



HAMDEN BOARD OF EDUCATION
OCTOBER 14, 2025
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Melissa Kaplan, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M.

Board Members: Melissa Kaplan, Peter Downhour, David Asbery, Marcia Brown, Mario Ciccarini, Nancy Hill, Greta Johnson (Virtual), Christopher Piscitelli (Virtual), and Andrew Tammaro
Staff: Gary Highsmith, Tom Ariola, Erin Bailey, and Susan Smey
Student Representative: Matilda Ryder and Kalu Ogbaa

SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD RECOGNITION

Assistant Superintendent Erin Bailey introduced and recognized Awilda Rodriguez and Woody Frasier, Teacher Assistants at Hamden Early Learning Program.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Board Chair, Melissa Kaplan, stated there are no additions to the Agenda as this is a Special Meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Move to approve the minutes from the September 9, 2025 Board of Education meeting.
Kaplan

Seconded by: Ciccarini

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

CORRESPONDENCE

Peter Downhour stated there were no correspondences to report on.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were no Public Comments on Agenda Items.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Matilda briefly spoke about the start of testing and teacher's concern with shortage of paper. Kalu spoke about the special event on the football field with Dunkin Donuts.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

The Superintendent mentioned he had a call with the CT Commissioner of Education concerning the impact of the Federal Government freeze. The Commissioner stated that the

Connecticut State Department of Education has all the money that was allocated and should be releasing those funds this month.

The Superintendent updated everyone on the Personal Technology Use Policy. He stated that it is still going well with some exceptions. There have been many pros within the classrooms.

The Superintendent reported that on Friday he visited Kindergarten and First Grade classes at Dunbar Hill and read two books.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

2. Move to Executive Session at 7:12 PM to discuss the Superintendent's evaluation, possible contract extension, and salary increase; discuss the salary increases for non-union admin (Tom Ariola/Erin Bailey); discuss the salary increases for non-union professionals. Along with the Superintendent, Tom Ariola and then Erin Bailey are invited to the Executive Session.

Kaplan

Seconded by: Downhour

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

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Return to Public Session at 9:15 PM

ACTION ITEMS

PENDING ACTIONS

3. Move to approve the Superintendent's salary with a \$13,500 annuity, \$6000 auto allowance, a 2.5% wage increase, and paid up to 10 days of accrued vacation days.

Kaplan

Seconded by: Downhour

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

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Board Chair, Melissa Kaplan, stated that since the Board has not completed the Superintendent's evaluation process, the Superintendent's contract extension will not be considered tonight and it is no reflection on the performance of the Superintendent.

4. Move to approve salary increases for non-union admin (Tom Ariola/Erin Bailey) with \$6,4000 annuity, \$2,000 waiver, \$2,500 travel, and a 2.5% increase

Kaplan

Seconded by: Johnson

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

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

5. Move to approve salary increases for non-union professionals in the amount of 2.5%

Kaplan

Seconded by: Hill

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

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

6. Move to approve Park and Rec building usage requests

Kaplan

Seconded by: Johnson

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

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

CONSENT AGENDA

7. Move to approve the Consent Agenda

Kaplan

Seconded by: Brown

i. Revision of Policy #6142.101 Student Wellness (Second read, Policy Committee, June 2025)

ii. Revision of Policy#5117 Student Placement (Second read, Policy Committee, June 2025)

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

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

8. Move to adjourn at 9:25 P.M.

Kaplan

Seconded by: Asbery

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

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully
Peter Downhour, Board Secretary

Submitted,