

# The Board Report

*Monday, February 6, 2023*



**Disclaimer:** The Board Report is a synopsis of the Hampton Township School Board meetings and is not intended as a replacement for any official Board minutes.

# *~ A Tradition of Excellence ~*

## ***The Hampton Township Board of School Directors***

<b>Mrs. Jill Hamlin*</b>	<b>Board President</b>
<b>Mr. Matt Jarrell</b>	<b>Board Vice President/Student Affairs Chair</b>
<b>Ms. Denise Balason</b>	<b>Board Secretary/Facilities Chair</b>
<b>Mrs. Joy Midgley</b>	<b>Personnel Chair</b>
<b>Mr. Robert Shages</b>	<b>Treasurer/Policy &amp; Legislative Affairs Chair</b>
<b>Mr. Greg Stein**</b>	<b>Technology Chair</b>
<b>Mr. Larry Vasko</b>	<b>Finance Chair</b>
<b>Mrs. Trisha Webb</b>	<b>Educational Programs Chair</b>
<b>Mr. Bryant Wesley II, Esq.</b>	<b>Transportation Chair</b>

*This Hampton Township School Board Meeting was held in the Hampton Middle School Library. The meeting was held in person and audio/video recorded so that community members could view it after the meeting concluded.*

## ***Members of Administration in Attendance***

<b>Dr. Michael Loughhead</b>	<b>Superintendent of Schools</b>
<b>Dr. Rebecca Cunningham</b>	<b>Assistant Superintendent of Schools</b>
<b>Dr. Ed McKaveney</b>	<b>Director of Technology</b>
<b>Mr. Josh Kellogg</b>	<b>Manager of Network and Cybersecurity</b>
<b>Dr. Jackie Removcik</b>	<b>Assistant to the Superintendent</b>
<b>Dr. Marlynn Lux</b>	<b>Hampton Middle School Principal</b>

*\* absent*

*\*\* attended remotely*

**February 6, 2023**

## **Work Session**

A video recording of the meeting can be viewed [here](#). The time within the video that each section begins is indicated below.

### **Call to Order**

(4:25)

Mr. Jarrell opened the meeting and introduced Emma An and Ellie Myros who provided a Student Council Representative's Report.

Emma, senior class treasurer, reported that the Student Council has been focusing on preparing for Talbot Thon in recent months. The deadline for sign-ups is Friday, February 10th, and over 300 students have registered thus far. In the lead up to Thon, Student Council has planned a number of fundraising initiatives, including a Valentine's Day candy gram sale and a 3v3 basketball tournament. They are also collecting raffle basket donations from various clubs, sports teams, and local businesses. In addition, the prom committee has already started making arrangements for Prom on May 5th and the Sadie Hawkins dance on March 4th.

Ellie, special education student liaison, shared that the new addition has been a huge success for high school students who are thriving in the new area that provides a quiet study space. Additionally, the new Busy Bean Cafe has become a popular spot for students to work and socialize during free periods. Ellie also noted that the school's counselors and teachers are working hard to help students plan their schedules and prepare for college, especially upperclassmen. They have been helpful in guiding students towards the best academic path for their needs.

Dr. Loughhead inquired about what aspect of the new learning spaces students are enjoying most. Emma said she has noticed that students enjoy studying in the library during their study hall to take advantage of a quieter space with fewer distractions and plenty of seating options. She also noted that the Conceptual Thinking Lab has been a popular space for instruction among teachers.

### **Public Comment**

(7:52)

Mr. Jarrell opened the meeting to public comment, but there were no comments at this time.

## **Student Affairs**

(8:07)

Mr. Jarrell presented the following action items to be considered for approval at the February 13th Voting Meeting:

- Hampton High School Winter Color Guard Field Trip to the Tournament of Indoor Atlantic Coast Championships in Wildwood, New Jersey, May 4-7, 2023 at no cost to the District.

In response to a Board Member's question, Dr. Cunningham said the students involved in this field trip would miss one day of instruction.

## **Facilities**

(9:04)

Ms. Balason presented the following action items to be considered for approval at the February 13th meeting:

- The dedication of the new Hampton High School Library Media Center to be named the "Gail V. Litwiler Media Center." A passionate advocate for our students, the late Gail V. Litwiler served on the Hampton Township School Board for three decades. Mrs. Litwiler's unwavering support of libraries and her vision for the media center as a core of academic instruction were instrumental in advancing this project.

Ms. Balason said Mrs. Litwiler was an incredibly passionate and caring board member who always put students first. She said Mrs. Litwiler was involved in the original planning for the new library and was very attentive to its role in a student's education. Ms. Balason said she is proud of how the project turned out and that it is fitting to name the Library Media Center in honor of Mrs. Litwiler, who was a champion of public education, an amazing board member, friend, and human being.

Dr. Loughhead said he was privileged to work alongside Mrs. Litwiler during his time as Hampton's superintendent. With his experience in education, he said that Mrs. Litwiler was one of the most dedicated and committed board members he had ever encountered. Dr. Loughhead noted that he is very pleased that the Board is considering naming the library in her honor.

## **Finance**

(34:47)

Mr. Kline presented the following information regarding the High School Phase I Completion - Bond Issue:

- The District will need to issue bonds to complete Phase I of the High School Project. The previous issuances were for \$10 million each (May 2022 and July 2021) in order to take advantage of the preferable bank qualified rates.
- The District approved a "reimbursement resolution" in November 2022 to permit temporary borrowing from the general fund to address cash flow issues with the HS project.

- Current projections show that the District will need approximately \$1.857 million to complete Phase I of the High School project. In addition to the High School project, the District has identified 13 other district-wide capital projects that should be addressed within the next five years.
- Mr. Kline recommends borrowing \$3 million to fund the remainder of the high school project and seven other capital project items, including Wyland Fire Alarm (\$200,000), Fridley Handicap Seating (\$50,000), Wyland Sidewalk (\$100,000), MS / Admin / Fridley asphalt (\$400,000), Elementary LEDs (\$75,000), MS LEDs (\$80,000), and Fridley LEDs (\$300,000).
- With a \$3 million bond issuance, the District would be left with \$575,000 available for bidding contingencies or additional projects. The issuance would also increase the District's debt service by \$129,000 annually.
- Mr. Kline also presented the District's local tax revenue update as of January 31, 2023:
- Real estate taxes are ahead of the budgeted amount as the District has collected 101.03% of the budgeted amount.
- Earned income taxes are up 5.6% over last year.
- Real estate transfer taxes are lagging due to the higher mortgage rates, resulting in fewer real estate transactions.
- Delinquent real estate taxes are lagging.
- Additionally, at the February 13th meeting, the Board will consider approving budget transfers totaling \$3,500 for the HMS general fund/supplies.

## Personnel

(24:19)

Mrs. Midgley presented the following personnel action items to be considered for approval at the February 13th meeting:

### Resignations

- Ms. Krista Metnick, who is resigning after ten and a half years with the District, effective January 31, 2023. Ms. Metnick was a paraeducator (Class III) at Wyland Elementary.
- Mr. Gregory Miles who is resigning after 25 years with the District, effective January 7, 2023. Mr. Miles was a Maintenance employee with the District.
- Teachers
- Change in status for Mrs. Jennifer Januck, moving from the Library Assistant at Hampton Middle School to the Long-Term Substitute Library/Media Specialist position at Hampton Middle School, effective January 20, 2023 through June 12, 2023. Salary is \$35,500, prorated. Mrs. Januck will return to her position as Library Assistant on June 13, 2023. Mrs. Januck is a Long-Term Substitute for the open Library/Media Specialist position.

- Change in status for Ms. Kayla Freehling, moving from a Long-Term Substitute Grade 7 Science Teacher at Hampton Middle School to a Building Substitute at Hampton Middle School, effective January 26, 2023 through February 3, 2023, and accept the resignation of Ms. Freehling, effective February 3, 2023. Salary for the change in status remained \$35,500, prorated. Ms. Freehling replaced Ms. Kayla Rock.
- Change in status for Ms. Emmalene Hodil, moving from the Elementary Building Substitute (Floater) position to a Long-Term Substitute Special Education/ESL Teacher at Central Elementary School, effective January 23, 2023 through the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year. Salary is \$35,500, prorated. Ms. Hodil is substituting in the open Special Education/ESL Teacher position due to Ms. Katey Yurchik's resignation.
- Change in status for Ms. Kaitlyn Hamlin, moving from a Long-Term Substitute Family and Consumer Science Teacher at Hampton High School and Hampton Middle School, to a High School Building Substitute, effective January 23, 2023. Salary remains at \$35,500. Ms. Hamlin is filling the open High School Building Substitute position.
- Gabrielle DePasquale as the Elementary Building Substitute Teacher (Floater) based at Central Elementary School, effective February 6, 2023 through the end of the 2023-2024 School Year. Salary is \$26,500, prorated. Ms. DePasquale is replacing Ms. Hodil's position.
- Kylee McCracken, Jessica Heranic, Laura Bauer, Elizabeth Casey, and Kelsey Kowalczyk as mentors for the 2022-2023 school year.
- The following professional employees who have attained tenure status effective February 13, 2023: Mary Davis (Grade 6 Reading Teacher) and Samantha Kron (Kindergarten Teacher).
- Custodial / Maintenance
- Mr. Tim Rieger as a 10 month/5 hour custodian at Hampton High School, effective January 20, 2023. Hourly rate is \$24.18. Mr. Rieger is replacing Mrs. Katherine Blank.
- The following day-to-day custodial substitutes. Hourly rate is \$12.00 for the first 20 days and \$12.50 thereafter:
  - Mr. Alex Possino, effective January 20, 2023
  - Mr. Jason Orzechowski, effective January 25, 2023
  - Mr. Chad Fabian, effective February 2, 2023

## **Other**

- Ms. Xiaojing Zhang as the Club Sponsor for the Chinese Language and Culture Club at Hampton High School for the remainder of the 2022-2023 School Year. Ms. Zhang is replacing Ms. Jun Angelini.

## Supplementals

- The following conditional appointments for 2022-2023, each at a rate of \$146 per point, with each such appointment being conditioned on the District making a subsequent determination that the supplementary position and work associated with such position is needed and approved and will continue during the coronavirus pandemic following future guidance from the Commonwealth. Each appointment shall be effective only where the position is approved and operational and where the work associated with such position is actually being performed. This conditional appointment does not obligate the District to approve some, all or any of the supplementary positions for 2022-2023 and does not guarantee any of the persons listed below that his or her supplementary position will be needed and in place, or that it will continue uninterrupted, in 2022-2023:

Name	Position	Building	Points	Total Stipend
Kellen Wheeler	Baseball - Head Coach	HS	49	\$7,154
Stephen Swierczynski	Baseball Assistant Coach	HS	38	\$5,548
Jedd Cordisco	Baseball JV Coach	HS	38	\$5,548
Corey Casper	Baseball Assistant JV Coach	HS	32	\$4,672
Chris Anastas	Baseball Middle School Coach	MS	32	\$4,672
Andrew DeMichiei	Lacrosse Boys' Head Coach	HS	49	\$7,154
Justin Mayfield	Lacrosse Boys' Assistant Coach	HS	38	\$5,548
Chris DeMichiei	Lacrosse Boys' JV Coach	HS	35	\$5,110
Kelsey Viets	Lacrosse Girls' Head Coach	HS	49	\$7,154
Christine McGrath	Lacrosse Girls' Assistant Coach	HS	38	\$5,548
Breanne Vodde	Larossse Girls' JV Coach	HS	35	\$5,110
Ron Fedell	Girls' Softball Head Coach	HS	49	\$7,154
Scott Breen	Girls' Softball Assistant Coach	HS	38	\$5,548
Jonathon McAuley	Girls' Softball JV Coach	HS	36	\$5,256
Megan Hepler	Girls Softball Assistant JV Coach	HS	32	\$4,672
Elizabeth Bright	Girls Softball MS Coach	MS	28	\$4,088
Kaitlin Hamlin	Girls Softball MS Assistant Coach	MS	20	\$2,920
Heather Dietz	Track Head Coach	HS	53	\$7,738
Nick Panza	First Assistant Track Coach	HS	37	\$5,402
Joe Cangilla	Track Coach Assistant "A"	HS	29	\$4,234
Kim Masarik	Track Coach Assistant "B"	HS	29	\$4,234
Matthew Combi	Track Coach Assistant "C"	HS	22	\$3,212
Sam Flowers	Track Coach Assistant "D"	HS	22	\$3,212
Mary Bukovac	Middle School Track Coach	MS	34	\$4,964
Greg Shumaker	MS Track Coach Assistant "A"	MS	19	\$2,774
Mary Davis	MS Track Coach Assistant "B"	MS	19	\$2,774
Jesse Belitz	MS Track Coach Assistant "C"	MS	19	\$2,774
Grant McKinney	Tennis - Boys' Head Coach	HS	33	\$4,818

Mr. Stein stated that he would like the Board to place more emphasis on teachers achieving tenure in the future.



## Educational Programs

(29:40)

Mrs. Webb welcomed Dr. Lux and Dr. Removcik to present the 2023-2024 Middle School Program of Studies that the Board will consider adopting at the February 13th meeting.

Dr. Lux presented several proposed changes to the program of studies:

- The former “Career Awareness” rotation course will be renamed “Career and Financial Awareness.” The updated course name better reflects the changes and improvements to the rotation course that all 8th-grade students experience. A personal finance unit has been added to this 8th-grade rotation course. The updated course has been well received, and the teachers are proud of their work. Additionally, the Reality Fair has been a great success, with participation from parents, community members, and board members. Mr. Vasko commended Dr. Lux and the middle school on this update that he believes would be a tremendous asset to the students. The next Reality Fair will be held on February 15th and additional help is needed.
- The former “Computer Animation and Gaming” 8th-grade elective course will be renamed “Computer Animation and Game Design Sequence” to reflect the work that Dr. Lux and Dr. Removcik have led with former HMS computer science teacher, Mr. Kennedy. This proposal demonstrates the work that Mrs. DeMichiei and Ms. Gwen Cohen wish to continue with students. The changes proposed in the course description align with the high school’s AP computer science principles course. One of the fundamental changes includes the integration of CS First with Scratch Coding, a critical component of the game design curriculum. In addition, students will apply game-design principles and coding to create their games using Bloxels, an interactive platform in which students can create characters, art, stories, and games to test their animations.
- Both the “6th Grade Beginner’s Band Course” and “6th Grade Beginner’s Orchestra” will be updated to recommend that students are expected to dedicate a minimum of 100 out-of-school practice time per week. The current recommended time is 75 minutes per week. Dr. Lux said this update would help students with no previous band or orchestra experience develop the skills instructed in the elementary band or orchestra programs.
- The 6th-grade “Health I” course will be updated to include units of study on Health and Wellness, Self-Esteem, Personal Health Care and Hygiene, Tobacco and Alcohol, and Nutrition.
- The 8th grade “Spanish I” course will be updated so that oral proficiency will be evaluated through multiple opportunities to demonstrate facility in oral language skills indicative of a Level I student. This change aligns with how the high school tests for oral proficiency.

Dr. Removcik presented amendments to the 2023-2024 High School Program of Studies that will be considered for Board approval during the February 13th meeting:

- Change “Honors-Introduction to Managerial Accounting” to “CHS Introduction to Managerial Accounting.” Mr. Howard worked with Duquesne University for our Managerial Accounting class to be approved as a college in high school course.



- Change the name of “CORE” to “Pathway 2 Build.” This name change was recommended by ABC to create consistency and continuity among all schools involved in the pre-registered apprenticeship.

## **Technology**

(39:22)

While there were no action items to be considered, Mr. Stein reported that the Technology Council is meeting on February 8th. The Council typically meets four times per year for about 1.5 hours. Since he is unable to attend, he asked if another Board member could volunteer to attend.

## **Policy and Legislative Affairs**

(40:53)

Mr. Shages presented three items to be considered for approval at the February 13th meeting:

- First Reading of Policy #200: Enrollment of Students
- First Reading of Policy #221: Dress and Grooming
- Second Reading of Policy #113.3: Screening and Evaluations for Students with Disabilities

Dr. Cunningham noted that the recommended changes to Policies #200 and #221 included language designed to support students experiencing various forms of educational instability.

## **Transportation**

(43:49)

There were no action items to discuss this evening.

## **Public Comment & Adjournment**

(44:00)

There were no public comments and the meeting was adjourned. The Board held a brief executive session to discuss legal and personnel matters.