



HAMDEN BOARD OF EDUCATION

May 13, 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 (Online 7:10pm), Marcia Brown, Mario Ciccarini, Nancy Hill(online), Greta Johnson, Christopher Piscitelli, and
Absent: Andrew Tamaro.

Student Representative: Matilda Ryder and Kalu Ogbaa (online)

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

SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD RECOGNITION

The Superintendent recognized the CAPSS award nominees, which occurred earlier in the day.

The Superintendent along with building principals introduced the May Hamden Heroes.

Shepherd Glen School

1. Michael Ortiz- Grade 5
2. Tiffany Cofrin- ShG Math Specialist
3. Betsy Gorman and Lynn Campo- Rotary Club of Hamden

Dunbar Hill School

1. Nathan Reynoso- Grade 4
2. Kathy Pommer- DH Clerk
3. AnneMarie Karavas- Hamden Community Services

Alice Peck Learning Center

1. Rita Pesce- Paraeducator

Helen Street School

1. Prince Gordon- Grade 6
2. Kate McGuinn- HS Social Worker
3. Patrick Maloney- YMCA staff

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Board Chair, Melissa Kaplan, added item 10.b. Consent Agenda, ix. Budget Transfers

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Move to approve the minutes from the April 8, 2025 Board of Education meeting

By Kaplan

Seconded by: Johnson

In Favor: ALL

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

CORRESPONDENCE

Downhour reported there were individual, student specific correspondence to the Board since the last meeting that were operational and with the Superintendent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

NONE

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Matilda Ryder stated concern over the incidents of May 12, 2025, at HHS.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ACES/Wintergreen - Board Representative, Greta Johnson, stated the meeting will be next week.

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 – none.

Operations Committee – no meeting yet

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 and Tom Ariola shared information on the joint contract between the Town and the Board with Stop Arm LLC. He presented the Board options moving forward with possible future bid with town for new bus camera contract.

ACTION ITEMS

PENDING ACTIONS

- i. Approval of the building use by Candra's Christian Dance Company to use the auditorium and music/band room at Hamden Middle School June 2, 2025 from 5:30-9pm and June 7, 2025 from 11am-7:30pm

Move to approve building use by Candra's Christian Dance Company to use the auditorium and music/band room at Hamden Middle School June 2, 2025 from 5:30-9pm and June 7, 2025 from 11am-7:30pm

By Kaplan

Seconded by: Johnson

In Favor: ALL

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

- ii. Terminate bus camera contract with Stop Arm LLC

Move to terminate existing contract with bus camera company Stop Arm LLC.

By Kaplan

Seconded by: Hill

In Favor: ALL

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

CONSENT AGENDA

- i. Approval to revise 1250 Visits to the Schools (Second read, Policy Committee, March 2025)
- ii. Approval to adopt policy 5131.914 Connecticut School Climate - Effective July 1st (Second read, Policy Committee, March 2025)
- iii. Approval to adopt policy 5144.2 Restorative Practices Response (Second read, Policy Committee, March 2025)
- iv. Approval to adopt policy 1411 School Security and Safety (Second read, Policy Committee, March 2025)
- v. Approval to repeal policy 5131.911 Bullying Prevention and Intervention - Effective July 1st (Second read, Policy Committee, March 2025)
- vi. Approval to revise policy 3516 Safety (Second read, Policy Committee, March 2025)
- vii. Approval of HHS senior student trip to Six Flags New England on May 23, 2025 (Curriculum Committee, April 2025)
- viii. Approval of ELA and media center book discards (Curriculum Committee, April 2025)
- ix. Approval of Budget Transfers (Finance Committee, May 2025 – attached)

Move to approve the Consent Agenda.

By Kaplan

Seconded by: Piscitelli

In Favor: ALL

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

The Superintendent reported on various topics of importance in the District:

Addressed the recent fights at HHS

IIC research grant update

Statewide Family Engagement Network w/ACES and EdAdvance

Arizona Professional Develop trip report

Superintendent Network professional learning update

AASA CAPSS support and work update

"Dignity Index" work and discussion group

ADJOURNMENT

Move to adjourn at 8:05 P.M.

Kaplan

Seconded by: Johnson

In Favor: ALL

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter Downhour, Board Secretary

HAMDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS					
	FY 2024-2025 - Budget	\$	97,893,675.00		
	YTD Expenditures	\$	80,964,926.68		
	YTD Encumbrances	\$	3,308,252.13		
	Less Grants	\$	66,047.00		
	Remaining Budget - FY 2024-2025	\$	13,686,543.19		
Object #	Object Code Description		TO:	FROM:	TO: NET: FROM: NET:
511	Transportation - Non Public			\$ 100,000.00	\$ -
512	FS SPED Transportation			\$ 48,925.00	\$ -
510	Transportation -Public	\$	148,925.00	\$ -	\$ -
	Grand Totals	\$	148,925.00	\$ 148,925.00	\$ - \$ -
	Reason for Request				
	Starting in January, First Student began charging Hamden for 6 All-Day Buses due to routes running over the 5 hour limit.				
623	Sewer Use Fees			\$ 25,000.00	\$ -
411	Water	\$	25,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
	Grand Totals	\$	25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ - \$ -
	Reason for Request				
	To cover expenditures				
114	Teachers Salaries			\$ 180,000.00	\$ -
128	Lunch Aides	\$	180,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
	Grand Totals	\$	180,000.00	\$ 180,000.00	\$ - \$ -
	Reason for Request				
	To cover overage in Lunch Aide wages				
611	Principal Intructional Supplies - HHS			\$ 315.90	\$ -
590	Graduation Expenses	\$	315.90	\$ -	\$ -
550	Principal Printing			\$ 312.65	\$ -
810	Principal Dues and Fees			\$ 609.10	\$ -
582	Admin Conferences	\$	921.75	\$ -	\$ -
	Grand Totals	\$	1,237.65	\$ 1,237.65	\$ - \$ -
	Reason for Request				
	Funds are being reallocated to cover graduation and employee professional development expenditures				