

# The Board Report

*January 27, 2020*



**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**

**Mr. Matt Jarrell**

**Mrs. Joy Midgley**

**Mr. Robert Shages\***

**Mr. Greg Stein\***

**Mr. Larry Vasko**

**Mrs. Trisha Webb**

**Board President**

**Board Vice President/Transportation Chair**

**Board Secretary/Facilities Chair**

**Technology Chair**

**Personnel Chair**

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

**Finance Chair**

**Student Affairs Chair**

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

*\*Denotes members not in attendance.*

## ***Members of Administration in Attendance***

**Dr. Michael Loughead**

**Dr. Rebecca Cunningham**

**Mrs. Shari Berg**

**Mr. Jeff Kline**

**Superintendent of Schools**

**Assistant Superintendent of Schools**

**Communications Consultant**

**Director of Administrative Services**

# Special Presentation

## School Start Times

Dr. Loughead provided the Board with an update from the School Start Time Committee. The School Start Time Committee met last week in preparation for tonight's presentation and recommendation to the Board. Dr. Loughead gave the late Mrs. Litwiler a great deal of credit for initiating the exploration of changing the start times at Hampton, and thanked her for her dedication and tireless work on this matter. Dr. Loughead explained that over the past two years, the School Start Time Committee has been examining two questions: Would a later start time be beneficial to our students? If so, what factors should the District consider before changing start times? This second question has proven to be more challenging.

Dr. Loughead began his presentation by thanking the School Start Time Committee for its diligence on exploring the issue. He referenced Dr. Franzen's presentation, and additional research that the District either conducted or reviewed. He referenced the extensive report from the Pennsylvania Department of Education which contained additional research on school start times for school districts to consider. Dr. Loughead highlighted the national organizations that recommend an 8:30 start time, and pointed to earlier start times which impact student fatigue, stress, decreased concentration, and reduced memory through poor sleep patterns.

Dr. Loughead then described the "Secondary Switch" recommendation from the School Start Time Committee, which would include close to an 8:30 start time for high school students, and a minimal impact on middle school students. An explanation of the plan can be found [here](#).

Dr. Loughead referenced the recent Coffee Talks with the community, and the challenges that the families discussed: A.W. Beattie student transportation, extra-curricular activities, athletics, childcare, transportation, Y-Care, staffing, and bus transportation. Knowing that bus transportation was a challenge, the School Start Time Committee had recommended a simulated bus run. Dr. Loughead reported that on Monday, January 20, the District simulated the bus runs using the Secondary Switch model. The run was completed relatively successfully, with an opportunity to gather data. One aspect that the District noticed was that some of the middle school runs were arriving later than anticipated, so those runs may need to be adjusted with slightly earlier pick up times. Currently, the earliest pick up time for any middle school bus run is 7:05 a.m., which may need to be adjusted by 5 to 10 minutes earlier in the Secondary Switch plan. Options such as exploratory studio time are being considered for early arrival middle school students. For dismissal at the high school, the School Resource Officer plans to control traffic on Topnick Drive to allow for smoother flow of traffic with buses and student drivers exiting the campus. Dr. Loughead noted that the District would need to work to ensure that school bus drivers were available and able to drive for athletic events.

Mr. Kline provided an overview of the proposed transportation departure and arrival windows under the Secondary Switch model. He anticipates that the morning pick-ups at the middle school will be up to 10 minutes earlier with the earliest pick-up occurring at 6:55 a.m.

Among the challenges the committee has encountered is the two-way transportation for students who attend the A.W. Beattie Career Center. The Committee had first considered 2-way transportation in the middle of the day in which students would start at Hampton High School, then be shuttled to Beattie, then shuttled back for afternoon classes. Upon a closer look at that scenario, the District discovered that the students who attended A.W. Beattie would be losing too much instructional time, and so the 2-way shuttle idea is no longer being considered. Instead, the necessary option is move Hampton students that are attending A.W. Beattie to the morning session, and having students bussed back to the high school for late morning and afternoon classes. The District would be working with the A.W. Beattie administration in order to implement this plan carefully. With Hampton students attending the morning Beattie session, students would be arriving at 7:40 a.m. for a 7:45 start, then returning to Hampton High School at 10:35 a.m. for lunch and afternoon classes. Dr. Loughead stated that he wanted to be completely transparent with the Board that the A.W. Beattie students would be starting earlier than the rest of the HHS students, and would not be receiving the benefits of a later start time.

New developments at the elementary level include the possible expansion of the YMCA before and after care programs and kindergarten wrap program, depending upon student enrollments. The wrap pilot program at Poff Elementary School has been very successful, will be continued, and could be expanded to other elementary schools if parents and families are interested and enroll. Another recommendation is to move the before and after school care to Central Elementary School next year, regardless of expansions or school start time. The District is working with the YMCA to see if Kindergarten registration and YMCA wrap registration can happen at the same time. Additionally, Dr. Loughead reported that elementary students will still be allowed in the elementary buildings at 8 a.m. and will be monitored by school staff in a bus drop-off room should the Secondary Switch start time proposal be implemented.

The recommendation moving forward is to implement the recommended Secondary Switch model; however, because of the additional time needed by Hampton and A.W. Beattie staff to collaboratively work out the requested attendance times for our students, the committee is recommending waiting a year to implement the new start times, making the switch at the beginning of the 2021-2022 School Year instead of this fall as originally planned. The delay in implementing the new start times will give the District additional time to communicate the change with families, and families the time to plan for it.

Information about the start time process can be found [here](#) on the District website.

***\*\*The work session was adjourned at 7:40 p.m. and the voting meeting was called to order.\*\****

## Public Comment

The Board provides the opportunity for members of the public to address the Board about issues appearing on the agenda, as well as issues affecting the District. In accordance with Policy No. 903, individuals wishing to address the Board will be asked to state their name, address and group affiliation, if applicable.

- Cody Russell thanked the Board and Administration for the recommendation to pause the implementation of the school start time change and for the additional information about the Kindergarten wrap program. He inquired if there was space at all three elementary schools for the wrap programs and Dr. Loughead confirmed there was.
- Andrew Strobel is a high school senior and he thanked the Board for exploring the school start time change. He said with all of the activities students are engaged in - including after school activities and after school jobs - starting later would allow for more time for those activities while still getting a better night of sleep. He also noted that additional sleep will help students in the consolidation of memory which is important in the learning process.
- Alicia Round said the Kindergarten wrap program has been amazing and she thanked the District and the YMCA for bringing it in. She also asked a question about the transportation for Beattie and asked if it would be possible to share a bus with another school district. Mr. Kline said Hampton has shared routes and buses with other districts, but the willingness to do so always depends on the other school district's willingness to share the routes and expenses.
- Shawn Grimm said he appreciates everything the Board has done thus far in exploring this topic. He went on to say that changing the start times will make his children miss out on some non-school related activities they currently participate in. He would ask the Board to consider this in the decision making process.

# Committee Reports

## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

### Action Items

#### **2020-2021 Proposed District Calendar**

The Board approved 6-0 the 2020-2021 District Calendar (Option 1). The option approved includes Thursday, August 20 as the first day of school for students, with graduation slated for Thursday, June 3. The last day of school for students will be Friday, June 4.

#### **Secondary Switch School Start Time Proposal**

The Board approved 6-0 the Secondary Switch start time recommendation with implementation to occur at the beginning of the 2021-22 School Year.

Recommended Bell Times are as follows:

- Hampton Middle School – 7:50 a.m. - 2:40 p.m.
- Hampton High School – 8:20 a.m. -3:01 p.m.
- District Elementary Schools – 8:45 a.m. -3:30 p.m

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- There was no additional public comment.

*The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, Feburary 3, 2020 at 7 p.m. at the A.W. Beattie Career Center Conference Room.*