



HAMPTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER
380 MAIN STREET
HAMPTON, CT 06247

WEDNESDAY MARCH 25, 2026
6:30 PM
HAMPTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order
Chair Mark Becker called the meeting to order at 6:34.
Those in attendance were Juan Arriola, Laura Barrow, Mark Becker, Stephanie Bora, Nick Brockett, Maryellen Donnelly, Elizabeth Lindorff, Tim Studer and Dennis Timberman. Also in attendance were Superintendent Andrew Skarzynski, Principal Victoria Smith, Director of Special Education Mary Jo Chretien, and Business Coordinator Sally Lehoux.
2. Board Training: Smarter Balanced Assessment and EdSight Data System
Superintendent Skarzynski presented examples of data found on the public side of EdSight, Connecticut's official source for education data. He shared that the secure, nonpublic sight contains information about students.
3. Audience for Citizens and Staff on the Agenda Items
First Selectman Allan Cahill asked for an overview of the student body, identified needs and staffing.
4. Correspondent to the Board
None
5. Approval of Minutes from Special Board Meeting 3/4/2026
Motion: Juan Arriola moved to approve the minutes of March 4, 2026. Laura Barrow seconded the motion. Juan Arriola withdrew the motion. Laura Barrow withdrew the second.
Juan Arriola moved to approve the minutes as amended: A complaint was filed with the Freedom of Information (FOI) Commission by Juan Arriola regarding the reason for entering an executive session during the November 19, 2025 BOE meeting, which stated discussion of superintendent goals (strike) rather than discussion of superintendent evaluation. Board members received an investigative report from Rogin Nassau Attorneys at Law regarding a September 19, 2024 letter received from the Strafaci Law Firm, Patrice Merendina's counsel. (add from page 7) *"The allegations made in the letter from Ms. Merendina's counsel do not contain the required specificity of a viable defamation claim."*
Laura Barrow seconded the motion as amended.
Voting yes were Juan Arriola, Laura Barrow, Mark Becker, Stephanie Bora, Nick Brockett, Maryellen Donnelly, Elizabeth Lindorff, Tim Studer and Dennis Timberman.
The motion passed unanimously.
6. Principal's Report
Principal Smith reported on a focus on literacy and the science of reading training from CSDE, increasing parent communication, progress in the use of restorative practices, the dinner to raise funds for Outdoor Classroom and celebrations. Special Education Director Mary Jo Chretien reported on training about legislation and court cases, defining student needs, budget development, and acknowledging Ms. Schimmelfennig for scheduling PPTs.
7. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Skarzyński reported strategies presented at the CABE/CAPSS conference to improve district outcomes, a shared services workshop for school districts and municipalities organized by EASTCONN, provisions in SB 298 signed by the Governor on March 3, most of which go into effect July 1, 2026, the CSDE audit of student testing, and science of reading workshops and observations.

8. Business Coordinator's Report

Sally Lehoux reported that HES is within budget for the current school year.

9. Committee and Liaison Reports

a. Finance and Operations

Mark Becker reported that the committee reviewed the 5-year plan and the 2026-2027 draft budget and that repairs to ventilation system will be done.

b. EASTCONN

Maryellen Donnelly reported that inspections found zero violations in food services, which includes HES, and transportation. EASTCONN is continuing work on childcare and workforce development and is providing construction certification and DEEP employment classes. Twenty-two seniors at ACT have already received 55 college acceptances. During the shared services workshop, Representative Boyd emphasized speaking with legislators beyond those who represent our districts and using a consistent message.

c. Policy Committee

The policy committee did not meet.

d. Communications

Dennis Timberman provided a draft one page document to place where Hampton residents frequent such as town hall and the post office. The document defines the BOE and invites community involvement. The draft will be discussed during the next BOE meeting. Nick Brockett showed additions made to the school website including the draft budget. Other committee ideas were outlined.

e. Superintendent Evaluation

Mark Becker reported that this year, the review of the superintendent's goals will be a collaboration between board members and the superintendent. Board goals will be discussed in August and September. The basis of the superintendent evaluation for next year is not yet set.

f. Curriculum Review

The curriculum review committee did not meet. Principal Smith will set time for teachers to meet with the committee and committee members will report to the BOE.

10. Discussion and Possible Action: 2026-2027 Budget

Superintendent Skarzynski presented changes from the February 25 budget to the March 25 budget and explained legal requirements and needs. The board reviewed and discussed the March 25 draft budget.

Motion: Maryellen Donnelly moved that the board approve \$2,393,238 for the 2026-2027 year as presented in the March 25, 2026 draft budget. Dennis Timberman seconded the motion. Voting yes were Mark Becker, Stephanie Bora, Nick Brockett, Maryellen Donnelly, Elizabeth Lindorff, and Dennis Timberman. Voting no were Juan Arriola, Laura Barrow, and Tim Studer. The motion passed.

11. Additions to the Agenda

None

12. Next Agenda Planning

2025-26 calendar date for the end of the school year
Board goals

13. Second Audience for Citizens

Nick Brown asked that both increases and decreases from the current budget be explained during the presentation of the budget to the Board of Finance.

Allan Cahill stated that the ambulance contract is up 5% and said to think structure reform.

Dennis Timberman said that the fund raising spaghetti dinner was a good event.

14. Adjournment

Motion: Maryellen Donnelly moved to adjourn.

Stephanie Bora seconded the motion.

Voting yes were Juan Arriola, Laura Barrow, Mark Becker, Stephanie Bora, Nick Brockett, Maryellen Donnelly, Elizabeth Lindorff, Tim Studer and Dennis Timberman.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:03.

Respectfully submitted,
Maryellen Donnelly