

# The Board Report

*July 20, 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**

*Some attendees of this Hampton Township Board of School Directors meeting participated in person, with necessary COVID-19 precautions taken, while others participated remotely via video conference.*

## ***Members of Administration in Attendance***

**Dr. Michael Loughead**  
**Dr. Rebecca Cunningham**  
**Dr. Jackie Removcik**  
**Dr. Jay Thornton**  
**Mr. Jeff Kline**  
**Dr. Ed McKaveney**

**Superintendent of Schools**  
**Assistant Superintendent of Schools**  
**Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment**  
**School Psychologist/Director of Student Services**  
**Director of Administrative Services**  
**Director of Technology**

## ***Guest Presenters***

**Cassandra Renninger, RA, LEED GA**  
**Dr. Jennifer Beagan**

**Principal, VEBH Architects**  
**Program Director, Waterfront Learning AIU 3**

**Monday, July 20, 2020**

## **Special Voting Meeting of the Hampton Township School Board**

Mr. Wesley announced that an executive session was held prior to the start of the public meeting.

### **Facilities Agenda**

#### **Replacement of Through-Wall Flashing and Air Handling Units at Hampton Middle School**

The masonry project will repair damaged wall above the roof line that has resulted in water leaks, mostly around the gym, Ms. Renninger said.

The HVAC project involves replacing two units that have exceeded their useful life span.

The Board awarded both projects to the low bidder:

##### Through-Wall Flashing

The Board voted 9-0 to award the contract to Graciano Corporation for their base bid amount of \$89,614 with the Alternate G1 Bid of Adding Masonry Restoration in the amount of \$6,072 for a total cost to the District of \$95,686, pending final review and approval by the District Solicitor.

##### Air Handling Units

The Board voted 9-0 to hire Hranec Corporation to replace the units for their base bid amount of \$263,000 with the Alternate H3 Bid of Add Bipolar Ionization Units in the amount of \$6,900, for a total cost to the District of \$269,900 pending final review and approval by the District Solicitor.

#### **Geotechnical Engineering Services Related to High School Renovation**

As part of her presentation and in response to Board Member questions, Ms. Renninger explained this project would evaluate the soils and substrate underground at the high school property. The report will provide information about slope stability, which is needed before the property can be graded, and the ground's ability to support planned construction.

The Board voted 9-0 to hire Construction Engineering Consultants, Inc. to provide geotechnical engineering services for the amount of \$24,462 as per their proposal, pending final review and approval by the District Solicitor.

#### **The Board tabled the awarding of two other bids related to the Hampton High School project to await additional information:**

- The creation of a wetland and stream delineation report
- A video inspection of a storm retention tank

The voting meeting was adjourned.

## Special Board Work Session:

### Proposal to Reopen Hampton Township Schools

Special note: Due to the extreme importance of the topic, the understandably high degree of interest in the Hampton Township School District's progress toward a reopening plan, and the tremendous amount of information presented by the Administration to Board Members, the District and the Board are providing a video recording of that portion of the Board Meeting to the public.

Here is a link to the Educational Program Presentation video, which includes PowerPoint presentations of a parent survey and the District's planning to date, and the discussion that followed: <https://youtu.be/ZAXP5T9SdOI>

The following summaries and time stamps can be used to navigate to specific portions of the video:

#### **Parent Reopening Survey Results**

1:57 to 11:54

Dr. Removcik provided a review of the results of the District's Parent Reopening Survey, which provides insight into parents' desires, concerns and plans regarding reopening. The survey results were considered in the development of the District reopening plan. A new survey that will provide more detail and a more current gauge of parents' thoughts and plans is forthcoming and will be used to inform the final version of the reopening plan. Dr. Removcik and Mr. Kline addressed Board questions about ridership.

#### **Presentation of the Hampton Township Schools Reopening Plan to the Board**

12:17 to 2:38:30

#### Introduction and Description of Planning Process by Dr. Loughead

12:17 to 21:41

Dr. Loughead thanked the community for sharing resources and ideas with the School Board, noting that while the decisions are challenging, it is clear that everyone is in this together. He outlined the work of the reopening team and the sources of information that have informed the plan. He cautioned that the District's thinking and plan continue to evolve, and a more structured and detailed plan will be presented to the Board on August 3.

#### Hampton Online Academy

21:41 to 1:05:45

Enrollment in the District's online education option, The Hampton Online Academy, is an option for District families. Students remain Hampton students, may participate in District activities, and receive a District diploma. Hampton Online Academy instruction is provided by Waterfront Learning AIU 3. Dr. Loughead invited Dr. Jennifer Beagan, Waterfront Learning AIU 3 program director, to provide an overview of the online program. She and Dr. Loughead then answered Board Member's questions.

#### In-Person Return Options: Learn at School, Learn at School & Learn at Home Hybrid Plan

1:05:48 to 2:08:44

Dr. Loughead provided details of the current plan to reopen schools for in-person instruction, which includes two options: Learn at School and a Learn at School & Learn at Home Hybrid Plan. Only if the Pennsylvania Secretary of Education orders schools closed will instruction be fully online and remote, he said.

Under a Learn at School program, all students would report to their schools every day for instruction. Under a Learn at School & Learn at Home Hybrid Plan, groups of students would alternate between in-person instruction at school and remote learning at home.

Whenever students are at school, virus mitigation protocols, including daily health screenings, the use of masks or face shields, desk shields, social distancing, enhanced sanitization and cleaning procedures, and more, will be in place.

Dr. Loughead stressed that changes should be expected as the District must nimbly respond to the fluid nature of local COVID-19 circumstances and best-practice recommendations from local, state, and national officials.

Next steps include seeking more community feedback and further evaluation of circumstances and recommendations. A detailed and updated reopening plan will be presented to the Board at its August 3 work session for consideration.

### Board Questions on the Reopening Plan

2:08:45 to 2:38:30

Dr. Loughead took questions from Board Members.

### **Questions and Comments from the Public**

Mr. Wesley invited the public to comment and ask questions. The public comment portion of the meeting can be watched here: <https://youtu.be/dW0xk8zgG8>

The following is a list of participants, the subject matter raised, and the time at which they began speaking.

Note that many speakers praised their children's teachers for the efforts they made during the sudden school closure last spring.

#### **Community Member**

:30

- Encouraged a continued partnership with A.W. Beattie.
- Expressed concern that some anti-COVID measures, such as making HVAC changes to improve air flow and requiring face coverings, could make learning more difficult for children who are hearing impaired or deaf.

#### **Community Member**

2:44

- Asked if a shorter school day is possible.
- Requested that teachers receive sufficient time to plan.
- Suggested assigning two substitute teachers to each building.

#### **Community Member**

7:24

- Asked about the vendors listed for the courses offered by Hampton Academy.
- Asked if all classes at Hampton schools will be livestreamed, and if livestreaming will allow for interaction between teachers and students.
- Asked if special education students will have the same Learn at School & Learn at Home Hybrid plan or if there will be an alternative plan.

**Community Member**

17:58

- Asked if the District prefers the Learn at School plan or the Hybrid Plan.
- Asked the District to consider the impact on single parents/working parents who must pay for aftercare programs.

**Community Member**

24:05

- Asked about the protocol for positive cases.

**Community Member**

28:03

- Asked if the children of parents who must travel will be required to quarantine.
- Asked if students under quarantine when schools are physically open for in-person instruction would need to be enrolled in Hampton Online Academy.

**Community Member**

35:31

- Expressed appreciation for the thought that went into in-person learning, but wanted more detail on 50/50 or remote learning plans.
- Expressed concern that parents might give a child with a fever a fever-reducer and then send them to school.
- Asked how the District will insure face shields and desk shields are properly sanitized.

**Community Member**

39:51

- Noted that some classes are larger than others, and asked if there are any efforts to reduce class size.
- Expressed appreciation for the Learn at School & Learn at Home hybrid.

**Community Member**

43:39

- Asked if students can learn from home full-time if the District opens with the Learn at School & Learn at Home hybrid option.

**Community Member**

48:37

- Asked what happens with students who have conditions that mean wearing masks or face shields is not possible.

**Community Member**

52:25

- Asked the District to consider the challenges to dual-working households and single households when considering a hybrid model.
- Noted that a livestreaming model for students learning at home is difficult for working parents, and asked the District to consider an option where lessons are available at any time that works for the family.

**Community Member**

54:52

- Expressed concern that teachers will cover less content under a hybrid model.
- Expressed concern that Hampton Online Academy is missing some cyberlearning best practices.
- Expressed concern that in some circumstances, students would wear face shields without masks.



**Community Member**

59:30

- Asked that District teachers be surveyed to see if any would be willing to offer remote learning.

**Community Member**

1:02:10

- Sought clarification on what parents' educational options for their children.
- Noted it will be tough to keep students from touching their faces beneath masks or face shields.
- Asked if parents would be notified if a student in their child's class is exempt from wearing a face covering.
- Asked who would give teachers health screenings.
- Asked if kindergarten and first grade students would receive devices.
- Requested a remote learning option with Hampton teachers.

**Community Member**

1:09:45

- Agreed with reservations on Hampton Online Academy, especially for younger students.
- Asked for a remote learning option with Hampton teachers.
- Asked that students, particularly elementary students, be given some freedom of movement.
- Asked for school counselors at every building, especially this year.
- Asked if building subs will be going from classroom to classroom.
- Asked about homeschooling deadline, and whether parents would have time to consider homeschooling after the District adopts its reopening plan.

**Community Member**

1:17:49

- Expressed concern that students could wear just a face shield, without also wearing a mask.
- Expressed support for the Learn at School & Learn at Home hybrid option.

**Community Member**

1:22:43

- Said in his family's experience, remote learning was not interactive, and hoped the Learn at School & Learn at Home model offered more opportunities for interaction.
- Expressed concern about staff self-screening and asked how results would be documented.
- Asked about installing negative air in nurses' stations.
- Stated the District will need options to convert to different educational models depending on the COVID situation.
- Noted that this is a lot for the public to digest and understand considering the school year is not far away.

**Community Member**

1:28:49

- Noted that for his family, remote learning was not interactive, and asked the District to look for ways to make it more engaging.
- Asked about cleaning kindergarten classrooms under the hybrid model.

**Community Member**

1:35:21

- Asked for sensitivity to parents who do not have flexible work schedules, noting that sudden changes to student schedules make finding childcare difficult.
- Asked if the upcoming parent survey would gauge preference for the Learn at Home & Learn at School Hybrid vs. In-School Instruction.

- Noted it is more reasonable to expect high school students to manage their own education than elementary students.

**Community Member**

1:37:55

- Requested that health department guidance be made available along with the parent survey.
- Requested an online learning option with Hampton teachers providing instruction.

**Community Member**

1:41:22

- Said Hampton Online Academy is a challenge for elementary students due to limited interaction with teachers and none with other students.
- Requested that whatever reopening option the District offers, parents also have a choice of online instruction provided by Hampton teachers.