

The Board Report

Tuesday, September 7, 2021



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

Bryant Wesley II, Esq.

Mrs. Jill Hamlin

Ms. Denise Balason

Mr. Matt Jarrell

Mrs. Joy Midgley

Mr. Robert Shages

Mr. Greg Stein

Mr. Larry Vasko

Mrs. Trisha Webb

** absent*

*** attended remotely*

Board President

Board Vice President

Board Secretary/Facilities Chair

Transportation Chair

Personnel Chair

Board Treasurer/Policy & Legislative Affairs Chair

Technology Chair

Finance Chair

Student Affairs Chair

This Hampton Township School Board Meeting was held in the Hampton Middle School Auditorium. The meeting was audio/video simulcast so that community members could watch remotely, and was also audio/video recorded.

Members of Administration in Attendance

Dr. Michael Loughhead

Dr. Rebecca Cunningham

Mr. Jeff Kline

Dr. Jackie Removcik

Dr. Edward McKaveney

Mr. Josh Kellogg

Dr. Marlynn Lux

Dr. Michael Silbaugh

Mr. Josh Cable

Superintendent of Schools

Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Director of Administrative Services

Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

Director of Technology

Network Administrator

Hampton Middle School Principal

Hampton Middle School Assistant Principal

Hampton High School Assistant Principal

September 7, 2021

Voting Meeting

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

(5:40)

Mr. Wesley called the meeting to order and informed audience members that face coverings are required. The meeting was temporarily halted until all audience members complied with the masking requirement.

Presentations

(7:55)

Dr. Loughhead welcomed Dr. Marlynn Lux, Hampton Middle School Principal, to present information about the new Learning Pavilion at HMS.

Dr. Lux thanked the Board for the opportunity to present on a positive improvement to the school that the faculty, staff, and students are excited about.

Dr. Lux presented the following information about the Learning Pavilion:

- The Learning Pavilion was installed over the summer, and a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held in August.
- The exhibit formerly was a Pennsylvania natural resources terrarium.
- When Dr. Loughhead became superintendent, the administration asked the Middle School if they could develop an interactive learning exhibit where students would be able to engage and learn together.
- The concept was developed by a committee of teachers led by Dr. Lux and Dr. Silbaugh, HMS Assistant Principal.
- The Middle School enlisted the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University to help design elements of the Learning Pavilion.

Dr. Silbaugh discussed features of the exhibit, including interactive world maps, chain reaction systems, and storyboarding elements — which can be utilized across multiple subjects. He said the Learning Pavilion promotes innovation and creativity among students.

Additionally, Dr. Lux described the Augmented Reality (AR) feature of the Learning Pavilion, which was developed by Mr. John Balash, Director of Educational Engagement at CMU's Entertainment Technology Center. She introduced five student leaders who worked with Mr. Balash over the summer to speak regarding their experiences:

- Drew said the Learning Pavilion is a great investment in the future for students interested in developing technology. He said AR presents an array of opportunities for students to enhance their learning.
- William said he enjoyed learning about AR with Mr. Balash, including placing objects in a virtual world. He is excited to be a student leader in teaching others how to use this amazing technology.
- Thi noted that AR is constantly changing, which will put students at HMS ahead of the curve. She described a fun experience making an object in the AR world with Mr. Balash.
- Celie said she is excited for all students to use the Learning Pavilion at HMS. She said she is interested in how AR can be used in the real world. She is happy to be a part of this innovative opportunity.
- Sonia is excited to teach students about AR — the technology of the future — at HMS where she will be using her experiences learning from Mr. Balash.

Dr. Lux concluded by thanking the project's funders: The Hampton Alliance for Educational Excellence (HAEE), Hampton Middle School PTO, and HMS Student Council. She added that the Learning Pavilion will soon be gaining a hydroponics section in the HMS lobby, courtesy of another HAEE grant.

Further, Dr. Loughead thanked Dr. Lux and Dr. Silbaugh for coordinating this presentation. He noted that the student speakers did a great job addressing the Board.

Answering a Board Member's question, Dr. Lux said the Learning Pavilion can be reserved by individual teachers. She added that the storyboarding feature can be utilized across multiple disciplines. Further, she said the Learning Pavilion will be cleaned and sanitized routinely.

Mr. Wesley complimented the student speakers and their parents for bringing them to tonight's meeting and supporting them.

Voting Session

31:27

Mr. Wesley announced that the Board was entering its voting session. Once the voting meeting adjourned, there would be an opportunity for public comment before the work session began.

Roll call was taken, and all members were present.

Personnel

(32:49)

Mrs. Midgley presented and the Board unanimously approved hiring Ms. Elizabeth Bright as a TPE Health & Physical Education Teacher at Hampton Middle School effective September 13, 2021. Her salary is Bachelor's Step 1, \$49,117, prorated. Ms. Bright is replacing Mr. Corey Vasbinder.

Public Comment

(33:40)

Mr. Wesley opened the meeting to public comment.

Community Member

34:06

A parent with a daughter at HMS discussed her concerns with the use of heart rate monitors in physical education classes, asking for their removal from the curriculum. She expressed concern with health and safety, specifically sanitation, as the devices are shared among students. Further, she said not all students have the same target heart rate zones. She is also concerned about protected health information. Last, she suggested that the teachers look and listen to their students for assessment instead of listening to a heart monitor.

Dr. Loughhead told this parent he would be happy to follow up in detail regarding her concerns at a later time.

Community Member

40:41

A community member read a portion of the Pennsylvania Constitution stating that individuals have a right to breathe clean air, suggesting that mask wearing prevents this access. She asked whether the District will be liable in the event a mask causes harm to a student. Additionally, she said she created a Facebook page in support of unmasking students at Hampton. She added that parents were promised children would have mask breaks whenever they want, asking how teachers can monitor proper mask wearing, mask breaks, replacement masks, social distancing, hand washing, etc., and still have time to educate students.

Community Member

44:42

A community member stated that she was shocked to hear religious and medical exemptions for mask wearing were taken away under the new mandate. She told the Board that her three children are now enrolled in charter school since they chose not to wear masks. Until her children are able to breathe and see faces, she said they will not return to Hampton.

Community Member

45:53

A community member told the Board that there is little scientific evidence to support that routine disinfection of surfaces prevents the spread of COVID-19. He also said the District's masking policy violates the state's mandate that was imposed on August 31. Further, he said he is running for a school board seat in the November election. He said the District's masking policy should allow for parents to complete an exemption form if they do not want to comply with the face covering mandate.

Student Affairs

(52:33)

Mrs. Webb welcomed three High School class officers to provide an update to the Board.

Miss Conte said the school year has started smoothly given the adjustments to school start time and parking changes.

Regarding school start times, she said Student Council has been hearing positive feedback so far, and that students seem to be getting more sleep. The only concerns raised involved extracurricular activities.

Additionally, Miss Conte said that Student Council is currently planning Homecoming, which is slated for October 2. She said they are excited to be working on securing an outdoor venue.

Mr. Wesley praised the High School students regarding the parking situation, adding that the Board appreciates the fact that there have not been any complaints about littering. Further, Dr. Loughead thanked members of Student Council for presenting, wishing them luck in planning Homecoming.

Mrs. Webb presented two action items that will be considered for approval at the September 13 meeting:

- A request to change a high school club name from “On Location Club” to the “Film Club.”
- A request from the High School to pilot the Showcase Club.
 - Dr. Cunningham said as a pilot club, the teacher who sponsors the club would receive a \$250 stipend. If the pilot is successful, the club may be considered for official club status next year.

Facilities

(58:50)

Ms. Balason presented the following action item to be considered for approval at the September 13 meeting:

- Proposal from American Contracting Enterprises for the Abatement of the existing floor in the area for the future MDF Room in an amount not to exceed \$5,493.

Mr. Jason Day of PJ Dick presented a Phase I update on the Hampton High School Renovation Project. Mr. Day will be providing monthly progress reports to the Board.

His presentation included the following information:

- He anticipates the RA Glancy, the general contractor, to begin mobilizing on site next week (9/13).
- The following shows the current contractor and job progress status:

High School Construction – Current construction progress and job status thru August 31, 2021:

- **RA Glancy – General Contractor**
 - Contract has been executed. Insurance submitted.
 - Commence submittal process and material procurements.
 - **Phase 1A, B, C, D** – Anticipated Mobilization is September 7th.
 - **Phase 2A, B** – Anticipated Mobilization is September 7th.
 - **Merit Electric – Electrical Contractor**
 - Contract has been executed. Insurance submitted.
 - Commence submittal process and material procurements.
 - **Phase 1A, B, C, D** – Anticipated Mobilization is after September 7th
 - **Phase 2A, B** – Anticipated Mobilization is after September 7th
 - **Vrabel – Plumbing Contractor**
 - Contract has been executed. Insurance submitted.
 - Commence submittal process and material procurements.
 - **Phase 1A, B, C, D** – Anticipated Mobilization is after September 7th and per construction schedule.
 - **Phase 2A, B** – Anticipated Mobilization will be after September 7th and per construction schedule.
 - **East West Mechanical – Mechanical Contractor**
 - Contract has been executed. Insurance submitted.
 - Commence submittal process and material procurements.
 - **Phase 1A, B, C, D** – Anticipated Mobilization will be after September 7th and per construction schedule.
 - **PA Roofing – Re-Roofing**
 - Contract has been executed. Insurance submitted.
 - **Roofing Phase 1A** - Roofing material for majority of Phase 1 was delivered end of July 2021. Work commenced in August. Roof Phase 1A is approximately 35% completed. Roofing material for balance of Phase 1 and most of Phase 2 has been delivered.
- The roofing contractor, PA Roofing, has completed 30-35% of the first phase of reroofing. That work should be completed within the next 2-3 weeks. The next phase of reroofing will occur at the HHS auditorium.
 - The contractor will be installing two new driveways near the new entrance to the High School building by November. Mr. Day said a lot of work will occur in the front of the building over the next two months.

In answering Board Members' questions, Mr. Day said:

- There is an industry-wide supply chain issue right now, but contractors for the High School project have been instructed to report any problems immediately.
- Three out of four contractors have returned their signed contracts.
- The general contractor has been given permission to utilize the entire field at the front of the school for its trailer area.
- Contract work over the winter months will not affect extracurricular activities at the High School pool.

Mr. Day also presented pictures of materials that have arrived onsite for the project. He said PA Roofing has procured 90-95% of their material on site — noting that it will be challenging to store it all on site.



Educational Programs

(1:19:17)

Mrs. Hamlin said there are two action items for consideration at the next meeting.

Dr. Jackie Removcik, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, presented information about the first action item: the 2021-2022 Hampton Township School District Assessment Schedule.

Dr. Removcik said the AIMSweb Plus and Star 360 Reading and Math Assessments are benchmark assessments administered three times per year that assist with instructional planning.

In answering questions from the Board, Dr. Removcik said:

- Act 158 allows students to take different pathways to meet graduation requirements, including students who did not take the Keystone Exam last year due to the pandemic.
- The District does use the Dial-4 data for both classroom and instructional planning.
- The District has received preliminary PSSA results and additional information will be shared at a later date.

Mr. Josh Cable, HHS Assistant Principal, presented the other action item: the 2021-2022 Hampton Online Academy Handbook.

He said many changes have been made to the handbook due to last year's high enrollment in the HOA which informed administrators about what actions needed to be taken in order to meet the evolving needs of students.

Most changes involved making the handbook language more inclusive to include all K-12 learners, since the online academy previously focused primarily on secondary learners. Changes to the handbook were made collaboratively, with more than a dozen faculty members — including teachers and department chairs — providing input. Further, Mr. Cable thanked Dr. Michael Silbaugh (HMS Assistant Principal) and Dr. Amy Kern (Central Elementary Principal) who had an active role with HOA last year.

Ms. Webb suggested that some families were disappointed last year that students in HOA could not participate in band. She suggested that language be added to the handbook to clarify that policy. Mr. Vasko also recommended adding language to support the community service requirement.

Mr. Cable said the District switched to the Pearson program this year, which is more in-line with the curriculum in our building. He said this platform also uses a slightly friendlier interface for younger learners.

Additionally, Mr. Cable provided an enrollment update for the Hampton Online Academy:

- Grades K-5 12 students
- Grades 6-8 4 students
- Grades 9-12 19 students

He noted that this year's total of 35 students is about 12% of last year's enrollment, which is comparable to enrollment in years prior to the pandemic. Given that enrollment in HOA can fluctuate throughout the year, Mr. Cable said revisions to the handbook accounted for students transitioning in and out of the program.

Mr. Wesley emphasized that the current enrollment for HOA does not include students who attend cyber or charter schools.

Additionally, Dr. Loughhead provided a brief update about how the new school start times have affected students attending the A.W. Beattie Career Center. Since students now attend both morning and afternoon sessions, it has caused issues with transportation which needed to be addressed early in the school year.

However, he said enrollment at A.W. Beattie is the highest it has ever been — which is positive news. Due to high enrollment, switching classes and moving between programs has been a challenge. Dr. Loughhead said he is encouraged that A.W. Beattie is offering programs that are popular for students at Hampton.

Mr. Stein mentioned that A.W. Beattie is currently considering acquiring more classroom space due to high enrollment.

Quarantine Update

1:45:15

Mr. Wesley mentioned that some school districts in Allegheny County have had to quarantine large numbers of students due to COVID-19 exposures.

Dr. Loughead provided the following quarantine update:

- The District's protocols and procedures, including masking and social distancing, have been very successful from a quarantine standpoint.
- Last week, there were fewer than ten students required to quarantine.
- There have been several cases where no students had to quarantine because of the social distancing that schools are able to acquire at lunch, along with universal masking in the classrooms plus three feet of social distancing that allows classes to proceed with instruction and not have to remove students.
- Most schools have been able to implement six feet of social distancing in the cafeterias, which has limited the number of students required to quarantine. Central Elementary presents a challenge since there is a larger number of students who eat lunch there — but Dr. Loughead said the District will work to achieve six feet of social distancing there, too.
- Students who are required to quarantine still have access to instruction in the classroom via Zoom, just as they did last year.

Under New Business, Dr. Loughead updated the Board regarding third-day enrollment. He said numbers reflect what the District anticipated. However, he said the High School has had more enrollments than in years past, including students coming from other districts or private schools — which he said is a pleasant surprise.

Personnel

(1:49:56)

Mrs. Midgely presented the following action items to be considered for approval at the September 13 meeting:

Resignations

- Ms. Emily Milbert who is resigning effective August 12, 2021. Ms. Milbert was a Long-Term Substitute Grade 4 Teacher at Central Elementary School for Mrs. Rebecca Zimmerman.
- Mrs. Jenna Mansfield who is resigning after one year with the District, with an effective date to-be-determined. Mrs. Mansfield is a Grade 4 Elementary Teacher at Poff Elementary School.

Teachers

- Ms. Caroline Repola as a TPE Math Academic Support Teacher at Hampton High School effective August 23, 2021. Salary is \$29,500. Ms. Repola is replacing Ms. Kristin Baker Donna Wanner was a Long-Term Substitute in this position last year.

- Change in status for Ms. Sydney Funtal moving from a Long-Term Substitute Reading Teacher at Central Elementary School to a Long-Term Substitute Grade 4 Teacher at Central Elementary School for the first semester of the 2021-2022 School Year effective August 23, 2021. Salary is \$33,500, pro-rated. Ms. Funtal is a substitute for Mrs. Rebecca Zimmerman.
- Ms. Emily Thelen as a Long-Term Substitute Reading Teacher at Central Elementary School for the first semester of the 2021-2022 School Year effective August 23, 2021. Salary is \$33,500, pro-rated. Ms. Thelen is replacing Ms. Sydney Funtal as a substitute for Mrs. Kristalyn Bruno.
- Change in status for Mr. Charles Maxwell Weiss as a .50 Long-Term Substitute Kindergarten Teacher at Central Elementary School for the 2021-2022 School Year and a .50 Long-Term Substitute Kindergarten Teacher at Poff Elementary School, effective August 23, 2021. Salary is \$33,500. Mr. Weiss is a substitute for Mrs. Susan Lindsay at Central Elementary School and a Class-size Reduction Teacher at Poff Elementary School.
- Ms. Carly Janeda as an Elementary Building Substitute (Floater) based at Central Elementary School for the 2021-2022 School Year effective August 23, 2021. Salary is \$22,000. This is an annual position.
- Ms. Emily Grus as a Building Substitute at Hampton Middle School for the 2021-2022 School Year, effective August 23, 2021. Salary is \$22,000. This is an annual position.
- Mr. Justin Vasil as a Building Substitute at Hampton High School for the 2021-2022 School Year effective August 23, 2021. Salary is \$22,000. This is an annual position.
- The following list of mentors for the 2021-2022 School Year:

Gina Bolton	John Lee
Patty Boretsky	Sheree Lucas
Megan Brower	Ann Lieberman
Gwen Cohen	Joell McMonigal
Glenn Geary	Brian Molinero
Dainen Holler	Lauren Mytinger
Wendi Hunter	Cathy Spencer

Paraprofessional/Paraeducator/Administrative Assistant

- Change in status for Mrs. Amy Porter, moving from a Class I Paraprofessional at Central Elementary School to a Class II Clerical Paraprofessional at Central Elementary School effective August 23, 2021. Hourly rate is \$17.52 per-hour. Mrs. Porter is replacing Mrs. Jane Sutter.
- Ms. Ashley Szramowski as a Class III Paraeducator at Hampton Middle School effective August 23, 2021. Hourly rate is \$17.52 per hour for the 60-day probationary period and \$17.77 per hour thereafter. Mrs. Szramowski is replacing Mrs. Jennifer Matelan's position.
- Ms. Abigail Wentling as a Class III Paraeducator at Hampton High School effective August 23, 2021. Hourly rate is \$17.52 per hour for the 60-day probationary period and \$17.77 per hour thereafter. Ms. Wentling is replacing Ms. Marissa Kealey's position.
- Mrs. Elizabeth Perrone as a part-time Class III Paraeducator at Poff Elementary School effective August 23, 2021. Hourly rate is \$17.52 per hour for the 60-day probationary period and \$17.77

per hour thereafter. Mrs. Perrone is replacing half of Ms. Hailey Bartolomucci's position.

- The following as substitute Class III Paraeducator/Paraprofessional/Administrative Assistants effective August 26, 2021. Salary is \$13.00 per hour for days 1-20, and \$13.50 per hour thereafter:
 - Alison Sanders
 - Andrea San Filippo
 - Jina Coleman

Custodians

- Change in status for Mr. Justin Barber moving from a Substitute Custodian to a 10 month/8 hour Custodian at Hampton Middle School effective August 16, 2021. Hourly rate is \$22.68 per hour. Mr. Barber is replacing Ms. Balsamico who moved to a 12 month position.
- Mr. Jerrod Cumberland as the 10 month/40 hours per week District-wide Custodial Substitute effective August 13, 2021. Hourly rate is \$13.00 per hour. This is an annual position.

Other

- The Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Hampton Township School District and the Hampton Cafeteria Employees' Association, effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2026.

Supplementals

The Administration recommends approval of the following conditional appointments for 2021-2022, each at a rate of \$139 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 2021-2022 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 2021-2022:

NAME	POSITION	BUILDING	POINTS	RANGE	TOTAL STIPEND
Paige Serbin	Bus Monitor	Wyland	12	12	\$1,668
Ray Raible	Safety Patrol Sponsor	Wyland	5	5	\$695
Ray Raible	AV-Computer Coordinator	Wyland	22	18/22	\$3,068
Andrew DeMichiei	Boys' Lacrosse Head Coach	HS	31	23/31	\$4,309
Nick Endres	Wrestling Head Coach	HS	54	45/57	\$7,506
Terri Koprivnikar	High School Student Council Co-Sponsor	HS	12.5	25/30	\$1,738
Lisa Graff	High School Student Council Co-Sponsor	HS	12.5	25/30	\$1,738
Matt Combi	Guidance Coordinator – District		13	13/17	\$1,807

Finance

(1:49:56)

Mr. Vasko presented the natural gas contract with UGI Energy Services through the AIU Joint Purchasing Consortium, which will be considered for approval next week. The basis rate will be NYMEX Minus (\$0.44)/Dth for the term of September 1, 2022, through August 31, 2025. This is 0.05/Dth lower than the current rate.

Mr. Kline reported the summary of debt service after three recent bond refundings. Projections show the District annually saving \$177,496 on average over the next 12 years. The aggregate savings will exceed \$2.1 million, which will help make the next bond issuance for \$10-12 million for the High School project more affordable.

Mr. Stein acknowledged that the District should be thankful for Piper Sandler, in addition to Mr. Kline and Mr. Vasko, for securing these savings. Further, Mr. Kline noted that the District eliminated its variable rate debt which has reduced its risk moving forward.

Also, Mr. Kline noted that currently there are 49 Hampton students enrolled in cyber or charter schools, exceeding the budget amount, which anticipated 28 students enrolling in cyber or charter schools.

Mr. Wesley emphasized how the bond refinancings are a significant achievement for the District. He also thanked Piper Sandler, Mr. Vasko, and Mr. Kline for their remarkable work, in addition to eliminating the District's variable rate debt.

Technology

(2:00:00)

There were no action items for discussion this evening.

Policy/Legislative Affairs

(2:00:09)

Mr. Shages presented the first reading of Policy 236.1: Threat Assessment. He stated that this policy was previously presented a few weeks ago but the decision was to streamline the policy draft and place more procedural information into administrative regulations. He encouraged Board members to reach out to Dr. Cunningham if they had any questions or suggestions for the policy.

Mr. Shages then introduced Ms. Balason, who provided an update to the Board on the PSBA Officer Elections. The Board will be asked to vote on selected candidates at the next Voting Meeting.

Mr. Shages also reported that the Allegheny Intermediate Unit had recently celebrated its 50th Anniversary. He reviewed the structure for the governing board of Head Start and Early Head Start, and how these two programs provide learning opportunities for many students so that they can be successful in their Kindergarten programs.

Transportation

(2:05:04)

There are no action items for next week's meeting, however, Mr. Kline presented the 2021-2022 School Year Transportation Review. In his comments, Mr. Kline stated that the opening of the school year, in terms of transportation, was better than was expected. He noted that there needed to be tweaks to the bus routes, which are in process now.

Public Comment

(2:06:34)

Mr. Wesley opened the meeting up for public comment.

Community Member

2:06:34

A community member asked about a mask break policy and how this policy was implemented in the schools. Dr. Loughead responded that students are provided mask breaks at appropriate levels depending on their developmental needs. As an example, elementary school students up to third grade also have snack breaks which is also a mask break. Students also have lunch and recess time which is a mask break. Students can request a mask break from their teacher as well. Dr. Loughead stated that he had talked with the building principals, who are working with the teachers in order to implement mask breaks in the schools. The community member also asked about quarantine guidelines, to which Dr. Loughead said the District heeds guidelines from the Allegheny County Health Department.

At that point, the community member asked a few questions regarding the bond refinancing; Mr. Vasko supplied a recent history and rationale as to the advantages of refinancing several important bonds.

Mr. Wesley announced the Board was entering executive session to discuss legal and personnel matters.