

The Board Report

August 31, 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

Members of Administration in Attendance

Dr. Michael Loughead
Dr. Rebecca Cunningham
Dr. Ed McKaveney
Dr. Marguerite Imbarlina

Superintendent of Schools
Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Director of Technology
Principal of Hampton High School

Monday, August 31, 2020

Hampton Township School District Special Meeting: 2020-2021 Athletic Health and Safety Plan

Special note: Due to the extreme importance of the topic and the understandably high degree of interest in the Hampton Township School District's 2020-2021 Athletic Health and Safety Plan, the District and the Board are providing a video recording of the Special Board meeting, which can be viewed at this link: <https://youtu.be/vMFbEC3fniw>

Mr. Wesley called the meeting to order. He explained the meeting was needed because the PIAA is allowing school districts to have sports programs this year; however, districts must submit a plan to keep everyone involved with the sports program safe.

Opening Public Comment

Mr. Wesley invited community members to comment.

Community Member

2:55 to 6:48

A community member spoke on behalf of the Hampton Dolphins swim team. In this time when much has been taken away from students, sports can offer some normalcy, she said. She pointed to how the Dolphins successfully instituted COVID-19 safety measures at the Township pool over the summer.

She thanked the District for allowing the high school swimming program to resume. Noting that 30 District middle school students participate with the Dolphins, she said they functioned not as an outside organization, but as the de facto middle school swimming program. She asked that the team be allowed to return to practice under the guidelines for District-based teams. She offered to share the Dolphins' safety guidelines for consideration.

Student Affairs Agenda: 2020-2021 Athletic Health and Safety Plan

7:15 to 29:25

Mrs. Webb introduced the Hampton Township School District 2020-2021 Athletic Health and Safety Plan and moved that the Board approve this plan. Following a presentation by Dr. Loughead and Dr. Imbarlina, the Board voted 9-0 to adopt the plan. The full plan can be found on the District's website, [here](#).

Overview of the 2020-2021 Athletic Health and Safety Plan by Dr. Loughead and Dr. Imbarlina

Dr. Loughead said the plan replaces the now-expired summer plan, which allowed training and practices to happen over the summer. The new plan covers the implementation of all athletic safety protocols for all of the 2020-2021 season for all sports.

The two plans have many similarities, but some key changes and additions in the new plan include the following:

- Defined roles for school nurses and the school physician.
- Detailed steps the District would take if a student athlete, coach, or athletic trainer tested positive for COVID-19.
- Guidelines for games, both home and away.

Away games require travel, and COVID-19 safety protocols will make it necessary for the District to transport student athletes in larger buses, and with more buses, so that seating is limited to one student athlete per seat.

Currently, a PIAA rule bans spectators from all school sporting events, home or away.

Dr. Imbarlina, who has worked on the 2020-2021 Athletic Health and Safety Plan plan with Athletic Director Bill Cardone throughout the summer, said county guidelines allow up to 250 participants in outdoor events. This number would allow both band and cheerleaders to participate.

In hopes that the PIAA may lift the ban on spectators at home games, she and Mr. Cardone are working on health and safety guidelines for spectators. Should that happen, student participants, along with coaches and other adults directly involved in the activity, would be accommodated within the 250-person limit first.

For now, Dr. Imbarlina said, it is very important that parents do not attend games and athletic competitions. If parents attend and refuse to leave, the game or competition would have to be canceled so there is no PIAA violation.

Dr. Imbarlina said more clarity is still needed for indoor sports.

Dr. Loughead said the District will livestream as many events as possible so that parents, students, and other fans can watch some games and competitions from a remote location.

Dr. Loughead and Dr. Imbarlina addressed several questions from the Board prior to the vote.

Summary of the New 2020-2021 Health and Safety Plan:

Custodial Actions:

- Athletic facilities will be cleaned before arrival, after workouts, and team gatherings. High touch areas will be cleaned often throughout the day. This includes, but is not limited to, all restrooms at the fieldhouse, training room, weight rooms, stadium restrooms, concession stands, and official's locker rooms.
- Informational signage will be posted in all restrooms, locker rooms, and training rooms on how to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- Ensure weekend (Saturday) and weekday (evenings) custodial coverage during all seasons/ events to clean athletic areas.
- Provide additional hand sanitizer in locker rooms, athletic training rooms, press box, ticket collection areas, and scorers' tables.
- Provide additional cleaning supplies in the athletic training room and also have some available for coaches to take on the field to sanitize equipment before, during, and after workouts.

Athletes' Actions:

- Practice social distancing.
- Mandatory PIAA pre-participation physicals will be required before starting the fall sports season (August 10, football; August 17, all high school sports; August 19, all middle school sports).
- Access to the fieldhouse will only be permitted during the defined PIAA season utilizing the building's stadium field side. No other door access will be granted.
- During off-season workouts, no athletes will be permitted to maintain a locker at the fieldhouse or any athletic area.
- Maintain a clean locker (season only).
- Avoid touching your face as much as possible.
- Wash clothes often (No clothing should remain in lockers nightly during the season).
- Do not share towels, razors, and other personal hygiene items.
- Follow good hygiene practices, such as washing hands frequently and use hand sanitizer when available.
- Bring a personal water bottle (with name on it), as no bottles will be permitted to be shared. It is recommended that all athletes bring multiple water bottles to practices/games.
- Limited occupancy of locker rooms may be necessary during the season.
- Work with coaches to assist in disinfecting sports equipment that is used during workouts.

We ask that our athletes help us ensure that these guidelines are followed to maintain a safe and healthy environment for all. Failure to adhere to the Athletics Department and coaches' guidelines may result in an inability to participate in interscholastic athletics.

Coaches' Actions

- Coaches will screen and monitor athletes for symptoms before and during games and practices, including daily temperature checks and screening questions. The results will be sent to the athletics office daily. This procedure will be a daily routine until such time that the PA DOH, ACHD, CDC, or other health organization determine it is not necessary to conduct such screenings.
- Practice social distancing with athletes and other staff members.
- The coaching staff and other adult personnel will wear face coverings as required by the PA Department of Health in accordance with [the order of the Secretary of the PA Department of Health](#).
- It is recommended that coaches create waves/pods for athletes to attend workouts during the off-season. If a full team workout occurs, it is preferred that the teams work in small groups with proper social distancing measures.
- Coaches will be responsible for monitoring the number of athletes in the locker rooms during the season to maintain social distancing. Limiting access to buildings both before and after practices and games may also be necessary.
- With the use of each piece of shared sports equipment, all items will be disinfected after use in conjunction with the athletes' assistance.
- Assistance with monitoring access to the fieldhouse during the season may be required.
- Wash/sanitize hands regularly.
- Provide proper guidance to athletes on proper handwashing techniques, as outlined at the beginning of the document.

Athletic Trainers' Actions:

Follow the [guidance by the National Athletic Trainers' Association as it pertains to COVID-19](#).

This includes, but is not limited to, the following measures:

- Limit athletes/coaches training room occupancy to promote social distancing.
- Athletic Trainers will wear face coverings as required by the PA Department of Health in accordance with [the order of the Secretary of the PA Department of Health](#).
- Clean and disinfect all hard surfaces that include, but are not limited to, training tables, taping tables, doorknobs, and other equipment utilized during routine sports participation for athletes.
- No unsupervised admittance to the training room.
- Provide proper guidance to athletes on proper handwashing techniques.

Closing Public Comment

Mr. Wesley again opened the meeting for public comment.

Community Member

30:05 to 35:58

A member of the community whose children participated in sports over the summer noted that parents were allowed to attend, but everyone was required to follow COVID-related mask and social distancing requirements, and temperatures were taken to screen for fever prior to admission.

He said that parents would be willing to follow similar guidelines, and that at least for outdoor events, there is plenty of room to maintain social distancing.

The same community member said his children were so far having a positive experience with Hampton Online Academy. He asked if parents were able to allow students to finish work at their own pace, and whether students who might finish early would have access to curriculum from the next higher grade level.

Community Member

36:00 to 38:29

A student who plays Ultimate Frisbee, a District-approved club sport, asked if she would be able to participate in her sport.

Adjournment

Mr. Wesley adjourned the meeting.