

**HAMPTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
HAMPTON, CT**

MEETING MINUTES

February 22, 2012

Board chair John Burnham called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. Members present were Carol Misak, Ann Gruenberg, Joan Fox, Lisa Siegmund, Rose Bisson (by electronic skype connection), Doug Stewart and Maryellen Donnelly. Also present were Superintendent of Schools Paul Graseck, Principal Willhoit and Business Coordinator/Admin. Asst. Sally Lehoux. Unable to attend was board member Catherine Wade.

2. Audience for Staff:

Jim Shifrin presented highlights for February:

PreK: Held their first family Friday, the next one will be on March 2;

5st grade: the students continue to research European explorers and will create an explorer profile and are learning about the difference between experimental and theoretical probability; The school has received a Fuel-Up Play 60 grant from the NFL and the Dairy Association and the school will celebrate Pi Day (3/14) with a taste test with Kiwi pie. Mrs. Folan is using DDR during recess for grades 4-6.

3. Audience for Citizens:

- Gordon Hansen asked the board and superintendent for clarification on the incentive that is under consideration;
- Dayna McDermott noted the audience submitted a great deal of information at the last meeting regarding the retirement incentive and urges the board to consider the information carefully. Ms. McDermott also submitted an additional petition. Combined with the last petition, signatures opposed to the retirement incentive numbers 167;
- Kathy Donahue echoed Ms. McDermott's comments and believes taxpayers should be able to vote on such a proposal if it is passed;

4. Written Communications to the Board: None

5. Approval of Minutes: 1/25/12, 2/8/12:

Maryellen Donnelly moved to approve the minutes of 1/25/12. Doug Stewart seconded the motion. The minutes should be amended to reflect the following:

Under 7.a.: Jane Cooke is spelled *Cook*;

They are currently working on grades K-3, not "lower grades."

The minutes, as amended, passed with the following vote:

YES: J. Fox, C. Misak, A. Gruenberg, R. Bisson, J. Burnham, D. Stewart, M. Donnelly

ABSTAIN: L. Siegmund

Doug Stewart moved to approve the minutes of 2/8/12, as submitted. Lisa Siegmund seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

6. Superintendent Reports/Recommendations:

a. Financial Report: The budget is currently in good shape and is on target for this year.

b. Other: Dr. Graseck has met with teachers 3 times so far this year by their request and has observed the constant "student first" attitude that permeates their attention to Hampton and has also had an opportunity to observe classrooms and finds the students are truly engaged and there is a warm spirit and strong sense of community at the school. He has also held more "housecalls for education" within the community and is planning a public forum on Feb. 29 at the elementary school for community members that are not able to attend a 'house call.' He

has additional 'housecall' meetings scheduled, as well. Dr. Graseck noted that budget time is always a tense time of year in communities and is committed to respecting the education of the students at Hampton Elementary School and the taxpayers of Hampton.

7. Principal Reports:

Hampton Elementary School has started the reaccreditation process for the preschool for both programs. The PBIS (positive behavior intervention support) program is very popular with the students and is being extended to the buses. Ms. Willhoit would also like to express her thanks to the town maintenance staff for their help with the playscape.

8. Committee and Representative Reports/Recommendations:

a. CABA: Public hearings have commenced at the state legislature and various members of CABA are providing testimony on various bills. The Day on the Hill is scheduled for early March.

b. Community and Staff Relations: Not met.

c. EASTCONN: Dr. Wade was unable to attend.

d. Finance: The committee and administration has started examining staffing levels and the ability of HES to provide appropriate educational opportunities to the students in Hampton. Retirement incentives will be a separate agenda item.

e. Physical Plant and Operations/Roof Building Committee: PPO: No report.

f. Policies: The committee will present recommendations under Business.

g. Hampton Green Energy Commission: The next meeting is scheduled for February 29th.

h. Administrative Model: None

9. Additions to Agenda: None

10. Business:

a. Policies:

- i. Ann Gruenberg moved to recommend the board give tentative approval to policy 9214 substituting the following language to previous policy recommendations: "Terms of Newly-Elected Board Members Shall Commence on the Second Tuesday after Said Election." Lisa Siegmund seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**
- ii. Ann Gruenberg moved to recommend the board give final approval to policy 9012—Legal Responsibilities of Board of Education and rescind previous versions of the same. Maryellen Donnelly seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**
- iii. Ann Gruenberg moved to recommend the board give final approval to new policies 9210—Qualifications of Members, 9260—Board Member Protection, and 9325.2—Order of Business. Maryellen Donnelly seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**
- iv. Ann Gruenberg moved to recommend the board give tentative approval to policy 3110—Budget Planning, Replacing "Board of Finance" language with "Town Government." Lisa Siegmund seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**
- v. Ann Gruenberg moved to recommend the board give tentative approval to policy 9214—Election of Members. Carol Misak seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**
- vi. Ann Gruenberg moved to recommend the board give tentative approval of CABA version of policy 3516.5—Sexual Offenders on School Property. Maryellen Donnelly seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

b. 2012/2013 School Calendar: The board was presented with two versions of the calendar that are compatible with Parish Hill's academic calendar. The difference between the versions is:

Version A: 4-day February break with 1 holiday break;

Version B: 2-day February break (1 day holiday, 1 day vacation);

After a brief discussion of the merits of each option, **Doug Stewart moved to approve Version B. Carol Misak seconded the motion and it passed unanimously with the following amendment to the calendar comment: *Make up days must occur before July 1, 2013, so the calendar may be revised, as necessary.***

c. Discuss and Act on Formation of Ad Hoc Committee Aimed at Sharing Services with other Towns/Boards: Mr. Burnham has initiated contact with the Chaplin and Scotland board chairs and would like to establish an ad hoc committee to facilitate conversations with other boards for the purpose discussing ways to collaborate. The state is introducing legislation that will impact districts with fewer than 1000 students to promote such partnerships. The goal is to create structured regional arrangements. **Ann Gruenberg moved to form an ad hoc committee aimed at sharing services with other towns and boards of education. Lisa Siegmund seconded motion and it passed unanimously.** Mr. Burnham appointed Joan Fox and Doug Stewart to serve on the committee.

d. Retirement Incentive: The board discussed the various proposals and community input. **Doug Stewart moved to accept the Hampton Board of Education Certified Staff Voluntary Retirement Incentive Plan Application for 2012. Joan Fox seconded the motion. The motion failed with the following vote:**

YES: J. Fox, D. Stewart

NO: R. Bisson, C. Misak, L. Siegmund, J. Burnham, M. Donnelly

ABSTAIN: A. Gruenberg

The board thanked Dr. Graseck for his considered research and proposal.

e. 2012/2013 Budget: The current budget is not yet ready for proposal, but administration is prepared to consider board direction and have a proposal ready for consideration at the meeting in March. The finance committee has directed administration make sure all students are appropriately supported.

f. Superintendent/Leadership Team Evaluations: None

11. BOE Communications to the Public: Mr. Burnham will continue to send BOE updates to The Gazette and The High Road.

12. Ms. McDermott thanked the board for their considered deliberations. Ms. Donahue would like an idea of grant funding, ECS funding and the MBR requirements.

13. Next Agenda Planning:

March 7, 2012: Budget

14. Adjournment:

Ann Gruenberg moved to adjourn at 9:20 PM. Carol Misak seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Nelson

Note: Per C.G.S. 10 – 218, Board of Education meeting minutes are provided in a draft format. With the exception of motions and votes recorded, these minutes are unofficial until they have been read and approved by a majority vote of the Board. Should edits be necessary, they will be made at the next regularly scheduled meeting, noted in the meeting minutes, and voted upon.