

The Board Report

Monday March 8, 2021



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. Larry Vasko

Mr. Robert Shages

Mr. Greg Stein

Mrs. Trisha Webb

Board President

Board Vice President

Board Secretary/Facilities Chair

Transportation Chair

Personnel Chair

Finance Chair

Board Treasurer/Policy & Legislative Affairs Chair

Technology Chair

Student Affairs Chair

This Hampton Township Board Meeting was held in the Hampton Middle School Auditorium. The meeting was audio/video simulcast so that community members could watch remotely, and was also audio/video recorded.

Members of Administration in Attendance

Dr. Michael Loughead

Dr. Rebecca Cunningham

Mr. Jeff Kline

Dr. Ed McKaveney

Mr. Eric Coffield

Superintendent of Schools

Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Director of Administrative Services

Director of Technology

Manager of Technology Operations

Monday, March 8, 2021

Voting Meeting

A video recording of the meeting can be viewed [here](#). The time within the video that each section begins is indicated below.

Opening

00:00

The meeting was opened, and a roll call was taken.

Public Comment

00:34

There was no public comment this evening.

Approval of Minutes

00:43

It was recommended and the Board unanimously approved minutes from the March 8, 2021 voting meeting.

Treasurer's Report and Bills

0:58

Mr. Shages recommended, and the Board unanimously voted, to approve the following:

- February 2021 General Fund 10 disbursements totaling \$3,732,179.26
- February 2021 High School Construction Fund 35 disbursements totaling \$230,170.86
- February 2021 Capital Fund 39 disbursements totaling \$44,331.66
- February 2021 Cafeteria Fund 50 disbursements totaling \$74,262.93

Mr. Shages also introduced, and the Board unanimously approved the following:

- The January 2021 Treasurer's Report
- The January 2021 Student Activities Fund Report

President's Report

There was no report this evening.

Board Secretary's Report

There was no report this evening.

Solicitor's Report

There was no report this evening.

Superintendent's Report

2:40

Academics

Dr. Loughead said that the District is excited to have its teachers and staff involved in the upcoming vaccination effort organized through the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Allegheny Intermediate Unit. Employees are being offered the opportunity to receive the Johnson & Johnson vaccination starting later this week. The hope is to provide a vaccination for all interested District employees by early April.

The Arts

Dr. Loughead complimented the great performance by the high school band and members of the music department, which was presented in a non-traditional manner because of the pandemic. The opportunity to play in front of a live audience will be replicated for spring concerts to allow for social distancing and to have families in attendance.

Athletics

Dr. Loughead congratulated student athletes on the boys' and girls' swimming and diving teams. He shared that the boys' team won the AA championship, and several swimmers will be representing the District at the state level.

Finance

5:06

Mr. Vasko introduced Randy Frederick and James "Chip" McCarthy with Piper Sandler to discuss the potential for four bond refundings this year. The focus of tonight's motion is on the taxable refunding opportunity for the District's 2017 and 2018 bond issues.

Mr. Kline said that the District has two taxable bond refundings to consider, both of which are projected to provide positive savings to the District. The two taxable bonds are from 2017 and 2018. Two tax-exempt refundings – 2011-B and 2016 – also were included in the presentation; however, they will not be available until later in the year.

Mr. Frederick explained that with low interest rates, the District has an opportunity to save approximately \$440,000 through a taxable refunding of the two bond issues from 2017 and 2018. To do a tax-exempt refunding of the bonds, the District would need to wait until 2022 and 2023, respectively, and interest rates could increase by that point.

Mr. Kline added that the savings from the bonds could be applied to reduce a portion of the borrowing for the capital construction project at the high school.

Ms. Lisa Chiesa, District Bond Counsel with Clark Hill, PLC said that the Board is being presented with a debt ordinance to authorize the refinancing of the bonds. However, the Board will need to set a minimum savings amount, which would have to be met before the refinancing can occur.

Board Members asked the following questions:

- What is the argument against doing the refunding?
- If interest rates are predicted to increase, would it make sense to move now to also refund the older bonds in a taxable manner rather than waiting until August, when they would be tax exempt?
- For clarification that the proposed motion was only dealing with bonds from 2017 and 2018.
- Would the potential \$400,000+ in savings be net savings?
- If savings on the two bonds were only \$400,000, would that still be a savings of more than 2% of the bonds?

The representatives from Piper Sandler responded:

- The argument against going forward at this time would be that conditions could improve if interest rates dropped again. However, this is not anticipated to happen.
- The District is so close to reaching the tax-exempt call date for the older bonds, and the anticipation is that interest rates will not skyrocket in the next few months. Combined, this means it makes more sense to wait to refund the other bonds through the tax-exempt process.
- The proposed action only addresses the taxable bonds. The representatives said they would be back later in the year to suggest action on the two tax-exempt bonds.
- The referenced savings are net of all costs of issuance.
- If savings on the two bonds were \$400,000, the amount would still exceed a net savings of 2%.

Following the discussion, with the understanding that District savings need to exceed \$400,000, Mr. Vasko recommended and the Board unanimously authorized the incurring of non-electoral debt by the issuance of General Obligation Bonds, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$18,500,000; covenanting to pay, and pledging all available taxing power for the payment of the bonds; establishing a sinking fund and appointing a sinking fund depository; fixing the form, maximum interest rates, maturity dates, redemption and other provisions for the payment thereof; authorizing the acceptance of a proposal for the purchase of the bonds; authoring a filing of required documents with the

Department of Community and Economic Development; ratifying and directing certain actions of officers; and making certain of other covenants and provisions in respect to the bonds.

Mr. Vasko also introduced, and the Board unanimously approved the following:

- Budget Transfers totaling \$12,700 for the following:
- Band, General Supplies \$5,200
- HMS, General Fund \$4,000
- Hearing equipment, Gen. Supplies \$3,500
- The Jordan Tax Service agreement for real estate tax billing and collections for the tax years 2022 through 2025 at a rate of \$2.10 per tax bill. (This is an increase of \$0.05 per tax bill from the current agreement.)

Student Affairs

35:22

Mrs. Webb recommended, and the Board unanimously approved, the HHS Marching Band Field Trip to Walt Disney World Magic Kingdom Parade and Performing Arts Workshops in Orlando, Florida, March 15-20, 2022. The previous trip had been cancelled due to safety concerns resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

A Board Member commented that the band trip for this year, which is no longer occurring, was still listed on the District's calendar. Members of the administration agreed to address this issue on the website.

Board Members also voted unanimously to approve a request from the Girls' Lacrosse Boosters to be recognized as a Civic and Service Association.

Facilities

There was no report this evening.

Educational Programs

36:47

Kindergarten Memorandum of Understanding

Mrs. Hamlin introduced, and the Board unanimously approved, the Allegheny Intermediate Unit Kindergarten Memorandum of Understanding. The MOU is reviewed and approved annually.

Reopening Process

Board Members asked for clarification about the proposed reopening process. They asked for a

review of what needed to occur before returning secondary school students to full-time, in-person classes and why cases at both the middle school and high school were being counted together when cases at other District schools were being considered independently.

Dr. Loughead said that disease spread and school-based cases were established as a two-part reasonable criteria to gauge whether secondary students could return full-time in a way that ensures that full-time, in-person instruction is sustainable once started. The two metrics include (1) a county-wide moderate transmission rate for COVID, and (2) two consecutive weeks of having 0 to 2 cases at the middle and high school combined. He said the middle school and high school are being considered together because there is overlap in staff and some families have students in both schools. Restarting one building full time without the other could be disruptive for students, he said. However, the District would be willing to reassess that criterion. Additionally, when one school sees an increase in cases the other school tends to have the same trend.

Dr. Loughead added that the District released its first of the new weekly reports regarding reopening last Friday. There were four cases between the middle and high schools, but the hope is that numbers will come down. The administration would like to have secondary students return to full-time, in-person instruction, but only after the process would be consistent from week to week and possible without having to quarantine large numbers of students.

Personnel

41:08

Mrs. Midgley recommended, and the Board unanimously approved, the following items:

RESIGNATION:

1. The resignation of Mr. Robert Evans, who is retiring after 13 years with the District effective April 14, 2021. (Mr. Evans was the Head of the District's HVAC.) (*The District notes that Mr. Evans actually worked for 18 years in the District.*)

Board Members thanked Mr. Evans for his service to the District.

TEACHERS:

2. Mrs. Heather Heere to continue as a .50 Long-Term Substitute Music Teacher at Hampton Middle School effective November 16, 2020 through the remainder of the 2020-2021 School Year. Salary for this position continues at \$33,500, pro-rated. (This is in addition to Mrs. Heere's .13 tenured Music Teacher position at Hampton Middle School.)

3. A change in status for Ms. Savanna Wilson, moving from an Elementary Building Substitute (Floater) to a Long-Term Substitute Grade 2 Teacher at Wyland Elementary School from approximately March 17, 2021 through the remainder of the 2020-2021 School Year. Salary is \$33,500, pro-rated. (Ms. Wilson will be a substitute for Mrs. Megan Walker.)

4. A change in status for Ms. Samantha Mrozinski, moving from a Long-Term Substitute Science Teacher at Hampton High School to a Building Substitute at Hampton High School effective approximately March 15, 2021 through the remainder of the 2020-2021 School Year. Salary remains \$33,500, pro-rated. (Ms. Mrozinski is replacing Mr. Justin Vasil's former position.)

5. Mr. Timothy Nicotra as a Building Substitute at Hampton High School effective February 10, 2021 through the remainder of the 2020-2021 School Year. Salary is \$22,000, pro-rated. (Mr. Nicotra is replacing Ms. Amanda Facer.)

6. Ms. Khristee Popowski as a Building Substitute at Central Elementary School from February 22, 2021 through the remainder of the 2020-2021 School Year. Salary is \$22,000, pro-rated. (Ms. Popowski is replacing Ms. Juliana Gidaro.)

7. Ms. Megan McCormick as a Long-Term Substitute Health & Physical Education Teacher at Hampton Middle School from March 1, 2021 through the remainder of the 2020-2021 School Year. Salary is \$33,500, pro-rated. (Ms. McCormick is replacing Ms. Doreen Gray.)

8. Ms. Kaitlyn Sanguini as an Elementary Building Substitute (Floater) based at Central Elementary School from March 11, 2021 through the remainder of the 2020-2021 School Year. Salary is \$22,000, pro-rated. (Ms. Sanguini is replacing Ms. Savanna Wilson's former position.)

9. The following people as Guest Substitute Teachers for the Hampton Township School District, effective February 22, 2021 through the remainder of the 2020-2021 School Year. Salary is \$100 per day for the first 30 days and then \$120 per day thereafter. (These substitutes will be utilized on an as-needed basis.)

| | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Melissa Cambest | Briana Mihok |
| Jina Coleman | Alison Sanders |
| Stacy Govi | Sandina Timbus |
| June Gravitte | Jennifer Weinbaum |
| Marissa Hilinski | Becky Wright |

Board Members thanked the new guest substitutes for their willingness to fill this role. It is a testament to the Hampton community.

PARAPROFESSIONAL/PARAEDUCATOR/ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:

10. The following as Substitute Paraprofessional/Paraeducator/Administrative Assistants for the District effective February 23, 2021. Hourly rate is \$13.00 per hour for days 1-20 and \$13.50 per hour thereafter:

- Jennifer Weinbaum
- Becky Wright

CUSTODIAL:

11. Ms. Laurie Rodgers as a Substitute Custodian for the District effective February 24, 2021. Hourly rate is \$12.00 per hour for days 1-20 and \$12.50 per hour thereafter.

SUPPLEMENTALS:

12. The Administration's recommendation of the approval of the following conditional appointments for 2020-2021, each at a rate of \$139 per point, with each such appointment being conditioned on the District making a subsequent determination that the supplementary position and work associated with such position is needed and approved and will continue during the coronavirus pandemic following future guidance from the Commonwealth. Each appointment shall be effective only where the position is approved and operational and where the work associated with such position is actually being performed. This conditional appointment does not obligate the District to approve some, all or any of the supplementary positions for 2020-2021 and does not guarantee any of the persons listed below that his or her supplementary position will be needed and in place, or that it will continue uninterrupted, in 2020- 2021:

| NAME | POSITION | BUILDING | POINTS | RANGE | TOTAL STIPEND |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|----------|--------|-------|---------------|
| Milton Squiller | Assistant Boys' Tennis Coach | HS | 20 | 16/20 | \$2,780 |
| Terrence Hales | Volunteer Boys' Lacrosse Coach | HS | | | |

OTHER:

13. Ms. Daniella Zenone as a Middle School Cooking Club Sponsor for the 2020-2021 School Year.

Technology

There was no report this evening.

Policy and Legislative Affairs

47:52

Mr. Shages introduced the following policies for the second reading and adoption; the Board approved both policies unanimously.

- Policy #108: Adoption of Textbooks
- Policy #705: Facilities and Workplace Safety

He also reminded Board Members to register for the upcoming Allegheny County Legislative Forum, which will be online this year.

Transportation

There was no report this evening.

A.W. Beattie Career Center Board Report

50:08

Mr. Stein told the Board that the March meeting for the center has yet to happen.

A Board Member also recognized the achievement of former Beattie student Ryan Koprivnikar who is now working for the District as the HVAC second assistant.

HAEE Report

There was no report this evening.

Public Comment

51:05

There was no public comment this evening.

Closing and Adjournment

51:16

Mr. Wesley closed the meeting and announced that the Board would be going into an executive session for legal and personnel matters.