



HAMDEN BOARD OF EDUCATION
SEPTEMBER 9, 2025
MEETING MINUTES

Melissa Kaplan, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:11 P.M.

Board Members: Melissa Kaplan, Peter Downhour, Marcia Brown, Mario Ciccarini, Nancy Hill, Christopher Piscitelli, and Andrew Tammaro (Virtual 7:11 P.M. - 7:13 P.M.)

Staff: Gary Highsmith, Tom Ariola, Erin Bailey, Dr. Michelle Baker and Susan Smey

Student Representative: Matilda Ryder

REMOVAL OF ITEMS TO THE AGENDA

Board Chair, Melissa Kaplan, removed 7. Executive Session and 9.a. Pending Actions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Move to approve the minutes from the June 10, 2025 Board of Education meeting.

Kaplan

Seconded by: Piscitelli

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

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

CORRESPONDENCE

Peter Downhour reported there were several correspondences over the summer.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were no Public Comments on Agenda Items.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Matilda briefly spoke about the start of school.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

The Superintendent stated the start of school went well and he and Erin Bailey went to all the schools. The Superintendent reported on the summer projects within the schools. The Superintendent stated that the grant to analyze the IIC classrooms ended and he was just told that it has been reinstated. The Superintendent introduced the new Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Dr. Michelle Baker.

ACTION ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA

2. Move to approve the Consent Agenda

Kaplan

Seconded by: Piscitelli

- i. Revision of Policy #6142.101 Student Wellness (First read, Policy Committee, June 2025)
- ii. Revision of Policy#5117 Student Placement (First read, Policy Committee, June 2025)
- iii. Approval of the disposal of outdated music materials from Shepherd Glen School
- iv. Approval of the disposal of outdated music stands/instruments from Hamden High School
- v. Approval of a donation of a drum kit from a former alumnus
- vi. Approval of the building use by the Whitneyville Civic Association to use the boardroom at 60 Putnam Ave. the third Thursday every other month from 7-8:30pm starting September 2025 ending May 2026 for civic meetings
- vii. Approval of the building use by the Town of Hamden Senior Services to use the gymnasium at 60 Putnam Ave. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from October 17th – November 5th from 9-11am for senior exercise classes due to displacement for early voting

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

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

- 3. Move to adjourn at 7:25 P.M.

Kaplan

Seconded by: Ciccarini

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

MOTION

PASSES

UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully

Peter Downhour, Board Secretary

Submitted,