

The Board Report

Monday, August 2, 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

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

** absent*

*** attended remotely*

This Hampton Township School Board Meeting was held in the Hampton Middle School Library. 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

Mr. Jeff Kline

Dr. Ed McKaveney

Jessica Crown, Esq.

Superintendent of Schools

Director of Administrative Services

Director of Technology

Solicitor

Voting Meeting

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

Opening

(2:40)

Mr. Wesley opened the meeting by explaining the evening's agenda. A voting meeting to address Personnel would precede the work session with committee reports, and public comment **would** take place at the end of the work session. Mr. Kline took roll call; Mr. Vasko was not present.

Personnel

(4:29) Mrs. Midgley

Mrs. Midgley recommended and the Board approved the following personnel items:

Resignations

- Resignation of Ms. Emily Golacinski who resigned after one year with the District effective July 7, 2021. Ms. Golacinski was a Health Office Nurse with the District.
- Resignation of Mrs. Dawn Loy-Lowmiller effective June 28, 2021. Mrs. Loy-Lowmiller had been appointed as a Long-Term Substitute Grade 6 ELA Teacher for Mrs. Kelsey Kowalczyk at Hampton Middle School for the 2021-2022 School Year.
- Resignation of Ms. Hailey Bartolomucci who resigned after one year with the District effective July 27, 2021. Ms. Bartolomucci was a Class III Paraeducator at Central Elementary School.
- Resignation of Mr. Corey Vasbinder who is resigning after two years with the District with an effective date to be determined. Mr. Vasbinder is a Health & Physical Education Teacher at Hampton Middle School.

Administrators

- The Board approved the School Psychologist (10 month) Job Description effective August 2, 2021.
- The Board approved Ms. Gretchen Jones as a School Psychologist for the District effective August 23, 2021. Salary is \$60,000. This is a new Act 93 10-month position.

Teachers

- A change in status for Mrs. Katey Yurchick, moving from a .70 Special Education Teacher to a full-time contract .70 Special Education and .30 ESL Teacher for the District effective August 23, 2021. In addition to the .70 Special Education Teacher duties, Mrs. Yurchick has been a .30 Long-Term Substitute ESL Teacher for the past two years.
- Mr. Michael Marasti as a TPE Grade 5 Teacher at Poff Elementary School effective August 23,

2021. Salary is Master's Step 1, \$51,386. Mr. Marasti is replacing Ms. Kendra Lapiana's former position.

- Ms. Hannah Dunlap as a TPE English Teacher at Hampton High School effective August 23, 2021. Salary is Master's Step 1, \$51,386. Ms. Dunlap is replacing Mrs. Margaret Melber.
- Mrs. Deborah Hogan as a TPE Grade 5 Teacher at Central Elementary School effective August 23, 2021. Salary is Master's Step 1, \$51,386. Mrs. Hogan is replacing Mr. Paul Nail's position.
- Mr. Lucas Hook as a .60 TPE Health & Physical Education Teacher at Poff Elementary School effective August 23, 2021. Salary is Bachelor's Step 1, \$49,117 pro-rated to \$29,470. Mr. Hook is replacing Ms. Paige Serbin's position.
- Ms. Anne Hagen as a Long-Term Substitute Grade 5 Teacher at Wyland Elementary School for the 2021-2022 School Year, effective August 23, 2021. Salary is \$33,500. Ms. Hagen is a substitute for Mrs. Lauren Marshall.
- Mrs. Emily Milbert as 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. Mrs. Milbert is a substitute for Mrs. Rebecca Zimmerman.
- Ms. Rebecca Stefanyak as a Long-Term Substitute Grade 6 English Language Arts Teacher at Hampton Middle School from approximately September 15, 2021 through the remainder of the 2021-2022 School Year. Salary is \$33,500, pro-rated. Ms. Stefanyak will be a substitute for Mrs. Kelsey Kowalczyk.
- Mr. Jesse Belitz as a Long-Term Substitute Grade 7 Math Teacher at Hampton Middle School for the first semester of the 2021-2022 School Year, effective August 23, 2021. Salary is \$33,500, pro-rated. Mr. Belitz is a substitute for Mrs. Rebecca Heller.
- Mr. (Charles) Maxwell Weiss as a .50 Long-Term Substitute Kindergarten Teacher at Central Elementary School for the 2021-2022 School Year, effective August 23, 2021. Salary is \$33,500, prorated to \$16,750. Mr. Weiss is a substitute for Mrs. Susan Lindsay.
- Mrs. Heather Heere as a .60 Building Substitute at Hampton Middle School for the 2021-2022 School Year, effective August 23, 2021. Salary for this position is \$22,000, pro-rated to \$13,200. This is in addition to Mrs. Heere's .13 tenured Music Teacher position at Hampton Middle School.
- Mr. Samuel Flowers as a .40 Building Substitute at Hampton Middle School for the 2021-2022 School Year, effective August 23, 2021. Salary for this position is \$22,000, pro-rated to \$8,800. This is in addition to Mr. Flowers .60 TPE Technology Education Teacher position at Hampton Middle School.
- Mr. Connor Bamrick 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.
- Ms. Kaitlyn Sanguigni as a Building Substitute at Poff Elementary School for the 2021-2022 School Year, effective August 23, 2021. Salary is \$22,000. This is an annual position.

Custodial

- A change in status for Mary Balsamico moving from a 10 month/8 hour custodian at Hampton Middle School to a 12 month/8 hour custodian at Hampton Middle School effective July 1, 2021. There is no change in hourly rate. Ms. Balsamico is replacing Mr. Ron Ventrice who retired.
- Custodial Night Leads for the 2021-2022 School Year:

EMPLOYEE	BUILDING	RATE
Chuck Richard	HHS	\$26.16
Doug Huber	HHS – 3rd Shift	\$26.04
Joe Sulkowski	HMS	\$25.10
Bill McChesney	Central	\$26.04
Beverly Seibert Renee Watterson	Poff	\$26.04
Sam Endlich	Wyland	\$26.04

Paraprofessional/Paradeucator/Administrative Assistant

- The Board approved the following Hampton Education Support Professionals Association (HESPA) job descriptions effective August 2, 2021:
 - Accounts Payable Specialist (Class VII)
 - Transportation and Data Entry Specialist (Class VII)
 - Payroll Specialist (Class VII)
 - PIMS Specialist (Class VII)
 - Administrative Assistant to the Special Education/Transition Coordinator (Class VII)
 - Administrative Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent (Class VII)
- Mrs. Becky Wright 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. Mrs. Wright is replacing Mrs. Kristine Jungling's position.

Supplementals

The Administration's recommendation 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
David Hartman	MS Department Head English	HMS	17	13/17	\$2,363
Brian Molinero	MS Department Head Math	HMS	17	13/17	\$2,363
Michele Hurst	MS Department Head Science	HMS	17	13/17	\$2,363
Sheree Lucas	MS Department Head Reading	HMS	17	13/17	\$2,363
Greg Shumaker	MS Department Head Social Studies	HMS	17	13/17	\$2,363
Amy Holtz	MS Department Head Special Education	HMS	17	13/17	\$2,363
David Sheets	Team Leader "A" (Blue)	HMS	10	10	\$1,390
Mary Bukovac	Team Leader "B" (Gold)	HMS	10	10	\$1,390
Lori Palmer	Team Leader "C" (Challengers)	HMS	10	10	\$1,390
Jamie Pillar	Team Leader "D" (Explorers)	HMS	10	10	\$1,390
Bill Paholich	Team Leader "E" (Clark)	HMS	10	10	\$1,390
Jay D'Ambrosio	Team Leader "F" (Lewis)	HMS	10	10	\$1,390
Michele Hurst	Activity Director	HMS	22	18/22	\$3,058
Lori Palmer	Student Council Sponsor	HMS	19	15/19	\$2,641
David Hartman	Yearbook Sponsor	HMS	30	24/30	\$4,170
Greg Shumaker	AV-Computer Coordinator	HMS	28	22/28	\$3,892
Sam Flowers	Auditorium Manager	HMS	17	17	\$2,363
Joe Lagnese	Bus Monitor "A"	HMS	12	12	\$1,668
Glenn Geary	Bus Monitor "B"	HMS	12	12	\$1,668
Greg Shumaker	Musical Director	HMS	28	24/28	\$3,892
Ryan Meyer	Musical Music Director	HMS	14	10/14	\$1,946
Greg Shumaker	Musical Producer	HMS	20	18/20	\$2,780
Jedd Cordisco	Middle School Assistant Football Coach	HMS	29	23/31	\$4,031
Joseph Bayer	*Certified Pool Operator	HS			\$200
Tim Schogren	*Certified Pool Operator	HS			\$200
Joseph Bayer	*Certified Public Pesticide Applications				\$200
Tim Schogren	*Certified Public Pesticide Applications				\$200
Deborah Hogan	Safety Patrol Sponsor	Central	5	5	\$695

**Annual District Custodial Supplemental Certified Positions*

Mr. Stein recognized this was the first Board meeting without Mr. Farbaugh, who retired. He thanked Mr. Farbaugh for his contribution to the community.

Adjournment

(13:31) Mr. Wesley

Mr. Wesley adjourned the meeting and reminded attendees that there would be an opportunity to address the Board at the end of the work session.

Work Session

Facilities

(13:50) Ms. Balason

Ms. Balason announced that the only action item on the agenda at the August 9 voting meeting for consideration would be Hampton High School Phase I Bid Summary & Recommended Awards.

Ms. Cassandra Renninger of VEBH Architects said the District received bids for the Phase I portion of the high school project and presented the following information:

- There are five (5) total contracts, and the bid for re-roofing has already been awarded.

Contract Number & Name		Contractor	Base Bids	Recommended Awards	DD Estimate (March '21)
01	General Construction	R.A. Glancy & Sons	\$10,859,000	\$10,660,500	
02	Plumbing Construction	Vrabel Plumbing Company	\$708,200	\$694,400	
03	HVAC Construction	East West Manufacturing	\$1,494,500	\$1,494,500	
04	Electrical Construction	Merit Electrical Group	\$2,833,000	\$2,755,221	
05	Reroofing Construction	PA Roofing Systems	\$2,794,000	\$2,971,000	
TOTAL			\$18,688,700	\$18,575,621	\$19,270,231

- The base bids received total roughly \$18.7 million, but VEBH is recommending a package of roughly \$18.6 million, compared to \$19.3 million estimated in March during the design development phase.
- There were several alternative bids presented, with VEBH's recommendations in the far right column.

<i>Alternate Bids</i>		Numbers reflect Apparent Low Bidders Values				Recommended Alternates
		GC	PC	HC	EC	TOTAL
BMP Tank Manufacturer	Stormwater Detention Tank Manufacturer	-\$128,000				-\$128,000
Delete Skylights	Delete 5 of 10	-\$35,000				-\$35,000
Delete MDF Windows	Eliminate view windows into server room	-\$1,500				-\$1,500
Changes to Roofing System (base bid: 60 mil & 25 years)	30 year Warranty – 90 mil	\$23,000				\$23,000
	Johns Manville – 25 year & 60 mil)	\$ 0				\$ 0
	Johns Manville 30 year Warranty – 90 mil	\$23,000				\$23,000
Add Dock Leveler		\$14,000			\$1,190	\$15,190
Delete Finish Upgrades in Demo Classrooms	A - Rooms D211 & D128	-\$36,000	-\$5,400		-\$24,240	-\$65,640
	B - Rooms E118 & E119	-\$34,000	-\$3,600		-\$26,166	-\$63,766
	C - Rooms E233 & E234	-\$36,000	-\$4,800		-\$28,563	-\$69,363
Add Rooftop Equipment Screening	AHU-15 (pool)			\$50,000		\$50,000
	AHU-20 (new)			\$24,400		\$24,400
	AHU-24 (new)			\$13,000		\$13,000
Delete Bipolar Ionization	Eliminate Bipolar Ionization at 3 Units			-\$3,250		-\$3,250
Delete Flex Studio Theatrical Lighting	Delete theatrical lighting				-\$57,115	-\$57,115

- Several alternatives involved the roofing system.
 - VEBH recommended upgrading to a 30-year warranty for a 90 mil (thicker) roofing system that will align with the rest of the roofing portion of the project.

Jason Day, Onsite Construction Manager with P.J. Dick, provided the following updates on the High School roofing project:

- PA Roofing Systems delivered 15 truckloads of roofing material on Wednesday, July 28 — nearly half the material for the project. Another delivery is expected in August.

- A subcontractor is currently onsite removing ballasts (the stone gravel on the roof).
- A safety perimeter fencing is being installed.
- The contractor will begin tearing into the roof on August 6.
- Mr. Stein highlighted that the Township has Labor Day events planned. He said the Township is preventing people from going behind the High School, specifically on the annual 5K run. Mr. Day addressed Mr. Stein's concern by stating that the High School has already been cordoned off where construction is taking place.
- Core samples taken indicate the roof will be removable.
- Monthly reports documenting the roofing project will be presented to the District.

Further, Mr. Day said he has been with P.J. Dick for more than 20 years, spending the past seven as project manager. He assured the Board that the company has completed every project that it has undertaken while staying out of the courtroom, as well.

Mr. Wesley asked Ms. Renninger whether the \$18.6 million includes \$400,000 that State Representative Lori Misgorski obtained for the District towards the roofing project. Ms. Renninger replied that that sum would be deducted from the \$18.6 million.

Mr. Wesley thanked Representative Misgorski for helping to obtain the additional funding.

Student Affairs

(35:33) Mrs. Webb

Mrs. Webb introduced four items which the Board is expected to consider approving at the August 9 Voting Meeting:

- Submission of the November 12, 2021, Act 80 Day for the 2021-22 School Year
 - Dr. Loughhead said this item is a standard approval done annually, which has been helpful in the past regarding issues with snow days.
- 2021-22 Handbook for Families with Elementary School Children
 - Mrs. Webb noted that most of the updates involved new school start times.
- Student Science Research Club Competition Fund Request not to exceed \$300
 - Dr. Loughhead explained that this new request is for the Club to participate in a competition it has never competed in before, adding that the District is excited about this opportunity.
- Hampton High School Boys' Soccer field trip to Erie Premier Sports Camp in Erie from August 19-21 at no cost to the District.

Finance

(38:06) Mr. Kline

Mr. Kline introduced the following action item to be considered for approval by the Board at the August 9 Voting Meeting:

- Term Sheet with Huntington Bank for capital and technology equipment
 - Mr. Kline said this is a financing agreement with Huntington Bank that will cover the HVAC van, High School autoscrubber, and \$46,000 of technology equipment — all items under deferred financing arrangement in the budget.

Under old business, Mr. Kline discussed two successful bond financing transactions that the District completed in July, as follows:

- 2021 series A and B bonds that eliminated the District's variable rate debt and refunded the 2007 bonds at a small net present value cost of \$11,512.
- 2021 series C and D bonds that refunded District's the 2011B and 2016 bonds resulting in a net present value savings of \$738,905.

Mr. Kline said both of these bonds were restructured to reduce future debt service. Further, he said there will be pretty significant reductions ranging from \$65,000 in the current 2021-22 fiscal year to around \$140,000 in 2022-23 and 2023-24. Mr. Kline said those reductions will go against the completion bond issue that the District is going to have for roughly \$12 million to fund the remainder of Phase I for the High School project.

Mr. Wesley later noted that terminating the swaption resulted in there being an additional \$500,000 that the District no longer has to reserve for variable rate debt purposes. Mr. Kline said that money can go towards capital projects or the district's general fund balance.

Also, Mr. Stein stressed the importance for the District to recognize Piper Sandler for the work they have done over the years to help HTSD, which he said is only possible because Mr. Kline has done a great job working with them.

Mr. Kline reported that the District's most recent Standards and Poors (July 13) bond rating is a AA- with a stable outlook. This is unchanged from the recent ratings.

Lastly, Mr. Kline reported that the 2021-22 final state budget comparison includes a basic/special education subsidy increase — which will result in the District receiving a combined \$210,000 in basic/special education subsidy than what was anticipated in the budget. However, due to the District's fund balance issues and uncertainty with cyber charter enrollments, he recommended the District use those monies to fund operations rather than spending them.

Technology

(44:05) Mr. Stein

Mr. Stein reported that there are no forthcoming action items, but introduced Dr. McKaveney for a report on the upcoming device distribution plan.

Dr. McKaveney presented the following information about the District's student device distribution plan for the 2021-22 school year:

- This year's laptop order is expected to arrive in October.
- The District plans to distribute devices to all students at the start of the school year. However, older devices may need to be swapped with new ones during the school year.
- The program is in its fifth year, with all K-12 students now receiving devices.
- The cost of the optional device insurance program increased to \$35 from \$25. The cap for families with more than one student enrolled in the District is now \$105, up from \$65.
- There is \$7,300 in the insurance fund balance heading into the 2021-22 school year. All parts and replacement devices are paid for using that fund.
- Last year, the District saw a significant number of students who did not have a device at home dedicated to online learning — which underscores the need for the One2One insurance program.

Mr. Wesley and Mr. Stein thanked Dr. McKaveney and his team for their hard work.

Transportation

(51:15) Mr. Jarrell

At the August 9 Voting Meeting, the Board is expected to consider approving the 2021-22 transportation routes and rates. Mr. Kline said route information will not be publicly available for safety reasons. Individual student bus schedules will appear in Infinite Campus the week of August 16. Mr. Kline answered a Board member's question by stating that there are no road projects that he has been notified of that will affect bus routes.

Policy and Legislative Affairs

(52:45) Mr. Shages

Mr. Shages introduced the following action items that the Board is expected to consider for approval at the August 9 Voting Meeting:

- First Reading of Policy #236.1: Threat Assessment
 - Mr. Shages explained that this is a new policy which outlines how to deal with threats made by students or other actors. He observed that perhaps some of the language in the policy could be reserved for administrative procedures instead of in the policy itself. Dr. Loughhead said District officials will look into condensing portions of this policy into administrative procedures.
- Second Reading and Adoption of Policy #123.2: Sudden Cardiac Arrest

Educational Programs

(54:36) Ms. Hamlin

Ms. Hamlin said there will be four action items considered for approval at the August 9 Voting Meeting.

Dr. Loughhead presented an update on the District's School Reopening Health and Safety Plan, which included the following:

- CDC and AAP guidelines regarding mask-wearing.
- Allegheny County COVID-19 community transmission update, with new information received Monday afternoon from Dr. Deborah Bogen, Director of the Allegheny County Health Department, and Dr. LuAnn Brink, Chief Epidemiologist of the ACHD.
- Allegheny County Health Department consultations with HTSD.
- HTSD proposal for mask-wearing and COVID-19 mitigation.

Dr. Loughhead emphasized that the District will return to five-day per-week in-person instruction this fall. He said there are currently no plans for hybrid or remote learning.

Dr. Loughhead presented the following guidance from health officials:

CDC Guidance (Update on July 27, 2021)

- *Given new evidence on the Delta variant, CDC **recommends** universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status*

CDC Guidance (Update on July 9, 2021)

- *Masks should be worn indoors by all individuals (age 2 and older) who are not fully vaccinated*

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) guidance (July 19, 2021)

- *All students older than 2 years and all school staff should wear masks at school (unless medical or developmental conditions prohibit use)*

The Pennsylvania Departments of Education and Health currently recommend that the District adopts the July 27, 2021, guidance from the CDC.

Dr. Loughhead provided an update on Allegheny County's community transmission rate, including the most recent 7-day period (July 23-29) and previous 7-day period (July 16-23), which show that confirmed cases, PCR positivity rate, incidence rate per 100,000, and other factors are all on the rise:

Most recent 7-day period: July 23-29

Previous 7-day period: July 16-23

(Updated on Saturday, July 30, 2021)

Confirmed cases

Most recent 7 Days	Previous 7 Days
362	218

Incidence rate per 100,000

Most recent 7 Days	Previous 7 Days
29.8	17.9

PCR positivity rate

Most recent 7 Days	Previous 7 Days
3.7%	2.7%

Avg. daily hospitalizations

Most recent 7 Days	Previous 7 Days
58.6	44.7

Avg. daily patients on ventilators

Most recent 7 Days	Previous 7 Days
7.1	5.3

% of emerg. dept. visits due to CLI

Most recent 7 Days	Previous 7 Days
0.5%	0.4%

(Source: PA Department of Health)

Dr. Loughhead shared that the 7-day rolling average for Allegheny County has reached substantial transmission, with a county case count of 58.47 per 100,000 as of the August 2 meeting, based on the following chart:

INDICATOR	LOW TRANSMISSION (BLUE)	MODERATE TRANSMISSION (YELLOW)	SUBSTANTIAL TRANSMISSION (ORANGE)	HIGH TRANSMISSION (RED)
Total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days	0-9	10-49	50-99	≥100

7-day rolling average in Allegheny County - 711 cases

58.47 per 100,000 persons (123.58% change)

Source: CDC - data as of August 2, 2021, 6 a.m.

Dr. Bogen informed Dr. Loughhead and other superintendents in Allegheny County that circumstances have changed dramatically in the past 2-3 weeks regarding COVID-19 transmission, with no reason to believe that it will abate any time soon.

Dr. Loughhead reported that in consultations with the ACHD, Dr. Bogen recommended that the District adhere to the most recent CDC and AAP guidelines, but there is no mask mandate planned at this time. Dr. Bogen emphasized that community transmission and positivity rate is being spurred by the Delta variant, which accounts for two-thirds of the cases in the region. The Delta variant is highly

contagious and transmissible, which has caused an uptick in community spread. Dr. Loughead said Dr. Bogen was clear that the Delta variant can be spread regardless of vaccination status.

Based on the information provided by the ACHD, and in looking at the current increase in cases, Dr. Loughead is recommending a change in the proposal that he shared publicly on June 16.

At the Elementary level, the following mask-wearing guidelines and COVID-19 mitigation measures were proposed by Dr. Loughead:

- Students and staff will be required to wear masks indoors, regardless of vaccination status.
- 3 feet of physical distancing will be implemented to the fullest extent possible.
- Universal masking on school district transportation is required for all school levels — a federal mandate.

At the Middle School and High School levels, the following mask-wearing guidelines and COVID-19 mitigation measures were proposed by Dr. Loughead:

- The District is strongly recommending masking for unvaccinated students and staff while indoors.
- 3 feet of physical distancing will be implemented to the fullest extent possible.
- Universal masking on school district transportation is required for all school levels — a federal mandate.

Why a change in approach?

Dr. Loughead provided the following reasons:

- The most significant change is the spread of the Delta variant and that Allegheny County has entered a substantial level of community transmission.
- The District is prioritizing the safety of younger students who are not yet eligible to receive vaccinations. There is no indication that vaccines will be available to children under 12 any time soon, which is why universal masking is being considered.
- The District will continue to monitor conditions in the county that might require a change to the tentative plan.

Regarding contact tracing, Dr. Loughead said that vaccinated individuals who are exposed to a person infected with COVID-19 will not be required to quarantine IF they do not acquire symptoms AND test negative for the virus. Also, students and staff will not be required to quarantine if there is an exposure where there is universal masking taking place.

Dr. Loughead noted that the District will participate in weekly Zoom calls with ACHD public health experts.

In answering several questions from Board members, Dr. Loughead provided the following information:

- The District is strongly recommending that unvaccinated middle and high school students wear a mask. Also, Dr. Loughead said there is a high vaccination rate among staff and high school

students, based on conversions with students at the end of last school year.

- Masks will not be required at all grade levels when outdoors.
- COVID-19 conditions will be monitored weekly with regard to any changes to the Health and Safety Plan.
- There are no perceived issues with the staff.
- In areas where masking is not possible, such as the cafeteria, the District will work to implement at least 3 feet of physical distancing. There will be no plexiglass or desk shields this year.
- If the County returns to a “low” level of community spread, the District will consider revisiting the masking policy. However, Dr. Loughead emphasized that children under the age of 12 still would not be eligible for the vaccine, and thus they would not have the same level of protection as their older peers.
- Vaccination data on students and faculty is protected health information. However, Dr. Loughead said based on the number of faculty members who participated in the clinic at the AIU, there is a very high vaccination rate among faculty and staff.
- Students who are vaccinated or had COVID-19 in the past three months are required to get tested if exposed, but they can return to school with a negative test without quarantining.
- Three feet of physical distancing is feasible in most instances. However, scenarios such as group learning and lunch would be more difficult.
- Dr. Bogen’s approach is for school districts to follow the CDC’s recommendations. Dr. Loughead said Dr. Bogen recognizes that HTSD’s vaccination rate is high in the middle and high schools, and that local conditions differ. Dr. Bogen encourages everyone to get vaccinated, as it offers the most protection against COVID-19.
- The District is open to hosting another vaccination clinic, which UPMC Children’s Hospital has offered to provide.
- Since some 6th-graders attend the middle school who are not 12 and eligible for the vaccine, the District will continue to devise the best strategy to protect those students and evaluate options moving forward.

Mask-wearing, COVID-19 mitigation efforts, and the District’s entire Health and Safety Plan will be considered for Board approval at the August 9 meeting.

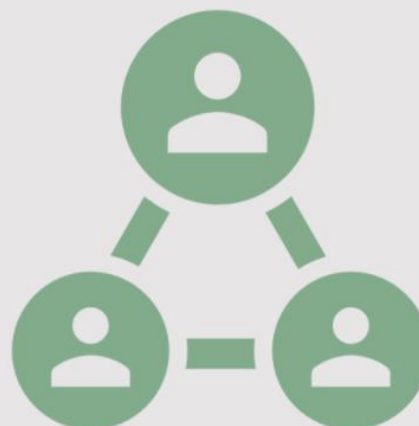
Dr. Loughead also presented two items that will be considered for Board approval at the August 9 Voting Meeting:

- Emergency Instructional Time Plan for the 2021-2022 School Year (a PDE requirement for the 2021-2022 School Year)
- AIU Title I Non-Public School Agreement (a requirement for federal programs).

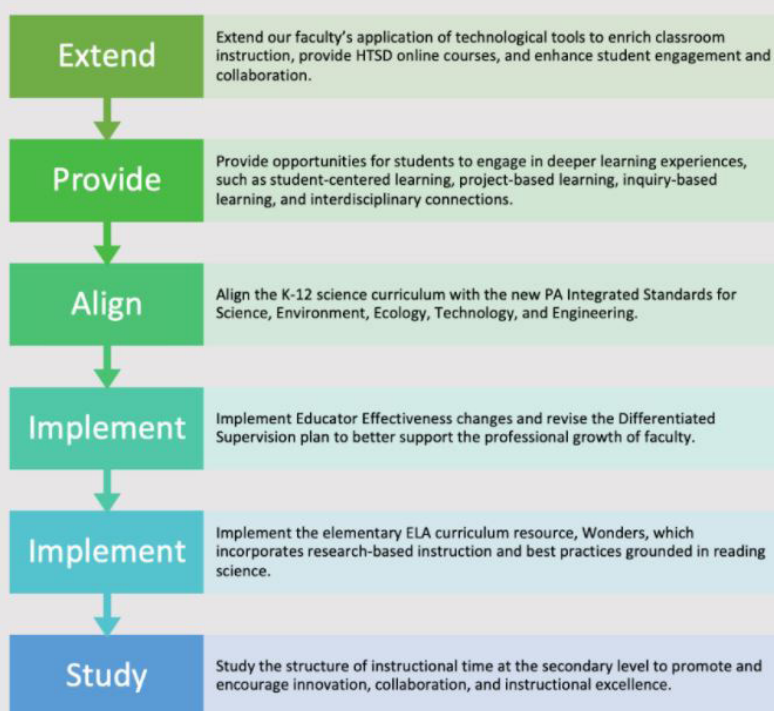
Dr. Loughead also presented HTSD’s goals for 2021-2022, which place an emphasis on trust and teamwork that grew over the past year, in addition to the importance of relationships as the District returns to in-person learning.

Goal #1 – Strengthen relationships with students and staff to promote overall wellness and well-being.

- Engage the School Wellness Committee to promote health and wellness for students and staff.
- Provide opportunities to connect and communicate to enhance collegial relationships.
- Support a climate of trust, support, and rapport to promote healthy relationships and a safe learning environment.
- Sustain and support an inclusive and equitable learning environment by promoting a culture of dignity and respect and the integration of social and emotional learning.



Goal #2 - Enhance curricular, instructional, and pedagogical practices to support innovative teaching and learning focused on deeper learning.





Goal #3 – Promote opportunities for engagement through partnerships and enhanced district-wide communication.

Create and launch	Create and launch a Business Advisory Committee to engage in conversations around local economic trends, connections between education and employment, and funding opportunities.
Develop	Develop opportunities for regional professionals to mentor students in authentic work experiences.
Strengthen	Strengthen partnerships with the Arts Education Collaborative, Remake Learning, the Consortium for Public Education, and the League of Innovative Schools.
Investigate	Investigate opportunities to promote cultural diversity and global citizenship through the enrollment of international students.
Launch	Launch a new streamlined and professional website to showcase the District and enhance transparent communications.
Re-establish	Re-establish the role of the Communications Specialist to promote the District through social media and other methods of communication.

Goal #4 – Ensure that District facilities are safe, well-designed, and high-quality spaces for teaching and learning supported by a responsibly designed and executed budget.



Conduct	Develop and execute	Negotiate	Complete	Continue
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Conduct a thorough study of student activity fees for consideration as a method to support capital improvements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Develop and execute annual operating budgets with a focus on creative strategies to enhance fiscal responsibility.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Negotiate a fair and equitable extension with the Hampton Township Education Association.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Complete the first year of the Hampton High School Phase I renovation project with a projected completion date of December 2022.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Continue to enhance measures to promote physical and cyber safety in the District.

Mrs. Webb pointed out that enrollment in the Hampton Online Academy (HOA) is lower than last year, and she asked Dr. Loughhead how the District plans to move forward with HOA. Dr. Loughhead said only 20 students are currently enrolled in HOA, compared to last year when upwards of 200 students were enrolled.

Additionally, Dr. Loughhead noted that HOA will continue to be an asynchronous program, with improvements at the elementary level.

Public Comment

(1:35:57) Mr. Wesley

Mr. Wesley opened the work session to Public Comment. He asked that community members be respectful of everyone's time. He stated that he has read all of the emails that community members sent to him and other Board members.

Community Member

1:37:34

A parent of two rising 3rd-graders and a rising 1st-grader thanked the Board for their leadership in allowing his children to attend school full-time for almost the entire school year. He said his son was exposed to COVID-19 last year but did not get sick since both students were wearing masks. Additionally, he stated that teaching children proper mask-wearing is easy and that his children have no problem wearing masks, as he explained to them that by wearing masks "you don't get very sick." He asked if plastic shields would be implemented once again in the cafeteria. Dr. Loughhead answered that he will check with ACHD experts before making a decision. He strongly encouraged the Board to vote in favor of universal masking for elementary schools.

Community Member

1:39:41

A parent to a rising 2nd and 6th-grader said both of her children are too young for the vaccine. As a pediatrician, she said while most children who contract COVID-19 do well, there are others who are not immune from complications. She said 30-40 children with Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome (MIS-C) were admitted into the pediatric ICU during this past winter surge. Those children missed at least 3-6 months of sports/athletics, and long term effects are still unknown. She urged the District not to back off on precautions as the Delta variant is more transmissible, regardless of vaccination status. However, she emphasized that the people are much less likely to contract the virus, with nearly negligible risk of death and hospitalization. She thanked the Board and administration for a successful past school year. Like the previous parent, she said her children have no issues wearing masks. She supports universal masking for all grade levels, citing evidence of some schools that reopened in the southern part of the country with no mask mandate and were forced to go to remote learning due to an outbreak. She said universal masking for elementary schools is a great first step but emphasized that some middle schoolers are not yet eligible for the vaccine.

Community Member

1:45:38

The husband of the previous speaker thanked Dr. Loughhead for a thorough presentation and the District for the mitigation measures put in place that led to a successful school year in 2020-21. He pointed out that the previous school year was successful since Hampton followed all CDC guidance, including universal masking — which he fully supports implementing again. To do anything less would contravene the CDC's guidance, he added. Additionally, he stressed that the pandemic is not over, citing that the 7-day average daily case in Allegheny County is seven times higher right now than it

was at this time last year. He said his 6th-grader will not be eligible for the vaccine until the spring. Lastly, he stated that all parents attending the meeting love their children. He urged the Board to take the safest course possible by following the health experts' guidance for universal mask-wearing.

Community Member

1:50:41

A parent to three children said the words “mandate, mandatory or mandated” should not be used in the District’s Health and Safety Plan regarding masks. He noted that Allegheny County is currently at a substantial level of community transmission, and he asked the Board why none of them are following the CDC’s guidelines in not wearing masks indoors. He believes that parents should have a choice whether or not to mask their children. He cited three reasons why masks should not be mandatory: Masks are not good for younger children, mentally or physically; there is a vaccine, and everyone older than 12 can receive it; COVID-19 is less deadly than pneumonia. He said the Board has no legal obligation to follow the CDC or ACHD guidance. Lastly, he said mandating masks will divide the District and cause enrollment to drop.

Community Member

1:56:06

A parent with four children in the District — two at Central, and one in each of the Middle and High Schools — said that masks should be optional. She asked Dr. Loughhead if he asked Dr. Bogen about the effects of mask-wearing on young children, to which he replied that masks are safe, according to Dr. Bogen. She said there are other health experts who warn of the dangers of masking. Also, she noted that she could not imagine being able to learn anything while wearing a mask. Lastly, she said many families choose to live in Hampton Township because of the schools, but masking children should be left up to the parents.

Community Member

2:00:00

A parent with a daughter entering 6th-grade noted that community members on both sides of the debate have good intentions, which is why the decision to mask children should be up to the parents. She cited that there have been hundreds of studies that show why masks are ineffective, including that masks can cause infections, along with anxiety, depression, fatigue and dizziness. She questioned the effectiveness of masks, adding that parents did not elect CDC or ACHD officials to make decisions for their families. She said it is time for children to resume normal life and stop living in fear. She concluded that it is the District’s job to educate children, not make health decisions.

Community Member

2:03:02

A parent with three children attending Poff this year thanked the Board for listening to community members. He echoed previous remarks that masks should be optional, and that it is a very important issue to him. He said families have been complying since the end of the 2019 school year, because

they wanted the mitigation efforts to end. However, he said he will not be compliant or silent any longer. He said he recently met with Hampton School Families who support optional masking, as this will be the third school year affected by COVID-19 mitigation efforts. In talking with other parents, he learned that:

- One parent said their kid said school is like jail.
- Some parents are looking at alternative schooling options.
- Children need to see facial expressions.
- A student with ADHD was bullied for not being able to keep his mask on.
- A student with an auditory processing disorder cried often because he was falling behind in class since he could not see his teacher's face.
- A 1st-grader contracted a disease on her face from wearing a mask.

He also said his daughter's hands are cracking from washing them too frequently. Lastly, he said he would like for the District to take a survey asking parents whether or not they want their children to wear masks.

Student

2:11:09

A rising 7th-grader said children age 12 and up have been eligible for the vaccine since May. He added that the vaccine, specifically Pfizer, is highly effective in preventing the spread of COVID-10. Even with the Delta variant, the data and science shows that vaccines are the best source of protection against the virus.

Student

2:12:19

A student said he was bullied for not wearing a mask above his nose. He said he would like an option to wear masks, offering that his brother does not mind wearing a mask.

Student

2:13:29

A rising 6th-grade student began to cry when reading from a letter, so her grandmother finished reading from the letter, in which the girl:

- Asked the Board not to mandate masks, because she wants to see her friends.
- Said she had headaches from wearing masks and was dizzy.
- Said her mother will make her enroll in PA Cyber if masks are mandated.
- Used to live in Pine-Richland, but she made more friends at Hampton.

Community Member

2:16:14

A parent of a rising 6th and 2nd-grader recognized emotions on both sides of the issue. Faced with a difficult decision, he and his wife decided to send their children to school in-person last year — although he said it was not perfect. However, looking back, he believes the school year was a success, as he got to see his children grow academically, socially, and emotionally. While he does not like wearing masks himself, he urged the Board to follow the CDC and ACHD guidance.

Community Member

2:22:25

A community member who served in Afghanistan said he fought for his country and is now fighting so children can go to school without a mask — which he said are not going to be effective.

Community Member

2:23:14

A parent of a rising 3rd-grader asked Dr. Loughhead what the difference in effectiveness is between optional versus universal masking. Dr. Loughhead said masks, when worn by both individuals, is what makes the difference, which is why Dr. Bogen wants the District to consider universal masking. She said her daughter was born with a congenital heart defect, but doctors were able to save her life through heart surgery thanks to science. She said she trusted science to save her daughter as an infant, and she again trusts the science to navigate the pandemic. While her daughter was homeschooled last year, she is planning on sending her in-person where she can learn to care for others in a community.

Community Member

2:27:22

A parent echoed previous remarks in thanking the Board for navigating pandemic last year, adding that she is grateful the District is moving back to 5-day in-person instruction. She stated that no children under the age of 14 have lost their life due to COVID-19. She read several statistics that highlight the low risk of children being hospitalized due to COVID-19, or dying. She said her rising 2nd-grader has not yet had a normal school year. Last year, her family contracted the virus, but her children and husband were asymptomatic, while she temporarily lost taste and smell. Since there is conflicting data on mask-wearing, she said parents should make the decision for their children. Also, she said more than 460 community members signed a petition, which she created, asking the Board to approve optional masking.

Community Member

2:32:49

A parent of students who attend Wyland said her children were homeschooled last year, but they want to return to the classrooms this year. She said her children love Hampton but do not want to wear masks. She echoed previous remarks in stating that parents should be given the choice to mask their

children. She cited several studies which found masks to be harmful to children and that children are not the ones who are spreading the virus.

Community Member

2:39:07

A parent who, with his wife, chose Hampton over Fox Chapel when buying a house last year after having sent their children to private school. They chose Hampton because they liked the location, and it is a better school. However, if the District mandates masks, he said he will do one of three things: Sell his house and move to Fox Chapel, send his children to private school., or stay in Hampton and pledge his money that he would have used to send his children to private school and work to vote every School Board member out.

Community Member

2:40:37

Another parent who urged the Board not to approve any mask mandates said she is a HTSD Class of 1992 graduate, but she is not proud at this point due to the District proposing universal making at the elementary level. She expressed a message of faith over fear, stating that she will send her children to PA Cyber unless parents are given the choice whether or not to mask their children.

Community Member

2:43:45

A parent and UPMC physician anesthesiologist said he and his wife are happy the District is considering universal masking for elementary schools. He noted that even children are susceptible to complications from COVID-19, such as reduced cognitive function, in addition to loss of taste and smell — which could affect their long term quality of life. Until everyone is eligible for the vaccine, he said the District should take every possible precaution. He also challenged previous commenters who said that masks are harmful, suggesting that the District promote correct mask-wearing. He hopes the District can change its mask requirements moving forward, but he currently supports following the CDC guidelines.

Community Member

2:48:28

A parent of a rising kindergartener agreed with previous commenters that all parents want to protect their children and a year that returns to normalcy. However, she said that since the District saw success last year by following CDC and ACHD guidelines she is urging the District to once again follow public health experts' guidance. She also noted that many previous commenters who support parental choice fail to realize that masks protect others from infection first, with less protection offered to the mask-wearer.

Student

2:54:01

An 8th-grade student said she is tired of wearing masks since students need oxygen to breathe, and it is more difficult to learn when wearing a mask.

Community Member

2:54:45

A parent whose children enrolled in HOA last year due to an immunocompromised individual said she and her husband are looking to send their children back to school in-person. Like several commenters before her, she urged the Board to approve universal masking — as it is the safest way to ensure in-person learning, without having to worry about transitioning to hybrid or remote learning. She also pointed out that universal masking provides children with a learning opportunity regarding helping the community through acts of kindness.

Community Member

2:58:24

A community member who supports optional mask-wearing pointed out that nearly all speakers who gave public comment took their mask off in order to be understood. He also questioned the CDC's reliability. Additionally, he said he worked with many children ages 9 and 10 this summer who participated in sports without masks where physical distancing was not possible — suggesting that students will not be keen on going back to school with the proposed mitigation efforts.

Community Member

3:00:21

A parent with an 11th-grader raised concerns about the change in school start times for students who attend A.W. Beattie. She said her son does not have a car, so he is required to go to AM Beattie from 7:45 to 10:30 a.m. However, his first class at the High School is at 10:35 a.m. Further, she expressed concern that PM Beattie students will have to leave the High School in the middle of 5th period and eat their lunch on the way to the career center.

Community Member

3:03:40

A parent with a rising 2nd-grader thanked the Board for following the science and making adjustments to the Health and Safety Plan when needed. She supports mask-wearing, which she said will give teachers another opportunity to be creative with instruction.

Community Member

3:05:27

A community member asked a question about quarantining after a known exposure. Dr. Loughead said in areas where universal masking is required and no symptoms are reported after a negative test

that quarantining is not required. The commenter said that this new guidance feels like another way to entice schools to implement universal masking.

Community Member

3:07:45

A parent with a rising 2nd-grader and kindergartner, who supports optional masking, said his family might move out of the District due to the proposed COVID-19 mitigation measures. He said it is “cruel and stupid” for children to wear masks at recess, in addition to eating lunch 6 feet apart in 20 minutes with plexiglass shields in place. He noted that some teachers have been rude when enforcing masking policies and other mitigation efforts, which were too extreme last year. Unless there is a change in masking policy this year, he said nothing will change next year, either. Lastly, he said other families are considering moving or enrolling in charter schools due to mandates regarding masks.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned, and the Board entered executive session.