



Hampton Board of Education
380 Main Street
Hampton, CT 06247

February 28, 2024
7:00 pm
HES Library Media Center

1. Call to Order

Chair Bisson called the meeting to order at 7:04. Present were board members Juan Arriola, Mark Becker, Rose Bisson, Maryellen Donnelly, David Halbach, Elizabeth Lindorff, and Dennis Timberman. Also present were Principal Patrice Merendina, Business Coordinator Sally Lehoux and Superintendent Andrew Skarzynski.

2. Audience for Citizens and Staff

Motion: Mark Becker moved to add Additions to the Agenda to the agenda. Dennis Timberman seconded the motion. Voting yes were Mark Becker, Rose Bisson, Maryellen Donnelly, David Halbach, Elizabeth Lindorff, and Dennis Timberman. Voting no was Juan Arriola. The motion carried.

Motion: Mark Becker moved to add *Discuss the process for hiring a superintendent* to the agenda. Dennis Timberman seconded the motion. Voting yes were Mark Becker, Rose Bisson, Maryellen Donnelly, David Halbach, Elizabeth Lindorff, and Dennis Timberman. Voting no was Juan Arriola. The motion carried.

EASTCONN Executive Director Eric Protulis provided suggested Focus Group Questions and Survey Questions to board members. After discussion, the process will include an electronic survey available on the HES website with the request that respondents identify in subgroups such as HES staff, board members, parents, elected leaders and community members. When ready the survey will be advertised on the town and school websites, through papers, and through the list of those receiving board agendas.

3. Correspondence to the Board

Superintendent Skarzynski read a letter from HES teacher Chrissy Stone requesting approval of a leave of absence.

4. Approval of Minutes from Board Meeting on January 24, 2024 and Special Board Meeting on February 7, 2024

Juan Arriola requested that the January 24, 2024 minutes be amended from "Juan Arriola commented on the salary of the last superintendent and questioned approval by the Board of Education." to "Juan Arriola commented on the salary of the last superintendent and questioned the approval of the contract by the board chairman without a BOE vote on it."

Motion: Mark Becker moved to approve the minutes of January 24, 2024 as amended. David Halbach seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: David Halbach moved to approve the minutes of February 7, 2024 as written. Elizabeth Lindorff seconded the motion. Voting yes were Mark Becker, Rose Bisson, Maryellen Donnelly, David Halbach, Elizabeth Lindorff, and Dennis Timberman. Voting no was Juan Arriola. The motion carried.

5. Principal's Report
Principal Merendina reviewed the winter student data report. The i-Ready data showed growth. The DIBELS, Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills revealed explicit phonics is an area for growth as students change from a more whole language approach to phonics.

6. Superintendent's Report
Superintendent Skarzynski reviewed his report.

1. Increasing Educator Diversity plan
2. After School grant
3. Building use form

Superintendent Skarzynski suggested that the policy committee meet to draft policies for first read.

7. Business Coordinator's Report
There were no questions on Business Coordinator Sally Lehoux's report. Discussion and possible actions are found in item 12.

8. Committee and Liaison reports
Finance and Operations
Chair Becker reported on the progress of the heat pump project. RFPs were drafted. Savings are shown by use of VRF rather than oil. The committee discussed a draft of its charge. It will be sent to board members for the March board meeting.

EASTCONN

Maryellen Donnelly reported on several collaborations among the divisions at EASTCONN. An example is the provision of de-escalation training to drivers by pupil services. Further discussion was held about the requirement for a child to be 5 years old by September 1 in order to enter Kindergarten and that an assessment by the district is needed if parents want to waive that requirement.

9. Discussion and possible action on State required Increasing Educator Diversity Plan
Superintendent Skarzynski presented a plan compiled by Principal Merendina, Special Education Director Vicki Smith and Superintendent Skarzynski.

Motion: Mark Becker moved to approve the Increasing Educator Diversity Plan. Dennis Timberman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Discussion and possible action on approving revised calendar for 2024-2025 school year
The day before Thanksgiving was revised to a half day rather than a vacation day yielding 183 school days.

Motion: Dennis Timberman moved to approve the revised calendar for 2024-2025 school year. David Halbach seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Discussion on clarification of role of Board Chair.
Bylaws of the board were available. No motions were made regarding the process of continuing a superintendent's contract.

12. Discussion and possible action on Business Coordinator's Report

1. Approval of EASTCONN transportation contract extension
Motion: Maryellen Donnelly moved to approve the one year extension of the contract with EASTCONN to provide student transportation. The motion was seconded by Mark Becker. Voting yes were Mark Becker, Rose Bisson, Maryellen Donnelly, David Halbach, Elizabeth Lindorff, and Dennis Timberman. Voting no was Juan Arriola. The motion carried.

2. Approval of Paraprofessional wage scale for FY25
The increase in the budget for the wage scaled would be \$3,281.
Motion: Mark Becker moved to accept the paraprofessional wage scale as presented. David Halbach seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Approval of BoE HSA Contribution rate
Motion: Maryellen Donnelly moved to approve the BoE health savings account contribution rate for non-union ten and twelve month employees as proposed. Mark Becker seconded the motion. Voting yes were Mark Becker, Rose Bisson, Maryellen Donnelly, David Halbach, Elizabeth Lindorff, and Dennis Timberman. Voting no was Juan Arriola. The motion carried.

13. Executive Session:

1. Personnel matters, leave request
Motion: Mark Becker moved to enter executive session for the purpose of discussion of a personnel leave request and invite Superintendent Skarzynski. David Halbach seconded the motion. Voting yes were Mark Becker, Rose Bisson, Maryellen Donnelly, David Halbach, Elizabeth Lindorff, and Dennis Timberman. Voting no was Juan Arriola. The motion carried.

The board entered the executive session at 8:47. The board left executive session at 9:05.

14. Possible action on leave request
Motion: Dennis Timberman motioned to grant a twenty day paid leave of absence to Chrissy Stone. Mark Becker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
15. Next Agenda Planning
Approval of the 2024-2025 budget. First read of policies. Additions can be made by contacting Chair Bisson.
16. Audience for Citizens and Staff
Juan Arriola expressed his interest in Superintendent Skarzynski making the proposed budget his own.
17. Adjournment
Motion: Juan Arriola moved to adjourn. Dennis Timberman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:09.

Respectfully submitted,
Maryellen Donnelly