



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

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 2, 2025
7:00 PM
HAMPTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05. Those in attendance were Juan Arriola, Mark Becker, Maryellen Donnelly, Luther Gerlach, David Halbach, Elizabeth Lindorff, Tim Studer, and Dennis Timberman. Also in attendance were Superintendent Andrew Skarzynski, Principal Victoria Smith, and Business Coordinator Sally Lehoux. Not present was board member Stephanie Bora. The board took a moment to reflect on the passing of Christian Macias-Perez.

2. Audience for Citizens and Staff

Dayna McDermott Arriola requested invoices for legal fees.

3. Correspondent to the Board

None

4. Approval of Minutes from Board Meetings 6/25/2015 and 7/23/2025

Motion: Maryellen Donnelly moved to approve the minutes of June 25, 2025 with the following amendment.

Item 2b. Juan Arriola commented on the rules and regulations.

Elizabeth Lindorff seconded the motion.

Voting yes were Juan Arriola, Mark Becker, Maryellen Donnelly, Luther Gerlach, David Halbach, Elizabeth Lindorff, Tim Studer, and Dennis Timberman. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Maryellen Donnelly moved to approve the minutes of July 23, 2025 with the following amendments:

Item 4. ~~John~~ David Halbach

Item 5 ~~Correspondence~~ *Condolences* were received from CABA and Scotland Elementary.

Item 16a An executive session was held for discussion of the performance of a public official, *Superintendent Skarzynski. Those who attended executive session were Mark Becker, Stephanie Bora, Maryellen Donnelly, David Halbach, Elizabeth Lindorff and Dennis Timberman.*

Elizabeth Lindorff seconded the motion.

Voting yes were Mark Becker, Maryellen Donnelly, Luther Gerlach, David Halbach, Elizabeth Lindorff, Tim Studer, and Dennis Timberman. Juan Arriola abstained.

The motion passed.

5. Principal's Report

Principal Smith reported that the school year began fully staffed including five new staff members. Notification had not been received about the grant for the after school program. Focus will be on improvement in math performance.

6. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Skarzynski reported on the convocation for Parish Hill, Chaplin and Hampton staff as well as a retreat for administrators in those districts. A new school climate plan is required by the state. Let Grow is a home-based project promoted by the school to encourage students to carry out new ideas, thus fostering resilience and independence. Smarter Balance testing has not yet been released. There are changes in Connecticut paid leave, definitions in FMLA and a ½% tax for FMLA for all non-certified staff.

7. Business Coordinator's Report

Sally Lehoux reviewed her written report.

8. Committee and Liaison Reports

a. Finance and Operations

Mark Becker reviewed current building work and a facility condition assessment report.

b. EASTCONN

Maryellen Donnelly reported on completion of the evaluation of the executive director, the change in site for three programs, and the board passing the purchase of a solar system to benefit multiple sites through virtual net metering.

c. Ad Hoc Committee

None

9. Discussion: Current Status of CHRO Complaint

Mark Becker reported on the progress in resolving the CHRO complaint after a meeting with Superintendent Skarzynski and Acting Chair Mark Becker. Another meeting of the parties will be held to come to a resolution prior to the September 16 deadline.

10. Discussion: Review of Actions Related to Board Goals

Mark Becker provided the board's revision of three board goals that will be voted on during the September meeting. The board reviewed a list of actions and which goals they support. Board members were asked to write further actions for goals and send them to Mark. Actions for goal number one are particularly needed.

11. Discussion and Possible Action: Review of Board Ad-hoc Committees to Re-evaluate Team Members and Charges/Purpose

The board discussed standing and ad hoc committees and whether they are active or suggested in the past. Superintendent Skarzynski will provide the Increasing Educator Diversity Plan submitted to the state. Mark Becker and Superintendent Skarzynski will determine if the committee requested regarding non-certified staff is in conflict with the role of board members. Dennis Timberman will provide a final report for the ad hoc advocacy committee that stopped work at the end of the legislative session. Mark Becker will provide the board with disposition of committees, any charges written for committees and current or new committee members.

12. Discussion: FY 26 Budget Approval in the Amount of \$2,262,603 (amount approved at referendum)

Motion: David Halbach moved to approve the amount of \$2,262,603 for the FY 26 budget. Dennis Timberman seconded the motion.

Voting yes were Mark Becker, Maryellen Donnelly, Luther Gerlach, David Halbach, Elizabeth Lindorff, Tim Studer, and Dennis Timberman. Juan Arriola abstained. The motion passed.

13. Discussion: FY 25 Budget Transfer from (100) Salaries & Wages to (600) Supplies

Motion: Maryellen Donnelly moved for the 2025 Fiscal Year budget to transfer the amount of \$36,000 from (400) Building/Grounds to (700) Equipment/Property. Dennis Timberman seconded the motion.

Voting yes were Mark Becker, Maryellen Donnelly, Luther Gerlach, David Halbach, Elizabeth Lindorff, Tim Studer, and Dennis Timberman. Juan Arriola voted no. The motion passed.

14. Discussion and Possible Action: Review of Policy 5114

Motion: Maryellen Donnelly moved to approve policy 5114. Elizabeth Lindorff seconded the motion. After discussion, Maryellen withdrew the motion and Elizabeth withdrew the second. Policy 5114 will be reviewed by the policy committee.

15. Additions to the Agenda

None (special meeting)

16. Next Agenda Planning

Approve board goals, define board actions (or schedule a special meeting), discuss superintendent's goals, committees

17. Second Audience for Citizens and Staff

First Selectman Cahill reflected on goals during his time on the BOE.

18. Adjournment.

Motion: Juan Arriola moved to adjourn. Dennis Timberman seconded the motion.

Voting yes were Juan Arriola, Mark Becker, Maryellen Donnelly, Luther Gerlach, David Halbach, Elizabeth Lindorff, Tim Studer, and Dennis Timberman. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:01

Respectfully submitted,
Maryellen Donnelly