

The Board Report

Monday, May 10, 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 School 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

Superintendent of Schools

Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Director of Administrative Services

Director of Technology

Technology Services Network Administrator

Monday, May 10, 2021

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

Voting Meeting

Opening

(00:05)

Mr. Wesley explained that today's Board meeting was convened at an earlier hour so that Dr. Loughhead and other Board members could attend a Township meeting related to the High School renovation project later tonight.

A roll call was taken. All Board members were present.

Public Comment

(1:48)

There was no public comment at this time.

Agenda

(1:56)

The Board approved the minutes from the April 12, 2021 and April 19, 2021 Board meetings.

Treasurer's Report

(2:20)

Mr. Shages presented the Treasurer's Report which was approved:

- April 2021 General Fund 10 disbursements, totaling \$3,553,831.30.
- April 2021 High School Construction Fund 35 disbursements, totaling \$64,274.20.
- April 2021 Cafeteria Fund 50 disbursements, totaling \$71,605.48.
- March 2021 Student Activities Fund Report.

President's Report

(3:44)

Mr. Wesley expressed his appreciation to the administration, teachers, and parents for transitioning back to school within the past couple of weeks. He said he has heard positive feedback from parents

and his own children, adding that they are happy to be back in the classrooms full time.

Board Secretary and Solicitor's Reports

(4:44)

There were no reports this evening.

Superintendent's Report

(5:04)

Dr. Loughead provided the Board with an update on the upcoming vaccination clinic sponsored by Rite Aid. He said the District has agreed to Rite Aid's request to hold a vaccination clinic on Saturday, May 15, and Saturday, June 5 at the High School. He said he is thankful Rite Aid wanted to help and that the District is glad to support the community.

Dr. Loughead indicated that the District reached out to families regarding interest in participating in the vaccination clinic. He said there are more than 400 families who expressed interest in participating. He noted that the District learned on Monday that the Pfizer vaccine received FDA approval for children ages 12 and up.

Dr. Loughead said additional registration information would be available at a later time. A Board member asked if the vaccination clinic is open to surrounding communities. Dr. Loughead said it will depend on capacity, but added that it was possible. He said the District will work with the Township on traffic control on the days of the clinic.

Academics

(8:16)

Dr. Loughead said the District is in the midst of assessment season for academics, including the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) testing, Keystone and AP exams, as well as finals, which were pushed closer to the year's end to allow for as much instructional opportunity as possible.

The High School's recent Prom was a great event, according to Dr. Loughead. He said students appreciated the opportunity to attend Prom during an exciting time of year for seniors.

Dr. Loughead noted that the District will carefully consider how to hold graduation at normal capacity since the state will be loosening limits on attendance as of May 31. He said the District will follow safety recommendations and masks will be required.

Arts

(9:40)

Dr. Loughead told the Board about some exciting happenings in the Art and Music Departments. He

said some ensembles will perform various special composed pieces for the first time in the world. He will provide the Board a list of events, which will also be posted on the District's website. Some events will take place virtually, while others will occur at school facilities.

Athletics

(10:30)

Dr. Loughead took time to acknowledge the recent success of the District's athletic teams. He said the boys' tennis team qualified for the WPIAL playoffs for the first time in several years. He also congratulated the boys' track and field team for winning the section championship for the first time since the 1980s. Also, Dr. Loughead recognized the following teams for making the playoffs: boys' and girls' lacrosse, softball and baseball.

Dr. Loughead said the term "scholar athlete" within the District is stronger than ever.

Finally, Dr. Loughead thanked the administration and teachers for helping students enjoy end-of-year activities such as Prom, sports, band, and other events.

Finance

(13:15)

Mr. Vasko recommended and the Board unanimously approved the following items:

- The 2021-2022 consumable supply bids at a total amount of \$131,113.61.
- The budget transfer totaling \$4,702.80 for secondary enrichment general supplies.
- The 2021-2022 A.W. Beattie Career Center Budget with the District's share as follows:
 - Capital Budget - \$0
 - Operating Budget - \$634,402
 - Debt Service - \$119,352
 - Total - \$753,754
- The renewal of the Senior Citizen Property Tax Rebate Resolution for 2021-2022, with an increase of \$25 per bracket.
 - The Adjusted Income Current Rebate and Updated Rebate are as follows:
 - Income up to \$8,000: from \$375 to \$400
 - Income from \$8,001 to \$15,000: from \$300 to \$325
 - Income from \$15,001 to \$18,000: from \$200 to \$225
 - Income from \$18,001 to \$28,000: from \$150 to \$175

Mr. Vasko also motioned that the Board approve the 2021-22 Proposed Final Budget with revenues of \$55,581,373; expenditures of \$56,710,943; and the utilization of \$575,000 from the Stabilization Fund and \$554,570 from the unassigned fund balance.

Under this proposal, the real estate tax rate would increase from 19.71 mills to 20.30 mills; an increase of 0.59 mills or 3.0%.

The expenditure budget was reduced by \$521,919 from the April 26 meeting. The budget shortfall is \$1,129,570, which will be funded through a property tax increase and appropriations of stabilization and unassigned funds.

Mr. Stein said the District needs to be realistic regarding the budget, adding that the District cannot continue balancing the budget this way year after year as the debt service increases. He indicated the Board could have to go for a referendum if it is not careful.

Mr. Vasko said the 2021-22 Final Budget will be adopted in June. The Board must adopt a proposed budget at least 30 days before approving a final one, allowing for budgetary changes to be made in the next month. The Board also has to advertise that the budget is available for inspection.

Mr. Vasko told the Board that the District is spending roughly \$550,000 (from the unassigned fund balance) more than it is taking in. He indicated that the shortfall is not related to COVID-19.

Mr. Vasko also noted that the District has used \$214,000 for financing computers, which adds \$107,000 in expenses next year to finance those computers. He said the District is also financing a truck that it is going to buy, which adds \$14,000. He said the District's PSERS fund is \$575,000 this year but will fall to \$525,000 next year, taking another \$50,000 out of the budget. Additionally, he said the District has already borrowed \$10 million for the construction project, and assuming the District gets the same rate, it would need to borrow another \$10 million, which would cost \$240,000 to finance next year.

Together, those expenditures equal \$966,000 that the District will need to come up with next year, which Mr. Vasko said the District does not have money for.

A Board Member said the District's unassigned fund balance is projected to contain roughly \$3.6 million at the end of this year, with about \$1.7 million of the stabilization funds remaining. He said it is definitely a concern that those numbers are decreasing.

Mr. Vasko asked the Board how they plan to fund these expenditures. He said he does not have a problem taking half a million dollars out of the fund balance if it is a one-time occurrence, but said that it is not a one-time occurrence. He noted that the fund balance is to pay for salaries, computers, etc.

A Board Member asked Mr. Kline to develop a budgetary plan for next year at the Board's upcoming work session. This will include three-year projections specifically related to the District's commitment to the High School improvement project. The projections will help the Board devise a budgetary plan and gain an understanding of what future finances will look like.

Mr. Vasko said that he would prefer the District make necessary cuts to the current budget rather than wait to do so down the line.

The 2021-22 Proposed Final Budget passed by an 8-1 vote with Mrs. Midgley voting "no."

Mr. Vasko voted “yes” for the proposed budget, but said he will vote “no” on the final budget unless the Board can come up with an improved plan.

Student Affairs

(27:41)

Mrs. Webb recommended and the Board approved the Children of Steel Club as a pilot at the High School. The motion unanimously passed 9-0.

Facilities

(26:18)

Ms. Balason recommended that the Board award the Hampton High School Roof Project to Pennsylvania Roofing Systems, Inc., for the base bid plus alternate R-2 for a total cost to the District of \$2,971,000, pending final review and approval by both VEBH Architects and the District’s Solicitor. The motion unanimously passed 9-0.

Mr. Wesley said this bid includes a full roof replacement with a 30-year warranty, which he said is “pretty incredible.”

Educational Programs

(28:26)

Mrs. Hamlin said there were no action items this evening.

Personnel

(28:35)

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

- Ms. Kaitlyn Hamlin as a Building Substitute at Hampton High School from May 4, 2021 through the remainder of the 2020-2021 School Year at a prorated salary of \$22,000. Ms. Hamlin is replacing Ms. Rachel Floyd.
- Mrs. Rebecca Blough as a Substitute Administrative Assistant/Paraprofessional/Paraeducator for the District effective May 13, 2021 at a rate of \$13 per-hour for the first 20 days and \$13.50 per-hour thereafter.
- Ms. Cassidy Furge as a Substitute Administrative Assistant/Paraprofessional/Paraeducator for the District effective May 7, 2021, at a rate of \$13 per-hour for the first 20 days and \$13.50 per-hour thereafter.

Mrs. Midgley also recommended and the Board approved a continuation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between 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 said the District is very fortunate to have this relationship with the Township's Police Department.

In other business, Mrs. Midgley recommended and the Board approved the following items:

- A change in the resignation date for Ms. Khristine Jungling who is retiring effective April 30, 2021, formerly recorded as June 4, 2021. Ms. Jungling was a Class III Paraeducator at Hampton High School.
- Resignation of Ms. Jane Sutter who is retiring at the end of the 2020-2021 School Year after 27 years with the District effective June 14, 2021. Ms. Sutter is a Class II Clerical Paraprofessional at Central Elementary School.
- Resignation of Ms. Lori Waters who is retiring at the end of the 2020-2021 School Year after nine years with the District effective June 14, 2021. Ms. Waters is a Class III Paraeducator at Hampton High School.
- Resignation of Ms. Michelle Silberman who is resigning from the District effective May 18, 2021. Ms. Silberman is a Class IV Health Office Assistant based at Hampton Middle School.
- Resignation of Ms. Jessica Thompson effective May 4, 2021. Ms. Thompson was a Long-Term Substitute Health Office Nurse based at Hampton High School.
- Resignation of Mr. Paul Nail who is retiring at the end of the 2020-2021 School Year after 17 years with the District, effective June 14, 2021. Mr. Nail is a Grade 4 teacher at Central Elementary School.

All Personnel items passed unanimously, 9-0.

The District indicated that all positions are in the budget to be replaced.

Technology

(31:59)

There were no action items this evening.

Policy and Legislative Affairs

(32:04)

Mr. Shages recommended and the Board approved the following items:

- The Second Reading and Adoption of Policy #150: Title I Comparability of Services.
- The First Reading of Policy #239: Foreign Exchange Students.

Transportation

(33:00)

There were no action items this evening.

A.W. Beattie Career Center

(33:13)

Mr. Stein reported that the A.W. Beattie Career Center is having Senior Recognition Night at 7 p.m. on May 25 at the North Hills High School Stadium with a picnic scheduled for May 20. He told the Board to contact the Career Center if they plan to attend.

Mr. Stein said the Career Center's summer session is planned to go ahead as normal with in-person instruction planned next year.

A Board Member recognized that the salutatorian for A.W. Beattie's graduation is a Hampton student. (Congratulations to Lauren Graff, A.W. Beattie Salutatorian for 2021).

HAEE Report

(35:14)

Mrs. Midgley said three scholarships have recently been awarded. She congratulated Austin Garrett for winning the Anna Kuhn Scholarship in the amount of \$1,500. She also recognized Lindsey Schwarzbach and Richie Donoto for receiving the HAEE All Around Effort in Excellence Scholarship for \$1,000 each.

Public Comment

(36:04)

There was no public comment this evening.

Closing and Adjournment

(36:26)

The Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.