

**HAMPTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
HAMPTON, CT**

MEETING MINUTES

March 14, 2012

Board chair John Burnham called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M. Members present were Carol Misak, Ann Gruenberg, Lisa Siegmund, Rose Bisson (by electronic skype connection), Joan Fox, 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: Deb Leavens wanted the board to consider the following when considering next year's budget proposal:

- ✓ The staff supports the guidance position as is. The guidance position is used almost daily to deal with issues students often come to school with—it would be difficult to ask students to wait until the guidance counselor is at school the next day;
- ✓ Teacher preparation isn't shortened based on smaller class size. HES has a diverse group of students and planning is important;
- ✓ The technology support position is very important at the school. Without IT support, lessons would be delayed or changed, IT is more advanced in other school districts, and the tech. coordinator is critical to the staff at HES.

Ann Folan submitted a letter for the minutes addressing the scheduling issues for specials. Balancing the schedule with instructional time is critical and that time will be cut to balance with the specials. Ms. Folan also distributed a chart with special assignments.

Sam Robeson also addressed the collaboration that exists between teachers and specials in the school.

Joanne Lowney commented the standards at HES for students are improving significantly. HES students are currently well-prepared and work with teachers to develop appropriate learning with the lessons used in class.

3. Audience for Citizens:

- Marty Myleniac voiced his concern with cuts to the guidance position. Teachers do not have enough time to deal with student issues in the classroom anymore.
- Kathy Freed is concerned with the apparent increase in administrative costs while educational programming is being cut.
- Dayna McDermott also concerned with staff cuts in light of increases to administration. Ms. McDermott also recognized there are no minutes that approved the current administrative assistant/business coordinator position and is concerned as to how the position was created if there was no board action.
- Myra Evans is the parent of 3 children at HES and currently has her house on the market. The one thing keeping the family in Hampton is the school since her kids love the school and HES needs to remain strong to keep families in town.
- Kathy Newcombe spoke as a concerned grandparent, taxpayer, and former board member. Ms. Newcombe received her requested information regarding census data and is concerned staffing cuts do not match the significant cut in population. Ms.

Newcombe understands cuts are taken quite personally, but costs are spiraling out of control in town.

- Kathy Donahue has gathered information from various sources regarding administrative assistant positions and business coordinator positions and provided the board with comparisons. Ms. Donahue is also concerned with cuts in the classroom while administrative costs escalate.

4. Written Communications to the Board: None

5. Additions to the Agenda:

Maryellen Donnelly moved to add a principal report to the agenda under 5.a. Ann Gruenberg seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

- a. **Principal Report:** Ms. Willhoit wanted the board to know Elizabeth Lindorff was selected at 2012 outstanding art educator and was recognized for her instruction, integration of plans with the classrooms, and community involvement.

6. Business:

a. **2012/2013 Budget:** Board chair John Burnham framed the scope of the budget discussion with the following topics:

- ✓ impact of proposed changes on students;
- ✓ administrative costs;
- ✓ business coordinator/administrative assistant position;
- ✓ health insurance opportunities.

The board discussed each item as they related to the 2012-13 proposed budget and invited audience members to ask questions. After a lengthy discussion, the board agreed to meet next Wednesday, March 21, 2012, at 7 PM to continue to discussion. There was no action taken at this meeting.

7. BOE Communications to the Public: Mr. Burnham will continue keep the local papers informed.

8. Audience for Citizens:

- ✓ Kathy Donahue noted that non-union administrators have a premium cost share in other districts. Mr. Burnham noted that Dr. Graseck does not take health insurance through HES.
- ✓ Kate Donnelly noted this is CAFE's BOE appreciation month and expressed her appreciation for the work this board does. Ms. Donnelly was also aware of Ms. Lindorff's honor and is fully in support of arts education in the schools and she strongly encourages the board to keep the program intact. She also mentioned Region 11 and Chaplin are part of CAFE's policy program and perhaps there is a way to share information.

9. Next Agenda Planning:

March 21, 2012: Budget Workshop.

14. Adjournment:

Doug Stewart moved to adjourn at 10:30 PM. Maryellen Donnelly 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.