

# The Board Report

*September 9, 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 Hennessy**

**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**

**Ms. Shari Berg**

**Dr. Ed McKaveney**

**Mr. Jeff Kline**

**Dr. Jay Thornton**

**Superintendent of Schools**

**Assistant Superintendent of Schools**

**Communications Consultant**

**Director of Technology**

**Director of Administrative Services**

**Director of Student Services/District Psychologist**

# 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.

- Drew Hall stated that he appreciates the efforts of Dr. Thornton and Dr. Loughead to improve the wellness program in the District. He said he does not support the mindfulness method being used in the District. He referenced his previous concerns that he expressed at the March 2019 meeting regarding the mindfulness, which he believes is based on Buddhism and should not be used in a public school. He also said that mindfulness is not a technique that has been proven to be effective.

## Meeting Motions

### Board Minutes

The Board unanimously approved the minutes for the August 12, 2019 Board Meeting.

### Treasurer's Report

The Board unanimously approved the following meeting motions:

- August 2019 General Fund 10 Disbursements, totaling \$4,649,341.27
- August 2019 Capital Fund 39 Disbursements, totaling \$508,557.71
- August 2019 Cafeteria Fund 50 Disbursements, totaling \$6,175.06
- July 2019 Treasurer's Report
- July 2019 Student Activities Fund Reports

## Administrative Reports

### President's Report

Mr. Wesley announced that there had been two executive sessions since last week's meeting.

### Secretary's Report

There was no report this evening.

### Solicitor's Report

There was no report this evening.

### Superintendent's Report

Dr. Loughead apologized for wearing sunglasses at the Board meeting and stated that the glasses were necessary because he had recently had eye surgery. He thanked the Board and public for their understanding. He also made the following comments under academics, the arts and athletics:

Academics:

Dr. Loughead noted that Hampton continues to work on cultivating a culture of dignity and respect in the District. He mentioned the #BeTheKindKid movement that started in Avonworth and has extended to Hampton and beyond. He said the elementary schools and middle school have all invested in the #BeTheKindKid T-Shirts, which are available in school colors. He added that the Kind Kid movement will be recognized in Helsinki, Finland, later this year for its proactive efforts to foster dignity and respect for all. Poff Elementary is selling T-Shirts, sweat-shirts and pullovers in all sizes to help continue the campaign here at Hampton.

**Arts:**

Dr. Loughead showcased the Marching Band halftime show on Friday and commended them, and Mr. Chad Himmler, for the dedication that goes into their excellent performances.

**Athletics:**

Fall teams are having a great start to the season, and all have had the opportunity to play on the new artificial turf on Fridley Field. We have received good feedback from all about the quality of the new turf. The new track is currently being installed and is moving along more quickly than anticipated.

## Committee Reports

### STUDENT AFFAIRS

**Action Items**

**Fellowship and Fun Club**

The Board approved a new Middle School club called the Fellowship and Fun Club.

**Wyland Garden Club**

The Board approved a new club at Wyland Elementary called the Wyland Garden Club.

*\*\*The two action items were taken together and approved unanimously.*

### FACILITIES

**Action Items**

There were no action items for consideration this evening.

**Old Business**

**PlanCon Update**

Ms. Cassi Renninger of VEBH Architects provided an informational update on the PlanCon process as it pertains to the High School renovation project. She said the sequencing for the approvals of Part 1 and Part 2 of the new PlanCon system will align well with Hampton’s timeline for the High School project. Jim Vogel at PDE had a conference call with Ms. Renninger, Dr. Loughead, and Mr. Kline to discuss the reimbursement “test” that applied parameters similar to what Hampton will experience with the High School project to provide an analysis of what the reimbursement for the project may look like. Based on his projections, the reimbursement is expected to be comparable to what would have been received under the previous PlanCon system, at around 15-18% reimbursement. She said she is cautiously optimistic about the new system, which simplifies both the process and the reimbursement calculations. Mr. Vogel has reiterated that he will be available to the District throughout its navigation of the new PlanCon process.

### EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

**Action Items**

**Flexible Instruction Day**

The Board unanimously approved the motion to allow the District to apply for the State Department of Education’s new Flexible Instruction Day (“FID”) option. The days can be used as an option to schools cancelling classes for inclement weather or other emergency situations.

Additional information about how the program will work is available on the Pennsylvania Department of Education website [here](#).

Mrs. Litwiler said she will support the motion because she believes in the emergency use of this provision, but noted that she had two concerns. First, she feels it is important for children to be in school, so she does not want the FID to be used as a substitute for make-up days that can be held earlier in the school year instead of added days at the end of the planned days in June. Second, she said it would be inappropriate for the Board not to vote if one of these days is used. Mr. Stein stated that it may not be practicable for the Board to vote on the use of the day in advance because it is for emergency use. Dr. Loughead stated that the administration would get back to the Board with some proposed guidelines on the use of a FID if the application is approved. Mrs. Hamlin asked if the flex days could be used only for seniors as an option; Dr. Loughead affirmed that the District would be allowed to use an FID only with seniors.

## **New Business**

### **Mindfulness Training Update**

Dr. Loughead and Dr. Thornton provided the Board with an update on the Mindfulness Training received by District personnel. Dr. Loughead said he had promised after his first report about this topic in March that he would provide updated information on the training the District has received and how it will be implemented at Hampton.

Dr. Thornton stated that the mindfulness professional development sessions included school counselors, school nurses, two special education teachers and himself. He said these personnel members were selected for the training because they are most likely to be working with the students who may need assistance with social-emotional regulation. He started his presentation with a definition of mindfulness: “a mental state achieved by focusing one’s awareness on the present moment while calmly acknowledging and accepting one’s feelings, thoughts, and bodily sensations; used as a therapeutic technique.”

He said mindfulness is not a new technique and has been used in medicine for many years. He said there has been research in cognitive improvements from mindfulness in academics, mental and behavioral health, and social behavior. Mindful interventions can be helpful when working with students who have experienced trauma, which is another reason why counselors and school nurses were trained in the techniques.

Dr. Thornton indicated that there were 32 hours of professional development for the year, with the first part focusing on mindful connections for educators. The educators learned not only how to address issues with students using mindfulness techniques, but also how to use them for self-care, since educators also can experience stress. The second part was to learn about how to use the techniques to connect with students, and to teach students how to be more empathetic to others, especially those who are different from them.

Implementation at HTSD will happen in small groups and 1:1 with the population that will most benefit from the techniques. As with all counseling services, parents are notified and made aware of the methods and techniques being used. Parents have the option to opt their children out of participating in these counseling sessions.

Mrs. Hamlin asked how the counselors and nurses reacted to the techniques and if they found them to be helpful. Dr. Thornton said they found it intense and it was presented in a way that they were not accustomed to, because for some of the sessions, they had to focus on themselves instead of others when learning/applying the techniques. Mrs. Hennessey asked for clarification to ensure that parents are aware of the techniques and are provided with information so they can continue to use them in the home setting; Dr. Thornton said that was correct. Mrs. Hennessey also asked about the religious aspects of mindfulness, and Dr. Thornton said there were no religious aspects to the training he received and it is presented in a child-friendly manner. Mr. Shages asked about the outside counseling center that provides services to students on referral and what techniques they may use. Dr. Thornton said the District is not privy to the content of those sessions as it is a confidential fee-for-service provider to help families.

## Informational

Mrs. Litwiler said the school start time committee will be meeting later this week and a report will be presented to the Board in November.

## PERSONNEL

### Action Items for Consideration

#### RESIGNATIONS:

1. Accepted the resignation of Mr. Matthew Pokusa, who is resigning after two years with the District effective August 22, 2019. (Mr. Pokusa was an Academic Support Language Arts Teacher at Hampton High School.)
2. Accepted the resignation of Ms. Amy Alexander, who is resigning after 28 years with the District effective November 15, 2019. (Ms. Alexander is a Language Arts Teacher at Hampton Middle School.) Mrs. Litwiler thanked Ms. Alexander for her 28 years of service to the District.

*\*\*Items 1 & 2 were taken together and approved unanimously.*

#### TEACHERS:

3. Approved a change in status for Ms. Kristin Baker, moving from a full-time Academic Support Math Teacher (TPE) to a 83% Academic Support Math Teacher (TPE) and a 17% Long-Term Substitute Math Teacher at Hampton High School effective August 19, 2019. Salary is pro-rated to \$29,167 for the 2019-2020 School Year.
4. Approved Ms. Rachel Davis as a Long-Term Substitute Grade 7 Math Teacher at Hampton Middle School from August 21, 2019 to approximately November 21, 2019. Salary is \$32,500, pro-rated. (Ms. Davis is a substitute for Mrs. Rebecca Heller.)
5. Approved Ms. Rachel Davis as an Elementary Building Substitute at Central Elementary School from approximately November 22, 2019 through the remainder of the 2019-2020 School Year. There is no change in salary. (This is an annual position.)
6. Approved Ms. Stephanie Witt as a Long-Term Substitute English Teacher at Hampton High School from August 22, 2019 through approximately November 11, 2019. Salary is \$32,500, pro-rated. (Ms. Witt is a substitute for Mrs. Erin Marron.)
7. Approved Ms. Makenna Krebs as a Building Substitute at Hampton Middle School for the 2019-2020 School Year effective August 19, 2019. Salary is \$21,500. (This is an annual position.)
8. Approved Mrs. Meghan Marcello as an Elementary Building Substitute (Floater based at Central Elementary) for the 2019-2020 School Year effective August 21, 2019. Salary is \$21,500, pro-rated. (This is an annual position.)
9. Approved Ms. Hannah Swartz as a Building Substitute at Hampton High School for the 2019-2020 School Year effective August 19, 2019. Salary is \$21,500. (This is an annual position.)
10. Approved Mr. Charles (Max) Weiss as a Building Substitute at Wyland Elementary School for the 2019-2020 School Year effective August 20, 2019. Salary is \$21,500, pro-rated. (This is an annual position.)
11. Approved Mr. Thomas Schweers as a Building Substitute at Hampton High School for the 2019-2020 School Year effective August 22, 2019. Salary is \$21,500, pro-rated. (This is an annual position.)
12. Approved the following list of mentors for the 2019-2020 School Year:

Kylie Harding (McCracken)  
John Lee  
Dina Dunmire  
Katie Wagner  
Sean Desguin  
Amy Holtz  
Jen Lavella  
Devon Byrne

Amy Baxter  
Lisa Oliveira  
Marilyn Adams  
Brittnee Stepanik  
Angela Lamers  
Brian Molinero  
Christine Ruffner

Catherine Spencer  
Amy Rein  
Mark Gartner  
Sheree Lucas  
Alison McBee  
Amy Faith  
Andrew Halter

*\*\*Items 3-12 were voted on together and unanimously approved.*

**PARAPROFESSIONAL/PARAEDUCATOR/ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:**

13. Approved Mr. Carlos Smith as a Class III Paraeducator at Wyland Elementary School effective August 28, 2019. Salary is \$16.61 per-hour for the 60-day probationary period and \$16.86 per hour thereafter. (This is a new position due to increased student needs and special education enrollment at Wyland Elementary School.)

14. Approved unanimously Ms. Christina Piskula as a Long-Term Substitute Class III Paraeducator at Hampton Middle School effective August 21, 2019 and then accept her resignation effective August 30, 2019. Salary is \$16.61 per-hour for the 60-day probationary period and \$16.86 per hour thereafter. (Ms. Piskula was a substitute for Mrs. Jansen Jamison.)

15. Approved Miss Jessica Sinicrope as a Class III Paraeducator at Hampton Middle School effective August 21, 2019. Salary is \$16.61 per-hour for the 60-day probationary period and \$16.86 per hour thereafter. (Miss Sinicrope is replacing Mrs. Anne Martinez.)

*\*\*Items 13 & 15 were voted on together and unanimously approved.*

**CUSTODIANS:**

16. Approved unanimously a change in status for Mr. Joseph Sulkowski, moving from a 10 month/8 hour custodian at Hampton Middle School to a 12 month/8 hour custodian at Hampton Middle School, effective August 15, 2019. There is no change in hourly rate. (Mr. Sulkowski replaced Mr. Randy Yester's position.)

**OTHER:**

17. Approved unanimously Ms. Amanda Filutze as a substitute Paraeducator effective August 27, 2019.

**SUPPLEMENTALS:**

18. Approved unanimously the following Building/Coaching Supplemental positions for the 2019-2020 School Year, at a rate of \$136 per point:

NAME	POSITION	BUILDING	POINTS	RANGE	TOTAL STIPEND
Charles (Max) Weiss	Elementary Bus Monitor	Wyland	12	12	\$1,632
Sean Gally (replacing Sam Flowers)	Football Middle School Assistant Coach	MS	27	23/31	\$3,672
Joseph Gally	Volunteer Golf Coach	HS			

**ADDENDUM:**

19. Accepted unanimously the resignation of Mr. Daniel Lipnitz who is resigning from the District effective September 13, 2019. (Mr. Lipnitz is a Class III Paraeducator at Hampton High School.)

20. Approved unanimously Mr. Joseph P. Sebestyen, III as an Assistant Principal at Hampton High School effective date TBD. Salary is \$87,000, pro-rated. (Mr. Sebestyen is replacing Dr. Michael Amick.) Mr. Sebestyen was in attendance and thanked the Board for its decision.

**ADDENDUM II:**

21. Approved unanimously Ms. Lisa Riddell as a Class V – Administrative Assistant to the Assistant Principal at the Middle School effective September 20, 2019. Salary is \$21.55 per hour for the 60-day probationary period and \$21.80 per hour thereafter. (Ms. Riddell is replacing Mrs. Robin Machuga.)

**ADDENDUM III:**

22. Approved unanimously Mr. Frederic Wheeler as a 10 month/7 hour Custodian at Central Elementary School effective September 16, 2019. Hourly rate is \$21.58 per hour. (Mr. Wheeler is replacing Ms. Dawn Mesnar's position.)

23. Approved unanimously Ms. Mary Balsamico as a 10 month/8 hour Custodian at Hampton Middle School effective September 16, 2019. Salary is \$21.58 per hour. (Ms. Balsamico is replacing Mr. Joseph Sulkowski's position.)

## **FINANCE**

### **Action Items**

#### **Electricity Commodity RFP Update**

The Board unanimously authorized the Eric Ryan Corporation to secure bids for the District's electricity commodity for a 12-month period and authorize Dr. Loughead and Mr. Kline to lock in the bid at a rate not to exceed 6.5 cents per kwh.

## **POLICY/LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS**

### **Action Items**

#### **Second Reading of Policy #006: Local Board Procedures**

The Board unanimously approved the second reading and final adoption of this policy. This policy is being amended to provide the Board with latitude to discuss certain issues relating to safety and security in Executive Session, and also contains additional language changes to bring the policy up to Code.

#### **Second Reading of Policy #249: Bullying/Cyberbullying**

The Board unanimously approved the second reading and final adoption of this policy. This policy is reviewed every three years to provide revisions and updates as needed.

#### **PSBA Officer Elections**

The Board approved unanimously the election of the following candidates for the 2019 PSBA Officer Election: President-Elect: Art Levinowitz; Vice President: David Hein; Section 5 Advisor: Marsha Pleta; PSBA Insurance Trust Trustees: Kathy K. Swope & Mark B. Miller; School Board Secretaries Forum Steering Committee: Bethanne Zeigler, Jaime Lynn Zimerofsky, and Jennifer Davidson.

## **TECHNOLOGY**

### **Action Items**

There are no actions items for consideration this evening.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

### **Action Items**

There are no actions items for consideration this evening.

#### **A.W. BEATTIE REPORT**

Mr. Vasko provided the Board with an update about A.W. Beattie. Current enrollment is 837; a part-time counselor and a school police officer have been hired.

#### **HAEE REPORT**

Mrs. Hamlin provided the Board with an update about HAEE. The HAEE has held two meetings in September. They have two designated meetings to focus only on the race. The 5K race is scheduled for October 5 at Hartwood Acres, starting at 9 a.m. They are hoping to get 100 percent faculty participation this year and that all faculty will wear their race shirts to school on Friday, October 4 to support the race. Online registration is available [here](#).

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- Drew Hall inquired if the School Board continued to have a relationship with Dr. Romero, and Dr. Loughhead said no, the training has been completed. Dr. Hall then requested that the District ask Dr. Romero to remove the photos of Hampton employees from her website.

*The meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m. Mr. Wesley announced there would be an executive session for legal and personnel matters following adjournment. The next regularly-scheduled meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, October 7 in the Dr. Harold Sarver Memorial Library, HMS.*