

The Board Report

Monday, October 12, 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. 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 of School Directors meeting was held at the A.W. Beattie Career Center, 9600 Babcock Blvd., Allison Park, PA. It was audio/video recorded, and some attendees participated through Zoom.

Members of Administration in Attendance

Dr. Michael Loughead
Dr. Rebecca Cunningham
Mr. Jeff Kline
Dr. Ed McKaveney
Mr. Rick Farino

Superintendent of Schools
Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Director of Administrative Services
Director of Technology
Director of Buildings and Grounds

Special Guests

Pennsylvania State Representative Lori Mizgorski
Hampton Middle School Student Cassandra Seebacher

Monday, October 12, 2020

Voting Meeting

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

Opening

0:00

Mr. Wesley called the meeting to order and roll call was taken. All Board members were present.

Recognition of State Representative Lori Mizgorski

1:26

Mr. Wesley and Mrs. Webb introduced Pennsylvania State Representative Lori Mizgorski, who advocated for the District to receive a \$400,000 grant from the Gaming Economic Development Tourism Fund (GEDTF) through the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County and the Commonwealth Financing Authority. This grant will help cover the costs of necessary roof repairs at Hampton High School.

The District presented Representative Mizgorski with a plaque of appreciation for her support.

Representative Mizgorski said it was her pleasure to advocate for the District. She praised the Board and administration for always sharing information with her and for doing a great job of navigating the special challenges of this school year.

Recognition of “Doodle for Google” Competition Winner Cassandra Seebacher

5:56

The Board recognized HMS Student Cassandra Seebacher, who was chosen as a “Doodle for Google” competition winner in her age category. Her doodle showcases children working together on a common cause.

Dr. Loughead asked Cassie what motivated her creation, and she replied that in Hampton, she noticed a lot of people helping each other as they work together toward a greater cause.

Public Comment Announcement

8:24

Mr. Wesley announced there would be two opportunities for the public to comment: at the beginning of the meeting and at the end of the meeting. There was no comment at the beginning of the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

9:18

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the September 14 Board Meeting.

Treasurer's Report and Payment of Bills

Payment of Bills

9:40

The Board unanimously approved the following:

- September 2020 General Fund 10 disbursements totaling \$5,667,282.56
- September 2020 High School Construction Fund 25 disbursements totaling \$5,667,282.56
- September 2020 Capital Fund 39 disbursements totaling \$82,137.34
- August 2020 Cafeteria Fund 50 disbursements totaling \$17,447.56

Treasurer's Report

10:39

The Board unanimously approved the August 2020 Treasurer's Report.

Student Activities Fund Report

10:39

The Board unanimously approved the August 2020 Student Activities Fund Report.

President's Report

11:14

Mr. Wesley again thanked Representative Mizgorski, noting that the grant is very much needed now. He also reported that there was one Executive Session held since the last meeting for the purpose of discussing legal and personnel matters.

Secretary's Report

11:44

Ms. Balason reminded Board Members that Tuesday is the last day to register for the PSBA School Leadership Conference.

Solicitor's Report

There was no report this evening.

Superintendent's Report

12:25

Dr. Loughead, as always, highlighted District achievements in academics, the arts, and athletics.

Academics: Dr. Loughead praised the work done earlier that day by teachers, principals, and staff who were analyzing student assessments to determine current academic achievement. This information will help guide the teachers' instruction and enable them to support individual students.

Mr. Stein asked for feedback on the day's student assessment work so that it can be compared to a non-COVID year. He said he knows students must be behind due to significantly less in-person instruction. Dr. Loughead said that many students who are natural learners have made progress, but there are indeed students for whom this has been difficult. He indicated that he would prepare information for the Board.

The Arts: Dr. Loughead noted that the District's art educators have devised creative ways to keep arts education going safely, even under COVID. He noted how the marching band and pep band added so much energy and spirit to the Senior Night football game, even though attendance had to be limited.

Athletics: Dr. Loughead praised the talents of all the teams playing now: cross country, tennis, golf, soccer, football, and volleyball. He noted that the boy's golf team beat Mars, that both soccer teams are having a great season, that the Post-Gazette's football photos were amazing, and that the girls' volleyball team seems to be the team to watch. He reminded everyone that under the most recent guidelines, fans may attend volleyball games.

Facilities Agenda

18:27

High School Grant

Ms. Balason moved and the Board voted unanimously to accept the \$400,000 grant from the Gaming Economic Development Tourism Fund for high school roof repairs and to acknowledge the efforts of Representative Mizgorski. Dr. Loughead praised Dr. Cunningham for her work in writing the grant.

Hampton High School Renovation Project, Phase 1 Update

20:15

Please note: Some images that were included in the live presentation have been edited out of the video for security reasons.

Cassandra Renninger of VEBH Architects led a highly detailed presentation to the Board on the first phase of renovations planned for the high school. Her presentation included renderings of the proposed interior. Here is a summary of the information presented in each of the five major categories:

A. Site upgrades related to safety and circulation

- The current exits/entrances on McCully and Topnick both accommodate all types of school traffic. The new proposal calls for three exits/entrances, each for separate uses. One entrance/exit would allow staff to enter and exit out of a parking area behind the building. One entrance/exit would allow buses to drop off and pick up students in front of the school. The third entrance/exit, closer to the Township ball fields, would serve students and parents.
- Vehicles would stop for pedestrians at a clearly marked pedestrian crosswalk.
- The current field at the front of the building where band practices are held would be replaced with a paved and lighted lot, enabling the band to practice on a surface not so easily impacted by weather and lighting. The lot would also provide space for overflow event parking.

B. Roof upgrades

- A large part of the roof is from 1967 and has lived well beyond its useful life, so it must be replaced.
- The newer roofs date to 1999 and replacement/repairs are also critical.
- An abandoned greenhouse and failing ladders must also be addressed.
- Roof drains must be cleaned or replaced.

C. Natatorium Mechanical Unit HVAC Replacement

- The rooftop unit above the pool must be replaced because it is beyond the end of its useful life and failure is imminent.

D. New Data Center

- The new data center would provide a dedicated space for storage, office space for the District's IT department and a loading dock.

E. Library/Media Center

- This addition is really a free-standing academic enhancement created in response to the strategic discussion for the future high school from the very beginning. The Library/Media Center will serve as an academic hub with academic classrooms surrounding it.

- An English classroom, a flexible classroom to support the yearbook and provide studio space, and a support classroom are also included.
- The placement of the new Library/Media Center would encourage students to cross the space as part of their daily routine – and stop in for a book, help with their laptop, or to socialize.
- The IT help desk will be set up like an Apple Genius Bar.
- Small group areas would allow for collaborative learning.

In response to questions from the Board and the Administration, Ms. Renninger and others working on the project commented:

- The projected construction cost is between \$16 million to \$17.5 million. Including money for phasing that accommodates existing uses, furniture, and financing brings the full cost to between \$19.2 million and \$22 million.
- The costs include stormwater management to address flooding issues that occur in some areas under some conditions.
- The hallways are at least 12 feet wide when possible. In the area near the open library/media center, no walls constrict the space so there is much more room.
- A very preliminary site plan was shared with the Township about nine months ago.
- Early discussions about a high school renovation included a need to store some laboratory chemicals in a different way, but some chemicals have now been disposed of properly and other changes have been made.
- The existing office in the library would remain through construction and be used for flexible space.
- Several Board members asked about the Township stormwater fees that would come from converting some permeable space to impermeable space. Ms. Renninger said some surfaces could potentially be paved with permeable pavement, pavers, or limestone.

Bipolar Ionization HVAC Update

1:04:49

Ms. Balason introduced Mr. Farino who provided additional information regarding last week's bipolar ionization HVAC discussion. Bipolar ionization allows the units to better filter viruses, including COVID-19, out of the air supply.

Mr. Farino said:

- It would cost about \$130,000 to retrofit the 19 HVAC units at the high school with bipolar ionization. Last week, he reported a cost of \$135,000 to retrofit HVAC units at the middle school and all elementary schools. This brings the District-wide cost to about \$275,000.
- The needed equipment would take between four to six weeks to arrive.
- District employees could receive certification to install the units, and could likely do 15 or 20 of them, saving \$400 to \$500 on each.

Mr. Wesley noted that the bipolar ionization project could be paid for with funds derived from the bond issue, the general fund, or fund balance.

All Board members all agreed that this project, which would help protect everyone in District schools, was essential. They unanimously approved a motion that called for the necessary equipment to be purchased under the state's bid list if possible, but, if that was not possible, to put out a bid not to exceed \$275,000.

Finance Agenda

Report on Bond Issue to Finance High School Project

1:21:58

District Bond Counsel Lisa Chiesa and Piper Sandler bond issue underwriter Chip McCarthy described the bond options to fund the first phase of the high school project to the Board and answered many questions.

The Board already approved the resolution to issue bank qualified bonds at the April meeting, provided certain conditions were met. Ms. Chiesa and Mr. Sandler, along with Mr. Kline and Mr. Vasko, noted that acting now to issue the first of two \$10 million dollar bank qualified bond issues (bank qualified bonds issues are limited to \$10 million each) instead of a single issuance of non-qualified bonds would save the District about \$250,000 in interest over the life of the bonds and also reduce the annual budgetary impact by \$250,000 / year.

The first of two District bond issues to fund Phase 1 of the project will need to occur before the end of the 2020 calendar year. Board Members agreed that two bank qualified issues were preferable; however there are misgivings regarding not having a complete picture of the 2021-22 budget before proceeding. The Board has previously made public that a tax increase is likely in each of the next several years to pay for the high school project.

Revenue Update

1:55:51

Mr. Kline said he has been pleasantly surprised by earned income tax receipts, but as of the meeting, two of the District's five largest real estate tax payers have not yet remitted, meaning they will not be receiving the 2% discount for paying by September 30th.

He will continue to provide monthly revenue updates at Board Work Sessions.

Mid-way through the presentation, Mr. Shages left the meeting as his ride had arrived. After this point in the evening, any other voting items which were unanimously approved by the Board would be approved 8-0.

Educational Programs: Phased Reopening Plan

1:58:47

Ms. Hamlin moved, and the Board unanimously approved, the Phased Reopening Plan, which would move the District to a new phase of reopening schools. Safety is paramount, and so the plan is dependent on incident and positivity rates and trends in Allegheny County. The Allegheny County Health Department will continue to advise the District. Here is a summary of key dates which were presented at the [October 5, 2020 Work Session](#):

Central, Poff, and Wyland Elementary Students

October 19: Begin Modified Hybrid (four-day, in-person instruction)

- All students learn in school on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.
- The current model of Learn at Home for all students on Wednesdays would remain in effect.

November 2: Return to daily in-person instruction

- While daily in-person instruction would begin November 2, most weeks in November and December are 3- or 4-day weeks, providing an additional time of transition until the return from the holiday break on January 4.

Hampton Middle School and Hampton High School

November 2: Begin Modified Hybrid (four-day, in-person instruction) with 6th and 9th grade students. The regular Hybrid model continues for upperclassmen at HHS and HMS.

- All 6th and 9th grade students learn in school on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.
- The current model of Learn at Home for all students on Wednesdays would remain in effect.

November 16: Modified Hybrid implemented at HHS and HMS for all students

- All HHS and HMS students learn in school on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays
- The current model of Learn at Home for all students on Wednesdays would remain in effect.

January 4: Full return to daily in-person instruction for all HHS and HMS students

Dr. Loughead also made some clarifications on the plan in response to questions from the public and the Board at the October 5 Work Session:

- Any student who is home due to illness or quarantine will be able to use Zoom, Google docs, or other tools to keep current with their studies while they are at home.
- In response to a concern raised last week that some staff members do not always wear masks, Dr. Loughead reminded everyone that health department guidelines state that shields or gaiters are also acceptable face coverings.

- The District hopes to maintain 3 to 6 feet of social Distancing wherever possible. In some cases, that may not be possible, but desk shields and face coverings are being used and do provide protection.

Dr. Loughead answered several questions from Board Members. The Board then voted unanimously to adopt the new plan.

Personnel Agenda

2:17:28

Mrs. Midgley moved and the Board unanimously approved the following items.

TEACHERS:

1. It is recommended and I move that the Board approves Mr. Will Stiglitz, Middle School Special Education Teacher, who has attained tenure status effective October 12, 2020.
2. It is recommended and I move that the Board approves Mr. Mark Gartner to serve as a Middle School Hampton Online Academy Support Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA), effective September 28, 2020. There is no change in salary.
3. It is recommended and I move that the Board approves Ms. Erin Cover as a Building Substitute at Hampton Middle School from September 24, 2020 through the end of the first semester of the 2020-2021 School Year. Salary is \$22,000, pro-rated. (Ms. Cover is replacing Mr. Mitchell Nordstrom.)
4. It is recommended and I move that the Board approves Mr. Tyler Merigliano as a Long-Term Substitute Health & Physical Education Teacher from September 28, 2020 through the end of the first semester of the 2020-2021 School Year. Salary is \$33,500, pro-rated. (Mr. Merigliano is a substitute for Mr. Mark Gartner.)

CUSTODIAL:

5. It is recommended and I move that the Board accepts the resignation of Ms. Teresa Henneberg effective September 18, 2020. (Ms. Henneberg was a 10 month/5 hour per day Custodian at Hampton High School.)
6. It is recommended and I move that the Board approves a change in status for Mr. William McChesney, moving from a 10 month/8 hour per day Custodian at Central Elementary School to a 12 month/8 hour per day Custodian at Central Elementary School effective September 28, 2020. Mr. McChesney will also be the Night Lead Custodian for Central Elementary School for the 2020-2021 School Year, at an hourly rate of \$25.59 per hour. There is no change in hourly rate. (Mr. McChesney is replacing Mr. Wayne Lavery's former position.)

7. It is recommended and I move that the Board approves Ms. Julie Trozzi as a substitute custodian effective September 21, 2020. Hourly rate is \$12.00 per hour for the first 20 days and \$12.50 per hour thereafter.
8. It is recommended and I move that the Board approves Ms. Jessica Boehm as a substitute custodian effective September 29, 2020. Hourly rate is \$12.00 per hour for the first 20 days and \$12.50 per hour thereafter.

OTHER:

9. It is recommended and I move that the Board approves the attached lists of Club Sponsors for the Elementary Schools, Middle School, and the High School, for the 2020-2021 School Year.

HTSD 2020-2021 Elementary Club Sponsors		
Elementary School	Activity	Club Sponsor
Central Elementary	Growing Together	Heather Tammariello and Melissa Maley
Central Elementary	Kids Care Club	Heather Tammariello and Melissa Maley
Central Elementary	Greenhouse Garden Club	Colleen Frankel
Poff Elementary	Poff Kids Care Club	Amy Rein and Marilyn Adams
Poff Elementary	Homework Club	Barb Landry
Wyland Elementary	Pawsitive Helping Hands	Amy Kinney
Wyland Elementary	Garden Club	Diane Snyder
Wyland Elementary	Growing Together Club	Wendi Hunter and Susan Rothmeyer

Middle School Club Sponsors 2020-2021

Position	Sponsor	2nd Teacher Sponsor
Chinese Club	Jun Gee	
French Club	Karen Males-Benson	
German Club	Pauline Spring	
Latin Club	Inactive	
Spanish Club	Inactive	
Helping Hands Jamie	Jamie Pillar	Julia Lang
Gardening Club	Michele Hurst	Becky Schratz
Keystone Club	Gwen Cohen	Lori Palmer
Growing Together Club	Erin Cover , Calvin Chmuray	Shannon Zewe
Fitness Club	Mark Gartner/ Megan Brower	Doreen Gray
	Hartley Kennedy/Corey Vasbinder	Jessica Barry / Liz Maxa
Newspaper Club	Dejana Smajic	Kelsey Kowalczyk
Book Club	Sheree Lucas	Kim Jewison
English Festival (Talbot Readers)	Gwen Cohen	Diane Fierle
Creative Writing	Kelsey Kowalczyk	Mary Davis
Green Team (Recycling)	Pauline Spring	
Drama Club	Greg Shumaker	Melissa Survinski
Stock Market	Gwen Cohen	Lisa Ferrero
Digital Games with Friends	Gwen Cohen	Hartley Kennedy
Talbot Chamber Orchestra	Amy Stepson	
HMS Symphonic Band	Shannon Shaffer	Sean Desguin
HMS Jazz	Shannon Shaffer	Sean Desguin
Explorer Club	Michele Hurst	
HMS Colorguard	Christine Nowak	Shannon Shaffer
Battle of the Books	Valentine/Lucas/Cohen/Fierle	Kim Jewison
Cooking Club	Erin Cover, Calvin Chmura	Becky Schratz, Elizabeth Morris, Shannon Zewe
Art Club	Lisa Woods	
6th Grade Cross Country	Mark Weaver	Mary Davis
Show Choir	Heather Heere	
Yearbook	David Hartman	
Student Council	Lori Palmer	
Class of 2025	Jay D'Ambrosio	Stacie Sespico
Class of 2026	Lori Palmer	Jamie Pillar
Class of 2027	Mary Bukovac	Dave Sheets
Student Store	Amy Holtz	Will Stiglitz
<i>This is the account for the Special Education Program- Espresso-O It is not a Club.</i>		

2020-2021 ACTIVITY CLUB SPONSORS HAMPTON HIGH SCHOOL

ACTIVITY	TEACHER SPONSOR
Class of 2021	Heather Dietz
Class of 2022	Karen Taylor
Class of 2023	Devon Byrne
Class of 2024	Devon Byrne
After School Writers Club	Terry Hales
Armed Forces Club	Inactive
Art Club	Savina Cupps
Best Buddies	Sarah Rassau/Margaret Melber
Chess Club (Games Club)	Kathy Dickensheets
Chinese Lang./Culture Club	Jun Gee
Drama Club	Daniel Franklin
English Festival	Margaret Melber/Hannah Dunlap
Environmental Science	Christine Ruffner/Heather Dietz
Fitness Club	Inactive due to COVID
Forensics Club	Alison McBee
French Club	Jessica Heranic
Future Business Leaders	Anthony Howard
Gay – Straight Alliance	Alison McBee
German Club	Karen Taylor
Hamptonian	Savina Cupps
History Club	Steven Harris
Home Town High-Q	Chris Anastas/Hannah Krasnow
Jazz Band (formerly Jam Band)	Chad Himmler
Keystone Club	Scott Stickney/Melissa Survinski
Latin Club	Scott Stickney
Lend our Hands	Jodi Sloboda
Multicultural Club	Claire Aloe
National Honor Society	Terri Koprivnikar
Ping Pong Club	Janice Wolff
Political Science/Model UN	Alison McBee
Robotics	Inactive
Rotary Interact Club	Janice Wolff
School Store	Lynn Stewing
Spanish Club	Inactive due to COVID
Student Council	Kevin Green
Student Store	Lynn Stewing/Sarah Rassau
Talbot Players	Daniel Franklin

TSA	Inactive
Unified Bocce Club	Addeline Devlin
Video Club	Inactive
Winter Color Guard	Christina Nowak
Yearbook	Devon Byrne

ADDENDUM:

10. It is recommended and I move that the Board approves a change in status for Ms. Savanna Wilson, moving from an Elementary Building Substitute (Floater) to a Long-Term Substitute Special Education Teacher at Wyland Elementary School effective October 7, 2020 through approximately the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year. Salary is \$33,500, pro-rated. (Ms. Wilson is a substitute for Mrs. Christy Edinger.)
11. It is recommended and I move that the Board approves Ms. Lynn Martucci as an Elementary Building Substitute (Floater) based at Central Elementary School effective October 19, 2020 through approximately the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year. Salary is \$22,000, pro-rated. (Ms. Martucci is replacing Ms. Savanna Wilson.)
12. It is recommended and I move that the Board approves a change in status for Mr. Daniel Hartle, moving from the HVAC Second Assistant to the HVAC Head effective October 12, 2020.
13. It is recommended and I move that the Board approves Mrs. Renee Longo as a Class III Paraeducator at Wyland Elementary School effective October 22, 2020. Salary is \$17.06 per hour for the 60-day probationary period and \$17.31 per hour thereafter. (This is a new position due to changes in enrollment.)
14. It is recommended and I move that the Board approves Mrs. Jeanine Burkes as a Class III Paraeducator at Hampton High School effective October 19, 2020. Salary is \$17.06 per hour for the 60-day probationary period and \$17.31 per hour thereafter. (Mrs. Burkes is replacing Mr. Carlos Smith.)

Student Affairs

There were no action items this evening.

Policy and Legislative Affairs

There were no action items this evening.

Transportation

There were no action items this evening.

Technology

There were no action items this evening.

A.W. Beattie

2:24:16

Mr. Stein reported that Beattie has a new machine that provides 3D images of the human body and is being used by surgery, nursing, and other health students.

HAEE

2:26

Mrs. Midgley reported that the HAEE 5K, which went virtual this year, was a huge success. Approximately 550 people participated, including 108 teachers and staff members. More than \$30,000 was raised.

Mr. Wesley said HAEE's commitment to the District was really inspiring.

Dr. Loughead said he cannot wait to show off new HAEE-funded projects, including the new Middle School Learning Pavilion coming this spring. He said the kind of opportunities provided by HAEE are what make Hampton a cutting-edge District.

PUBLIC COMMENT

2:28:09

Community Member

2:30:45

Stated that cases of COVID have increased recently and asked at what number the District would have to reverse the Phased Reopening Plans. She also noted that Hampton Online Academy students finally received the long-awaited workbooks, but they are in black and white, when some work requires students to identify colors.

Response: Dr. Loughead said the Allegheny County Health Department would make recommendations on in-person instruction on a school-by-school basis that depends on many factors, so there is not a specific formula at this time.

Dr. Loughead said the HOA workbooks are under review, as the District was also disappointed with some that were received.

Community Member

2:32:46

A parent thanked the Board for allowing the community to participate via Zoom.

Community Member

2:32:40

Asked if the slides related to the first phase of the high school project would be posted online.

Response: Dr. Loughead said the full recording of the presentation will be posted online. Afterwards, there was some discussion about not posting certain images online for safety reasons. (N.B.: Those slides deemed a safety risk were edited from the video that has been posted.)

Community Member

2:33:58

A Hampton High School senior had several comments about the high school project:

He noted that some outdoor spaces would be eliminated, as would some outward facing classroom windows. He hoped that the high school roof replacement could include renovations that would add additional fly space for theatrical productions. He also encouraged the District to talk to industry professionals about the location of the orchestra pit. He suggested that the upcoming District website improvements include a searchable database for Board Reports, agendas, and minutes. Regarding the wearing of face masks, he said he has not seen a teacher who was not wearing a face covering, but he has seen students who do not wear them. He said students should have an anonymous means of reporting such incidents.

Response: Dr. Loughead thanked the student for his thoughtful and thorough remarks.

He said the auditorium upgrade is in the next phase of construction, and the items the student highlighted will be under consideration.

He said students have largely been in compliance with the face covering requirement, but any non-compliance is too much. He liked the student's suggestion for some means of anonymous reporting.

The student participated via Zoom, and Dr. Loughead said he really hoped to meet him in person one day.

Adjournment

Mr. Wesley adjourned the meeting. There was no executive session.