

Council of Key Communicators
Monday, September 16, 2019



Key Communicators in Attendance: Cristine Daugherty, Edward Howe, Carma Lamm, Chiara Orsini, Michelle Solkovy, Jennifer Retsch, Alison Sanders, and Jen Rossi

Administration in Attendance: Dr. Loughead, Dr. Cunningham, Ms. Berg, and Mrs. Hennessey (Board of School Directors)

ACADEMICS

League of Innovative Schools - The District was recently accepted into the nationally-recognized League of Innovative Schools. Dr. Loughead said being admitted to the League is something HTSD has been working on for a few years. Admittance is highly competitive; Hampton was granted league status in recognition of its innovative practices in the classroom and across the District. He credited Dr. Cunningham, Dr. McKaveney and Dr. Removcik with helping to compile the information necessary for Hampton to apply successfully for the recognition. Additional information about the League is available [here](#).

Website Upgrade - The District is in the process of upgrading its website, which will take a full year to complete. Dr. Cunningham explained that a team is working on the initial migration of data from the old website to the new platform, which involves cleaning up the information we wish to migrate to the new website. She asked the Key Communicators to take a look at the current website and share the following at the next meeting:

- What do they like/dislike about the current website?
- From a user's perspective, what information do we need to keep and what should be discarded?

The launch of the new website is expected in the Summer of 2020.

School Start Time Update - Dr. Loughead said the expanded committee has been working diligently on exploring a later school start time. He said they are making progress, but it is very challenging with all the components involved in changing school start times. He said one of the most difficult challenges facing them is the established hours at the A.W. Beattie Technical Center, which educates students from various schools in the area. If Hampton changes the start time for high school students, this alternative time may impact the Beattie program. An update will be presented to the School Board at the November meeting. If later start times are implemented, it will be for the 2020-2021 School Year. Key Communicators asked if a recap of the research can be provided as well so that everyone understands why we are exploring later start times.

High School Renovation - Dr. Loughead updated the Key Communicators about the latest good news from the architects. There is a new process in place that will replace the old PlanCon reimbursement plan, and Hampton anticipates it will receive between 16-18 percent of the project costs through the new process. If the District continues on its current course and timeline for the project, the outcome is positive for receiving state reimbursement in a timely fashion, which he noted did not always happen under the previous PlanCon. In October, the District hopes to hire an architect to start the final design for the project, which can take 15-18 months. Input from the public will be obtained during this phase of the project.

Mindfulness - Last year the school counselors, a few special education teachers, and our school nurses engaged in mindfulness training over the course of the school year. This training is similar to the approach that is happening with other businesses and health care organizations in the region. Dr. Thornton presented to the School Board about this approach at the Board meeting on September 9. Dr. Loughead reiterated that the approach is being implemented in a way that is non-religious, and with parent permission. One of the Key Communicators stated that parents she has spoken with are supportive of the method.

More information about Mindfulness from Dr. Thornton's presentation is available [here](#).

Flexible Instruction Day - In July, Governor Wolf signed into law the ability for schools to use an online flexible instruction day with students instead of having a traditional snow day. Districts can have up to five flexible instructional days per school year in the event a school has an emergency or inclement weather, and can also use FIDs just with seniors. Districts who wish to pursue this option must submit an application and plan to the state Department of Education for review and approval. HTSD has submitted a plan to PDE and is awaiting the review and approval process.

More information about flexible instructional days from PDE is available [here](#).

ARTS

**Dr. Loughead announced the current art on display in the conference room is from HTSD art educators. The conference room generally features art from students and staff throughout the year. **

Culinary Arts Update - Dr. Loughead provided an update on the food services for the District. Hampton's contract with Metz is a yearlong contract, during which time the District will evaluate if the changes requested for the lunch program have been implemented. Mrs. Rossi, the Key Communicator for Central Elementary, said she will be meeting with the Metz representative on Thursday due to some issues that have occurred this year with billing to lunch accounts. Additionally, she is planning to tour the lunch line to view signage that was requested last year. Mrs. Rossi said parents are still concerned about the amount of time children are being given to eat lunch, and mentioned that a group of parents would like to come to the School Board meeting in October to discuss with the Board.

Athletics

Fall Sports Update - Dr. Loughead said all of the fall sports teams are off to a good start. All of the teams have had the opportunity to play on the new field, and feedback on its quality and ease of use has been positive.

Fridley Field Update - The turf installation is complete and has been played on for a few weeks; now the track is being installed. Work on the track began a few days earlier than planned and all work should be wrapped up in a few weeks. Mrs. Lamm said she was asked by another parent who works at the concession stand during games to report that Middle School students are not well behaved at the games and they often have to come out of the concession stand to address them. Dr. Loughead said the Middle School staff is working to make sure students are aware of the behavior guidelines and expectations while at games. They also are asking parents to accompany their children to the games to supervise them. Mr. Cardone is looking at extending coverage into the upper field/concession stand area to help to monitor students. Dr. Loughead said the staff who work the games try to direct students to the student section of the stands, where they usually are well behaved because they are monitored. Mrs. Hennessey suggested a rule that if students leave the stadium, they cannot gain admittance again. She noted this might help cut down on the number of students who go hang out in the outside field area that is located outside of Fridley Field. Mr. Howe asked if the guidelines could also be extended to the elementary students as well.

Hampton Happenings

Township Strategic Plan - Dr. Cunningham reported that the Township of Hampton is in the beginning stages of their strategic plan, and they had asked Dr. Loughead and Dr. Cunningham to join the strategic planning committee. The Township is now seeking guidance from community residents on what they like about the Township and what they would like to see changed moving forward. She provided the Key Communicators with a flyer that is posted on the Township's website which invites residents to complete a questionnaire by September 30 or to attend a meeting on September 25 at the Community Center. This information was also sent to parents and guardians in the District last week.

YMCA/Y-Care Update - Dr. Loughead said the program is up and running and is doing well. So far, everything has gone smoothly with transitioning children from the daycare to wrap program at their various schools. The before and after school care program also is working well and continues to grow. It continues to be held at HMS.

HAEE Race Reminder - Registration for the race is open now online. The race will be held at 9 a.m. on Saturday, October 5 at Hartwood Acres. Visit the [HAEE website](#) for more information or to register.

Q&A:

- Mrs. Dougherty said some elementary parents are disappointed to hear they cannot use the high school for a dance this year and either have to use their own schools or move the dance to Central Elementary. Dr. Loughhead said the middle and high schools have a lot of requests for use of their facilities. However, Central is able to accommodate larger events and is a fantastic facility to host events at an elementary level.
- Mrs. Solkovy said there also are concerns about parking at Wyland when there are events held at the school. The lack of available parking has been an ongoing issue at Wyland. She asked if Dr. Tocci discussed her idea for providing additional parking space to Administration and also inquired if there was any additional discussion happening on how to resolve this concern. Dr. Loughhead said one discussion idea is to improve the ability of people to park on Walters Avenue (behind the school) and use a path to get from the street to the school safely. Another option is to provide shuttle busing from an off-site location to the school for all events.

Upcoming District Events

10/5 - HAEE Race - 9 a.m. at Hartwood Acres

10/7 - Board Work Session Meeting, 7 p.m., Dr. Harold Sarver Memorial Library, HMS

10/14 - Professional Development Day for Teachers - No School for Students

10/14 - Board Voting Meeting - 7:30 p.m., Dr. Harold Sarver Memorial Library, HMS

10/28 - Board Special Meeting (if necessary), 7 p.m., Dr. Harold Sarver Memorial Library, HMS