

The Tuesday Board Report
March 13, 2017



Disclaimer: The Tuesday Board Report is a synopsis of the Hampton Township School Board meetings and is not intended as a replacement for any official Board minutes.

The Hampton Township Board of School Directors

Bryant Wesley II, Esq.	Board President
Mrs. Mary Alice Hennessey**	Board Vice President/Student Affairs Chair
Mr. Robert Shages	Board Treasurer/Policy & Legislative Affairs Chair
Ms. Denise Balason	Board Secretary/Facilities Chair
Mrs. Pamela Lamagna	Personnel Chair
Mrs. Gail Litwiler	Educational Programs Chair
Mr. Lawrence Vasko	Finance Chair
Mr. Greg Stein**	Technology Chair
Mrs. Cathy Lueers	Transportation Chair

** Denotes members participating via teleconference call/video.

*Denotes members not in attendance.

Members of Administration in Attendance

Dr. Michael Loughead	Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Rebecca Cunningham	Assistant Superintendent of
Schools	
Mr. Jeff Kline	Director of Administrative
Services	
Ms. Shari Berg	Public Relations Consultant
Mr. Ed McKaveney	Technology Director
Mrs. Michelle Ambrose	Secretary/Administrative Services
Ms. Colleen Hannagan	Poff Principal

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Poff Elementary School students from the Poff Small Ensemble, led by Mrs. Arledge, performed several musical pieces at the start of the meeting in celebration of “Music in Our Schools Month.”

Following the musical performance, Mrs. Hannagan explained the recent “Drop Everything and Write” activity initiated by Poff’s Writing Committee, consisting of Mrs. Landry, Mrs. Rein and Mrs. Hannagan, as a way to engage students in writing and to improve literacy. Every other Thursday at 8:45 a.m., Mrs. Hannagan provides a topic and everyone at Poff “drops everything” and writes. Students are asked to write whatever comes to mind on the topic for up to five minutes. The last topic was “School Board.” Two student representatives presented their “School Board” papers to the Board. Board Members also were invited to participate in a three-minute “Drop Everything and Write” activity with the students.

STUDENT AWARDS

Under the direction of Coach Amanda Kerestes, the Board recognized the Hampton Cheerleaders Competitive Squad. The team placed first at the WPIAL Championships in the small division. They went on to compete at the PIAA Championships and walked away with a Third Place win out of over forty teams in the small division. Congratulations to Coach Kerestes and the team!

The high school gymnastics team also received recognition, along with their Coach, Kinsey Basko. The girls had an awesome season, and the overall team finished in Third Place at the WPIAL Championships.

Several students received recognition for their accomplishments at recent local chess tournaments. A third grade student at Wyland Elementary School participated in the 2017 Chess Tournament at the Hampton Community Library, where he walked away with a First Place win in the K-4 Division. A sixth grade student at Hampton Middle School also participated in the 2017 Chess Tournament at the Hampton Community Library. She won First Place in the 5-8 Division. In early January another sixth grade student at Hampton Middle School participated in the 19th Tri-State Junior Open Chess Tournament, sponsored by the Chess Federation, at the Galleria Mall in Mt. Lebanon. He won Second Place in the Advanced Beginner Division and then went on to compete in the 2017 Chess Tournament at the Hampton Community Library, where he captured a Second Place win in the 5-8 division. Congratulations to all.

Also receiving recognition was one of our senior students, Hanna G., who attends the A.W. Beattie Career Center. Hanna has won the top award for the recent 2017 International Builders' Show NAHB Student Chapter Award. Students were selected on the evaluation of their academic standing, their level of involvement with their student chapter, as well as their interest in pursuing a residential building career. One student per chapter is eligible for nomination. Congratulations Hanna on this wonderful accomplishment.

Emily M. placed First in the Medicine/Behavioral Science category at the Pennsylvania Junior Science and Humanities Symposium held at Juniata College. She was selected as one of five Pennsylvania delegates, and was awarded an all-expense paid trip to present her research at the *National Junior Science and Humanities Symposium* in San Diego, California in April. Congratulations, Emily.

The FBI created the *Safe Online Surfing Program* in an effort to promote cyber and digital citizenship for students. Students across the nation participated in the program, which deals with topics such as secure passwords, copyright laws, plagiarism, online predators, cyber bullying, netiquette, E-mail, and online privacy and safety issues. A total of almost 74,000 students from 1,339 schools in 49 states and the Virgin Islands, competed in the program last November. Under the direction of Middle School Business/Computer Teacher, Hartley Kennedy, twenty-four students from Hampton Middle School participated in the competition, had the highest combined team score in the nation, and won First Place. Congratulations to the team!

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Board provides the opportunity for members of the public to address the Board about issues appearing on the agenda, as well as issues affecting the District. In accordance with Policy No. 903, individuals wishing to address the Board will be asked to state their name, address and group affiliation, if applicable.

- Ms. Summer Panza, representing several parents, addressed the Board about her concerns regarding class size at Poff Elementary School. In addition to the number of students in her son's third-grade classroom, Ms. Panza said 18 of the children are boys. She added that she feels the classroom size does not adequately accommodate the physical needs of the number of students in the room and she asked the Board to consider taking steps to decrease the class size for the 2017-2018 school year. Following her comments, Mr. Wesley noted the Board will be discussing this issue at the April Board meeting. Dr. Loughead added that the Administration is concerned as well and are working to formulate a plan that would address the issue that is both sustainable and equitable across all of the elementary schools.

- Mr. Devin Winklosky brought a safety concern to the Board's attention following a lacrosse game with North Allegheny last year in which his son was competing and was injured. He noted that he had to retrieve his vehicle, drive it to the field and take his son to the ER himself. He made a request to the Board that there either be an ambulance, or equivalent medical personnel, available at every varsity home game. PIAA and state regulations do not require an ambulance to be present; however, the parents are asking the Board to consider making one available due to the fact that lacrosse is a full-contact sport, which increases the likelihood of injuries to occur. Mr. Stein stated that in general, he agrees with Mr. Winklosky's assertion that an ambulance should be on site and questioned why the PIAA does not mandate it. Mrs. Lueers asked if an ambulance had been called after the incident occurred, and Mr. Winklosky said he did not know if EMS was contacted and asked to come. Dr. Loughead said that all athletic trainers in the District have the ability to call for an ambulance in these circumstances, and he is not certain why it would not have been done in this situation. He also noted that in other instances when it was necessary to call for EMS to an athletic event, response times have been good. Dr. Loughead stated that administration, the athletic director and the Board will look into this situation further.
- Danielle Bigante also addressed the issue of class size at Poff in the third grade. She said the sheer management of 28 kids in one classroom is difficult and in her opinion it lends itself to many problems for the teacher. She asked the Board to consider hiring additional staff if necessary so the problem does not carry over to the fourth grade.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the February 13, 2017 Board meeting were approved as presented.

TREASURER'S REPORT/PAYMENT OF BILLS

The Board approved the following:

- February 2017 General Fund 10 Disbursements totaling \$3,247,656.08
- February 2017 Capital Reserve Fund 39 Disbursements totaling \$14,141.67
- February 2017 Cafeteria Fund 50 Disbursements totaling \$24,398.17
- The January 2017 Treasurer's Report
- The January 2017 Student Activities Fund Report

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Wesley indicated the Board held an executive session following the last meeting to discuss legal and personnel issues.

BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT

There was no report this evening.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

There was no report this evening.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Loughead encouraged the community to attend the Alliance sessions on March 22 and 23 at the High School and Middle School, respectively, to educate the community about the drug epidemic. Parents are encouraged to attend with their children in grades 6-12. Parents of fifth graders are encouraged to attend the Middle School event, but are advised not to bring their children due to the sensitive nature of the program. The program is being presented in conjunction with the PA Alliance for Safe and Drug Free Children. Resources from the meeting will be available on the District website.

On Friday, approximately 30 of the 42 regional school districts attended a symposium on computer programming at the High School. Computer science teachers from the region learned tips and tools for using computer science in a more innovative and cross-curricular way. Professor David Kosbie from Carnegie Mellon University presented.

Dr. Loughead mentioned that the Inline hockey team won the championship game over the weekend, and the girls' varsity basketball team is headed to the PIAA 2nd Round Playoffs on Thursday.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

For Board Action

There are no action items at this time.

Informational

Mrs. Hennessey provided an update on the marketing plan for the Community Education program for the Board. A number of brochures have been distributed in the community, the *Trib* ran a story regarding the program, and it has been promoted on blogs and social media. Information will be presented to seniors who attend the Senior Citizen Breakfast at HMS at the end of the month. Mrs. Hennessey also clarified that the program is open to people as young as 15, it is not strictly for older adults.

TECHNOLOGY

There were no action items at this time.

EDUCATION

There were no actions items at this time.

Mr. Shages requested the presentation provided by Dr. Removcik last week be narrated and placed on the website as a learning tool for other professionals and the community.

FACILITIES

Action Items

VEBH Architects Proposal

The Board approved a proposal from VEBH Architects, not to exceed the amount of \$23,500 for phase three of the Wyland Roof Replacement Project. The proposal from VEBH for architectural services includes the following items: design, bid preparation, bid tabulation, attendance at construction progress meetings, review of payment applications and closeout documentation.

Informational:

Mr. Kline provided an update on the middle school storage cabinets that were discussed last week. He said he was able to get the company to agree to charge the District only for the actual freight cost of the storage materials, instead of a “flat” shipping rate regardless of weight/size.

Dr. Loughead noted that all of the testing conducted at Poff Elementary following the plumbing issue have come back negative and the areas affected by the issue have been deemed to be uncontaminated.

FINANCE

Action Items

Budget Transfers

The Board approved transfers totaling \$2,117.74 for the following:

- Central General Supplies \$981.42
- Central Technical Services \$641.32
- HMS General Supplies \$495.00

Allegheny Intermediate Unit Program of Services

The Board approved the Allegheny Intermediate Unit’s 2017-2018 Program of Services Budget, with Hampton Township School District’s estimated share of \$48,692.

Real Estate Tax Assessment Appeals

The Board approved the District’s initiated appeals of 2017 real estate tax assessments based on property transactions in 2016 where the difference between the purchase price and the 2017 assessment reflects a lost revenue to the District in the amount of \$1,000 or more at the current 2016-2017 millage rate of 18.39 mills.

Fund Transfer

The Board approved the transfer of \$800,000 from the General Fund to the “Post War” Capital Projects Fund to fund future capital projects.

PERSONNEL

Action Items

1. Accepted the resignation of Mr. Mark Halvonik, Building Substitute at Hampton Middle School, effective February 25, 2017.
2. Accepted the resignation of Dr. Stephen Pellathy, who is resigning after three years with the District effective approximately June 30, 2017. (Dr. Pellathy is an Assistant Principal at Hampton High School.) The Board recognized and expressed thanks to Dr. Pellathy for his dedication and for the significant impact he made in the District during his time here.
3. Approved Ms. Ashley Arlotti, moving from a Paraprofessional Substitute to a Long-Term Substitute Class 1-D Paraprofessional at Wyland Elementary School, effective February 23, 2017 through an approximate date of end of April 2017 beginning of May 2017. Salary is \$13.50 per hour. (Ms. Arlotti is replacing Ms. Julie Koehler at Wyland Elementary School.)
4. Approved a change in status for Mr. Paul Angle, moving from a 10 month/5 hours per day Custodian at Hampton High School, to a 10 month/6 hours per day Custodian at Hampton Middle School, effective January 3, 2017. There is no change in hourly rate.
5. Approved the following Building/Coach Supplemental positions for the 2016- 2017 School Year, at a rate of \$127 per point: Rachel (Geldard) Peabody Girl's Lacrosse – moving from an Assistant Coach to a Volunteer Coach (HS), and Rachel Zang as the Girls' Assistant Lacrosse Coach (HS) - \$2,540.

Addendum:

6. Accepted the resignation of Ms. Susan Sestric, who is resigning from the District effective March 13, 2017. (Ms. Sestric was a Custodian at Hampton High School.)

POLICY

For Approval

Policy Review

The Board approved and adopted the second reading of Policy No. 005 – Organization with no further changes indicated.

The Board also approved the first reading of the following Policies: No. 113.4 – Confidentiality of Special Education Student Information and No. 806 – Child/Student Abuse. Dr. Cunningham

provided an overview of some of the proposed changes discussed in the wording of Policy No. 806, including a potential change in the title of the policy for clarity. District Solicitor, Patrick Clair, explained that some of the specific ages and guidelines for considering whether something is abuse are embedded into state statutes. Mr. Clair has been asked to clarify whether volunteers in the District who receive clearances are considered mandatory reporters and report his findings back to the Board in April.

Informational

Mr. Shages reminded the Board of the Legislative Forum on Thursday evening at the Allegheny Intermediate Unit, moderated by KDKA anchor John Delano. To date, 132 people have registered and State Rep. Hal English and Sen. Vulakovich have confirmed they will be in attendance at the session.

The AIU Annual Meeting this year is being held on March 29. Mr. Shages said the format for this year's event is slightly different. The event starts at 4:30 p.m. and cost is \$10 per person for Districts that choose to send representatives.

TRANSPORTATION

Action Items

There were no items for consideration this evening.

A.W. BEATTIE CAREER CENTER

Mr. Vasko said a resolution was passed at the last meeting to keep Kiddie Tech - the daycare program at the career center - open. Monthly reporting of the program's expenses and revenue will be charted to ensure the program is able to maintain itself without additional financial assistance from the career center.

Beattie will have 38 National Technical Honor Society students inducted this year, with six of the students from Hampton.

The operating budget will increase by 6.71 percent due to the operational costs for two new programs being offered at the career center. Cost for the programs is based on average enrollment.

HAEE REPORT

Mrs. Balason said there has been an emphasis on grants that focus on innovation. This year is the HAEE's 25th anniversary. Through the years they have provided \$1 million in grant money to the Hampton Township School District. In honor of its 25th year of operation, the HAEE has launched the \$25 for 25. Information on the program can be found [here](#).

Ms. Balason reminded those in attendance to consider using Smile.Amazon.com and designate the HAEE as the nonprofit of their choice. The [Amazon Smile](#) program designates a portion of sales to the charity of the user's choice. Mr. Wesley asked if we could promote the Amazon Smile option to make the community aware of the possibility of using it to support HAEE.

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m. Mr. Wesley announced an executive session for legal and personnel matters would be held. The next regularly-scheduled meeting is April 3 in the Dr. Harold Sarver Memorial Library, HMS.