

# The Board Report

*January 28, 2019*



**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**

**Mrs. Pamela Lamagna\*\***

**Mrs. Mary Alice Hennessey\***

**Mrs. Gail Litwiler**

**Mr. Robert Shages**

**Mr. Greg Stein\*\***

**Mr. Lawrence Vasko**

**Board President**

**Board Vice President/Personnel Chair**

**Board Secretary/Facilities Chair**

**Transportation Chair**

**Student Affairs Chair**

**Educational Programs Chair**

**Board Treasurer/Policy & Legislative Affairs Chair**

**Technology Chair**

**Finance Chair**

*\*\* Denotes members participating via teleconference call/video.*

*\*Denotes members not in attendance.*

## **Members of Administration in Attendance**

**Dr. Michael Loughead**

**Dr. Rebecca Cunningham**

**Mr. Michael Amick**

**Ms. Shari Berg**

**Mr. Josh Cable**

**Mr. Rick Farino**

**Dr. Marguerite Imbarlina**

**Mr. Jeff Kline**

**Dr. Ed McKaveney**

**Mrs. Marlynn Lux**

**Dr. Michael Silbaugh**

**Superintendent of Schools**

**Assistant Superintendent of Schools**

**High School Assistant Principal**

**Communications Consultant**

**High School Assistant Principal**

**Supervisor of Facilities and Grounds**

**High School Principal**

**Director of Administrative Services**

**Technology Director**

**Middle School Principal**

**Middle School Assistant Principal**

# Student/Staff Awards

## Middle School “Schools to Watch” Award

We are proud to announce that we received notice that Hampton Middle School has been named as a “Schools to Watch” Middle School. This recognition program was developed by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform. The Pennsylvania “Schools to Watch” team announced that Hampton Middle School has met the rigorous Schools to Watch criteria and joins 38 other Pennsylvania middle-grades schools recognized since 1999. The Schools to Watch selection process is based on a written application that required schools to show how they met the criteria developed by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform. Schools that appeared to meet the criteria were then visited by state teams, which observed classrooms; interviewed administrators, teachers, students, and parents; and looked at achievement data, suspension rates, quality of lessons, and student work. Schools are recognized for a three-year period, and at the end of the three years, they must demonstrate progress on specific goals in order to be re-designated. Hampton Middle School was selected for its Academic Excellence, Developmental Responsiveness, Social Equity and Organizational Structures and Processes. In addition, Hampton Middle School displayed strong leadership, teachers who work together to improve curriculum and instruction, and a commitment to assessment and accountability to bring about continuous improvement. Hampton Middle School will be recognized at the Pennsylvania Association for Middle Level Education State Conference at the Penn Stater Conference in State College on February 24, 2019. They will be recognized with all the other recognized “Schools to Watch” schools across the country in Washington, DC at the National Forum’s National Schools to Watch Conference on June 27-29, 2019. Congratulations to Marlynn Lux, Michael Silbaugh and the faculty and staff at Hampton Middle School.

Mrs. Lux expressed her appreciation and thanked the staff at the Middle School for its role in making the school a “Schools to Watch,” as well as the leadership of Dr. Loughead and Dr. Cunningham. She also personally thanked Dr. Silbaugh for his dedication to the school, staff and students and the School Board for their dedication to the middle school. Dr. Silbaugh also added his appreciation and said HMS is a remarkable place where a student-centered approach makes it a great place to be.



# Public Comment

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- There was no public comment.

## Special Reports

High School Feasibility Study Presentation from VEBH

Cassi Reinninger with VEBH Architects presented an updated feasibility study to the Board based on the original presentation made in November.

Associated construction costs, conversations with the Department of Education, and the results of the Phase I Campus Survey were all included in tonight's presentation.

The feasibility study began with a focus on high school academics and student wellness, and included the following ideas:

Deeper-Learning Focus

- Projects Based Learning Experiences
- Design Thinking Across and Between Courses
- Complex Problem Solving
- Develop World-Class Skills

Wellness and General Well-Being

- Connected Services
- Wellness Focus
- Environment of Respect and Dignity for All

Eight physical areas in the high school were identified in November as functional impact areas in the redesign: administrative and wellness hub; engineering and design; library media area; science; performing arts; commons/cafe/tertia/kitchen; physical education and athletics. Ms. Reinninger reinforced the idea that the concepts being presented tonight are just that - working design concepts - and are in no way a reflection of the final product should the project move forward. Ms. Reinninger then reviewed each of the eight areas in more detail:

- Administration and Wellness Hub - the current library and front entrance area would be redesigned to create these spaces. The bell tower entrance for the current library would be re-envisioned into the main entrance with a captured vestibule. The Wellness Hub would include offices for the school nurse and school counselors. Self-contained restroom facilities would be included to make the space self-sufficient from the rest of the building.
- Engineering Design Lab - this space could be created in the area that now houses the Family Consumer Sciences rooms, the art rooms, and the front office. The spaces would be recreated into a collaborative engineering design area that would provide for cross-curricular sharing. Restroom facilities would be added here as well.
- Library Media Center - this area could be located between the two academic wings, allowing it to be in a central location within the building. Green space that is located between the two wings currently would be enclosed to expand the library area. A studio and media arts area would be featured in this area. Additional restrooms could be included with access to the parking lot for use by guests when the fields are in use. The design will open up the current "H" hall in the building, which is very congested during class change times.
- Science - The physics rooms would be moved to the current technology education area, which would provide more room to create labs and spaces needed for these classrooms. Chemistry classrooms could then

be made larger in their current location.

- Performing Arts - this area includes the auditorium and existing music rooms. Some use of vacated space in the former technology education area could be used to expand this area and provide storage areas and a larger band room. The current auditorium would be upgraded. The partition walls could be removed to open the space up fully, and an enlarged and flat stage could be created. The functionality of the space would be greatly enhanced with these renovations, including the creation of an orchestra playing space that could be used as an off-stage preparation area when not being used by the orchestra. Storage space would be enhanced and the set design area could be moved into a classroom space which currently houses the choral room. Two of the tech ed spaces -- communication studio space and metal shop -- could be converted to create additional instrumental space or flexible use space for classes like dance or yoga and other wellness classes and programs.
- The Commons - currently the cafeteria, this space could be reworked to turn it into an atmosphere where small groups can gather or students who prefer to eat alone or work during lunch have the space to do so. During non lunch times, the spaces can be used for collaboration. The food service and kitchen area could be redesigned into a food court concept instead of a standard lunch line. Flexible seating options would include up to 240 seats.
- Physical Education/Athletics - Health and wellness classrooms could be moved to the physical education area to create a more flexible space to increase physical education and wellness opportunities. An addition could be needed here to expand the lobby space near the gym/pool area and to improve the visitor entrance, restrooms, and the athletic team facilities for both the home team and visitors. Updating the gym could include additional bleachers and the creation of a larger corridor across the hall that might contain athletic equipment lockers. Restrooms/locker rooms would be created to accommodate either gender, providing lots of opportunities for use based on the event and need. The Athletic Director's office would be moved to be adjacent to an entrance, which would make daytime entry (ticket sales, visits from college recruiters) more secure.
- The Overall Site, including the fields and the exterior parking and roadways: A site-circulation proposal includes two driveways off of Topnick Drive - one aligned with the Community Center entrance. The parking area adjacent to the front could be enlarged. Additional parking also could be created in a grassy area. The plans eliminate the need to loop the building in order to get back out. Staff and student parking lots and entryways would be separate, which would improve congestion issues.

### **Fridley Field Supports Needed**

Ms. Reininger also reviewed proposed plans to upgrade and renovate the area around Fridley Field, including the following:

- More inclusive locker facilities to support boys and girls soccer, lacrosse and track and field use field for both practice and games.
- Flexible home/visitor locker facilities with appropriate restrooms and showers.
- Dedicated coach and officials facilities.
- Improved trainers area with adjacent athletic conditioning room.
- Appropriate storage for athletic equipment, uniforms, and field maintenance equipment.
- Team meeting area.
- Miscellaneous concrete sidewalk repairs.
- Track resurfacing.
- New synthetic turf.

### **Cost Component**

Infrastructure work that is required to be done outside of the conceptual redesign presented this evening was included in the cost category. Other items must be addressed in order for the project to qualify for PLANCON, the state Department of Education's program designed to reimburse schools for renovation and construction projects. PLANCON has been on a hiatus for several years, but may be returning to active status in July and/or may be replaced with an alternative program. Total cost for this infrastructure work is estimated between \$11.29 and \$12.48 million and includes safety and security upgrades, complete roof replacement, site pavement, and lighting. The cost associated with modernization components/upgrades is estimated between \$14.77 and \$16.32

million and includes classroom and corridor finishes and mechanical/electrical/plumbing upgrades. Costs for the academic/wellness redesign component presented this evening are estimated between \$8.95 and \$9.89 million. Total estimated cost for the High School academic redesign is between \$35.01 and \$38.69 million.

The cost components associated with the Fridley Field portion of the project include the following:

- Fieldhouse locker rooms, athletic storage, field maintenance storage, training, conditioning and first floor addition - estimated cost between \$2.93 and \$3.23 million.
- If the project includes the Fieldhouse second floor, total estimated cost is between \$4.18 and \$4.62 million.

### **PDE Reimbursement**

There is hope that the future of PLANCON looks more reassuring than it has in the recent past. Best-case scenario is it will fully launch in the fall.

One of the opportunities that exists with the High School Academic Redesign is to submit to PLANCON on July 1 if the moratorium is lifted, so if Hampton wishes to qualify for PLANCON Part A if it is reinstated, the District should have this portion of a redesign/renovation plan ready to submit to the state. A formula is used to determine the percentage of the cost of the project that the state will be willing to reimburse to the District.

### **Potential Timeline/Next Steps**

Ms. Reinninger said a timeline for a project of this magnitude would be somewhere between 12 and 18 months for the design phase, with an additional 24 to 30 months dedicated to the physical construction/renovation. The District also will need to retain an architect if the plan is to be submitted to PlanCon Part A in July since this phase of PlanCon is schematic-design oriented. An architect can create a schematic design to be included with the PlanCon application.

Mr. Wesley announced that the February Voting Meeting agenda would include an item for the Board to consider approval/acceptance of the feasibility study. Ms. Reinninger explained that the District is not obligated to move forward with a project if it approves a feasibility study for one; however, the approval of the feasibility study is required if the District attempts to qualify for PlanCon reimbursement in the future. If the motion to accept the feasibility study passes, the Board will then need to hire an architect by April to proceed with filing for PlanCon Part A. Hiring an architect also does not commit the District to proceeding with a project, but is a required step for submitting on July 1 to qualify for PlanCon reimbursement.

An abridged version of the feasibility study report is available [here](#). Certain elements of the report were removed for security purposes.

## **Public Comment**

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- Casey Capsambelis - is a student at the High School and is involved with marching band and the pit orchestra as part of the musical. She said she wanted to make sure the performing arts students' voices were heard during the process, so she held a town hall discussion with these students and said the results of the students' wishes line up almost perfectly with what the feasibility study has concluded. She provided the Board with a listing of the results from the survey. Forty-three and a half percent of students said their number one priority was a bigger band room, which is something they are hoping can be included in the renovation plans. The students also are hoping the project commences soon.

- Bernie Lamm - has two students in the High School and said he had one question for the Board: are the parking costs included in category A, B or C in the cost estimate? Ms. Reinninger indicated that the site paving and lighting is in category A since it is an immediate need/requirement.
- Alicia Round - is a parent of a Poff student and asked if the other facilities are sufficient while the District is paying for the HS renovations, if they move forward. Dr. Loughead said the feasibility study included an evaluation of the other four District buildings to determine if there are more pressing needs and to ensure the District is not overlooking anything that would need immediate attention. In relation to class sizes, the District examines the past highest enrollment in the District which leads administration to believe there is ample space at the elementary and middle schools for the current growth predictions. Ms. Reinninger added that each of the five buildings has its own 20-year plan for renovations that is separate from the other buildings.
- Alicia Hahn - asked if there was a downside to the PlanCon submission if everything was not submitted at once. Ms. Reinninger said items like the roof and the paving operate outside the PlanCon reimbursement guidelines, so if the roof had to be done before PlanCon was applied for, it would not negatively affect reimbursement for the rest of the project. Internal renovations are where it might start to affect the reimbursement process.
- Don An - has two children in the District and asked about the breakdown of the construction costs vs. the hardware and equipment. Ms. Reinninger said construction costs include the hard costs such as infrastructure. Soft costs include fees, moveable furniture, and testing and design fees. He also asked if incoming freshmen would spend potentially their entire high school career in a building under construction and expressed concerns that it would be disruptive to the educational process. Ms. Reinninger said sealing off active construction areas from students is part of the process and every school job includes those kinds of temporary precautions in place.
- Igor Lifschitz - asked if the \$35 million price tag included the soft costs. Ms. Reinninger said if the timeline would need to be stretched out, then the estimated cost are subject to change, but that would only be if the project is extended beyond estimates.

***The meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Monday, February 4 in the Dr. Harold Sarver Memorial Library, HMS.***