

The Tuesday Board Report

May 1, 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

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.

- There was no public comment this evening.

**Mr. Wesley added that a second opportunity for the public to ask questions would be provided at the end of the meeting.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Action Items for Consideration

HHS Forensics Team Field Trip

The Board is being asked to approve a Hampton High School Forensics Team trip to compete at the National Catholic Forensic League Tournament. The tournament is being held from May 25-29, 2017 in Louisville, KY.

Mrs. Hennessey said the Mass that is listed on the tournament itinerary is optional for students. Additional funding for the trip to offset the cost is being requested from the board from the Academic Competition fund.

Small Games of Chance

The Board is being asked to consider approving the following clubs/organizations for recognition as civic and service associations within the definitions contained in the Local Option Small Games of Chance Act, Act 195 of 1990:

- Hampton Touchdown Club (Football Boosters)
- Hampton Ultimate Club
- Hampton Boys' Lacrosse Booster Group

Varsity Lacrosse EMS Request

In March, the parent of a varsity lacrosse player asked the board to consider having EMS services at all varsity lacrosse games. Dr. Loughead provided an update to this request and noted that the District's certified trainer (via AGH) provides all medical attention at all lacrosse and non-lacrosse varsity games. The trainer is the professional who determines if emergency services/transportation are needed for any injuries that may occur. Currently, the District pays for EMS services to be on site only during varsity football games. Dr. Loughead said when EMS services have been called to other sporting events where they were not already present, response time has been excellent. He also examined between 12-15 lacrosse programs in the region, and with the exception of Mars School District and Franklin Regional, none of them kept EMS on site during games. Dr. Loughead said EMS on site for football games has more to do with the size of the event and the number of fans who attend versus the risk of injuries to players.

His recommendation is to continue with the current District plan for EMS services at sporting events.

Mr. Stein said that he supports this recommendation. Mrs. Hennessey said she also supports the recommendation and requested that the athletic director and principal communicate with the lacrosse boosters.

New Business

Student Representative Report

Four senior members of Student Council attended the meeting, wearing the shirts to the colleges/trade schools/military they will attend following graduation.

They announced the Distinguished Graduate for 2017 as Lt. Col. Daniel Polanosky, a 1985 Hampton High School graduate.

Prom 2017 was held Friday at the Omni William Penn and After Prom was held at the High School, hosted by the PFA. Students reported that they had a good time and the change in venue this year was popular among the students.

The Legacy Gift from the Class of 2017 is two refillable water bottle stations scheduled for the academic hallway and the cafeteria and will cost approximately \$8,000.

AP testing is this week and next week.

Mrs. Hennessey expressed gratitude to the students for the hard work they put into this year's THON and inquired about the recent FBLA trip. Seventy-seven FBLA students went on the recent trip to Boston, which was reported as a great experience for those who attended. The students participated in a variety of activities including job shadowing opportunities.

Board members expressed good luck wishes to the seniors in their future endeavors and for serving as the student representatives for the 2016-2017 School Year.

FACILITIES

***There are no action items.**

Old Business

Wyland Roof Update

Mr. Farino stated that not a lot has changed since his last update. VBEH did not get the drawings out on April 17, but they are expected to be out this Wednesday. May 18th is the pre-bid date and bid opening is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on May 25th, with June 1st as the backup date. Bid results will be reviewed with the board on Monday, June 5th.

Once a contract is awarded, it will take roughly eleven weeks to complete the work.

Mr. Farino said there was a small leak reported today in the roof on the section that is slated for replacement. The maintenance staff was able to patch the roof.

Humidity levels in the fifth-grade hallway are holding at 50 percent since the in-classroom humidifiers were installed last fall.

HHS Captured Vestibule Update

Plans are expected in mid-May for the Board to review. Mr. Farino reported that there may be some savings from the original estimate, as he believes the District's maintenance staff can perform the electrical and HVAC adjustments that are required to complete this project.

New Business

Hampton Middle School and Fridley Field Mulching/Spring Cleanup

Two weeks ago, Mr. Farino, Mrs. Lux, Mr. Cardone and Dr. Loughead performed a walk-through and determined any areas that may need attention. There has been some settling of the ground near the new sidewalks. The work will be awarded to contractors to complete, with an estimated completion date of May 17th.

The District will be refreshing the grounds around the Middle School and Fridley Field for Remake Learning Days and graduation.

Additional Issues

Mrs. Litwiler asked for an update on the parking lot across from the high school, specifically if the land was district property and whether Mr. Farino felt that people would begin to park on the grass in that area. Half of the area appears to belong to the township and the other half appears to belong to the District. Mr. Farino said he and Dr. Loughead will be meeting with township manager Mr. Chris Lochner in a few weeks to discuss the issue. Thus far, no one has ventured out of the gravel area and tried to park on the grass, but he said that he would like some assurance that no one will park on the grass, which would negatively impact the grass seeding that has been planted there.

Mr. Vasko commented on the development of potholes around the back of the high school and in the drive leading in from McCully to the back of the school, and Mr. Farino said that the areas will be cold patched.

EDUCATION

Action Items for Consideration

2017-2018 HTSD Assessment Schedule

Dr. Cunningham presented an overview of the proposed assessment testing schedule for the 2017-2018 School Year. There are two changes for next year. The first change is the schedule eliminates the ERB testing which was previously conducted in the District. Administration noted that ERB testing is no longer necessary since the PSSA testing was revised and now provides sufficient data in areas needed. The second change is to include STAR 360 testing at the secondary levels for teachers to use as benchmark data to determine student progress on mastering standards, especially for Algebra I and English/Language Arts. The STAR 360 is an online test which can be completed in about twenty minutes. Dr. Cunningham noted that this assessment provides an excellent resource for teachers in assessing student learning and progress, especially towards the state and Keystone exams.

Arts Education Collaborative (AEC) Proposal of Services

The Board is being asked to consider an agreement with the Arts Education Collaborative of Pittsburgh (AEC) for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, in an amount not to exceed \$8,384.60. The cost is included in the 2017-2018 proposed operating budget.

Dr. Loughead said the proposal includes a facilitation of a self-assessment of the K-12 arts programs in the District to evaluate our alignment with the standards. He noted that we have a

strong arts program in the District, and the evaluation is intended to ensure the program stays strong. A three to five year plan will be crafted following the evaluation.

The proposal includes professional development opportunities for teachers, and Dr. Loughead reported the staff was excited to begin working with the AEC, which is highly regarded in our region.

Memorandum of Understanding - The Caring Foundation

Dr. Cunningham said this nonprofit organization helps children, adolescents, and their families work through losing a loved one and the grieving process. If a family is experiencing grief, they can access the Caring Place, but this proposed agreement allows the Caring Place staff to come to Hampton to provide professional development for our school counselors to support students and families here. In particular, the agreement allows the Caring Place staff to work with our school counselors to facilitate group counseling sessions. The service is free, and parental permission or agreement is required before any students can become a part of the groups.

New Business

Affiliations with Local Universities

The Board is being asked to consider affiliations with the following universities for student teaching and field experiences: Duquesne University, Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP), Slippery Rock University and Carlow University. Dr. Cunningham said the District receives requests periodically from local universities seeking student teaching and field service opportunities. The District has the opportunity to review student teaching/field candidates and monitors all facets of placement.

FINANCE

Beattie Update

Beattie inducted 27 students into its National Technical Honor society during a special program earlier this evening, with six of those students being from Hampton. Mr. Vasko noted that Beattie's valedictorian this year is a Hampton student, who is enrolled in the Carpentry and Building Construction program. Discussion was held about how to appropriately recognize our career center students with honors at our own graduation ceremony at Hampton.

On May 26th Beattie is holding its annual barbecue, and Board members are invited to attend. Mr. Vasko provided informational flyers to the Board about the event.

Action Items for Consideration

Consumable Supply Bids

Mr. Vasko noted that the total bid awards reflect a decrease of \$3,049 from the 2016-17 bids. Mr. Kline noted that the reduction is a result of lower quantities and competitive bid numbers from the vendors.

2017-2018 School Year A.W. Beattie Career Center Budget

Hampton's share of the 2017-2018 A.W. Beattie Career Center operating budget is as follows:

- Capital Budget - \$2,491
- Operating Budget - \$518,973
- Debt Service - \$119,496

Mr. Kline noted that Hampton's share of the the A.W. Beattie budget will increase by \$18,752 or 3.01%. Hampton's share is approximately \$11,000 less than was included in the Preliminary Budget #2, and the reduction will be reflected in the June Final Budget.

2017-2018 Senior Citizen Property Tax Rebate Resolution

Mr. Kline presented his proposal for the 2017-2018 Senior Citizen Property Tax Rebate program, which has been offered to eligible taxpayers in the District since 2012. He noted that the parameters as presented are the same as the 2016-17 rebate program The rebate amount history is as follows:

- 16-17 - \$9,069 (35 recipients)
- 15-16 - \$9,676 (39 recipients); increased rebate amounts by \$75 to \$100.
- 14-15 – \$8,532 (37 recipients)
- 13-14 – \$11,205 (49 recipients)
- 12-13 - \$11,675 (48 recipients)

Mr. Kline noted that there has been a decrease in the number of qualified applicants since the program began in 2012-13. He predicted that this will likely continue as interest rates rise. Larry Vasko noted that the state program parameters provide for a maximum of \$35,000 in income whereas the Hampton program's limits are currently \$20,000.

After discussion it was decided to modify the fourth income bracket from \$18,001-\$20,000 to \$18,001-\$24,000.

Once the application for the 2017-2018 School Year is available, it will be posted [here](#) on the District website.

2017-2018 Proposed Final Budget

At a special meeting April 24th, Mr. Kline presented, in detail, Budget Proposal #2 to the Board. At the May 8 voting session, the Board will be asked to consider the budget for approval. Version #2 includes revenues of \$49,940,953 and expenditures of \$50,742,953. A total of \$702,000 will be used from the PSERS Stabilization Fund and another \$100,000 will be pulled from the unreserved fund balance to help offset the shortage. Mr. Kline also is proposing to increase the millage rate from 18.39 mills to 18.87 mills, which represents an increase of 0.48 mills (2.61 percent). A complete breakdown of the proposed final budget is available [here](#). A final budget must be approved by June 30th.

Standby Bond Purchasing Agreement/Remarketing Agreement

Mr. Vasko and Mr. Kline noted that this resolution is for the District's 2007 variable rate bonds. A condition of the variable rate bonds requires the District to have a standby bond purchase agreement (SBPA) in place for bondholders in case of a district default. The bonds are priced weekly. The SBPA has been with 3 different banks since 2007 (Wells Fargo, PNC and BNY). The District secured SBPA quotes from banks and recommends awarding to PNC @ 60 bps. It also is prudent to move the remarketing from BNY to PNC (same 10 bps amount). The District will continue to investigate the feasibility of "buying out" of the variable rate bonds.

Old Business

Local Tax Revenue Update

Mr. Kline noted that the total local tax revenues continue to remain "solid." Earned income tax revenues are still lagging behind the budgeted amount. This is a common issue among many surrounding school districts and municipalities. Research from Keystone Collections indicates that there were many "one and two" year "windfalls" in the natural gas drilling industry from 2013 to 2015. These amounts are stagnating as the drilling has slowed.

2006B Bond Refunding Summary

Mr. Vasko and Mr. Kline noted that the 2006B Bond refunding was priced last Tuesday (April 25th). The savings greatly exceeded the minimum threshold set by the District of \$350,000. The District will receive an upfront savings of \$555,036 – which will be designated for future capital projects.

New Business

Estimated June 30, 2017 Fund Balance

Mr. Kline presented an updated detailed projection of the District's June 30, 2017 fund balance. He noted that the current projections show an ending unreserved fund balance of \$4,156,000.

Standard and Poors Rating

Mr. Kline and Mr. Vasko reviewed the updated S&P rating dated April 17, 2017. The District was required to have a new rating in conjunction with the 2006B bond refunding completed last week. The District's rating remains at AA-.

PERSONNEL

Resignations:

1. Accept the resignation of Ms. Jennifer Leyes, who is resigning after two years with the District, effective June 9, 2017. (Ms. Leyes is the Class II- Attendance Secretary at Hampton High School.)

Teachers:

2. Approve Mrs. Catherine Duffy, as an Elementary Building Substitute (Floater) from April 26, 2017 through the remainder of the 2016-2017 School Year. Salary is \$20,000, pro-rated. (Mrs. Duffy is replacing Ms. Rachel Zang).

3. Approve Ms. Maria Frantz, to continue as a Long-Term Substitute Special Education Teacher at Wyland Elementary School, from April 8, 2017 through the remainder of the 2016-2017 School Year. Salary remains \$29,500, pro-rated. (Ms. Frantz is a substitute for Mrs. Christy Edinger).

POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

New Business

New Policies for Discussion

- **915 - School Community/Parent Booster Associations**
- **113.2 - Behavior Support**
- **113.3 - Screenings and Evaluations for Students**

- **200 - Enrollment of Students**

Mr. Shages said he and Dr. Cunningham have been discussing Policy 915 over the last one to two months. A forthcoming part of the revised policy proposal will be to require organizations that are recognized by the District as official booster organizations to provide their members with an annual financial report to ensure transparency. A copy of the report must also be filed with the District to ensure that this process is followed. Mr. Shages said the purpose of the policy is not to have the District dictate how the booster groups are spending their money, but rather to provide information on financial accounting procedures, tax laws, and pertinent regulations similar to the Games of Chance information that is on the board agenda tonight.

Policy 200 includes some slight changes on the timeline for enrollment and guidelines for the enrollment of homeless students.

The PSBA recommendation for Policy 113.2 is very different from the current policy we have on file, so the upcoming proposed policy will be an overhaul of the current policy in place and will address behavioral support plans, interventions, restraints, and referrals to law enforcement.

Policy 113.3 includes some slight language changes to update information on special education evaluations and independent educational evaluations.

Informational

House Bill 227 passed, dealing with charter school reform. Mr. Shages said there was not much reform included in the legislation given the amount of information and exchanges that have occurred between the schools and legislators over the last two years.

TRANSPORTATION

***No agenda items at this time.**

TECHNOLOGY

***No agenda items at this time.**

IMPORTANT DATES

Superintendent's Coffees on Digital Transformation (1:1) Initiative

Dr. Loughead encouraged parents to attend one of the following Superintendent Coffees to discuss the proposed Digital Transformation:

May 17 - Remake Learning Days, 7:30 p.m. HMS Auditorium

May 22 - Central Elementary, 7 p.m.

May 23 - HMS, 6:30 p.m. (combined for HMS and HHS)

May 30 - Wyland, 7 p.m.

May 31 - Poff, 7 p.m.

FOLLOW-UP PUBLIC COMMENT

The Board provided the public with the opportunity to ask additional questions on items discussed during the meeting.

- Paul Hanna - noted that he received some information from the Allegheny County Assessment Officer pertaining to the new UPMC building that currently is under construction in the township. He said it was reported to him that the building will be assessed prior to an occupancy permit being issued. He asked the Board to consider revising the revenue side of the budget based on this finding.

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m. Mr. Wesley announced that there would be an executive session to discuss legal and personnel issues. The next regularly-scheduled meeting is at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, May 8 in the Dr. Harold Sarver Memorial Library, HMS.