

The Tuesday Board Report

May 8, 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
Dr. Laurie Tocci	Wyland Elementary Principal
Mrs. Marlynn Lux	HMS Acting Principal
Dr. Marguerite Imbarlina	HHS Principal
Dr. Jacquelyn Removcik	Curriculum Director
Mrs. Michelle Ambrose	Secretary to Director of Administrative
Services	

HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTATION

Four high school students who were the first to go through the AP Capstone program discussed their experiences and research. The students discussed their research topic, methodology, paper, and a 15-20 minute panel presentation that they completed last month. The students were required to defend their research during the presentation in a format that is similar to what occurs when defending a doctoral dissertation, and respond to questions posed by the panelists.

Dr. Imbarlina said the two teachers (Shannon Roos and Andrew Halter) who instruct AP Seminar and AP Research (two classes required to earn the AP Capstone designation), attended extensive professional development in order to teach the courses at Hampton. Dr. Imbarlina called it a learning experience that the students can take with them to college and other areas of life.

STUDENT AWARDS

The School Board recognized the following students and organizations for their recent accomplishments:

- In March, Latin students at Hampton High School and Middle School took the National Latin Exam. With over 100,000 students taking the exam nationwide, competition to win awards is stiff. However, the following students earned the Maxima Cum Laude award for their excellent performance on the exam. Dr. Survinski is extremely proud of the performance of her students and she expressed thanks to the board for their continued support for the World Language programs at Hampton.

Maxima Cum Laude (Silver Medal Winners): Allison M., Isabelle V., Zachary K., Emily M., Nathan B., and Victoria I.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

The Carnegie Science Center recognized Hampton for participation in the Carnegie STEM Excellence Pathway. Mrs. Alana Kulesa, Director of Strategic Education Initiatives from the Carnegie Science Center, presented an award to several members of the core committee, including Andrew Halter, Marlynn Lux, Dr. Laurie Tocci, and Dr. Jacquelyn Removcik. Mr. Halter was not present for the presentation.

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.

- Mark Farabaugh - said he wanted to follow up on an email he sent earlier to the entire Board. Mr. Farabaugh said that every year in the middle of the budget process, the District provides a summary of the fund balance from the previous year. He said after further investigation, he noticed that the estimates are lower than the actual amounts, and asked why the numbers are different. He also pointed at each of the individual Board members and asked if any of them had looked at these numbers. Mr. Clair said a private CPA conducts an audit annually, and the state auditor general also conducts multi-year audits and if they discover a violation, they can engage in a number of corrective actions. Mr. Wesley said he is a CPA and formerly was an auditor at Coopers & Lybrand and has audited all types of entities, from banks to nonprofits and that the District's financial report is one of the most comprehensive, clear, and well-drafted financials he has ever encountered. As a CPA, Mr. Wesley said he fully understands the numbers. Mr. Wesley added that this information is on the District website, but cautioned that it may not provide a complete picture for laypersons who are not trained to interpret the numbers in context. He explained that timing plays a role in how much money is in the fund balance throughout the year, noting that any facilities improvements must first come from the fund balance. Mr. Wesley also explained the concept of a zero balance starting point when planning the budget each year to help place the figures in context. Both Mr. Wesley and Mr. Vasko said they did not appreciate the insinuation that the District was hiding money, and that the District has historically adhered to the philosophy of maintaining the entire 8% unrestricted fund balance each year to handle any unexpected expenditures. He added that the Board at times has transferred funds from the unrestricted fund to the capital projects fund as

needed for necessary capital projects, like roof replacements and all of the money so transferred is actually spent for those reasons; the capital projects fund is not used to hoard funds. Not making such transfers would not be transparent as it could give the impression that the District has a higher unrestricted fund balance than it actually does. He also added that waiting to the very end of the budget process to transfer funds to the capital projects funds would not change the amount of potential shortfall in the budget that had to be addressed via a potential increase in taxes. Mr. Wesley said the Board votes on every transfer of funds in the public meetings and all budgets, and audited financial statements for multiple prior years are available on the District website. He also indicated that the approximate \$700,000 in actual over original budgeted net revenue in the prior year's budget was incredibly accurate in the context of a \$50 million budget and that Mr. Farabaugh's purported 21% calculation that compared the \$700,000 as a percentage of the ending unrestricted fund balance of \$4 million was misleading and not a relevant comparator. He stated further that Mr. Kline is very good at budgeting, but that he does not have a crystal ball. Mr. Wesley also said bond rating agencies look at fund balances when issuing ratings for school districts, and provided the bond ratings for several area school districts in comparison to Hampton's AA- rating. He said if Hampton wanted to boost its bond rating, it would sock even more money into its reserve funds, but this measure would not be a prudent one as the current bond rating allows the district to refinance the bonds and save a significant amount of money without extra reserves. Mr. Farabaugh also asked if there was another budget meeting planned for this month, and Dr. Loughead said that at this time, there would not be one.

- Paul Hanna - asked what the trigger point would be before the District would deploy the budgetary reserves to hire more staff. Dr. Loughead said he plans to come back to the Board and the community in June with firmer enrollment figures, especially for Poff. He also reiterated that the budget already includes the hiring of three, full-time teaching staff for the three elementary schools - one in each building at the fourth-grade level. The District also will continue to monitor the elementary schools to determine if additional staff is needed, especially at Poff, where the class size issues are more pressing.

Mr. Wesley announced there would be a second opportunity at the end of the meeting for additional comments and questions from the audience.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES/TREASURER'S REPORT

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the April 17th voting meeting without modification. The Board also unanimously approved the following items under the Treasurer's Report/Payment of Bills:

- April 2017 General Fund 10 Disbursements totaling \$3,007,506.16
- April 2017 Capital Reserve Fund 39 Disbursements totaling \$9,000.00
- April 2017 Cafeteria Fund 50 Disbursements totaling \$25,945.39

- March 2017 Treasurer's Report
- March 2017 Student Activities Fund Report

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Wesley noted that one executive session to discuss legal and personnel matters was held following the work session meeting last week.

****There was no Board Secretary's Report or Solicitor's Report this evening.**

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Loughead said the District is recognizing *Teacher Appreciation Week* and noted that one of the ways he and Dr. Cunningham are thanking the teachers is by visiting the schools to express their appreciation face-to-face. He said the teachers are the heart of the District.

Pittsburgh Business Time's latest ranking placed Hampton at #3 again this year, higher than some of the neighboring school districts that have ranked higher than Hampton in the past. He said Hampton is one of the few Districts that has maintained a steady ranking thanks to the steady approach taken to instruction and curriculum here.

He also said he's excited that three of our High School students will be receiving a Diversity Award from the Human Rights Commission.

Dr. Loughead also reminded the public that Remake Learning Days is happening next Wednesday from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Middle School. At 7:30 p.m., he will be giving a presentation on the District's planned digital transformation in the auditorium for parents and community members interested in learning more.

He also provided a roundup of the arts and athletic programs, noting that our students are experiencing a multitude of accomplishments this spring.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Action Items

HHS Forensics Team Field Trip

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

Small Games of Chance

The Board approved 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

Informational

Mrs. Hennessey thanked Dr. Cunningham for her hard work with the Community Education Program. She said she attended a container gardening class last week and was very impressed with the class and with Mrs. Heather Dietz, a Hampton High School teacher who served as the instructor. Mrs. Hennessey said she also is spreading the word about the remaining classes, including the social media class on May 23rd.

Mrs. Lamagna said several student members of the Hampton High School theater department performed a few numbers from their prior musicals at Wildwood Country Club this past weekend and it was a great performance.

FACILITIES

There are no action items.

EDUCATION

Action Items

2017-2018 HTSD Assessment Schedule

The Board approved the assessment schedule for the 2017-2018 School Year.

Arts Education Collaborative (AEC) Proposal of Services

The Board approved 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.

Memorandum of Understanding - The Caring Foundation

The Board approved a memorandum of understanding with The Caring Foundation.

FINANCE

Action Items

Consumable Supply Bids

The Board approved the consumable supply bids, which reflect a decrease of \$3,049 from the 2016-17 bids. 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

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

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

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

The Board approved the renewal of the Senior Citizen Property Tax Rebate program for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, which has been offered to eligible taxpayers in the District since 2012. The parameters as presented are the same as the 2016-17 rebate program. Income brackets are as follows:

- \$0 to \$8,000 - \$375
- \$8,001 to \$15,000 - \$300
- \$15,001 to \$18,000 - \$200
- \$18,001 to \$24,000 - \$125

Mr. Wesley thanked Mr. Shages for bringing this program to the District in 2012. 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

The Board approved Budget Proposal #2, which was presented in detail at a special meeting on April 24. 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. The budget also includes an increase in 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

The Board approved a resolution 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.

PERSONNEL

Resignations:

1. The Board accepted 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. The Board approved 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. The Board approved 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).

Addendum:

4. The Board approved Ms. Renee Watterson, moving from a Substitute Custodian to the 10 Month/40 Hours Per Week District-Wide Custodian Substitute, effective May 9, 2017. Salary is \$13.00 per hour.

Addendum II:

5. The Board accepted the resignation of Ms. Diana Lawry, who is retiring from the District effective June 12, 2017. (Ms. Lawry is a Class 1-D Paraprofessional at Hampton Middle School.)

POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

There are no items for approval this evening.

Informational

Mr. Shages and Mr. Stein attended the PSBA Town Hall meeting at Beattie last week. Mr. Shages noted that only a handful of school administrators were in attendance, along with State Rep. Hal English and about a dozen members of the community. Discussion was once again held on the

PSERS issue, which Mr. Shages said has been ongoing for more than a decade with no effective action from legislators. Mr. Stein said due to a committee chairperson change, the legislators seemed unable to answer questions about what is going on and whether anything would be addressed and if so, on what schedule.

Mr. Vasko shared a story in today's *Beaver County Times* regarding a lack of oversight for athletic booster groups in school districts. The Board currently is reviewing a policy that would address this issue at Hampton.

****There were no action items for the Transportation, Technology and HAAE committees.**

A.W. BEATTIE CAREER CENTER REPORT

May 24 is Senior Recognition Night at A.W. Beattie; Dr. Cunningham and Dr. Pellathy are planning to be in attendance. May 25 is the end-of-year picnic and Board members are invited to attend.

A.W. Beattie has over 700 students from member school districts enrolled in programs next year.

FOLLOW-UP PUBLIC COMMENT

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

- There was no additional comment

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.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 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 p.m. on Monday, June 5, 2017 in the Dr. Harold Sarver Memorial Library, HMS.