\$ 810.00	\$ -	
613	Other Supplies - Adult Ed	\$ 810.00	\$ -	\$ -	
	Grand Totals	\$ 810.00	\$ 810.00	\$ -	\$ -
	<u>Reason for Request</u>				
	Office supplies / copy paper needed				

<u>HAMDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS</u>					
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	YTD Encumbrances		\$ 4,531,471.00		
	Less Grants/Town Funds		\$ 111,047.00		
	Remaining Budget - FY 2024-2025		\$ 15,805,475.00		
Object #	Object Code Description	TO:	FROM:	TO: NET:	FROM: NET:
641	Textbooks - Adult Ed		\$ 124.76	\$ -	
613	Other Supplies - Adult Ed	\$ 124.76	\$ -	\$ -	
	Grand Totals	\$ 124.76	\$ 124.76	\$ -	\$ -
	Reason for Request				
	Office supplies / copy paper needed				
114	Teacher Salaries		\$ 300,000.00	\$ -	
115	Substitute Salaries	\$ 300,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	
	Grand Totals	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 300,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
	Reason for Request				
	Temporary staff for vacancies				
521	Liability Insurance		\$ 78,000.00	\$ -	
510	Transportation Public	\$ 78,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	
	Grand Totals	\$ 78,000.00	\$ 78,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
	Reason for Request				
	Temporary staff to fill SPED / Nursing vacancies				
644	Instructional Software		\$ 11,746.91	\$ -	
645	Non-Instructional Software	\$ 11,746.91	\$ -	\$ -	
	Grand Totals	\$ 11,746.91	\$ 11,746.91	\$ -	\$ -
	Reason for Request				
	To account for actual costs for instructional and non-instructional software.				