

The Board Report

Monday, May 3, 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. Robert Shages

Mr. Greg Stein

Mr. Larry Vasko

Mrs. Trisha Webb

Board President

Board Vice President

Board Secretary/Facilities Chair

Transportation Chair

Personnel Chair

Board Treasurer/Policy & Legislative Affairs Chair

Technology Chair

Finance 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. Josh Kellogg

Mr. Rick Farino

Mr. Bill Cardone

Superintendent of Schools

Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Director of Administrative Services

Director of Technology

Network Administrator

Director of Buildings and Grounds

Director of Athletics

May 3, 2021

Work Session/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

00:10

Mr. Wesley opened the meeting with an opportunity for public comments. There were no public comments at this time.

Public Awards

00:17

Mr. Wesley recognized two prominent groups in the community to thank them for supporting the District this year.

First, Mr. Wesley recognized Dr. Virginia Balderston and her staff for their dedication to the District. Dr. Balderston and her staff have worked countless hours to keep members of the school community safe throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Although Dr. Balderston was unable to attend this evening, the District will deliver the award certificate to her office.

Mr. Wesley also recognized the Rotary Club of Hampton Township for supporting several families who have experienced significant hardship over the last year. One Hampton family wrote a note to the Rotary to thank them for the food donations they received. Mr. Hal English, current Rotary President and a former Hampton parent, accepted the award on behalf of the Rotary Club.

Student Affairs

04:17

Mrs. Webb introduced Student Council representatives, Alex and Emi.

Alex thanked Dr. Loughead for speaking with high school students at the Student Council meeting two weeks ago to discuss opting out of using desk shields in class. Alex also mentioned that the senior students are looking forward to attending prom this Friday.

A Board member asked the students if they believe their peers are opting to get vaccinated now that the availability to those over age 16 has increased. Alex said other students are eager to receive the vaccine, and many have already been vaccinated through their workplaces. He added that many students are already fully vaccinated.

Dr. Cunningham introduced a request for a High School pilot club called the Children of Steel, a student-led program to provide free evening tutoring sessions to elementary age children over Zoom.

Student leadership has already met with Central Elementary Principal Dr. Amy Kern, High School Principal Dr. Marguerite Imbarlina and Dr. Cunningham to review club logistics. By approving the club in May, the students will have the summer to recruit and train student tutors by next fall.

A Board member asked if the program is limited to tutoring elementary children only or if it would be possible for middle school students to receive the free tutoring sessions as well. Dr. Cunningham thanked the Board member for the idea and stated she would pass along the recommendation to the student leadership.

Facilities

09:11

Ms. Balason introduced Mr. Chris Brown and Ms. Cassandra Renninger from VEBH Architects to review the roof renovation bids presented at last week's Board Meeting.

Mr. Brown clarified that the screening of the current rooftop HVAC units will fall under the mechanical contract within the Phase 1 renovation budget, and is not included in the proposed High School roof renovation prices.

He then informed the Board of the four different scenarios for addressing roof renovations:

- Option 1 includes a full roof replacement that comes with a 25-year warranty. The low bid for this option was \$2.8 million from Pennsylvania Roofing.
- Option 2 offers a coating system instead of replacing the roof entirely. This option comes with a 20-year warranty. The low bid for this option was \$2.6 million from CentiMark.
- Option 3 includes a full roof replacement, and upgrading the thickness of the roof to extend the lifespan of the roof. This option includes a 30-year warranty. The low bid for this option was \$2.9 million from Pennsylvania Roofing.
- Option 4 was presented as a hybrid option, offering coating in more recently renovated areas of the roof and replacing and increasing the thickness of the roof in other areas. The warranties for these renovations will be split, offering a 20-year warranty for the coating, and a 30-year warranty for the sections of the new roof. The low bid for this option came from Pennsylvania Roofing at \$2.8 million.

After speaking with the administration and representatives from PJ Dick, Mr. Brown recommended Option 3.

In response to questions raised, Mr. Brown told the Board:

- Option 3 will provide the District with many benefits over time. Due to a lack of production for building materials, the project may be delayed by several months. By writing a letter of intent, Pennsylvania Roofing will order materials to expedite the renovation process.
- Per the implications of the warranty, the contractor is responsible for repairing or replacing the roof within the first two years, while the manufacturer of the roof, Johns Manville, will be responsible for roof repairs thereafter. More details of the warranty will be provided when the contract is signed.

Mr. Brown assured the Board that roof renovations will remain under the originally estimated \$5 million cost discussed at the Work Session on April 12th. In addition to remaining below the budget, a Board member reminded the Board of the grant of \$400,000 the District received, and that money will be allocated to the roof renovation.

Ms. Renninger clarified a discrepancy with allowing Pennsylvania Roofing to order materials before signing a contract. Mr. Wesley addressed the Board to confirm Option 3 as the proposed renovation plan. There were no dissenting opinions so the letter of intent would move forward. Ms. Renninger assured the Board that the pricing for this quality of roofing material is competitive.

Mr. Brown then provided a general update on Phase 1 renovation progress:

- VEBH is currently working on documents to put Phase 1 renovation items out for bids in the first week of June
- VEBH is seeking approvals from the municipal councils and Zoning Hearing Board. These approvals will be sought out in late May prior to launching any bids.

Finance

27:14

Mr. Wesley said that because several Board members needed to attend a Township Meeting, the finance update was being presented earlier in the meeting agenda.

Mr. Vasko introduced Mr. Kline, who addressed current action items:

- Approving Consumable Supply Bid Totals. Mr. Kline noted that the 2021-22 supplies bid total amount of \$131,114 is an increase of \$220 from the 2020-21 bid amount of \$130,894. Mr. Kline noted that the “pre-pandemic” supplies bids were usually in the \$150K to \$160K range.

CONSUMABLE SUPPLY BID COMPARISON		
	2021-2022	2020-2021
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	764.58	1,269.40
ATHLETIC SUPPLIES	21,977.95	16,980.64
ART SUPPLIES	6,534.26	9,529.92
INDUSTRIAL ARTS	4,481.91	3,597.38
MECHANICAL DRAWING	19.00	
SCIENCE SUPPLIES	394.72	4,314.21
AUDIO VISUAL	2,239.29	1,069.72
MEDICAL SUPPLIES	3,010.70	4,480.80
JANITORIAL & POOL	62,711.96	49,370.04
FIRST AID	2,811.17	6,010.74
PAPER SUPPLIES	26,168.07	34,270.94
GRAND TOTAL	131,113.61	130,893.79

- Approve Budget Transfers totaling \$4,200 for General Enrichment Supplies.
- Approve the A. W. Beattie Career Center budget, with the District’s contributions totaling \$753,000.

District	Bond Debt	Capital	Operating	2021-22 Total Share	\$ Difference 2021-22 vs 2020-21	2020-21 Total Share	Operating	Capital	Bond Debt
Avonworth	\$ 51,329	\$ -	\$ 355,742	\$ 407,071	\$ 26,043	\$ 381,028	\$ 329,616	\$ -	\$ 51,412
Deer Lakes	\$ 69,755	\$ -	\$ 777,537	\$ 847,292	\$ 23,006	\$ 824,286	\$ 754,418	\$ -	\$ 69,868
Fox Chapel	\$ 215,568	\$ -	\$ 422,076	\$ 637,644	\$ (28,006)	\$ 665,650	\$ 449,732	\$ -	\$ 215,918
Hampton	\$ 119,352	\$ -	\$ 634,402	\$ 753,754	\$ 40,337	\$ 713,417	\$ 593,871	\$ -	\$ 119,546
North Allegheny	\$ 336,375	\$ -	\$ 822,952	\$ 1,159,327	\$ (38,351)	\$ 1,197,678	\$ 860,756	\$ -	\$ 336,922
North Hills	\$ 202,823	\$ -	\$ 999,788	\$ 1,202,611	\$ 34,090	\$ 1,168,521	\$ 965,369	\$ -	\$ 203,152
Northgate	\$ 44,333	\$ -	\$ 625,705	\$ 670,038	\$ (12,386)	\$ 682,424	\$ 638,019	\$ -	\$ 44,405
Pine Richland	\$ 155,996	\$ -	\$ 526,827	\$ 682,823	\$ 6,042	\$ 676,781	\$ 520,532	\$ -	\$ 156,249
Shaler	\$ 189,869	\$ -	\$ 1,304,224	\$ 1,494,093	\$ (27,332)	\$ 1,521,425	\$ 1,331,247	\$ -	\$ 190,178
Total	\$ 1,385,400	\$ -	\$ 6,469,253	\$ 7,854,653	\$ 23,443	\$ 7,831,210	\$ 6,443,560	\$ -	\$ 1,387,650

Mr. Kline noted Hampton’s 2021-22 share of the A. W. Beattie Budget is \$753,754 -- an increase of \$40,337 or 5.65% from the 2020-21 amount of \$713,417. Hampton’s increase is due to additional HTSD enrollment at A. W. Beattie. The average 5-year membership for Hampton increased from 65.51 ADMs to 72.36 ADMs. Mr. Stein noted that Beattie’s overall enrollment is approaching capacity due to the interest in their programs.

Mr. Vasko and Mr. Kline referenced the renewal of the Senior Citizen’s Property Tax rebate for the 2021-22 year and proposed a \$25 increase for each level for the 2021-22 year.

YEAR	# OF APPLICANTS	REBATE \$ AMOUNT
2020-21	26	\$6,225
2019-20	36	\$9,125
2018-19	39	\$9,200
2017-18	40	\$9,950
2016-17	38	\$9,444

A Board member questioned if recipients of the rebate also received COVID-19 related relief stimulus efforts in the past year from the Federal Government. Several Board members confirmed every recipient of the rebate should have received federal stimulus checks, as well as a property tax rebate from the state. The Board agreed to raise the rebate by \$25.

Mr. Kline presented the local tax revenue update:

- The District’s current real estate tax collection is ahead of projections at an increase of 3.49% against an estimated 2.32%.
- Earned income tax receipts are down \$163,000, a 5% decrease. This is an improvement since the last update, when receipts were down 7%.

Mr. Cardone presented the Athletics Department Budget. The budget was divided into fall, winter and spring sports. He noted many uniform requests indicate a five-year cycle. Due to COVID-19 closures last year, new uniforms for multiple sports were delayed, despite last school year's budget cycle being the year to receive new uniforms.

A Board member asked Mr. Cardone if there is a way to assess the state of the current uniforms to determine if purchasing new uniforms is necessary. Mr. Cardone said a review of uniforms can be done, but many uniforms are long overdue for replacement.

Additional questions were raised from Board members about the Athletics Department budget, and Mr. Cardone clarified the following:

- Miscellaneous charges include referee fees, dues for football teams, laundry and cleaning services.
- No money has been allocated for girl's gymnastics, as there has not been enough interest from students.
- Costs of uniforms are included under the General Supplies Budget. An estimate to replace uniforms total \$2,500 per team. Costs to replace High School team supplies are typically higher than Middle School teams.
- The District does not pay for helmets for all sports that require them. Students typically like to have their own helmet.
- Certification of equipment is completed each year to ensure safety for the students. This service is outsourced.
- The District does not provide the football team with athletic bags on a yearly basis.
- Pricing for expenses depends on the number of students involved in athletics.
- Live streaming of events is not included in this budget.
- The Athletics Department is prepared to have in-person football events with fans in the Fall.

A Board member requested a full break-down of uniform costs by sport to further discuss the Athletic Department Budget.

Personnel

57:44

Mrs. Midgley introduced the following items, which are expected to be voted upon at next week's Voting Meeting:

Teachers:

- Approve Ms. Kaitlyn Hamlin as a Building Substitute at Hampton High School from May 4, 2021 through the remainder of the 2020-2021 School Year. Salary is \$22,000, pro-rated. (Ms. Hamlin is replacing Ms. Rachel Floyd.)

OTHER:

- Approve the continuation of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Hampton Township Police Department and the Hampton Township School District for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023.

A Board member clarified there is no relationship between Ms. Kaitlyn Hamlin and School Board Vice President Mrs. Jill Hamlin.

Policy and Legislative Affairs

58:43

Mr. Shages reviewed Policy #150: Title I Comparability of Services, which is a new policy based on a template created by the Pennsylvania School Boards Association. The purpose of the policy is to ensure that all elementary schools in the District provide comparable curriculum materials, supplies, teachers, administrators, and staff with the goal of ensuring students get a quality education regardless of whether they attend a Title 1 school or not.

Dr. Cunningham reviewed Policy #239: Foreign Exchange Students. This policy has been re-introduced in order to provide additional clarification on foreign exchange students with F1 visas who would like to make an application to attend a Hampton school. If the District wishes to accept students on an F1 visa, the District must first become Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) certified. The District is interested in exploring this opportunity in the future. Currently, only foreign exchange students on a J1 visa are eligible to be accepted.

Dr. Cunningham stated that additional changes have been made to the original language of the Foreign Exchange Student Policy to customize protocols to better fit the District's needs. The updated language will be sent to the District Solicitor for review.

Technology

58:59

There was no report this evening.

Transportation

1:02:44

There was no report this evening.

Educational Programs

1:02:57

Mrs. Hamlin introduced Dr. Loughead, who presented a recommendation for modifying the Health and Safety Plan effective May 3, 2021.

Dr. Loughead said students and staff have a high level of compliance in response to the updated masking policies in the District. With updated seating arrangements, mask compliance and social distancing, the administration determined that desk shields are counterproductive to the new in-person modes of learning and recommends that desk shields become optional in the secondary schools until the end of the school year. Dr. Loughead believes desk shields should remain in place in elementary schools until the end of the school year.

Dr. Loughead also recommended that volunteers and guests who are requested by the schools be allowed to enter schools in order to support an event or activity. The volunteers and guests would need to be under the direct supervision of an HTSD employee and adhere to all safety protocols, including masking and maintaining social distance.

Currently, there are no updated masking guidelines, so the current Pennsylvania Health Department protocols will remain in place.

Dr. Loughead highlighted that the District is working on a proposed COVID-19 vaccine clinic in partnership with Rite Aid to be hosted on May 15 in the High School cafeteria. Students, family members, and staff within the District over the age of 16 may sign up to receive their first dose. The second dose clinic is set to take place on June 5. The clinics will offer the Pfizer vaccine.

Dr. Loughead told the Board that the overall enrollment at Poff Elementary has not increased. However the two fourth grade sections are at 26 and 27 students. A fourth-grade teacher will be moving to fifth-grade to accommodate the large number of students at that grade level. He indicated that the District will continue to monitor enrollment at Poff.

The Board approved the modified Health and Safety Plan with a 9-0 vote.

Public Comment

1:10:09

Mr. Wesley opened the floor to public comment.

A community member stated that from his perspective, some foreign exchange students in the past had not stayed with one family, but had rotated among several families in order to provide a cultural exchange program for several families. The community member also thanked the school board for their dedication for guiding the District through the difficulties in the last year.

Closing and Adjournment

01:13:40

Mr. Wesley closed the meeting.