

The Board Report

Tuesday, September 8, 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
Dr. Jackie Removcik
Mr. Jeff Kline
Dr. Ed McKaveney
Dr. Marguerite Imbarlina
Mr. Richard Farino

Superintendent of Schools
Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment
Director of Administrative Services
Director of Technology
High School Principal
Buildings & Grounds Supervisor

Tuesday, September 8, 2020

Work Session Meeting

Mr. Wesley opened the meeting by informing the audience that public comment would be taken at the end of the meeting.

Student Affairs

Student Reports

Mrs. Webb invited the student representatives to introduce themselves and speak to the Board.

Ms. Emi Suyama, a Hampton High School senior, said the Learn at School/Learn at Home Hybrid Plan that the District used to reopen is going well. She has heard only a few concerns from students, who would like additional clarity about assignments and whether or not they need to Zoom in to class on Learn at Home Wednesdays.

Mr. Gus Wolf, also a Hampton High School student, agreed that there are only a few problems. He reported that some students have wondered if the plexiglass desk shields are really necessary, as they are bulky to carry around the school. He stated that some teachers are not requiring students to use them since the county has a low COVID case count.

Dr. Loughead clarified that at the high school level, student desks are usually six feet apart, and masks are in use. Desk shields are necessary when six feet cannot be maintained, he said, and students have been very cooperative.

Gus stated that he plays soccer and said coaches are starting to allow the team to not wear masks when they are playing. They must still wear masks at other times, such as when they are walking onto or off the field.

Board Members asked Emi if seniors are happy to be back in school, and if they are looking forward to this year, despite the impact of COVID-19. They also asked Gus how students are doing so far this year.

Emi said students are trying to make the best of things, and are honestly happy to be in school even if they are in school only two days a week. She thanked the Administration and Board for creating the hybrid plan. She also mentioned that Homecoming preparations are on the horizon and sports are still happening; both of those activities are helping a lot, she said.

Gus said spirits are as high as they can be considering the circumstances, and that it has been great to see friends' faces. He said the District has done a great job of making everyone feel safe in school. He noted that students are working on school activities that follow COVID-safety guidelines, and that will help as well.

Hampton Township School District Assessment Schedule

Dr. Removcik presented the Board with the proposed schedule of standardized assessments for the 2020-2021 school year. She said the schedule is very similar to previous years' schedules with one notable exception: this year, Kindergarten and first grade students will take the AIMSwebPlus test because the results measure fundamental math and reading skills, and students' levels will help guide teachers' instructional decisions in those areas. This data is especially important, Dr. Removcik said, because students were not in the classroom with their teachers last spring. The Board is expected to vote on the schedule at its September 14 meeting.

Keystone Exams

Board members asked if students who missed the Keystone exams last spring would have to take them this year. Dr. Removcik and Dr. Loughead said that they, and representatives from many other school districts, are seeking clarity and a waiver from the state.

Dr. Removcik said that under state law, Keystone exams are a graduation requirement. Dr. Loughead said that with the unusual circumstances that students are under this year, he would prefer they not also have to deal with the pressure to take Keystones, and that he would prefer that the state accept an alternative means of meeting this graduation requirement. One complication, he added, is that federal funding is tied to the state assessment plan.

Educational Programs Agenda

Ms. Hamlin introduced four Educational Programs items that the Board is expected to vote on at its September 14 meeting:

Emergency Instructional Time Agreement

Dr. Loughead and Dr. Removcik said that 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.

Dr. Removcik described the District's plan as almost an addendum to its Health and Safety Plan. The Agreement contains the school year calendar and details of how the hybrid schedule works, along with a narrative describing how the District will ensure students have access to the learning experience on Learn at Home days.

Hampton High School 2020-2021 Program of Studies Amendment

Dr. Imbarlina said seniors must log 40 community service hours under current graduation guidelines. COVID-safety requirements have made it very difficult for them to perform community service this fall,

just as it did last spring. As a result, Dr. Imbarlina is requesting that the Board limit the requirement to 20 hours, which this year's seniors logged during their freshman and sophomore years.

For similar reasons, Dr. Imbarlina asked the Board to waive the job shadowing graduation requirement.

Allegheny Intermediate Unit Agreements for Title I Non-Public Services

Dr. Cunningham presented an agreement under which the AIU would provide remedial math and reading instruction to non-public school students who live in the District.

Hampton Middle School Learning Pavilion Design-Build Services Agreement

Dr. Cunningham presented the agreement under which the Pittsburgh Children's Museum would provide design-build services to create a Learning Pavilion at Hampton Middle School.

Under the leadership of Middle School Principal Dr. Marlynn Lux, a team of teachers designed a vision for a Learning Pavilion, which would replace the terrarium in the front lobby. The Learning Pavilion would include interactive world maps, story-boarding, a chain reaction building board, ARCADE augmented reality system, and a social-emotional learning area.

The \$36,000 project would be paid for entirely by grants, Dr. Cunningham said, including the following generous support:

- \$20,000 grant from the Hampton Alliance for Educational Excellence (HAEE)
- \$8,000 grant from the Hampton Middle School PTO
- \$3,000 grant from the Hampton Middle School Student Council
- \$5,000 PA Smart Grant

Board Members were enthusiastic about the project. Mr. Vasko asked for confirmation that the project's electricity and lighting requirements are covered within the budget.

Third Day Enrollment Count

Dr. Loughead presented the Board with the District's Third Day Enrollment Count. Total District enrollment was 2,712 students as of the third day of the school year, he said. Dr. Loughead noted that any District students who attend Hampton Online Academy (HOA) are included in District enrollment figures. Those who attend a cyber charter school, or any charter school, are not.

Hampton Township School District 2020-2021 School Year Third Day Enrollment Information

Overall District Enrollment				
TOTAL	CENTRAL	POFF	WYLAND	TOTAL
Kindergarten	65	33	45	143
Grade 1	65	48	56	169
Grade 2	82	61	55	198
Grade 3	69	52	63	184
Grade 4	83	61	64	208
Grade 5	80	54	72	206
<i>Elem Total:</i>	444	309	355	1108

Overall District Enrollment			
Hampton Middle School		High School	
Grade 6	206	Grade 9	256
Grade 7	239	Grade 10	209
Grade 8	189	Grade 11	253
		Grade 12	252
<i>Total</i>	634	<i>Total</i>	970

Total District Enrollment: 2712

Personnel Agenda

Ms. Midgley presented the Personnel Agenda for Board Review. The Board is expected to vote on this agenda at its September 14 meeting.

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 Schlupe effective August 23, 2020. (Ms. Schlupe 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. 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	Elizabeth Howe	Kylee McCracken
Amy Baxter	Wendi Hunter	Stephanie Moser
Devon Byrne	Barb Landry	Lori Palmer
Gwen Cohen	Kendra Lapiana	Amy Rein
Allison Dockter	Jen Lavella	Cathy Spencer
Mary Fitzpatrick	Amy Leya	

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.

Finance Agenda

Mr. Vasko and Mr. Kline noted that there is no revenue update this month as the delayed due date of the 2% discount period for real estate tax would not provide a relevant comparison. There will be a local revenue update for September 30th.

Facilities Agenda

Ms. Balason introduced Mr. Farino.

Approve a change order for middle school air handling upgrade and filtration

Mr. Farino said the \$3,696.10 change order allows a motor and filtration upgrade of new air handling units that will replace numbers 6 and 7. These upgrades would help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other viruses. This project was originally bid prior to the Board's decision to make such HVAC upgrades. The Board is expected to vote on the matter at its September 14 meeting.

Hampton Middle School Project Updates

Mr. Farino updated the Board on two projects:

- The through-wall flashing replacement is 70% complete, and is going well. Some roof damage did occur during the project, and the District expects the contractor to pay to fix that damage.
- Air handling units 6 and 7 are expected to arrive on October 26. They will be installed with a 400-ton crane.

Summer Project/Opening of School

Mr. Farino gave a presentation on many projects that the Buildings & Grounds staff completed over the summer in preparation for the opening of school, including the following:

- High school: Security fencing to create an outdoor corridor.
- Middle School: Painting of hallways with paint provided through a Hampton Middle School PTO grant; terrarium removal; creation of new eating area; wall flashing work.
- Elementary schools: Playground improvements, including new mulch that is treated regularly with an anti-viral spray; courtyard improvements; new carpeting; new LED lighting; installation of protective acrylic shields.

This list is just a sampling of the many projects presented to the Board, and the Board was impressed with the amount of projects completed in addition to the intense cleaning and sanitation required due to COVID-19. The Board and Administration commended Mr. Farino and his team.

Policy and Legislative Affairs Agenda

PSBA Officer Elections

Mr. Shages introduced Ms. Balason, who updated the Board on the Pennsylvania School Boards Association Officer Elections.

Transportation Agenda

Opening of 2020-2021 School Year Transportation Review

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 thanked the parents and students for their patience and gracious opt-outs (approximately 850). He 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 praised the Hampton Township Police as they have been very accommodating in directing traffic at the schools in the mornings and afternoons.

Technology Agenda

There were no technology agenda items, but Dr. McKaveney reported that the District's technology overall is currently working well under the demands of the Learn at School/Learn at Home Hybrid. He also recognized that the increased demand has resulted in a higher volume of individual issues that the technology team is working to resolve. The technology staff has also monitored District bandwidth and issues with various internet providers, and has made themselves available to help students and parents when problems arise.

Public Comment

Mr. Wesley opened the public comment portion of the meeting. A video of the comments can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/0NdUHCxnOQw>

The time at which each speaker begins is listed, along with a summary of their comments and the District/Board response.

Community Member

:30

A community member said she has three children enrolled in the Hampton Online Academy, in kindergarten, grade 3, and grade 6. She praised the work of the Hampton elementary teachers who are assisting students in the HOA for the support they give students and the community they are trying to create. She thanked the administration and Board for allowing this to happen. She also praised Hampton High School Assistant Principal Joshua Cable, who is the parent and student liaison with HOA, for his responsiveness and willingness to help, even on nights and weekends. She also commended the District's technology team for providing so much help and, when needed, meeting parents to exchange devices.

The parent said she has some concerns about the HOA program, however, and because students who attend remain District students, she thought it was important to bring them to the Board. Her concerns:

- Pacing and workload. Middle and high school students have not been given time to adjust to learning through HOA or talk about their feelings regarding COVID. Their workload has been very high - her sixth grader is online six to eight hours a day for school.
- Not all teachers have been assigned. Her son has only heard from half of his teachers, so he is facing challenging work without a teacher to go to. The parent said this is as unacceptable as if a physical classroom had no teacher.
- More monitoring of content is needed. Her child was exposed to health curriculum that she found very inappropriate for an 11-year-old.
- Workbooks are still not available.

The parent asked if someone from Hampton Middle School could be assigned to help sixth graders learning through HOA with the always difficult transition from elementary to middle school.

Dr. Loughead apologized for the curriculum mismatch. He said it should not have happened, and he will handle it quickly. He said the District is also frustrated by the slow assignment of teachers, and that the parent had every right to be upset about it. Dr. Loughead also said he would work to find someone to provide extra support for sixth graders.

Community Member

11:24

A member of the community urged the Board to improve the audio quality available or to hold meetings elsewhere.

He asked if it has been determined whether fans can attend sporting events.

Dr. Loughead said the District is working on a plan that would allow fans to attend games equitably under current guidelines, and new guidelines may be forthcoming. It will be a challenge for everyone who wants to attend to come to a game, he said, but stressed equitable access.

Community Member

14:19

A parent of two middle school students and a third grader, who himself is a teacher in another District, said the HOA elementary school program was meeting expectations. He then echoed many of the first speaker's concerns about HOA's middle school program:

- His eighth grade student remains in the wrong physical education class.
- Assignments are not grade-level appropriate, he said. His sixth grader was told to look up academic journals as sources – something that much older students find challenging.
- There is a lack of social/emotional learning, particularly considering that they are dealing with a pandemic.

Dr. Loughead apologized to the parent, and thanked him for making him aware of the eight grade physical education situation. He said he would look into it right away.

Community Member

19:17

A parent of three said she shared the same concerns about HOA as the first two parents. Additionally:

- She pointed out that some families, like hers, have no choice but to choose an online option, as they have a family member who is at high risk for COVID-19 complications.
- Her high school student needs a teacher's help to rectify an erroneous grade on a quiz taken the first day of school, and neither her student nor herself have been able to get the situation resolved.
- She has tried to help her third-grader and second-grader with their assignments, but said it is difficult to provide enough help to two young students at once. Parents need help, she said.

Dr. Loughead said he would look into the test situation she described. He told her that he knows the elementary school teachers are now working through some of the problems the parents raised – such as curriculum that does not match grade-level.

Community Member

22:34

A parent of four students in grades 8, 5, 3 and kindergarten, said her family is also experiencing difficulty with HOA. Her children also cannot attend in person because a family member has a vulnerability to COVID.

She echoed previous comments about the good work of the District's elementary teachers and Mr. Cable and said she wants to stay in the District. But she also echoed the concerns about a lack of social and emotional support and curricular expectations.

She said she feels the Learn at School/Learn at Home Hybrid has been going much better and is better choreographed and monitored, but stated again that's not a choice for her family because of health reasons.

Mr. Wesley thanked her for her comments.

Community Member

29:06

A mom of a kindergarten student in the HOA program added her praise of Mr. Cable and the technology help desk. She said her concerns are with HOA's technology. She said the videos do not load well and there is an expectation that families can scan materials and send them back, but not everyone can do that at home.

Mr. Wesley thanked all who commented and assured them that Dr. Loughead would be working with the appropriate people to get the academic issues worked out. He also said the District would work to improve the audio prior to the August 14 meeting.

Adjournment

There was no executive session, and the meeting was adjourned.