

The Board Report

Monday, September 14, 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.

Some participants attended in person, while others participated via video conference.

Members of Administration in Attendance

Dr. Michael Loughead
Dr. Rebecca Cunningham
Mr. Jeff Kline
Dr. Ed McKaveney
Dr. Amy Kern
Mr. Joshua Cable
Kate Diersen, GRB

Superintendent of Schools
Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Director of Administrative Services
Director of Technology
Principal of Central Elementary School
Assistant Principal of Hampton High School
District Solicitor

Monday, September 14, 2020

Voting Meeting

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

Opening

0:00 to 1:37

Mr. Wesley called the meeting to order and announced that public comment would be heard at the end of the meeting. The Board approved the minutes from the August 10th and August 31st meetings.

Treasurer's Report and Payment of Bills

1:37 to 3:08

Mr. Shages introduced the following action items which the Board unanimously approved:

August 2020 Disbursements

- General Fund 10 disbursements totaling \$4,675,497.13
- High School Construction Fund 35 disbursements totaling \$142,981.00
- Capital Fund 39 disbursements totaling \$7,219.62
- Cafeteria Fund 50 disbursements totaling \$47,736.76

The July 2020 Treasurer's Report

The July 2020 Student Activities Fund Report

President's Report

3:11 to 3:35

Mr. Wesley had no formal report, but thanked the staff at A.W. Beattie for all they did to accommodate the meeting. He also thanked Dr. McKaveney for resolving the audio issues that the Board had experienced last week.

Superintendent's Report

3:45 to 14:56

Dr. Loughead said as always, he would address topics related to academics, the arts, and athletics:

Academics

Dr. Loughead thanked students, faculty and families for their tremendous efforts to follow the District's COVID-19 safety program.

He acknowledged the challenges of always wearing a mask and following social distancing guidelines while learning at school. He praised the patience of the increased number of parents who are now picking up and dropping off students at school.

He also acknowledged the effort of both students and their families when students learn at home – including those students who learn at home daily through the Hampton Online Academy.

The Arts

Dr. Loughead noted the marching band has continued to practice to stay ready to perform, and said that while logistical details are still to come, he expects they soon will perform at football games and other events.

Athletics

Dr. Loughead reported that District athletes will be able to play and fans will be able to attend outdoor games under the District guidelines which were previously emailed to all families.

It is more challenging to accommodate fans at indoor events, but many of the events will be live streamed, Dr. Loughead said, including that night's volleyball game.

He reviewed the key guidelines for outdoor games, such as football:

- No more than 250 people total, in groups of no more than 100.
- Fans must purchase tickets online through the District's Athletic Department.
- Some districts are not allowing spectators from the visiting school to attend, but he expects this situation will continue to evolve.

Several Board Members asked how the recent court finding that Governor Tom Wolf's 250-person limit is unconstitutional could impact the District's procedures. After input from District Solicitor Representative Ms. Doherty, the Board decided to keep the current procedures, since they adhere to Allegheny County Health Department guidelines, and both the Health Department and the District can set the procedures.

Educational Programs Agenda

15:00 to 17:03

Ms. Hamlin introduced the following four items, which were discussed at length during the September 8th Board Work Session. Board Notes from that meeting are available [here](#). All were unanimously approved, with the exception of item 4, which passed 8-0 with Mr. Stein abstaining.

1. The Hampton Township School District Emergency Instructional Time Agreement

Every District with a non-traditional start to this school year, such as the District's Learn at School/ Learn at Home Hybrid, is required to submit an Emergency Instructional Time Agreement plan to

the Pennsylvania Department of Education in order to receive credit for meeting the required 180 days of instructional time.

2. Hampton High School 2020-2021 Program of Studies Amendment

The Board reduced the community service graduation requirement for this year's seniors from 40 hours to 20 hours and waived the job shadowing requirement, due to the impact of COVID-19 on students' ability to meet the former benchmarks.

3. Allegheny Intermediate Unit Agreements for Title I Non-Public Services

The agreements allow the AIU to provide remedial math and reading instruction to non-public school students who live in the District.

4. Hampton Middle School Learning Pavilion Design-Build Services Agreement

The Agreement allows the Pittsburgh Children's Museum to provide design-build services to create a Learning Pavilion at Hampton Middle School.

Hampton Online Academy Update

17:05 to 36:56

Dr. Loughead said that about 270 students are enrolled in the Hampton Online Academy, the District's asynchronous and 100% remote learning alternative to the Learn at School/Learn at Home Hybrid Plan.

He noted that the District employed its own elementary teachers to review the HOA educational offerings and provide social and emotional support to elementary students through optional synchronous video conferences.

He noted that there have been some challenges with the HOA secondary program, and the District has worked hard to address them. Parents have expressed concern about a lack of communication between teachers and students, and Dr. Loughead said that at least in large part, that appears to be tied to a technical problem with email delivery. Teachers were emailing students, but students never received the emails. He stated that this is being addressed.

Another parental concern has been a lack of support for sixth graders making the transition between elementary and middle school. The District has some ideas to address this situation which Dr. Loughead said he would detail later in the meeting.

He introduced Dr. Kern and Dr. Cable to provide more details about the HOA program.

Dr. Kern said that currently, 164 elementary students are enrolled in HOA.

The eight teachers who are working with them received special training to become online program teachers, and they are doing an excellent job.

Part of the teachers' work focuses on building relationships with students and fostering a relationship between students, she said. There is an optional daily morning meeting at all grade levels that builds those relationships with activities ranging from educational puppet shows to discussing the weather and acknowledging birthdays.

The eight teachers help insure that differentiated education is provided, in part by holding regular private meetings with individual students and their families.

Dr. Kern said families also indicated that they have had problems submitting student's completed work. Some have submitted individual assignments while others have collected them in notebooks for submission. The District ordered workbooks to alleviate the problem.

The District has worked to ensure that the curriculum at Poff, Central, and Wyland elementary schools and the HOA elementary curriculum are in alignment to make it easier for students to transition to in-person instruction during the year.

Steps are being taken to ensure that HOA students are aware that they remain part of the Hampton Township School District family, Dr. Kern said. For example, they have the option of getting school pictures taken and being in the yearbook.

Mr. Cable said there are 123 students from grades six through 12 enrolled in HOA.

He noted they have access to more than 100 courses, including AP classes and electives. Forensic Science and Game Design have been popular among high school students and middle school students who are taking coding courses, art and design, and world language options.

Mr. Cable praised students and parents for their hard work, and said he is especially proud of attendance – there are virtually no absences.

He thanked families for their patience as everyone works together to figure out the right work load for secondary students.

He expressed thanks to the building principals, support staff and technology staff, and expressed his appreciation that Assistant Middle School Principal Dr. Michael Silbaugh is now working with him.

Mr. Cable acknowledged that students and families continue to have issues with the HOA program. He said part of the issue is that current enrollment is four times that of the highest enrollment in previous years. He said the District, the IU, and Waterfront – the education provider behind HOA – are all working together to resolve the remaining issues.

The Wednesday check-in meetings have allowed him to hear what is going right and what is going wrong.

Dr. Loughhead expressed thanks to Dr. Kern and Mr. Cable and then announced a plan to reassign a District middle school teacher to HOA. The teacher on special assignment would have the following responsibilities:

- Help review the HOA middle school curriculum for grade-level appropriateness and alignment with the District middle school curriculum.
- Provide social and emotional support and advisory services through weekly check-ins with students.
- Assist with asynchronous learning and technology issues.
- Assist Mr. Cable in his role as the HOA parent's liaison.
- This teacher would not provide direct instruction to students.

The Board fully supported the hire. Dr. Loughhead said that the reassignment of a district middle school teacher and Dr. Silbaugh's additional role are in direct response to parent concerns. He is confident these changes will make a significant difference.

Board Member Questions about HOA Update

36:58 to 56:03

Dr. Loughhead, Dr. Kern, and Mr. Cable answered multiple Board Member questions about the HOA curriculum, support of HOA students and parents, technical issues, and steps taken to ensure that students now enrolled in HOA could seamlessly return to the District's brick-and-mortar schools. Dr. Loughhead promised to keep the Board updated.

Personnel Agenda

56:11 to 1:13:10

Mrs. Midgley introduced the personnel items and made a series of motions. The Board voted unanimously for all items below.

In response to Board Member questions, Dr. Cunningham said that the District hopes to have two nurses working in each building at all times, and scheduling would be underway since the Board approved the hiring of the additional nursing staff.

Mr. Wesley praised Mrs. Midgley and Dr. Cunningham for bringing the extensive list of personnel matters to the Board and the many hours of vetting candidates it took to do so.

RESIGNATIONS:

1. Accept the resignation of Mrs. Desirae Endres effective August 11, 2020. (Mrs. Endres had been hired as a Long-Term Substitute Reading Teacher at Hampton Middle School for Mrs. Janeen Bentz.)
2. Accept the resignation of Ms. Rachel Davis effective August 11, 2020. (Ms. Davis had been hired as a Building Substitute at Central Elementary School.)

3. Accept the resignation of Mrs. Meghan Marcello effective August 17, 2020. (Mrs. Marcello had been hired as an Elementary Building Substitute (Floater) based at Central Elementary School.)
4. Accept the resignation of Ms. Mary Schluiep effective August 23, 2020. (Ms. Schluiep was a Building Substitute at Hampton Middle School.)
5. Accept the resignation of Mr. Mitchell Nordstrom effective August 26, 2020. (Mr. Nordstrom was a Building Substitute at Hampton Middle School.)
6. Accept the resignation of Mr. Carlos Smith effective August 18, 2020. (Mr. Smith was a Class III Paraeducator at Hampton High School.)
7. Accept the resignation of Ms. Amy Mencini effective September 8, 2020. (Ms. Mencini was Long-Term Substitute Grade 4 Teacher at Poff Elementary School for Mrs. Kendra Lapiana's former position.)

TEACHERS:

8. Approve Mrs. Kelly Emmett's request for an unpaid leave of absence for the first semester of the 2020-2021 School Year. (Mrs. Emmett is a High School English Teacher.)
9. Approve the following teachers to serve as Teachers on Special Assignment (TOSA):
 - Erin Prosser
 - Ray Raible
 - Zachary Rice
10. Approve Mrs. Hannah Krasnow as a TPE Social Studies Teacher at Hampton High School effective August 20, 2020. Salary is Master's Step-1, \$50,538. (Mrs. Krasnow is replacing Mrs. Sarah Jabbar.)
11. Approve Ms. Katey Yurchick as a .3 Long-Term Substitute ESL Teacher for Central Elementary School, effective August 20, 2020. Salary for this position is \$33,500, pro-rated. (This is in addition to Ms. Yurchick's .70 TPE Special Education Teacher position at Central Elementary School: Salary is \$53,178.40.)
12. Approve Ms. Lynsey Norman as a Long-Term Substitute Hampton Online Academy (HOA) teacher for the first semester of the 2020-2021 School Year. Salary is \$33,500, pro-rated. (This is a class-size reduction position within HOA.)
13. Approve a change in status for Ms. Hannah Dunlap, moving from an English Language Arts Academic Support Teacher to a Long-Term Substitute English Teacher at Hampton High School for the first semester of the 2020-2021 School Year. Salary is \$33,500, pro-rated. (Ms. Dunlap is a substitute for Mrs. Kelly Emmett.)
14. Approve a change in status for Mr. Charles (Max) Weiss, moving from a Building Substitute at Wyland Elementary School to a Long-Term Substitute Grade 2 Teacher at Central Elementary

School for the first semester of the 2020-2021 School Year, effective August 19, 2020. Salary is \$33,500, pro-rated. (Mr. Weiss is a substitute for Mr. Zachary Rice who is a TOSA.)

15. Approve Mrs. Donna Wanner as a .66 Long-Term Substitute Math Academic Support Teacher and a .33 Long-Term Substitute Math Teacher at Hampton High School for the 2020-2021 School Year effective August 20, 2020. Salary is \$30,834. (Mrs. Wanner is replacing Ms. Kristin Baker.)
16. Approve a change in status for Ms. Erin Lankes moving from a Building Substitute to a Long-Term Substitute English Language Arts Academic Support Teacher at Hampton High School for the first semester of the 2020-2021 School Year. Salary is \$29,500, pro-rated. (Ms. Lankes is a substitute for Ms. Hannah Dunlap.)
17. Approve Mrs. Deborah Hogan as a Long-Term Substitute Grade 5 Teacher at Wyland Elementary School for the first semester of the 2020-2021 School Year, effective August 20, 2020. Salary is \$33,500, pro-rated. (Mrs. Hogan is replacing Mrs. Lauren Marshall who is a TOSA.)
18. Approve Ms. Sydney Funtal as a Long-Term Substitute Grade 4 Teacher at Wyland Elementary School for the first semester of the 2020-2021 School Year, effective August 20, 2020. Salary is \$33,500, pro-rated. (Ms. Funtal is a substitute for Mr. Raymond Raible who is a TOSA.)
19. Approve Ms. Caitlin Wismer as a Long-Term Substitute Art Teacher at Wyland Elementary and Hampton Middle School for the first semester of the 2020-2021 School Year effective August 20, 2020. Salary is \$33,500, pro-rated. (Ms. Wismer is a substitute for Mrs. Elizabeth Howe who is a TOSA.)
20. Approve Mrs. Taryn Haluszczak as a Long-Term Substitute Library Media Specialist at Poff Elementary School for the first semester of the 2020-2021 School Year effective August 20, 2020. Salary is \$33,500, pro-rated. (Mrs. Haluszczak is a substitute for Mrs. Erin Prosser who is a TOSA.)
21. Approve Mrs. Emily Milbert as a Long-Term Substitute Elementary Enrichment Teacher at Central Elementary School for the first semester of the 2020-2021 School Year effective August 20, 2020. Salary is \$33,500, pro-rated. (Mrs. Milbert is a substitute for Ms. Mary Fitzpatrick who is a TOSA.)
22. Approve Ms. Ashleigh Gorman as a Long-Term Substitute Math Teacher at Hampton High School effective August 20, 2020; and then accept her resignation effective August 31, 2020. Salary is \$33,500, pro-rated. (Ms. Gorman was a substitute for Mrs. Mary Rakers.)
23. Approve Ms. Shannon Zewe as a Long-Term Substitute Reading Teacher at Hampton Middle School for the 2020-2021 School Year. Salary is \$33,500. (Ms. Zewe is a substitute for Mrs. Janeen Bentz.)
24. Approve Ms. Mary Isaac as a Building Substitute at Wyland Elementary School for the 2020-2021 School Year effective August 20, 2020. Salary is \$22,000. (Ms. Isaac is replacing Mr. Charles (Max) Weiss.)

25. Approve Ms. Anne Hagen as a Building Substitute at Poff Elementary for the 2020-2021 School Year effective August 20, 2020. Salary is \$22,000. (Ms. Hagen is replacing Ms. Brittany Wanamaker.)
26. Approve Mr. Zachary Staszak as a Building Substitute at Hampton High School for the 2020-2021 School Year effective August 24, 2020. Salary is \$22,000, pro-rated. (This is an annual position.)
27. Approve Ms. Juliana Gidaro as a Building Substitute at Central Elementary School for the 2020-2021 School Year effective August 20, 2020. Salary is \$22,000. (Ms. Gidaro is replacing Ms. Rachel Davis.)
28. Approve Mr. Zachary Selekman as a Building Substitute at Hampton High School for the first semester of the 2020-2021 School Year effective August 25, 2020; and then accept his resignation effective September 18, 2020. Salary is \$22,000, pro-rated. (Mr. Selekman is a Classroom Monitor/Building Substitute to support remote learning.)
29. Approve Ms. Rachel Floyd as a Building Substitute at Hampton High School for the 2020-2021 School Year effective August 27, 2020. Salary is \$22,000, pro-rated. (This is an annual position.)
30. Approve Ms. Kathleen McGuire as a Building Substitute at Hampton Middle School for the 2020-2021 School Year effective August 31, 2020; and then accept her resignation effective September 12, 2020. Salary is \$22,000, pro-rated. (Ms. McGuire was replacing Ms. Mary Schlupe.)
31. Approve Mrs. Jodi Sloboda as a Building Substitute at Hampton High School for the first semester of the 2020-2021 School Year effective August 31, 2020. Salary is \$22,000, pro-rated. (Mrs. Sloboda is replacing Ms. Erin Lankes.)
32. Approve Mr. Calvin Chumra as a Building Substitute at Hampton Middle School for the 2020-2021 School Year effective September 2, 2020. Salary is \$22,000, pro-rated. (Mr. Chmura is replacing Ms. Kathleen McGuire.)
33. It is recommended and I move that the Board approves the following list of mentors for the 2020-2021 School Year:

Marilyn Adams	Mary Fitzpatrick	Amy Leya
Amy Baxter	Elizabeth Howe	Kylee McCracken
Joe Bursick	Barb Landry	Stephanie Moser
Devon Byrne	Kendra Lapiana	Amy Rein
Allison Dockter	Jen Lavella	Cathy Spencer

PARAPROFESSIONALS/PARAEDUCATORS/ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS:

34. Approve Ms. Marissa Kealey as a Class III Paraeducator at Hampton High School effective August 20, 2020. Salary is \$17.06 per hour for the 60-day probationary period and \$17.31 per hour thereafter. (Ms. Kealey is replacing Ms. Michelle Kleckner.)

35. Approve Ms. Breanna Pietropaolo as a Class III Paraeducator at Hampton Middle School effective August 28, 2020. Salary is \$17.06 per hour for the 60-day probationary period and \$17.31 per hour thereafter. (Ms. Pietropaolo is replacing Ms. Jessica Sinicrope.)

36. Approve Ms. Allison Wagner as a Class III Paraeducator at Hampton High School effective September 14, 2020. Salary is \$17.06 per hour for the 60-day probationary period and \$17.31 per hour thereafter. (Ms. Wagner is replacing Mr. Carlos Smith.)

CUSTODIAL:

37. Approve a change in status for Mr. Wayne Lavery moving from a 12 month/8 hour Night Lead Custodian at Central Elementary School to the 12 month/8 hour Head Custodian at Central Elementary School effective August 17, 2020. Hourly rate is \$26.67 per hour.

38. Approve a change in status for Ms. Renee Watterson, moving from a 10 month/8 hour Custodian at the High School to a 12 month/8 hour Custodian at Poff Elementary School effective September 1, 2020. Ms. Watterson will also be the Night Lead Custodian for Poff Elementary School for the 2020-2021 School Year at an hourly rate of \$25.59 per hour. (Ms. Watterson is replacing Mr. Joseph Petrovich.)

OTHER:

39. Approve the following as part-time Long-Term Substitute Health Office Nurses for the District effective August 26, 2020 at a salary of \$21.80 per hour to support the District's Health and Safety Reopening Plan as needed:

- Luanne Borkowski
- Margaret DeMeo
- Jessica Githens
- Dana Herald
- Elizabeth Scholz
- Audrey Sieg
- Nicole Zeise

SUPPLEMENTALS:

40. The Administration recommends 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
Paul Nail	Bus Monitor	Central	12	12	\$ 1,668
Paul Nail	Safety Patrol Sponsor	Central	5	5	\$ 695
Paul Nail	AV-Computer Coordinator	Central	22	18/22	\$ 3,058
Mary Isaac	Bus Monitor	Wyland	12	12	\$ 1,668
Ray Raible	Safety Patrol Sponsor	Wyland	5	5	\$ 695
Ray Raible	AV-Computer Coordinator	Wyland	22	18/22	\$ 3,058
Steve Swierczynski	Volunteer Golf Coach	HS			

ADDENDUM:

41. Approve Ms. Leah Jans as a Long-Term Substitute Grade 4 Teacher at Poff Elementary School for the 2020-2021 School Year effective September 8, 2020. Salary is \$33,500, pro-rated. (Ms. Jans is replacing Ms. Amy Mencini who had been a substitute for Mrs. Kendra Lapiana's former position.)
42. Approve Mrs. Qurat-ul-Ain (Annie) Durrani as a Long-Term Substitute Math Teacher at Hampton High School for the first semester of the 2020-2021 School Year, effective September 8, 2020. Salary is \$33,500, pro-rated. (Mrs. Durrani is replacing Ms. Ashleigh Gorman who was a substitute for Mrs. Mary Rakers.)
43. Approve Ms. Savanna Wilson as an Elementary Building Substitute (Floater) for the 2020-2021 School Year effective September 8, 2020. Salary is \$22,000, pro-rated. (Ms. Wilson is replacing Ms. Megan Marcello.)
44. Approve Mrs. Renee Longo as a substitute Class III Paraeducator effective September 9, 2020. Salary is \$13.00 per hour and after 20 days \$13.50 per hour.

ADDENDUM:

45. It is recommended and I move that the Board approves Ms. Lauren Casselberry as a Long-Term Substitute Special Education Instruction in the Home Teacher from August 27, 2020 through the first semester of the 2020-2021 School Year. Salary is \$33,500, pro-rated. (This is a new position.)

Facilities Agenda

1:13:17 to 1:13:42

Middle School Air Handling Unit Change Order

Ms. Balason introduced and the Board unanimously approved a \$3,696.10 Change Order from Hranec Corp. to upgrade air handling units 6 and 7. Details of the Board's earlier discussion can be found in the September 8th Board Notes, [here](#).

Student Affairs Agenda

1:13:51 to 1:18:18

2020-21 Assessment Schedule

Mrs. Webb introduced and the Board unanimously approved the 2020-2021 Assessment Schedule. Details can be found in the September 8th Board Notes, [here](#).

In response to Board Member questions, Dr. Loughead reported that unfortunately, the District has not received a Pennsylvania Department of Education waiver for the Keystone Exam graduation requirement – something many school districts are seeking.

Dr. Loughead said the lack of waiver did not persuade him and other administrators to require students who missed the Keystone Exam last year to take it in October, when they will be taking the PSAT. He said it was too much to ask of students under these circumstances.

The District hopes that a waiver may yet be granted, but in the meantime the District is planning to offer the Keystone Exams in January.

Policy & Legislative Affairs Agenda

1:18:24 to 1:19:21

PSBA 2020 Officer Election

Mr. Shages moved and the Board unanimously voted to approve the election of the following candidates for the 2020 Pennsylvania School Board Association:

President-Elect:	David Hein
Vice President:	Daniel O'Keefe
Treasurer:	Michael Gossert
Western At Large:	Marsha Pleta
Section 2 Advisor:	Aimee Kemick
Section 4 Advisor:	Brian Petula
Section 6 Advisor:	Andrea Christoff
Trustee:	Michael Faccinnetto & Marianne Neel
School Board Secretaries Forum Steering Committee:	Stephen Skrocki & Tracy Long

Transportation Agenda

1:19:25 to 1:19:48

Mr. Jarrell said Mr. Kline's Opening of 2020-2021 School Year Transportation Review provided to the Board at its September 8th meeting remains current.

At the earlier meeting, Mr. Kline noted that the transportation start up went very well. The hybrid schedule and the voluntary opt-outs have allowed nearly every student to have his/her own seat. He had expressed thanks to the parents and students for their patience and gracious opt-outs (approximately 850). He had thanked the three transportation providers (WL Roenigk, Monark and ABC Transit) and the bus drivers for their diligence in planning and executing the opening of school. He had praised the Hampton Township Police as they have been very accommodating in directing traffic at the schools in the mornings and afternoons.

Technology Agenda

1:19:50 to 1:20:40

Mr. Stein had no report, but praised Dr. McKaveney and his team for tremendous work supporting parents and students and working out technology issues related to the HOA. Dr. Loughhead added that the team has been working very long days, and on nights and weekends, and the District is lucky to have them.

A.W. Beattie

1:20:41 to 1:21:27

Mr. Vasko said the start of the year has gone very well and enrollment is up slightly.

HAEE

1:21:28 to 1:25:17

Mrs. Midgley reported that the annual Hampton Alliance for Educational Excellence 5K race is on for October 3, but this year, it will be less about competition and more about fun. Everyone will run the race individually.

She encouraged everyone to register at www.hamptonalliance.org and noted that this is HAEE's main fundraiser every year. Funds raised go toward District grants that help to support educational innovation.

Public Comment

1:25:20 to end of video

The time at which speakers began is noted with each summary so that those interested can quickly locate the comments in full, along with District and Board response in the video.

Mr. Wesley opened the public comment period.

Community Member

1:25:50

The community member praised the improved audio quality.

A parent, he expressed four concerns with the Hampton Online Academy, all of which he believes have reasonable solutions:

- Lack of live, daily instruction. He questioned why HOA students cannot have live, daily instruction akin to the instruction Hampton students participating in the hybrid option receive on Learn at Home days.
- Inadequate staffing.
- A mismatch between HOA curriculum, provided by Waterfront, and the District's curriculum for its brick and mortar schools.
- Content that is not grade-level appropriate.

The community member also is disappointed that HOA students cannot participate in the District's band and chorus programs.

He said the education provided through HOA was not equitable or comparable to the education other Hampton students receive, and that the Board should seek HOA parents' feedback on the program,

perhaps through a survey, and should also consider finding a company other than Waterfront to provide its virtual learning option in the future.

Community Member

1:32:52

The community member stated that she is encouraged about the addition of a Hampton Middle School teacher to work with HOA middle school students and provide social and emotional instruction.

As a parent, she said she remains concerned about HOA academics. She told the Board that an option to communicate with teachers via the Ingenuity platform was eliminated, and now email is the sole source of communication between teachers and students. Since the email problem continues, her sixth grade student cannot communicate directly with his teachers at all – he needs one of his parents to reach out, and then wait for follow up.

The parent said she knows that Hampton’s tech team is hard at work to resolve this issue. She implored them not to let up until the problem with Waterfront’s communication is solved.

She also said that the video content provided is 10 to 15 years out of date, and that no one is monitoring the content, or reaching out to students who are struggling.

She echoed the previous speaker’s desire for a survey of HOA parents.

She praised the District’s elementary teachers who are on special assignment to work with HOA elementary students for doing a fantastic job, and asked that the District stay in touch with them and support them because she does not want the District to lose them.

Community Member

1:40:36

This speaker also appreciated the improved audio.

He asked if the plan is still to move toward in-person instruction at the end of October, or if it is more open ended.

He asked if athletic events would only be open to current parents, as he would like to attend soccer games.

Community Member

1:45:45

A parent of two elementary students in HOA said that the District elementary teachers are working as hard as they can and are doing a great job with the HOA elementary students in the mornings, keeping everyone connected. But the platform-based program lacks individualization and instead seems to work for no one, she said.

She is concerned her children are not being challenged enough and wishes they could be assigned to an advanced track.

Community Member

1:48:26

A parent of a fifth grader in the HOA program called it a missed opportunity that online-only students cannot watch what their Hampton teachers are doing in their school classrooms.

He is very concerned that students in HOA will fall behind their peers who are participating in the Learn at School & Learn at Home Hybrid.

He is disappointed that HOA students do not have a synchronous learning option.

Community Member

1:57:04

An HOA parent praised the work Mr. Cable has been doing, and said she was happy to hear he would be getting some help.

She told the Board she wanted them to know exactly what is happening with HOA, and stated the following:

- The systems used are out-of-date and hard to navigate. Her second grader cannot do the program without her assistance.
- A lot of the material is dated.
- Her older student had a lesson on balanced equations. She does not know how to teach that, and the system does not tell her how, so how is she supposed to help?
- She considers her family lucky, because there is only one teacher for whom they do not have contact information. She knows other parents whose children have no contacts.
- She questioned whether it is Waterfront or the District that is controlling the pacing. Waterfront teachers have told her it is the District.

The parent said that HOA parents are not feeling like they are part of the District. She said it was not clear to parents that Hampton teachers assigned to the HOA program would not be providing direct instruction.

She suggested that the District choose another provider for HOA in the future.

Community Member

2:01:51

This HOA parent asked that the District give parents as much notice as possible when there is a plan to fully reopen District schools, so that parents have more time to weigh their options than they did in August.

The meeting was adjourned. There was no executive session.