

**HAMPTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
HAMPTON, CT**

**SPECIAL MEETING
March 23, 2010**

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 PM by Board Chair John Burnham. Members present were Carol Misak, Ann Gruenberg, Lisa Siegmund, Maryellen Donnelly, Doug Stewart, and Dr. Catherine Wade (6:20 P.M.) Also present was Superintendent/Principal Marsha Willhoit and Financial Assistant Sally Lehoux. Unable to attend were board members Dan Savino and Rose Bisson.

Mr. Burnham stated this was a budget workshop and discussed protocol for budget discussion.

2. Audience for Teachers/Citizens:

Comments should be limited to budget discussion. After a brief review of agenda format, the board agreed to hear audience comments after the workshop.

3. Budget Workshop:

The board discussed current budget proposals including:

- non-certified wages;
- staffing levels;
- draft letter requesting discussion of certified contract concessions;
- early retirement incentive;
- other questions/clarifications.

The board reviewed the current proposed wording of the Memorandum of Understanding for non-certified and certified staff voluntary retirement incentive plan. This will be an action item on the next agenda.

Mrs. Lehoux reported the increase for the insurance renewal.

Non-certified staff not on step scale or beyond step scale include:

- 4 paraprofessionals;
- 1 financial assistant;
- 1 school nurse;
- 1 school secretary.

The board discussed a draft letter prepared to request a salary freeze from certified staff. The board wanted to find out if such a request would open the entire collective agreement or if it could be limited to the proposed financial question.

Mrs. Willhoit reported the school will lose 25% of the school readiness grant next year. This year's grant is \$107,000.

The board also reviewed population numbers. Mrs. Willhoit will research staffing numbers at HES for the historical perspective.

The board reviewed the current consumer price index and it's relationship to proposed salary increases.

Discussion of the superintendent/principal compensation was deferred to the next meeting.

Mrs. Willhoit has recommended a 4% increase to the substitute teacher line item. The board requested a survey of surrounding towns and substitute compensation and accessibility. Mrs. Willhoit also recommends an increase to the substitute nurse line-item.

There are no clerical aides under non-certified staff. All paraprofessionals are special education aides.

Mr. Burnham noted a discussion of the green energy committee's application for a grant for a solar hot water heater should be added to the next agenda and to extend an invitation to a member of the committee to discuss the opportunity for the elementary school.

Citizen Comments:

- Kathy Donohue requested clarification regarding the math support and floating classroom support personnel and questioned the wording of the non-certified staff incentive and whether it was something offered in other towns;
- Laura Petix also commented on the .5 FTE for math support and .5 FTE for floating classroom support and asked what detail the budget presentation is broken down to;
- Gay Wagner commented on social security and the relation to medicare, asked how many sick days are in the current contract and what is the sick day utilization. Ms. Wagner also commented that any increase to insurance premiums was also an increase to salary since the town would be paying for a large portion of any increase and requested the board also be sensitive to the equity owed to taxpayers of Hampton. Ms. Wagner also stated she would rather see larger classroom sizes than a reduction to specials;

- First Selectperson Kate Donnelly thanked the board for their work on the budget and voiced her support of specials, i.e. art, physical education, and music;
- Alan Cahill supported pursuing the solar heating proposal.

Doug Stewart moved to adjourn at 8:15 P.M. Dr. Wade seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Nelson
Recording Secretary

Note: Per C.G.S. 10 – 218, Board of Education meeting minutes are provided in a draft format within 48 hours of the date the meeting was held. 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.