

Hampton Board of Education  
380 Main Street  
Hampton, CT 06247

March 23, 2022

Minutes

**1. Call to Order**

Chairman Bisson called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

Present: Rose Bisson, Mark Becker, Juan Arriola, Maryellen Donnelly, David Halbach, Russ Moffitt, Matthew Flegert, Diane Gagnon, Ann Gruenberg

Staff and Others Present: Superintendent Frank Olah; Principal Sam Roberson; Director of Pupil Services Shelly McNulty; Business Coordinator Sally Lehoux; First Selectman Allan Cahill; Selectman John Tillinghast; Recording Secretary Dayna Arriola.

**2. Audience for Citizens and Staff:** none.

**3. Correspondences:** none.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

**Motion:** Maryellen Donnelly, seconded by Matthew Flegert, to approve the Minutes of the February 23, 2022 Meeting with the following amendment: under Business Coordinator's Report "... *Dr. Olah* said that the septic system and the repaving of the playground contributed to the costs."

In Favor: Mark Becker, Juan Arriola, David Halbach, Russ Moffitt, Diane Gagnon, Matthew Flegert

Opposed: Maryellen Donnelly

Abstentions: Ann Gruenberg

Motion passed, 6-1, with 1 abstention.

Maryellen Donnelly objected to the minutes including information other than motions and votes, and after discussion, it was decided to add this as an item on the next Agenda.

**5. Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Olah distributed his report and discussed staffing changes with respect to the delivery of special education services, the specifics of which will be sent to school board members, concerns regarding the escalating price of oil, and the particulars of the school's new Covid protocols. He also reported that the non-certified sick bank is in place.

**6. Principal's Report**

Sam Roberson distributed her report and announced that the school will commemorate Arbor Day on April 29; at board members' requests, she will forward more specific information on the celebration when it's confirmed. Ms. Roberson also offered to make a film on students' resiliency, which the staff has viewed, available to the public. To Juan Arriola's question on the school's chain-of-command protocols, Dr. Olah responded as follows: parents report first to teachers, then to the Principal/Special Education Director, then to the Superintendent; certified/non-certified staff reports to the team leader/teacher, then to the Principal/Special Education Director, then to the Superintendent. Dr. Olah confirmed that substitutes follow this protocol as well, and that issues could be brought to the Board of Education after exhausting all other administrative recourse.

**7. Director of Pupil Services' Report**

Shelly McNulty distributed her report and explained that staffing changes were made to meet students' needs and to capitalize on the strengths of the special education staff. She also explained that some services received by Pre-Kindergarten students will be delivered in the classroom, with support for the Pre-Kindergarten teacher. In preparation for the transition to the State Department's new data system, special education staff is receiving training, and a data specialist will be assigned to each district. To Juan Arriola's question, Ms. McNulty responded that IEPs are confidential and secured in the Main Office of the school.

## 8. Business Coordinator's Report

Sally Lehoux distributed her reports. To Mark Becker's question, Ms. Lehoux stated that there are approximately \$6000 in spendable funds in the Joan Dupuis Memorial Fund, and approximately \$2000 reserved as un-spendable in accordance with the initial terms of the account. Ms. Lehoux also reported that the committee managing the fund would like to donate the entirety to the new play-scape, adding, when asked, that individual donations may be made to the the Hampton Elementary School Activity Fund, with "play-scape" stipulated in the memo line.

## 9. Discussion of Superintendent's Evaluation

Chairman Bisson will resend the document with the noted phrase removed.

## 10. Committee and Liaison Reports

- a. **Communications:** the committee did not meet.
- b. **Finance and Operations:** Mark Becker reported that the Superintendent is in the process of securing bids for the parking lot.
- c. **Policies:** Ann Gruenberg reported that the committee will be receiving policies impacted by new legislation.
- d. **Ad-Hoc Minority Recruitment:** Rose Bisson reported that the charge was sent to board members, but with little time to review, approval was tabled.
- e. **Ad-Hoc Superintendent's Evaluation:** the committee did not meet.
- f. **CABE:** Ann Gruenberg reported that CABE's strategic planning is focused on diversity.
- g. **EastConn:** Maryellen Donnelly reported that EastConn has an interim Executive Director. She mentioned that the Ad-Hoc Minority Recruitment and Retention Committee could avail themselves of EastConn's materials relevant to their charge.
- h. **Non-BoE Meeting of Hampton/Scotland Discussions:** Chairman Bisson reported that the committee will be finishing the estimated budget for a combined school soon, and once completed, will conduct informational sessions with the Boards of Education and with the general public in both towns. She expects that the committee's work will be complete by the end of the school year. Mr. Arriola criticized the four board members who have erected signs on their lawns advocating their position, to keep Hampton Elementary School open, prior to the dissemination of relevant material to the board members and especially to the general public.

## 11. Additions to the Agenda: none.

## 12. Audience for Citizens and Staff

To Diane Gagnon's question on who paid for the signs, Chairman Bisson stated that a Political Action Committee has been formed. Ann Gruenberg suggested that the school board facilitate a community conversation regarding the issues surrounding discussions on combining Hampton and Scotland schools.

## 13. Adjournment

**Motion:** Diane Gagnon, seconded by Ann Gruenberg, to adjourn the meeting at 7:58pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dayna Arriola

*This is a draft version of the Minutes until approved by the Board of Education.*

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