

**HAMPTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
HAMPTON, CT**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**February 8, 2012**

Board chair John Burnham called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. Members present were Carol Misak, Ann Gruenberg (7:10 PM), Joan Fox, Lisa Siegmund, Rose Bisson (by electronic skype connection), Doug Stewart and Maryellen Donnelly. Also present were Superintendent of Schools Paul Graseck, Principal Marsha Willhoit and Business Coordinator/Admin. Asst. Sally Lehoux. Unable to attend was board member Catherine Wade.

**2. Audience for Staff: None**

**3. Audience for Citizens:**

- Dayna McDermott-Arriola: Ms. McDermott-Arriola commended superintendent for retirement incentive proposals, but is not convinced the district will realize any savings with any incentives, nor will there be any change in climate if retirees are used as subs. She also questioned the sub rate of pay. She is also skeptical of any change in climate with this plan because she continues to pay taxes, but continues to send her child to school elsewhere.

Ms. McDermott-Arriola also presented a petition signed by many residents opposing the retirement incentive.

-Mike Chapel asked what the current year's budget was, questioned transportation costs, the anticipated student population. He also compared the cost per pupil at HES to Rectory and opined that taxpayers may be more supportive if there was a better bang for the buck.

-Lisa Sanchez Gonzalez was a signer of the petition and feels the retirement incentive is not an appropriate item for next year's budget. Ms. Gonzales feels once the board finds savings in one place they spend those savings on other items and is concerned with what appears to be a "cycle of blame" at the school. She also commented the demographics are plunging in Hampton and urged the board to do what was best for students and taxpayers.

-Kathy Newcombe also commented as a fiscally conservative resident and mirrors the comments already made regarding the retirement incentive and reminded the board the budget took 3 votes last year before it passed.

-Kathy Donahue also had many of the same concerns as those presented and urged the board to look at town demographics. The unemployment rate in Hampton is high and tax increases hit the senior population quite hard. Ms. Donahue feels the town cannot afford a retirement incentive at this time.

**4. Written Communications to Board: None**

**5. Superintendent Report:**

Dr. Graseck has started his "housecalls for education" program this past week and has met with 10 attendees so far. Dr. Graseck plans to continue this program for the next 6-8 weeks and then will report back to staff and the board on what has been learned. He also plans to hold sessions simultaneously with staff as well and try to discern any trends or themes that may emerge. Dr. Graseck also wants to hold meetings at either the town hall or the elementary school to reach as many residents as possible. He hopes this will be a springboard for creative thinking to problems that present themselves regarding education in Hampton. Dr. Graseck will also work on getting to know the curriculum better. To help accomplish this task, he will attend classes on

a regular basis to get a sense of what is being taught in the classrooms and how it's being taught.

**6. Additions to the Agenda: None**

**7 Business:**

**a. Retirement Incentives:**

The board continued to discuss the retirement incentive proposal as written, as well as the timeline that would be used. Dr. Graseck distributed a draft proposal of possible wording of such an incentive, as drafted by board counsel. The board discussed the opportunities the proposal may present. Any decision on the incentive will be deferred to the next meeting.

**b. 2012/2013 Budget:**

There have been no changes since the last meeting. The board reviewed the current proposal. This budget does not include budget numbers for next year's administration. The board also discussed changes in this proposal from the current year, including the impact of various staffing scenarios and funding sources. Dr. Graseck shared his research of 10 different schools with populations of 86 to 486 students. The public was allowed to ask questions specific to this budget document. Comments and questions included challenges to the current staffing levels and programming choices.

**c. Superintendent Contract:**

**Doug Stewart moved to enter into executive session at 9:25 P.M. for the purpose of discussion concerning the appointment or employment of a public employee. Lisa Siegmund seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

**Dr. Graseck was invited into the executive session at 10:13 P.M.**

**The Board entered public session at 10:30 P.M.**

**Doug Stewart moved to appoint Dr. Paul Graseck to a .5 FTE position as interim superintendent of the Hampton School District for period from July 2, 2012 – June 30, 2013 at a salary of \$65,800. Maryellen Donnelly seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

**8. Audience for Citizens:**

Kathy Donahue thanked Dr. Graseck for his explanation of the "housecalls" program.

**9. Next Agenda Items:**

- Retirement Incentive;
- 2012-13 Budget.

**Maryellen Donnelly moved to adjourn at 10:37 P.M. 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.*