

# The Board Report

*Monday, April 03, 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 Auditorium. 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>Assistant Director of Technology</b>
<b>Dr. Jackie Removcik</b>	<b>Assistant to the Superintendent</b>
<b>Dr. Marlynn Lux</b>	<b>Hampton Middle School Principal</b>
<b>Dr. Marguerite Imbarlina</b>	<b>Hampton High School Principal</b>

*\* absent*

*\*\* attended remotely*

**April 3, 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**

(11:34)

#### **Odyssey of the Mind Presentation**

Mrs. Hamlin called the meeting to order and thanked attendees for coming. Mr. Jarrell welcomed the HTSD Odyssey of the Mind (OoTM) Program, currently celebrating its 10th in the District. For the first time this year, students from all five schools participated, with two teams competing in the state tournament. Mr. Jarrell introduced Dr. Mary Lynne Bennett, HTSD OotM Coordinator, and Colleen Turcsanyi, HTSD OoTM President, along with students who participated in the state tournament, to provide an update on their season.

Dr. Bennett said the OoTM program began 10 years ago at Central Elementary School and has since expanded to all five HTSD schools. This year, a grant from OoTM helped to jump-start the high school team. All of the District's 17 teams placed in the top 10 at regionals, with two advancing to the state tournament. Those two teams participated in the PA Odyssey of the Mind State Tournament on April 1, 2023, and an elementary team made up of students from Central, Poff and Wyland Elementary Schools placed first in Problem 2, Technical Category, Division 1. They will be advancing to the World Odyssey of the Mind Tournament which will be held at Michigan State University, May 24-27, 2023. This marks Hampton's first appearance at the world tournament, and Dr. Bennett said the team is thrilled to make history while hoping to build on their success.

Mrs. Turcsanyi discussed several of the creative projects that teams from elementary, middle, and high school completed. These projects included creating a vehicle that could carry two passengers, a Rube Goldberg machine, and more. A fourth-grade student at Poff Elementary School from the first-place team at states thanked the judges, coaches, and parents for making this possible. He described his team's project, which involved a pulley system tasked with folding a T-shirt.

Dr. Loughhead noted that programs like Odyssey of the Mind are what makes Hampton a special district. He commended parents and students for their passion for learning, developing skills, thinking ability, and creativity. The program also captures the six competencies in the District's Portrait of a Talbot: communication, perseverance, critical thinking, collaboration, learner's mindset, and empathy. He said he is proud that this program continues to grow organically, adding that the Board will present student awards for OoTM later this spring.

Student members of Odyssey of the Mind demonstrated their projects for Board members, administrators, and attendees.

## Public Comment

(43:56)

Mrs. Hamlin opened the meeting to public comment.

### Student

44:14

A senior at HHS and member of the Honors Wind Ensemble urged administration to consider allowing the Honors Wind Ensemble to have morning sectionals again, which were half-hour rehearsals before school each day. The students want to have these sectionals from 7:30 to 8 a.m. each day during adjudication season, as they believe it would help them become better musicians. Prior to the school start time change and the pandemic, the wind ensemble had been meeting each morning before school since 2007. Since morning sectionals were disallowed, the wind ensemble now meets after school, which presents conflicts for some students who are involved in other activities. However, the student noted that some exceptions have been made for certain clubs and athletics to meet before school. A group of students have created a petition with 114 signatures from current wind ensemble members, alumni, future students, and parents to show that they care about making this change.

Dr. Loughead replied that he is impressed with the student's passion for the wind ensemble and that this is a student-led concern. He added that he would be happy to meet with the student to consider the change; however, he noted that the administration has been careful in safeguarding the later school start time, which has been beneficial for the mental health and well-being of the students.

### Community Member

53:27

A community member with a third-grade student at Central Elementary School expressed concern over class sizes. She noted that third grade is separated into three sections of 26 students. She said she believes that larger class sizes create various challenges in the classroom, adding that students will require more support and less distractions as they continue onto fourth and fifth grade. She urged the Board and administration to consider adding a fourth section for incoming fourth grade students next year.

### Community Member

55:20

A community member with a third- and fifth-grade student at Central Elementary School also expressed concern over class sizes. She thanked the administration for responding to her concerns and urged them to consider hiring additional teachers to offer optimal class sizes. She noted that larger class sizes increase the number of distractions, making it harder for students to focus.

## **Community Member**

59:37

A community member with a third-grade student at Central Elementary School said her son is in a class with 26 students. She noted that while Central's teachers are amazing, the number of students creates a sub-optimal learning environment. She is advocating for smaller class sizes. She said as concerned taxpayers and parents, they are asking that the District allocate funds to hire more educators. She added that smaller class sizes are a value that Hampton possesses.

## **Student Affairs**

(1:02:47)

Mr. Jarrell presented the following action item to be considered for approval at the April 10th meeting:

- Hampton High School Marching Band Field Trip to the Kentucky Derby Pegasus Parade in Louisville, KY, April 26 - 29, 2024 at no cost to the district.

Dr. Cunningham said they are excited to receive this request from Mr. Chad Himmeler, HHS Band Director. She said the marching band staff typically plans the band trip 12 months in advance to allow parents and students an opportunity to fundraise as needed. In response to a Board Member's question, Dr. Cunningham noted that the trip will include approximately 125 participants with three teacher chaperones and additional chaperones who will be required to have clearances and appropriate vetting.

## **Facilities**

(1:04:17)

There were no action items this evening.

## **Educational Programs**

(1:04:23)

There were no action items this evening, but there were three presentations:

### **Elementary Projected Staffing and Enrollment**

Dr. Loughead presented projected staffing and enrollment levels for elementary schools for the 2023-2024 School Year, which can be viewed [here](#). He noted that the administration is concerned about projections of 25 students per section for first grade at Central Elementary School. If that number continues to grow, the District will consider taking action. They also heard concerns about projected enrollment in fourth grade classes at Central and will continue to carefully monitor those numbers. He added that the District is not comfortable with class sizes over 27 students at the elementary level.

At Poff Elementary, there is concern at the first grade level, which currently has 26 students per

section. He said there are no concerns at Wyland Elementary; however he noted that they will monitor the fourth grade level, which has 24-25 students per section.

Dr. Loughhead said elementary enrollment has increased slightly since the pandemic, while middle and high school numbers have remained the same. The recommendation is to budget for contingency teachers and monitor the situation carefully, as building principals have already reviewed and recommended this as a starting point for all buildings.

## **Secondary Projected Staffing and Enrollment**

Dr. Marlynn Lux, HMS Principal, presented on the middle school enrollment for the 2023-2024 School Year. Current projections indicate that there will be 190 students in sixth grade next year. Dr. Lux said that number typically increases by roughly 12 students in the upcoming months. She reported on the average class sizes for core, non-core, and music classes. She noted that 74 and 77 incoming sixth-grade students enrolled in band and chorus, respectively.

Dr. Lux reported that seventh grade currently has 219 students. She noted that 100 current sixth-graders expressed interest in taking chorus next year. The eighth grade class currently has 215 students. Dr. Lux also highlighted that the number of students opting for German language classes next year has increased to 33, indicating a rise in interest from previous years. She also reported that she and Dr. Removcik have been working closely with music teachers over the past year to generate more interest in band, orchestra, and chorus.

Dr. Lux said the middle school will need to replace two faculty members who retired, an English teacher and the librarian.

Dr. Marguerite Imbarlina, HHS Principal, presented on high school enrollment for the 2023-2024 School Year. She reported the numbers by department, as the high school offers over 170 courses. Noteworthy enrollment projections and next steps include the following:

- An increase in students taking Chemistry II Honors.
- SAT English and math prep will not run because of low enrollment.
- German numbers have increased.
- 74 students applied to A.W. Beattie Career and Technical Center.

Mr. Vasko pointed out that Mandarin enrollment projections are low and inquired if there was another language the high school should offer in its place. Dr. Imbarlina said the reason projections for Mandarin are low is due to lower overall enrollment at the high school, not because of decreased interest. Dr. Imbarlina and Dr. Removcik said the high school will monitor future enrollment in the language before considering any changes.

Dr. Loughhead noted that the most differences in class size are at the elementary and high school levels. He said that Hampton is proud of its neighborhood elementary schools and that the administration has been able to adjust teacher placement over the years to keep class sizes reasonable. He advocates for keeping neighborhood schools and recommends maintaining contingency hires in the budget to ensure appropriate class sizes in the fall.

## 2023-2024 Curricular Resource Proposed Budget

Dr. Removcik presented the 2023-2024 Curricular Resource Proposed Budget. She reported that there are increases to the proposed elementary budget due to the final payment for the ELA Wonders program and the possibility of a new elementary math program. The budget decreased for electronic resources at the elementary level due to paying off the cost of IXL. Hampton Middle School's budget decreased despite new proposed textbooks for eighth-grade American History and Honors American History and a new Algebra I textbook. The high school's budget increased due to new French II and CHS Early Childhood Education textbooks. Dr. Removcik said they applied for a PDE grant to help fund the early childhood education textbook.

Additionally, Dr. Removcik noted that a textbook review will be posted on the District's website in May and remain available for 30 days. She also pointed out that the current American History textbook and the other proposed textbooks are over ten years old.

## Finance

(1:44:39)

Mr. Vasko presented the following action items to be considered for approval at the April 11th meeting:

- Renewal of the Food Service Management Contract with Metz Culinary Management for the 2023-2024 School Year.

Mr. Kline referenced the renewal proposal for the 2023-24 year. He noted that the proposal shows an anticipated surplus of \$32,895 with no increases to the paid meal prices. The recent food service fund budgets and results have been assisted by increases in federal funding per meal.

- 60-month lease and service/maintenance/supplies contract for (15) multi-function devices (copiers) and the Managed Print Services for the District's network printers with Doing Better Business at the combined total of \$7,356.47/month, pending review by the District Solicitor.

Mr. Kline stated that this includes unlimited black and white copies/prints and 17,600 color copies/prints per month. The number of devices is the same as the previous contract.

HHS – 3 devices	Central Elem. – 3 devices	Wyland Elem. – 2 devices
HMS – 3 devices	Poff Elem. – 2 devices	Admin Ctr. – 2 devices

The contract also includes maintenance and repairs for all the District's other printers. The renewal contract proposal is \$7,356 per month, replacing the current contract of \$7,695 per month – a decrease of \$339 per month or 4.4%. The equipment component is 19.6% below the COSTARS state bid prices. COSTARS prices are 50-70% below MSRP.

## Local Tax Revenue Update

Mr. Kline provided the Local Tax Revenue Update as of March 31, 2023. He noted the following:

- Real estate taxes are ahead of the budgeted amount as the District has collected 100.91% of the budgeted amount.



- Earned income taxes are up 1.49% from last year. This increase has lessened in the past 3-4 months; hopefully it is a timing difference. Final returns are due April 17th and May is typically the highest month for EIT collections.
- Real estate transfer taxes are lagging due to the higher mortgage rates, resulting in fewer real estate transactions.
- Delinquent real estate taxes are still lagging.

## **2023 Bond Issue Summary**

Mr. Kline reported that the 2023 bond issue for the completion of the High School Project Phase I and other District-wide projects was priced on March 14. The issue was completed as a bank qualified issue for \$3 million and will settle on April 18, 2023.

## **Personnel**

(1:53:17)

Mrs. Midgley presented the following personnel action items to be considered for approval at the April 10th meeting:

### **Resignation**

- Mr. Bill Cardone, who is retiring after 29 years in the District, effective June 30, 2023. Mr. Cardone is the Hampton Athletic Director.
- Mrs. Rose Imbarlina, who is retiring after 30 years in the District, effective June 30, 2023. Mrs. Imbarlina is the District Accounts Payable Specialist.
- Ms. Hailey Hamilton who is resigning from the District effective April 5, 2023. Ms. Hamilton is a Building Substitute at Poff Elementary School.
- Mrs. Jacquelyn White who has resigned effective February 16, 2023. Mrs. White was a Paraeducator (Class III) at Poff Elementary School.
- Mrs. Diana DiMaria, who is resigning after two and one-half years with the District, effective March 24, 2023. Mrs. DiMaria was a Clerical Paraprofessional (Class II) at Hampton High School.
- Mrs. Lori Nicklas, who is resigning after nine and half years with the District, effective April 5, 2023. Mrs. Nicklas is a Paraeducator at Hampton Middle School.
- Mr. Charles “Chuck” Richard, who is resigning after 12 years with the District, effective April 13, 2023. Mr. Richard is a 10 month/5 hour Custodian at Hampton High School.
- Mr. Joseph Sulkowski, who is resigning after four years with the District, effective June 1, 2023. (Mr. Sulkowski is a custodian at Hampton Middle School.

### **Teachers**

- Change in status for Ms. Sarah Losco, moving from the Building Substitute at Hampton High School to the Long-Term Substitute English Language Arts Academic Support Teacher at



Hampton High School effective March 29, 2023 through the remainder of the 2022-2023 School Year. Salary is 32,500, prorated. Ms. Losco is substituting for Mrs. Sarah Egeland.

- Jeremy Richardson and Frank Hartle as Guest Substitute Teachers for the Hampton Township School District, effective approximately April 3, 2023. Salary is \$100 per day for days 1-30 and then \$120 per day thereafter. These substitutes will be utilized on an as-needed basis.
- The following Club Sponsors as indicated below:
  - Ms. Brooke Stebler as Middle School Keystone Club Sponsor effective November 29, 2022 through the remainder of the 2022-2023 School Year. Ms. Stebler is replacing Mrs. Meredith Henderson.
  - Mrs. Mary Fitzpatrick and Mrs. Joell McMonigal as Central Elementary Greenhouse Garden Club Sponsor effective approximately March 30, 2023 through the remainder of the 2022-2023 School Year. Mrs. Fitzpatrick and Mrs. McMonigal are replacing Mrs. Colleen Frankel.

### **Paraprofessionals, Paraeducators, and Administrative Assistants**

- Ms. Larissa Overholt as a Paraeducator (Class III) at Poff Elementary School, effective March 31, 2023. Hourly rate will be \$18.01 for the 60-day probationary period and \$18.26 per hour thereafter. Ms. Overholt is replacing Mrs. Lauren Casselberry's position.
- Mrs. Amy Swanger as a Paraeducator (Class III) at Poff Elementary School, effective March 30, 2023. Hourly rate will be \$18.01 for the 60-day probationary period and 18.26 per hour thereafter. Mrs. Swanger is replacing Mrs. Jacquelyn White.

### **Other**

- Contract for Employment, subject to the approval by the District Solicitor, between the Hampton Township School District and Mr. John Walsh, Director of Facilities Management, for the period approximately May 15, 2023 to June 30, 2026. Salary is \$97,500, prorated to June 30, 2023.

### **Custodial/Maintenance**

- Change in status for Mr. Justin Barber moving from a 10 month/8 hour Custodian to a 12 month/8 hour Maintenance employee effective March 16, 2023. Hourly rate is \$26.31. (Mr. Barber is replacing Mr. Gregory Miles.)
- Mr. Larry Van Buren as a 10 month/8 hour custodian, initial assignment will be at Hampton Middle School, effective March 20, 2023. Hourly rate is \$25.18. Mr. Van Buren is replacing Ms. Jennifer Yanssen.
- The following custodial substitutes at the hourly rate of \$12.00 for the first 20 days, and \$12.50 thereafter:
  - Brezart "Ben" Ushtelenca, effective March 23, 2023.
  - Patrick Myers, effective March 29, 2023.

### **Supplemental Contracts**

- 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:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Building</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Total Stipend</b>
Tony Howard	Middle School Assistant Baseball Coach	MS	20	\$2,920

## Technology

(1:59:41)

There were no action items this evening. However, Dr. Cunningham announced that HTSD is proud to host Remake Learning Days on May 17, 2023, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Hampton High School. This year's theme is "The Future is Now," and the free event will include a K-12 interactive showcase in which students will demonstrate world-class teaching and learning, innovative learning experiences, and future-driven learning.

Dr. Loughead added that Remake Learning Days began in Pittsburgh 10 years ago and has since expanded to many countries around the world. The idea behind this program is to promote hands-on and innovative learning opportunities, similar to Odyssey of the Mind. The event also highlights whole-child learning. There are many Remake Learning Days events happening throughout the Pittsburgh region.

## Policy and Legislative Affairs

(2:01:50)

Mr. Wesley presented the following action items to be considered for approval at the April 4th meeting:

- First Reading of Policy #137.1: Extracurricular Participation by Home Education Students
- First Reading of Policy #137.2: Participation in Cocurricular Activities and Academic Courses by Home Education Students
- First Reading of Policy #137.3: Participation in Career and Technical Education Programs by Home Education Students

- Second Reading of Policy #137: Home Education Programs

Dr. Cunningham explained that the first three policies govern and provide guidance for home education students who would like to participate in extracurricular activities, co-curricular activities, or attend A.W. Beattie Career and Technical Center. The policies state that students enrolled in home education programs must be residents of the District and meet all requirements stated in Board policy. The District is not obligated to provide transportation for students unless it is already available. Students can attend programs based on their residence in the District at the elementary level, and the District will be posting information about these opportunities on its website for parents.

Dr. Loughead noted that all these policy changes are due to a change in state law. There are no changes to the District's home education participation.

### **Transportation**

(2:05:46)

There were no action items this evening.

### **Public Comment & Adjournment**

(2:05:54)

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