



Board Notes

A Summary of the Hampton Township School Board Meetings

Hampton Board Appoints Acting Hampton Middle School Principal



Mrs. Marlynn Lux has been appointed by the Hampton Township Board of School Directors to serve as the Acting Principal for Hampton Middle School for the 2016-2017 School Year.

Mrs. Lux was appointed to the position at the Aug. 1 Board meeting, following a vote to approve a Leave of Absence for HMS Principal Dr. Eric Stennett. Dr. Stennett is taking a leave of absence from the position to explore opportunities in higher education.

Mrs. Lux has served as the Assistant Middle School Principal at Hampton since July 1, 2009. In addition to her role as Assistant Principal, she has served as the co-director of Hampton's popular Summer Program that was instituted in 2010. Prior to her employment with Hampton, she was a math teacher at Mt. Lebanon High School from August 2002 through June 30, 2009 and an administrative intern at Hampton High School during the summer of 2006.

She earned her Principal and Curriculum Supervisor credentials from the University of Pittsburgh in 2007, and also recently completed the Superintendent's Program at Edinboro University, earning her Letter of

Eligibility.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed serving as the Assistant Principal at Hampton Middle School for the past seven years," said Mrs. Lux. "I have immense respect for the staff, students, parents and community members of this School District. It is my honor to serve as the Acting Principal for the 2016-2017 School Year. I pledge to work with all stakeholders to ensure a safe, supportive and challenging learning environment for our middle school students. We are ready for the start of this school year and are excited to welcome back our students. Thank you for this opportunity."

Hampton Board Appoints Dr. Roberta Good as Acting Middle School Assistant Principal

At the Aug. 8 voting meeting, the Hampton Township Board of School Directors appointed Dr. Roberta Good as the Acting Assistant Principal for Hampton Middle School for the 2016-2017 School Year. Dr. Good was appointed to fill the vacancy left by Mrs. Marlynn Lux, who was appointed as Acting Principal of Hampton Middle School at the Aug. 1 meeting.

Dr. Good is a familiar face in the Hampton Township School District. She formerly served as the Wyland Elementary School Principal from July 2003 to June 2015, when she retired with 40 years of service to the District. Prior to serving as Wyland's principal, Dr. Good also worked as an elementary teacher and a reading specialist in the District.

Superintendent Dr. Michael Loughead said Dr. Good's previous experience in the District makes her an ideal candidate to fill this vital role at the middle school. "She is someone who is not only familiar with the District, but also a valued member of the HTSD family. We are confident her expertise in building administration, combined with her desire to help the children of this District to learn and grow, make her a perfect fit for our current needs."

Mrs. Lux also expressed her appreciation to have Dr. Good on board. "She will be an amazing support to our staff and student body. She is excited to return to Hampton to support all of our students and staff here at the Middle School."

Dr. Good's appointment is effective Aug. 8, with an official start date of Aug. 17. Salary is at a per diem rate of \$480.



Personnel Report

During the August 8 Voting meeting, Board members took the following actions as part of the personnel report:

- Approved the revisions to the job description for the Director of Technology, effective August 8, 2016.
- Approved an increase in the substitute teacher pay rate, effective August 8, 2016: Days 1-20, \$90 Per Day; Days 21+, \$100 Per Day.
- Approved Ms. Heidi Weinman, as a Substitute Paraprofessional/Secretary for the District, effective August 22, 2016.
- Approved the Building/Coach Supplemental positions for the 2016-2017 School Year as listed on the agenda.
- Approved P. Kathryn (Kate) Powell, as a TPE Elementary Art Teacher at Wyland Elementary School, effective August 22, 2016. Salary is Master's, Step 1, \$44,688. Ms. Powell is replacing Mrs. Lisa Woods, who replaced Mrs. Bridget Werger at the Middle School.
- Approved Ms. Erinn Pierotti, as a Long-Term Substitute First Grade Teacher at Wyland Elementary School, for the first semester of the 2016-2017 School Year, effective August 22, 2016. Salary is \$29,500, pro-rated. Ms. Pierotti is a substitute for Mrs. Lindsey Fitzpatrick.
- Approved Ms. Tamara Ammon, as a Long-Term Substitute Kindergarten Teacher at Wyland Elementary School, from approximately September 16, 2016 through approximately February 15, 2017, effective August 22, 2016. Salary is \$29,500, pro-rated. Ms. Ammon is a Substitute for Mrs. Britnee Stepanik.
- Approved Ms. Bridget Scherer, as a Building Substitute at Central Elementary School for the 2016-2017 School Year, effective August 22, 2016. Salary is \$20,000.
- Approved Ms. Brooke Ustazewski, as a Building Substitute at Poff Elementary School for the 2016-2017 School Year, effective August 22, 2016. Salary is \$20,000.
- Approved Ms. Maria Ricci, as a Building Substitute at Wyland Elementary School for the 2016-2017 School Year, effective August 22, 2016. Salary is \$20,000.
- Approved Dr. Roberta Good, as Acting Assistant Principal at Hampton Middle School, for the 2016-2017 School Year, effective August 8, 2016. Salary is at a per diem rate of \$480.00.
- Approved Ms. Elizabeth Swartzwelder, as a Long-Term Substitute English Teacher at Hampton Middle School, for the 2016-2017 School Year, effective August 22, 2016. Salary is \$29,500. Ms. Swartzwelder is replacing Ms. Jill Cole.
- Approved Ms. Rebecca Skwarko as a Temporary Professional Employee (TPE) Biology Academic Support Teacher at Hampton High School, effective August 22, 2016. Salary is \$25,500. Ms. Skwarko is replacing Ms. Elizabeth Piekut.
- Approved Ms. Nicole Goldstein, as a Temporary Professional Employee (TPE) Math Academic Support Teacher at Hampton High School, effective August 22, 2016. Salary is \$25,500. Ms. Goldstein is replacing Mrs. Kelly Fitzpatrick.
- Approved Mr. Andrew Petruska, as a Building Substitute at Hampton Middle School for the 2016-2017 School Year, effective August 22, 2016. Salary is \$20,000.
- Approved Mrs. DeAnna Richey, as a Building Substitute at Hampton Middle School for the 2016-2017 School Year, effective August 22, 2016. Salary is \$20,000.
- Approved Ms. Rachel Zang, as a Floating Building Substitute (based at Hampton Middle School) for the 2016-2017 School Year, effective August 22, 2015. Salary is \$20,000.

Superintendent's Report

Prior to the start of the meeting, new Hampton Superintendent Dr. Michael Loughead introduced the District's new Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Rebecca Cunningham to those in attendance. Aug. 8 was Dr. Cunningham's first official day on the job at Hampton. "We feel very lucky to have her here with us. You are going to get to know her as a consummate professional." Dr. Cunningham said Hampton has an excellent reputation in the area and she feels truly blessed to be a part of this adventure moving forward.

Dr. Loughead also announced plans to host Superintendent's Coffees throughout the fall as a means of getting to know the community. He said both he and Dr. Cunningham will be attending many events and will be very involved in the school community.

Other issues Dr. Loughead discussed during his report include:

- Social Media - The District will explore the use of social media as a way to keep the community apprised of events and happenings District-wide and to foster a positive dialogue with parents and the community. A presentation will be provided at the Sept. 5 Board meeting by Public Relations Consultant Shari Berg concerning the implementation process.
- 2016-2017 School Year Kickoff - The annual welcome back kickoff program for teachers and staff will be held on Aug. 22. The first day of school for students is Aug. 25.
- Camp Invention - Dr. Loughead reported the program was successful in its first year at Hampton. Some of the students who participated in the camp will attend the September Board meeting to provide a report on their experiences. The feedback the District has received is prompting them to offer the program again next year and possibly expand on the offerings.
- Staffing Update - All key positions now are filled for the start of the 2016-2017 School Year. The District is still working on hiring day-to-day substitute positions, which are traditionally difficult for all school districts to staff.



2016 Hampton Graduate Recognized by Board, Administration



Board members and District Administrators recognized recent Hampton graduate, Jack Evans, who competed in the 2016 National Speech and Debate Association (NSDA) tournament in June in Salt Lake City, UT. Jack placed third overall in Extemporaneous Debate, under the direction of High School Forensics sponsor/English Teacher, Ms. Emily McBee. Jack will be attending DePaul University in the fall.

Extemporaneous debate, is a quick-moving event that takes roughly 20 minutes to complete, and follows a one-on-one format consisting of two students who argue a specified topic with 30 minutes of preparation time. Students debated for or against a topic that usually pulled from national and international news headlines. A large event with 774 students competing, Extemporaneous Debate

followed a double-elimination format, in which students were eliminated from competition after they had lost two rounds. Jack competed in 13 rounds and was undefeated for 10. He finished 11-2 and was invited to receive his award on stage for the NSDA ceremony. The NSDA tournament is the largest academic competition in the world, with more than 3,300 students competing across several speech and debate events. More information can be found on www.speechanddebate.org.

HMS Concrete Repair Project Approved, Fridley Field Parking Lot Expansion Update Provided

Board members awarded a bid for the Hampton Middle School site repair concrete project to M&B Services in the amount of \$365,071 at the Aug. 8 meeting, pending final review from VEBH Architects and the District's solicitor. The amount includes the base bid of \$335,071 and the BF-1C alternate in the amount of \$30,000, which includes a concrete walkway at the baseball field.

At the previous week's work session meeting, Mr. Tom Durkin, of VEBH Architects, presented the bid results and recommendations for the project. M&B Services was the lowest bidder, even when including the bids for the BF-1C alternate work. The Board discussed the merits of not including the alternate to remove the sitting curb on the new planter in front of the Middle School. The decision was made to remove the deduction for MS-1, thus including the sitting curb in the project.

Board members also received an update on the Fridley Field Parking Lot expansion project. Per communications with Mr. Nate Dwyer, project manager with J.B. Fay, the existing parking lot will be usable and back to original condition by Aug. 25; however, the expansion area will not be usable and will be barricaded off for safety purposes while work in that area continues. The expected scope of work for the expansion area after Aug. 25 includes:

- Installation of guide rail
- Bumper stops
- Seeding
- Plantings (trees and shrubs)

Board members also were informed that Fay Construction had damaged the lower gate at the entrance of Fridley Field during the first phase of the expansion project. Fay Construction has agreed to replace the damaged gate.

Air Quality Issues at Wyland Elementary School Discussed

A follow up discussion was held at the Aug. 8 Board meeting in response to questions from the public in regard to air quality at Wyland Elementary School.

Mr. Rick Farino, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds, outlined the process the District has taken to ensure air quality at Wyland is within recommended guidelines. Mr. Farino and a qualified engineer completed a visual inspection of the HVAC systems at Wyland. This inspection indicated all systems were functioning normally. A professional consultant was then called in to conduct air quality testing, including a specific test for mold. This air quality testing resulted in a normal report. The professional engineer working with the District did recommend bringing in more "relief" air to the building, using mechanically powered vents.

The District conducted air quality testing at the other two elementary schools, which also revealed normal air quality at Central and Poff. The air quality report was shared with the Wyland building principal. This information can be shared with parents upon request.

Bond Refinancing Produces Savings for District; Standard and Poors Credit Rating Reaffirmed

Board members approved a Resolution for Series 2006A Bond Refunding, with a minimum savings threshold of \$700,000, at the Aug. 8 meeting. Mr. Randy Frederick of Piper Jaffray presented the potential financial savings of the refunding at the Aug. 1 work session. He reported that as of last week, the Net Present Value Savings was \$1.072 million, or 12.82 percent of the outstanding bonds. Any savings greater than 2 percent is normally deemed to be beneficial, he said. A total of \$8.5 million will be refinanced as part of the bond issue.

The recommended refunding model included the reduction of future debt payments, rather than receiving an upfront “lump sum” savings. The estimated reduction in future debt service at the current amounts is \$60,000 for the current year and \$90,000 for years 2018 to 2030.

Part of the reason the District will realize such savings in the refinancing process is due to its credit rating with Standard and Poors. Mr. Frederick reported the District has a AA- ranking. “That is very impressive for any school district in Pennsylvania,” he said. Of the 500 public school districts in Pennsylvania, only 10 percent have a rating like that, he explained. “More importantly, this is not a commercial-type community. This is a residential-type community, and you’re still in that AA- on your own without any backing from the state. I want you to realize how important that is. I applaud the Board and the Finance Committee for taking the time to sit down and listen since the beginning of the year in order to place yourselves in this position.”

A complete copy of the Standard and Poors rating will be available on the District website.

Half-Time Kindergarten Staffing Position Added at Wyland Elementary School

Board members voted to approve an additional half-day Kindergarten teaching position at Wyland Elementary School at the Aug. 8 meeting in response to increased enrollment.

Administration has been monitoring the enrollment figures for the 2016-2017 School Year since June. Kindergarten classroom sizes, without the additional staff member, would have been at 27 students. Dr. Loughead proposed adding the half-day Kindergarten teacher instead of providing busing to transport the additional students to one of the other two elementary schools, as transportation costs would have been greater than the salary for another half-time teacher in the District. The additional teacher will bring class sizes down to 17 or 18 students, which will be in line with the other two elementary schools, he said.

The Board instructed Dr. Loughead to begin the process of hiring someone for the position.

School Board Establishes 2016-2017 District Goals

The Hampton Township Board of School Directors has established goals for the 2016-2017 School Year, which were formally adopted at the Aug. 8 School Board meeting.

The seven stated goals include:

- **Foster a culture of dignity and respect;**
- **Continue to challenge all students to achieve at high levels;**
- **Refine the current differentiated supervision and evaluation model to satisfy the requirements of the Educator Effectiveness Model;**
- **Support transformative teaching and learning by emphasizing innovation to promote deeper student understanding;**
- **Continue the comprehensive plan for facilities improvement, maintenance and utilization;**
- **Address safety and security issues across the District; and**
- **Continue to improve communication across the District and with the community.**

A complete list of the 2016-2017 District Goals is available [here](#).

In other business, the Board:

- Approved the Hampton Middle School Student Handbook;
- Approved the Hampton Elementary Schools Parent Handbook;
- Approved two new student clubs at the Hampton Middle School: art club and show choir;
- Approved the 2016-2017 Hampton Online Academy Program of Studies; and
- Approved the 2016-2017 Student Transportation Routes for the District.

Benefit the HAEE Through Amazon Smile

The Hampton Alliance for Educational Excellence is a nonprofit volunteer organization established in 1992 exclusively for the educational enrichment of the students enrolled in the Hampton Township School District (HTSD).

The HAEE holds various fund raisers through the year, including the 5K Race in October each year. Another way the community can support the HAEE is with a unique program offered by Amazon, called Amazon Smile.

Amazon Smile donates 0.5 percent of the price of all eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. The same products and prices are available through the Amazon Smile program as the regular Amazon shopping website.

To designate a portion of your purchases to the HAEE, go to www.smile.amazon.com and select the HAEE as your charitable organization.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUG. 22: FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR TEACHERS
 AUG. 22: BOARD SPECIAL MEETING (IF NECESSARY)
 AUG. 25: FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
 SEPT. 6: BOARD WORK SESSION MEETING
 SEPT. 12: BOARD VOTING MEETING
 SEPT. 26: BOARD SPECIAL MEETING (IF NECESSARY)

WELCOME BACK!