

Hampton Board of Education
380 Main Street
Hampton, CT 06247

December 15, 2021

Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chairman Bisson called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Present: Rose Bisson, Mark Becker, Juan Arriola, Maryellen Donnelly, Ann Gruenberg, David Halbach, Russ Moffitt, Matthew Flegert, Diane Gagnon (7:35).
Staff and Others Present: Superintendent Frank Olah; Principal Sam Roberson; Business Coordinator Sally Lehoux; First Selectman Allan Cahill; Selectman John Tillinghast; Recording Secretary Dayna Arriola.

2. Audience for Citizens and Staff

First Selectman Cahill asked why the report from the Ad-Hoc Committee for Shared Services with Chaplin was removed from the Agenda. Chairman Bisson explained that the committee members had obtained all the information needed.

3. Correspondences: none.

4. Approval of Minutes

Motion: Mark Becker, seconded by Maryellen Donnelly, to approve the November 17, 2021 Meeting Minutes with the following amendment: to include under those present: *Rose Bisson*. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Olah's reports were distributed and presented to members: the Hampton Elementary School's contribution to the Town's FY2020-21 Annual Report; and an overview and graphs of students' academic performance as reported by the Connecticut State Department of Education's assessment tool, the NorthWest Evaluation Association. Dr. Olah stated that the data shows there was no downward spiral during the school's closure due to Covid, which was followed by upward progress, a trend over the last five years. At the request of members, Dr. Olah will provide data from other schools in our region.

6. Principal's Report

Sam Roberson presented her report, which included school and classroom events. She also reported that the recently formed Crisis Intervention Plan Committee met and Minutes will be distributed to members. David Halbach inquired as to the impact of the recent rise in Covid cases on the school.

Ms. Roberson said that a reported case of exposure closed one of the classrooms for 10 days last month, adding that the school nurse is carefully following all guidelines. Mr. Halbach thanked the staff for their efforts.

7. Director of Pupil Services' Report

The Report, which included information on the ESSER Special Education Recovery Activities Grant, was distributed to members.

8. Business Coordinator's Report

Sally Lehoux distributed her report which contained the budget v. actual amounts.

9. New Business

a. Discussion and Possible Action on Changing Rates for Substitutes

A draft proposal of *Substitute Pay Rates Effective January 1, 2022* was distributed and discussed. Dr. Olah explained that, due to the difficulty in recruiting substitutes, competitive rates are proposed, reporting a daily rate of \$125 - \$155 in area towns for certified substitutes, as opposed to Hampton's rate of \$94. To Juan Arriola's question on current substitutes, Dr. Olah reported the school counts on five substitute teachers and three or four paraprofessional substitutes. At Chairman Bisson's request, Ms. Roberson will provide the records kept on coverage. By general consent, it was agreed to increase the amount as proposed at this time and to re-evaluate the rates during next year's budget deliberations.

Motion: Dave Halbach, seconded by Matthew Flegert, to increase the daily rate for certified substitutes to \$109, and non-certified substitutes to \$96, as proposed. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Discussion and Scheduling of Special BoE Meetings for the Evaluation of a Public Official

By general consent, a Special Meeting is scheduled for January 4, 2022 at 6pm in the school's Library/Media Center. Masks and six-foot distancing will be required. Diane Gagnon suggested that if a larger than anticipated audience attends, the venue could be changed to the Community Center.

c. Board Committees

Chairman Bisson distributed the committee assignments to members.

10. Committee and Liaison Reports

- a. Communications: the committee did not meet.
- b. Finance and Operations: the committee did not meet.
- c. Policies: Ann Gruenberg reported that the committee has been in the process of catching up and plans on future progress.
- d. Ad-Hoc Minority Recruitment: the committee did not meet.

- e. Ad-Hoc Superintendent's Evaluation: the committee did not meet.
- f. CAFE: Ann Gruenberg reported that CAFE continues to provide workshops and support to districts.
- g. EastConn: Maryellen Donnelly reported that meetings have been cancelled due to Covid.
- h. Non-BoE Meeting of Hampton/Scotland Discussions: Chairman Bisson reported that the Governance Sub-Committee continues to work on a suggested cooperative agreement between the two schools, which will be presented by committee representatives to the Boards of Education. She encouraged members to visit the Committee's website for information.

11. Additions to the Agenda: none.

12. Audience for Citizens and Staff

First Selectman Cahill noted that, according to the August 30 Minutes of the Board of Education, the Ad-Hoc Committee for Shared Services with Chaplin was to report its findings to the entire board and asked if that had occurred. Chairman Bisson confirmed that committee members did not meet with officials from Chaplin.

13. Adjournment

Motion: Ann Gruenberg, seconded by Matthew Flegert, to adjourn the meeting at 8:01pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dayna Arriola

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OZrQOG9ibtRrWKhECPE3xWqyc3c25lif/view?usp=sharing_eil_dm&ts=61bb4c0e