

*A summary of the Hampton Township School Board Meetings*

Hampton Township School District  
4591 School Drive

November 2014  
412-486-6000, Option 8



**School Board Receives Hands-On Lesson in Technology**

Six students from Wyland Elementary School, accompanied by their physical education teacher, Mr. Michael Thompson, provided the School Board with a hands-on demonstration of how they use iPods to enhance their physical education experience.

Each Board member was given an iPod and a student assistant, who guided them through the process of using software applications for Nearpod, Google Forms and Video Star applications that Mr. Thompson incorporates into his physical education classes at Wyland. Mr. Thompson demonstrated how he brings other classroom skills - such as mathematical equations and writing - into physical education class using the devices. The Hampton Alliance for Educational Excellence (HAEE) provided the iPods to Wyland through its educational grant program, said Mr. Thompson.

Students are assigned a specific iPod to use in physical education class, which allows them to store information to be accessed later by them or Mr. Thompson. It also allows Mr. Thompson to monitor the students' usage and progress in real time so he can assist them with activities as needed.

**High School Considers Adding to AP Offerings**

During a special presentation at the Nov. 3 Board meeting, Dr. Marguerite Imbarlina introduced two new Advanced Placement (AP) courses for consideration for the 2015-2016 School Year.

The two new courses - AP Seminar for grades 10-12 and AP Research for grades 11-12 - are part of the AP Capstone program, which is designed to empower students to collect and analyze information with accuracy and precision; synthesize information for multiple perspectives; craft, communicate and defend evidence-based arguments; and practice disciplined and scholarly research skills.

Dr. Imbarlina noted that 46 colleges and universities worked with the AP Board to develop the AP Capstone program structure and application process to stress the research and collaboration skills necessary for students to succeed in college. In AP Seminar, students will learn how to engage in cross-curricular conversations that explore the complexities of academic and real-world topics and issues by analyzing divergent perspectives. In AP Research, students will learn how to design, plan and conduct a yearlong research-based investigation on a topic of interest, participate in a mentored experience while conducting the research and demonstrate the ability to apply scholarly understanding to real-world problems.

The benefits of the AP Capstone program courses are that they provide an advanced option for public speaking; allow students to conduct research on a topic of interest, rather than an assigned topic; promote career awareness; provide an alternative method for diversifying college transcripts; and provide students with two additional AP courses from which to choose, Dr. Imbarlina said.

The AP Capstone program curriculum is free for the District to use. Professional development for teachers would cost \$1,195 per teacher for a five-day summer curricular training and a mid-year assessment scoring training, which Dr. Imbarlina said is on par with training received for the other AP courses available at the High School. If approved, AP Seminar would be available to students starting in 2015-2016, with AP Research added to the offerings for 2016-2017.

Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research, and on four additional AP exams of their choosing, will receive the AP Capstone Diploma. Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research only will receive the AP Seminar and Research Certificate.

**Personnel Report**

During the Nov. 10 Board Meeting, Board members took the following actions during the personnel report:

- Approved Mr. Sam Leininger, as a Building Substitute at Hampton High School, from October 23rd through the remainder of the 2014-2015 School Year. Salary is \$19,500, pro-rated. Mr. Leininger is replacing Mrs. Adina Marks-Vescio.
- Approved Mr. Timothy Buresh, as a Building Substitute at Poff Elementary School, from October 14, 2014 to approximately November 14, 2014. Salary is \$19,500, pro-rated. Mr. Buresh is replacing Ms. Amanda McWilliams, who is temporarily assisting at the Middle School with the Special Education Teacher transition, there is no change to Ms. McWilliams' salary.
- Approved Ms. Kelsey Young, to continue as a Long-Term Substitute Grade 4 Elementary Teacher at Wyland Elementary School, for the remainder of the 2014-2015 School Year. Salary remains \$27,500. Ms. Young is a substitute for Ms. Julie Judt.
- Approved the following as substitute paraprofessionals/secretaries for the District, effective November 6, 2014: Sally Pascucci and Jennifer Leyes.
- Approved Mr. Paolo Morelli, as a substitute custodian for the District, effective October 9, 2014.
- Approved the Coach/Building Supplemental positions for the 2014-2015 School Year as listed on the agenda.

**Fitness Pilot Program Approved**

The School Board reviewed and approved the expenditure of \$250 to support a pilot Fitness Club program at the High School. Assistant Superintendent Mr. Jeff Finch said 28 students signed a petition requesting the creation of the Zumba Fitness Club. Ms. Emily Onik, High School Physical Education teacher, agreed to be the club sponsor.

School Board members expressed their support for the program at the High School and compared the program to a pilot fitness program that was offered prior to the start of the school day last year at the Middle School. While the students requested a Zumba Fitness Club, Dr. Marguerite Imbarlina, High School Principal, suggested dropping the Zumba portion of the name so that other forms of fitness besides the Zumba program could be offered.

In other business during the Educational Programs report, the Board:

- Received an update on the current work of the Hampton High School Graduation Recognition Committee. The committee has divided the initial data collection items and a second meeting is being scheduled for after the Thanksgiving break. The committee will be navigating possible changes to the graduation recognition process in the coming months.
- Received information about a Youth STEM Engagement study being conducted by the School of Education at the University of Pittsburgh. Up to 5,000 students, parents and teachers in grades 6-12 have been recruited from local school districts, including Hampton, to participate in the research study, which is designed to measure student engagement in math and science activities. Participation in the study is voluntary.

**Facilities Report**

The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission has informed District officials of their intent to construct a “noise proof” wall along the turnpike border with Poff Elementary School in 2017. The District, as an invested party, has been invited to provide input regarding the texture and color of the wall. Dr. Michael Mooney, Poff Principal, requested the Ashlar Stone texture in tan coloring. Board members agreed with the recommendation.

A special Board meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 24 in the High School LGI room, during which time architects from VEBH will present options for the potential captured vestibule projects at Hampton Middle School, Central Elementary School and Wyland Elementary School. Poff Elementary School already has a capture vestibule, so it is not included in the plans.

**Self-Reporting Resolution Approved**

The School Board approved a resolution regarding self-reporting practices to the Security and Exchange Commission per the Municipal Continuing Disclosure Cooperation Initiative.

Mr. Jeff Kline, Director of Administrative Services, said the program pertains to statements contained within the District debt offering documents. Mr. Kline reported the offering statements disclose that the District was “in compliance with all continuing disclosures.” Effective in 2007, all continuing disclosures were moved to the Electronic Municipal Market Access (EMMA) website, and several District events were not disclosed on the website, Mr. Kline said. He also stated that the District is current as of 2013 with all EMMA postings and will stress this, in addition to, the annual CAFR posting on the District website as mitigating circumstances in the self-reporting to the SEC.

**PASA-PSBA School Leadership Conference Overview**

Mr. Robert Shages, Policy and Legislative Affairs Committee Chairperson, presented the Board with an overview of the recent PASA-PSBA School Leadership Conference he attended with fellow Board member Mr. Greg Stein.

Mr. Shages reported the following items during the conference sessions he attended:

- The Proposed 2015 Platform was presented, passed and is currently available for review.
- Current political issues such as pensions, charter reform, charter funding reform and basic funding were discussed. PA Rep. Mike Reed (Montgomery County) spoke about basic funding formulas.
- During the Career and Technical Education session, Allegheny County and Susquehanna County presenters said technical education is moving up as a credible educational option. Some technical education centers are now holding evening courses for adults as a revenue generator.
- Many sessions included parents involvement initiatives.
- A collective bargaining session was conducted, during which time an example was given of a collaborative meeting with no solicitor or PSEA representative present to start identifying the end results and to establish joint objectives before negotiations.
- Metz Food Service representatives met with Mr. Shages and Mr. Stein to discuss the District’s lunch program, the percentage of free and reduced lunch program participants and its impact on that program.



*November 24: Board Special Meeting, 7 p.m., Hampton High School LGI*

*November 27-28: Thanksgiving Holiday - NO SCHOOL*

*December 1: Board Reorganization Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Dr. Harold Sarver Memorial Library, HMS*

*December 24-January 2: Winter Break - NO SCHOOL*

*January 2: Professional Education Day for Teachers*

*January 5: Board Work Session Meeting, 7 p.m., Dr. Harold Sarver Memorial Library (tentative)*

*January 12: Board Voting Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Dr. Harold Sarver Memorial Library (tentative)*


  
 H A P P Y


  
 T H A N K S G I V I N G