

The Board Report

Monday, May 08, 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

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

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

Dr. Michael Loughhead	Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Rebecca Cunningham	Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Jeff Kline	Director of Administrative Services
Dr. Ed McKaveney	Director of Technology
Mr. Josh Kellogg	Assistant Director of Technology

** absent*

*** attended remotely*

May 08, 2023
Voting Meeting

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

Student Awards

(4:15)

Mrs. Hamlin announced that the meeting would begin with a Student Awards presentation facilitated by Mr. Jarrell.

On behalf of the Board, Mr. Jarrell congratulated the following students for placing First in Problem 2 Technical Category, Division I, and advancing to the Word Odyssey of the Mind Tournament this month:

Ethan Barley	Joshua Pearl	Josephine Kurasch
Edward Sager	Charles Lamb	Lincoln Verbofsky
Emma Osborn		

In addition, he said the Board is proud to recognize the accomplishments of several of our students who attend classes at the A.W. Beattie Career Center and recently competed in the 2022 SkillsUSA District 8 competition:

- Abigail Boyd – a Gold Medal Winner in Early Childhood Education – Early Childhood Education category
- Madison McCabe – a Gold Medal Winner in Esthetics – Cosmetology category
- acquelyn Deah – a Silver Medal Winner, in Emergency Response Technology - Health Knowledge Bowl category
- Mya Fox – a Silver Medal Winner in Nursing Assisting – Health and Nursing Services
- Eden Mattiuz – a Silver Medal Winner in Surgical Sciences – Health Knowledge Bowl category
- Leah Morris – a Silver Medal Winner in Sports Medicine and Rehab Therapy – Related Technical Math category
- Chi Lloyd-Grinage – a Bronze Medal Winner in Emergency Response Technology – Job Skill Demo A category
- Kelli Gibson – for competing in Carpentry/Building Construction - Team Work category
- Joseph O'Donnell – for competing in HVAC – Team Work category
- Aryan Pfeuffer – who is a Straight to States Competitor for Carpentry/Building Construction – Career Pathways Showcase: Industrial & Engineering Technology

He congratulated Abigail Boyd, who placed 2nd at SkillsUSA State Competition in Early Childhood Education. The Board also recognized the accomplishments of the following A.W. Beattie students who competed in the Family Career and Community Leadership for America (FCCLA) competition

- Abigail Boyd – who won a 1st Place Gold Medal for her Chapter Service Project Portfolio and will be heading to the National FCCLA Competition in Denver, Colorado.
- Ella Harold – who also won a Second Place Gold Medal in the Focus on Children category.

The Board proudly recognized several of Grades 4 to 6 music students, who auditioned and were accepted into the PMEA Elementary Band:

- Phoenix Bender – Percussion
- Caden Cooper – Trombone
- Joy Dakin - Tuba
- West Fleischmann – Trumpet
- Even Hartman – Trombone
- Charlotte Mazzoni – Clarinet
- Gwen Okerberg – Baritone Horn
- Catie Parker – Clarinet
- Gabriel Sand – Trombone
- Logan Winters – French Horn

Call to Order & Approval of Minutes

(12:38)

Mrs. Hamlin called the meeting to order, and a roll call was taken. All Board members were present. Mrs. Hamlin opened the meeting to public comment, but there were none at this time.

The Board approved the minutes from the April 11, 2023 and April 24, 2023 Board of School Directors Voting Meetings.

Treasurer's Report

(13:55)

The Board unanimously approved the following items:

- April 2023 General Fund 10 Disbursements totaling \$3,743,672.31.
- April 2023 High School Construction Fund 35 Disbursements totaling \$199,949.89.
- April 2023 Capital Fund 39 Disbursements totaling \$66,035.19.
- April 2023 Cafeteria Fund 50 Disbursements totaling \$155,934.35.
- March 2023 Treasurer's Report.
- March 2023 Student Activities Report.

President's Report

(15:34)

Mrs. Hamlin announced that the Board has held three executive sessions to discuss legal and personnel matters since the last meeting.

Board Secretary's Report

(15:46)

Ms. Balson reported that Trisha Webb and Greg Stein have volunteered to be delegates for the Pennsylvania School Board Association Delegate Assembly in November.

Superintendent's Report

(16:03)

Dr. Loughead provided a brief update on the District's academics, athletics, and the arts.

Academics

Dr. Loughead acknowledged and emphasized the hard work of the students and faculty as they approach the end of the year, particularly students in grades 3 through 8 who are taking state assessments, along with high school students taking the Keystone exams. While recognizing that these assessments are not the sole measure of a great school district, Dr. Loughead commended the students and their families for taking assessments seriously and putting in the effort. In addition to the state assessments, Dr. Loughead highlighted the importance of other competencies within the district, expressing that they are equally significant.

Arts

Dr. Loughead commended the students who participated in the production of the high school's spring musical, "Something Rotten!" He said the musical was stupendous and highlighted that over 100 students were involved either on stage, in the orchestra, or behind the scenes. He complimented everyone involved in the production, including the educators who dedicated their time and efforts.

Athletics

Dr. Loughead reported that Hampton's spring athletics are doing very well and expects several teams to qualify for the WPIAL playoffs. He encouraged the community to come out and support Hampton's student athletes.

Student Affairs

(19:03)

Mr. Jarrell recommended, and the Board unanimously approved the following item:

- Hampton High School Forensics Team Field Trip to the National Speech and Debate Association National Tournament in Phoenix, Arizona, June 10 - 17, 2023 at a cost to the District not to exceed \$500.

Facilities

(20:00)

Ms. Balason recommended, and the Board unanimously approved the following item:

- Proposal by Draw Collective for Architectural and Engineering Services for the Hampton Middle School Roof Replacement at base cost to the District of \$24,720 plus \$900 per site visit, pending

review and approval by the District Solicitor.

Chris Brown of DRAW Collective reported that a sprinkler line froze during a spell of cold weather causing leakages in the middle school roof. He said this is an immediate problem that needs to be addressed. DRAW Collective sought bids for asphalt shingles for the three main wings of the middle school and library, including an alternate bid for the Field House. The Board had previously discussed replacing the roof with solar shingles. Mr. Brown elaborated and said solar shingles are half as effective as traditional solar panels, and that the roof's orientation is not ideal for solar gain. He said if the District is interested in solar power, he recommends traditional solar panels in the roof's flatter areas. Mr. Brown added there is a 25-year warranty for the anticipated asphalt shingles. Mr. Brown said bids will not be available until late June for the Board's consideration.

Mr. Brown also presented an update on the Hampton High School renovation project. He said contractors are finishing up punch list items and warranties and final manuals are being collected and handed over to the District. He added that they are working with Hampton Township's engineer to finalize inspections. In an area where asphalt has settled, the contractor is expected to dig out that area and install new compacted earth and stone. Dr. Loughead noted that he has inquired with Jason Day of PJ Dick about the "out of control" grass along Topnick Drive. He said the grass is still under the general contractor's responsibility.

Additionally, Mr. Vasko voiced concern about the noise level in the new Library Media Center at HHS. He said the former library space is being utilized for students to make up assessments. Dr. Loughead said he was not aware of this issue, but emphasized that the high school is taking advantage of the additional spaces for makeup assessments. Dr. Loughead added that the new Library Media Center serves a different purpose than the former library space and adjustments are still being made. He said he will explore this further with Dr. Imbarlina. Mr. Vasko also inquired about the use of custodians' time in maintaining the former library area regarding budgetary impacts. Dr. Loughead said that effective use of staff is one of new HTSD Director of Facilities John Walsh's top concerns.

Mr. Shages commented on the District's tennis courts. He relayed that Hampton Township has in their budget to repair the courts this summer. He reported that the Township's plan is to cut out the cracks in the court and repave them. Mr. Shages commented that the courts' current condition negatively affects the playing conditions and the school district's image.

Educational Programs

(36:36)

There were no action items this evening.

Finance

(36:42)

Mr. Vasko recommended and the Board unanimously approved the following items:

- 2023-2024 Consumable Supply Bids at a total amount \$198,985.97.
- Budget Transfers totaling \$610.00 for the following:
 - Athletics; Contracted Services \$260.00
 - Wyland; Books & Periodicals \$350.00
- 2023-2024 A. W. Beattie Career Center Budget with the District's Share as follows:
 - Operating Budget \$749,265
 - Debt Service \$119,137
 - Total \$868,402
- Revised Senior Citizen Property Tax Rebate Resolution for 2023-2024, with new income brackets and amounts as follows:
 - \$0 to \$8,000 - \$440
 - \$8,001 to \$15,000 -\$360
 - \$15,001 to \$18,000 - \$250
 - \$18,000 to \$30,000 - \$190
- Contract renewal for the District's vision benefits with Vision Benefits of America, July 01, 2023

through June 30, 2025 as follows:

- Individual \$ 5.15/month (no increase)
 - Family \$15.25/month (no increase)
- 2023-2024 Proposed Final Budget, with revenues of \$60,903,989, expenditures of \$61,512,585

and the utilization of the \$400,000 from the Stabilization Fund and \$208,596 from the unassigned fund balance. Under this proposal, the real estate tax rate will increase from 20.99 mills to 21.85 mills; an increase of 0.86 mills or 4.1%.

Mr. Shages said he sent several questions to Mr. Kline regarding the budget and presented them to the Board:

- He discussed the expenditures summary for the 2023-24 budget compared to the 2022-23 budget. Mr. Kline stated that he previously projected an unassigned fund balance of 6.65% amounting to approximately \$4,089,000 in April. He plans to provide an update on this projection at the Board's June Work Session, noting that there have been no significant changes since April. Mr. Shages expressed the importance of not necessarily spending the budgeted amount since it merely an estimation. Looking ahead to the next year, he hopes that no additional funds are spent beyond the budgeted amount.

- He asked about the possibility of reducing costs for the upcoming school year considering a 14% increase in health insurance rates. Mr. Kline said that he does not foresee any reduction in the rates, citing reasons such as depletion of reserves and previous decisions not to raise rates. Mr. Kline said that representatives from the AIU consortium are willing to speak to the Board in the June work session if desired, but he believes the 14% increase will remain unchanged.
- He inquired if there are any possibilities for building budget reductions. Mr. Kline said there are few discretionary items in the building budgets, and that the copier leases account for much of the expenditures. The second largest expenditure is the Office Depot allocations given to each teacher, allowing them to purchase supplies when necessary. Dr. Loughead said he and Mr. Kline meet with the buildings to review the budget line by line, but they will look into further opportunities to reduce the budget and find savings.
- He asked why special education expenditures are up 22%, considering the previous three years' costs. Dr. Loughead said the District has seen a trend over the past 2-3 years of students requiring specialized placements. The District recognizes that there are some students who need specialized services beyond what Hampton can provide, and that the District works regularly with these families. He complimented Dr. Sharon Smith on working with these families on placements and appropriate support that can be provided at Hampton. In response to Mrs. Hamlin's question, Dr. Loughead said the District is working to add the appropriate support services where possible. For example, the high school is adding a full time special education teacher next year.
- He inquired about exploring incentives to attract students attending cyber school back into Hampton Online Academy through Waterfront Learning.
- He asked about reductions to the Technology Department budget. Dr. Loughead said the administration has reduced the technology budget by \$38,000 over the past week. He said there could be additional reductions to the budget; however, the District does not want to interfere with academic-related technology for students and faculty.
- He asked about a \$100,000 increase to the Office of Student Services budget. Mr. Kline said that is due to a PCCD grant that the District received. There is a revenue line item and an additional expenditure for behavioral therapy services for next year. Dr. Loughead said two potential hires through UPMC Western Psychiatric fell through. The District is working to recruit and fill that position next school year.
- He inquired about the rising utilities cost in the budget. Mr. Kline said the District had locked in a favorable rate for electricity. However, that expired in December and the renewed rate was higher.

Mr. Vasko noted that this budget approval is preliminary, and the final budget will be considered for Board approval during the June voting meeting. Dr. Loughead said the administration's goal is to continue to find savings and revenue adjustments.

Personnel

(56:50)

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

Resignation

- Mr. Mark Staub, who is retiring after 33 years with the District effective July 31, 2023. Mr. Staub is Head of the Maintenance Department.

Dr. Loughead thanked Mr. Staub for his remarkable lifetime of service to HTSD. He added that Mr. Staub was very skilled and knowledgeable, and will be difficult to replace

Teachers

- Mrs. Lauren Hinnebusch as a Building Substitute at Poff Elementary School effective April 26, 2023 for the remainder of the 2022-2023 School Year. Salary is \$26,500, prorated. Mrs. Hinnebusch is replacing Ms. Hailey Hamilton.

Paraprofessionals, Paraeducators, and Administrative Assistants

- Ms. Graycen Vitale as a Paraeducator (Class III) at Hampton High School, effective April 25, 2023. Salary is \$18.01 for the remaining 35 days in the 2022-2023 School Year and \$19.76 for 25 days beginning the 2023-2024 School Year (fulfilling the 60-day probationary period) and \$20.01 thereafter. Ms. Vitale is replacing Mrs. Addeline Devlin.
- Mrs. Jill Fanuele as a Paraeducator (Class III) at Hampton Middle School, effective May 25, 2023. Salary is \$18.01 for the remaining 13 days in the 2022-2023 School Year and \$19.76 for 47 days beginning the 2023-2024 school year (fulfilling the 60-day probationary period), an \$20.01 thereafter. Ms. Fanuele is replacing Mrs. Lori Nicklas.
- Ms. Olivia Cress as a Paraeducator (Class III) at Central Elementary School, effective May 8, 2023. Salary is \$18.01 for the remaining 26 days in the 2022-2023 School Year and \$19.76 for 34 days beginning the 2023-2024 school year (fulfilling the 60-day probationary period), an \$20.01 thereafter. This is a replacement for a previous internal transfer.
- Jill Fanuele as a Substitute Paraeducator/Paraprofessional/Administrative Assistant, effective April 25, 2023. Salary is \$13.00 per hour for days 1-20, and \$13.50 per hour thereafter.

Other

- Athletic Director Search Agreement between Hampton Township School District and School Assist Consulting, LLC.

Custodial/Maintenance

- Change in status for Mr. Zachary Ridenour moving from a 10 month/8 hour Custodian at Hampton High School to a 12 month/8 hour Custodian and the Night Lead Custodian at Hampton High School, effective June 1, 2023. Hourly rate is \$24.71. Mr. Ridenour is replacing Mr. Joseph Sulkowski.
- Mr. Chad Fabian as a 10 month/8 hour Custodian at Central Elementary School effective May 8, 2023. Hourly rate is \$23.18.

Addendum

- The following Job Descriptions:
 - High School Media and Literacy Specialist
 - High School Special Education/Secondary Transition Teacher
- Resignation of Mrs. Meredith Henderson from her .40 Building Substitute position at Hampton Middle School effective May 22, 2023.
- Mrs. Rebecca Harter's rescission of the offer of employment as the Transportation and Data Entry Specialist, that was approved at the March 13, 2023 Board Meeting, effective April 25, 2023.
- Change in status for Ms. Lisa Arture moving from the Student Attendance Assistant (Class IV) at Hampton High School to the Transportation and Data Entry Specialist (Class VII), effective June 14, 2023. Hourly rate is Step 5, \$26.86 for the remaining 13 days in the 2022-2023 school year and Step 5, \$27.65 for 17 days beginning the 2023-2024 school year (fulfilling the 30-day probation period), and then \$27.90 thereafter.
- Change in status for Mrs. Patricia Waldroup moving from the PIMS Specialist (Class VII) to Accounts Payable Specialist (Class VII), effective June 12, 2023. There is no change in hourly rate.

Technology (1:04:22)

There were no action items this evening. Dr. Loughhead commented that the Board has previously supported the leasing process and purchasing of devices for both students and faculty in a timely manner to ensure they are available and ready for distribution when the school opens. Dr. Loughhead acknowledged the importance of student devices and sought the Board's support to move forward with ordering devices to meet the deadline for imaging and distributing the devices to students at the start of the school year. The Board expressed mutual agreement to allow the administration to move forward with this request.

Policy and Legislative Affairs (1:06:14)

Mr. Shages recommended and the Board unanimously approved the following items:

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

Home Education Students

Mr. Shages reported that Mr. Stein has agreed to submit an application to serve as representative of the ACSHIC Board of Trustees. Mr. Shages said Mr. Stein would be an excellent representative who would do whatever he could to help bring down health insurance costs.

Transportation

(1:10:20)

There were no action items this evening.

A.W. Beattie Career Center Board Report

(1:10:22)

Mr. Stein reported the following regarding A.W. Beattie:

- 125 employers will be visiting A.W. Beattie to interview students for prospective jobs this week.
- A.W. Beattie is conducting a round of interviews this week in anticipation of next year's required increase in staff due to resignations and increased student participation.
- A meeting is scheduled to discuss development of additional space on campus.
- The A.W. Beattie Board will hold an executive session following its meeting to review the re-up of the school safety plan.

Mr. Vasko was thrilled to report that A.W. Beattie's robotics program is the first Career and Technical School and secondary school endorsed by the Advanced Robotics and Manufacturing Institute (ARM) in Pennsylvania.

HAEE Report

(1:13:27)

Mrs. Webb reported that she attended HAEE's April meeting. She said HAEE has already raised money for the annual 5K run/walk scheduled for October 7th, 2023, at the Hampton Community Center. HAEE discussed the scholarship applications that were submitted this year and awarded during the Academic Awards Night. Mrs. Webb also discussed the T-shirt design contest underway in the middle and high school for the 5K run/walk.

Mrs. Midgley discussed the school safety and security practices Information Night held on May 2. She noted that attendees felt reassured about safety following the recent swatting incidents. There are discussions about holding an ALICE training session in the fall at the community center. She thanked Dr. Loughead, Dr. Cunningham, and the Hampton Township Police for hosting the Information Night. Dr. Loughead said the District is fortunate to have such a close relationship with Hampton Township Police, and he thanked Dr. Cunningham for her work on safety and security within HTSD. Mr. Shages commented that he appreciated that the Information Night was open to feedback and questions from attendees as an opportunity for them to voice their concerns.

Adjournment

(1:17:52)

Mrs. Hamlin moved to adjourn the meeting.