



HAMDEN BOARD OF EDUCATION
FEBRUARY 10, 2026
MEETING MINUTES

Peter Downhour, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M.

Board Members: Peter Downhour, Marcia Brown, Mario Ciccarini, Crystal Dailey(Virtual), Nancy Hill, and Greta Johnson(Virtual)

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

Student Representative: Matilda Ryder and Kalu Ogbaa

SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD RECOGNITION

The Superintendent introduced Hamden Middle School Principal Scott Trauner, who honored Hamden Heroes:

Kellen Castanto- HMS Student
Marcella Sorensen- HMS Student
Lynnell Evans- HMS Teacher
Jan Stepniewski- HMS Custodian

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Board Chair, Peter Downhour, removed approval of minutes from November 11, December 9 and January 12.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

The following person spoke during Public Comments on Agenda Items: Doug Foley

CORRESPONDENCE

Melissa Kaplan stated there a couple pieces of correspondence received since the last meeting

MINUTES

1. Move to accept the minutes from the Board of Education Special Meeting on February 5.
Downhour
Seconded by: Kaplan
In Favor: Downhour, Brown, Johnson, Dailey

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Board Chair, Peter Downhour, stated there were a couple typos on the 26-27 Calendar. He mentioned that he started the day at Shepherd Glen today.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Matilda stated the heat was back on in the Auditorium. A few things have been brought up as concerns by students. The computers in the HECA lab are quite old and barely functioning. There is concern about student parking in Hamden Plaza because of huge piles of snow.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

The Superintendent and Tom Ariola will share the budget tonight.

The Superintendent stated that he has been invited to attend two meetings with the Town department heads.

It is the Governor's budget season as well and he wants Free meals for all students. There has been pressure from the Superintendents for the Governor to increase ECS funding.

The Superintendent will be performing in the High School musical.

The Superintendent stated the Director of ELA has encouraged everyone to sign-up for Reading Across America, to read to the students on March 2nd.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Holly and Paul from Cenergistics shared that great work has gone on at Hamden Middle School and she presented a check for \$3,000. Since inception, thirty-three percent of energy use has been reduced.

The Superintendent and Tom Ariola presented the Superintendent's 26-27 Proposed Budget. The Superintendent explained the process of the budget. The Superintendent is asking for a total budget of \$107,496,343 which is an increase of 5.97%.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ACES/Wintergreen - Board Representative, Nancy Hill, stated she wasn't able to make the meeting.

Curriculum Committee - Committee Chair, Melissa Kaplan, reported on the activities of the committee.

Finance Committee - Committee Member, Melissa Kaplan, reported on the activities of the committee.

Goals and Evaluation Committee - Committee Chair, Mario Ciccarini, stated there was no meeting.

Operations Committee - Tom Ariola, reported on the activities of the committee.

Personnel Committee - Committee Member, Crystal Dailey, reported on the activities of the committee.

Policy Committee - Committee Chair, Nancy Hill, reported on the activities of the committee.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

2. Move to Executive Session at 8:01 PM to discuss the Superintendent's evaluation tool and possible contract extension.

Downhour

Seconded by: Brown

In Favor: Downhour, Kaplan, Brown, Ciccarini, Dailey, Hill and Johnson
MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Return to Public Session at 8:34 PM.

ACTION ITEMS

PENDING ACTIONS

3. Move to approve the Superintendent's evaluation tool and extend the Superintendent's contract to June 30, 2028

Downhour

Seconded by: Johnson

In Favor: Downhour, Kaplan, Brown, Ciccarini, Dailey, Hill and Johnson

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

4. Move to approve Dr. Mario Ciccarini as the BOE representative to be an Ex-Officio Member of the Town of Hamden Finance Commission

Downhour

Seconded by: Brown

In Favor: Downhour, Kaplan, Brown, Ciccarini, Dailey, Hill and Johnson

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

CONSENT AGENDA

5. Move to Consent Agenda

Downhour

- i. Approval to revise Policy #4152.6 Family Medical Leave Act (Second Read, Policy Committee, October 2025)

- ii. Approval to revise Policy #6161.1 Evaluation of Instructional Materials (Second Read, Policy Committee, October 2025)

- iii. Approval to revise Policy #6161 Equipment, Books and Materials (renamed Textbooks and Primary Instructional Materials) (First Read, Policy Committee, January 2026)

- iv. Approval to revise Policy #6160 Instructional Resources and 6162 Instructional Resources for Teachers (combined and renamed Supplemental Instructional Materials) (First Read, Policy Committee, January 2026)

- v. Approval to revise Policy #3320 Purchasing Procedures (First Read, Policy Committee, January 2026)

- vi. Approval to revise Policy #3542.22 Food Service Personnel – Code of Conduct (renamed Code of Conduct for Procurements Under a Federal Award) (First Read, Policy Committee, January 2026)

- vii. Approval to repeal Policy #3310 (Purchasing Authority) (First Read, Policy Committee, January 2026)

- viii. Approval to repeal Policy #3313 (Relations with Vendors) (First Read, Policy Committee, January 2026)

- ix. Approval to repeal Policy #3313.1 (Local Purchasing) (First Read, Policy Committee, January 2026)

- x. Approval to repeal Policy #3321 (Requesting Goods and Services/Requisitions) (First Read, Policy Committee, January 2026)

- xi. Approval to repeal Policy #3326 (Paying for Goods and Services) (First Read, Policy Committee, January 2026)
- xii. Approval to repeal Policy #3326.2 (Emergency Expenditures) (First Read, Policy Committee, January 2026)
- xiii. Approval to repeal Policy #6161.12 (Free to Learn Bill of Rights) (First Read, Policy Committee, January 2026)
- xiv. Approval of the building use by the Hamden Heronettes to use the pool and locker rooms at Hamden High School on February 21st from 10am-4:30pm for the 2026 Winter Classic Artistic Swim Meet (Operations Committee, February 2026)
- xv. Approval of the building use by the Hamden Heronettes to use the pool and locker rooms at Hamden High School on May 16th from 7am-8pm for the East Zone Region A Championships (Operations Committee, February 2026)
- xvi. Approval of the building use by the Hamden Heronettes to use the pool and locker rooms at Hamden High School on June 4th from 5:30-9pm for rehearsals, June 5th from 5:30-9pm and June 6th from 10am-1:30pm for the 2026 Annual Water Show (Operations Committee, February 2026)
- xvii. Approval of the building use by the Town of Hamden Park & Rec to use the cafeteria, classrooms and gym at Shepherd Glen School on June 29-August 7, 2026 from 7am- 6pm for Recreation Camp (Operations Committee, February 2026)
- xviii. Approval of the building use by the Town of Hamden Park & Rec to use the cafeteria, classrooms and gym at Hamden High School on June 29-August 7, 2026 from 7am-6pm for Recreation Camp (Operations Committee, February 2026)
- xix. Approval of the \$5,000 donation DeMatteo Family Foundation Inc. and the \$20,000 from Richard Barthelmes, the family of Thomas E. Malone and the class of '56 to Hamden Public Schools Athletics (Operations Committee, February 2026)
- xx. Approval of the Eagle Project at Hamden High School (Operations Committee, February 2026)
- xxi. Approval of CTE discard items (Curriculum Committee, February 2026)
- xxii. Approval of the HHS Ski & Snowboard Club trip to Ski Butternut in Great Barrington, MA on February 20, 2026 (Curriculum Committee, February 2026)
- xxiii. Approval of budget transfers (Finance Committee, February 2026)

In Favor: Downhour, Kaplan, Brown, Ciccarini, Dailey, Hill and Johnson
MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

- 6. Move to adjourn at 8:21 P.M.
Downhour
Seconded by: Ciccarini
In Favor: Downhour, Kaplan, Brown, Ciccarini, Dailey, Hill and Johnson

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully Submitted,
Melissa Kaplan, Board Secretary