

**Hampton Board of Education
Hampton, Connecticut
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 21, 2010
Hampton Elementary School Library**

1. Call to Order:

Chairman Burnham called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Board members in attendance: John Burnham, Dan Savino, Catherine Wade, Maryellen Donnelly, Ann Gruenberg, and Doug Stewart (7:15).

Others Present: Marsha Willhoit, Principal/Superintendent; Sally Lehoux, Finance/Administrative Assistant.

2. Audience for Teachers: none.

3. Audience for Citizens

Tara Murphy raised concerns that the needs of students in 4th grade are not being met, reminding board members that the decision to hire a part time teacher and to enlarge the classroom with the installation of an accordion wall was months ago and that neither of these has been accomplished. She also expressed concerns that some students are missing music, art, and gym to receive support services.

4. Solar Presentation

Steve Domyan of Ross Solar presented a packet of financial information on solar installation systems. The enclosed charts compared costs and returns of Mounted Systems and Axis Tracker Systems, with and without grant monies. Mr. Domyan also discussed educational opportunities of using solar installation systems. Maryellen Donnelly, the Board's representative on the Green Energy Committee, read the charge of the newly established committee.

5. Written Communications to the Board

a. Staff Resignation

Superintendent Willhoit read a letter of resignation from Special Education Teacher, Heather Sodel, effective January 22, 2010.

Motion: Dan Savino, seconded by Ann Gruenberg, to accept with regret the resignation of Special Education Teacher, Heather Sodel. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Other Communications

Chairman Burnham announced a workshop sponsored by the Freedom of Information Commission on March 8, 2010 and a workshop sponsored by the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities on March 18, 2010.

6. Additions to Agenda: none.

7. Approval of Minutes: 12/17/2009

Motion: Ann Gruenberg, seconded by Catherine Wade, to approve the Minutes of 12/17/09. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Superintendent/Principal Reports/Recommendations

a. Financial Reports

Superintendent Willhoit distributed the financial report; expenditures are on target to date. She also reported that Hampton might be eligible for "Race to the Top" funds earmarked for data collection and teacher evaluation.

b. 2009/2009 Audit Report

Superintendent Willhoit distributed the Audit Report and congratulated Financial Assistant Sally Lehoux on the exemplary report from the auditors.

c. Update on Grade 4 Support

Superintendent Willhoit reported that the student teacher who had been assigned to the classroom since the start of the year assumed the role of substitute until January 22, 2010. She anticipates filling the half-time special education position for the 4th grade, and the full-time special education position, in lieu of the resignation, after the interviews scheduled for next week. Superintendent Willhoit also reported that the accordion wall project had been scheduled for February vacation. She also explained that, in order to accommodate the demands of SRBI and provide Tier II support, students sometimes miss time in art, music, and physical education classes.

9. Committee and Representative Reports/Recommendations

a. CAFE: Ann Gruenberg reported on the Board of Directors meeting. She announced that the Day on the Hill is scheduled for March 3, 2010 and that she has been named Chairman of the Federal Relations Committee.

b. Community and Staff Relations: none.

c. EASTCONN:

Catherine Wade reported that EastCONN plans on expanding its Hampton Facility, and that the program that enrolls high school students at QVCC as an alternate educational experience is reporting success.

d. Finance: none.

e. Physical Plant & Operations:

Doug Stewart reported that the Committee will schedule a meeting to discuss plans for a roof.

f. Policies: (see Business item 10.a.)

10. Business

a. Policies

i. The Policy Committee recommends the BOE rescind Policies 2220, 2232, 3113 & 3281, which have been incorporated into other policies or are no longer needed.

Motion: Ann Gruenberg, seconded by Catherine Wade, that the BOE rescind Policies 2220, 2232, 3113 & 3281, which have been incorporated into other policies or are no longer needed. Motion carried unanimously.

ii. The Policy Committee recommends that the BOE adopt Policies 2131, 3000, 3260, 3313 & 3440 from the CAFE website and that the existing policies with the same numbers be rescinded.

Motion: Ann Gruenberg, seconded by Maryellen Donnelly, that the BOE adopt Policies 2131, 3000, 3260, 3313 & 3440 from the CAFE website and that the existing policies with the same numbers be rescinded. Motion carried unanimously.

- iii. **The Policy Committee recommends that the BOE review Policies 2231, 3150, 3160 & 3250 from the CAFE website which have been edited or otherwise changed, then adopt the revised policies and rescind existing policies with the same numbers.**

After discussion, it was agreed by general consent to postpone a decision on Policy 3160 as it warrants further review and discussion.

Motion: Ann Gruenberg, seconded by Dan Savino, to accept the recommended changes in Policies 2231, 3150 & 3250, and to change the statement in Policy 3250 “*The maximum fee per page allowable under the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act will be charged*” to “*Amounts in excess of 25 pages per request will be charged at the rate of .25 per page*”.

Motion carried unanimously.

b. Set Special Meeting Dates:

The following Special Meeting Dates were established:

- January 28 at 6 p.m. to act on recommendation for new staff
- March 23 at 6 p.m. Budget Workshop
- March 30 at 7 p.m. Budget Workshop

c. Superintendent/Leadership Team Evaluation

Chairman Burnham reviewed the Board Goals.

Superintendent Willhoit updated the Board on the school’s progress with school climate goal. The School Climate Committee is considering the Positive Behavioral Support Program.

11. BOE Communications to the Public

- Publicize budget workshops
- Solar Presentation

12. Audience for Citizens:

Kate Donnelly reminded the Board, as First Selectman, of the dismal state of the economy in terms of educational funding and reimbursement rates.

13. Next Agenda Planning

- 2010-2011 Budget
- Policy 3160
- Staff & Community Relations Committee Goals

14. Adjournment

Motion: Catherine Wade, seconded by Ann Gruenberg, to adjourn at 9:38 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dayna McDermott-Arriola
Recording Secretary