

HAMPTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HAMPTON, CONNECTICUT

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

June 13, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM by Board Chair John Burnham. Members present were Joan Fox, Carol Misak, Lisa Siegmund, Rose Bisson, Catherine Wade, Ann Gruenberg, and Maryellen Donnelly. Also present were Superintendent of Schools Paul Graseck, Principal Elise Guari, and Business Coordinator Sally Lehoux. Unable to attend was board member Doug Stewart.

1. **Peer Mediation Presentation:** Student Max Freed presented the board with an annual summary of the accomplishments of this year's peer mediation program. Included in the many activities provided by the group this year were international greetings, organized game activities during recess, and a recycling program/competition between grades. School counselor Sam Robeson commented the peer mediators was a very outgoing group this year, were also extremely committed to the school community and Hampton Elementary School is quite proud of their accomplishments.
3. **Audience for Staff:**Linda Sanchini presented the board with an overview of the annual activities at the school and the faculty appreciates the support of the board through the budget for the Fuel Up to Play 60 program to encourage physical activity in the daily lives of the students.
4. **Audience for Citizens:** None
5. **Written Communications to Board:** The administration has received a letter of resignation from Rachel Butterfield. The board will receive the resignation during item #11—Staffing.
6. **Superintendent Reports/Recommendations:** There has been much publicity for the public forum to be held on June 18th at 7 PM and everyone hopes for a good turnout. Dr. Graseck and the administration continue to address the physical needs of the school. Highlights of the projects addressed include:
 - Tiling will commence on July 8th;
 - Dr. Graseck continues to monitor the 5-year plan of improvement;
 - The well-pump issue appears to be settled at this time. The waiver from the Department of Health was contingent upon efforts that needed to be explored first, including the instillation of a variable frequency drive (VFD) which appears to have taken care of the issue, so a waiver is no longer needed. The state has signed off on this resolution, so there appears to be no more need to address an additional well at this time;
 - The state has ended their session this year, but school readiness appears to be in limbo at this time because although funding has remained intact, cognizance of this program has been moved to an agency that doesn't yet exist. It is Dr. Graseck's hope that a special session of the general assembly will be called to fix this problem;
 - Dr. Graseck will also comment on issues that have been brought forward by residents that would have an impact on the budget and will comment during item #8.

Ms. Guari will have a formal report at the regular meeting, but commented that field day was a great success this year, the students showed exemplary sportsmanship, an a whole school photo has been

taken. A celebration for school volunteers will be held on Thursday at 11:00 and a picnic lunch will be provided. The board is invited to attend.

- 7. End of Year Capital and Maintenance Projects:** Dr. Graseck is requesting authorization to initiate capital projects this year including work on the well and security upgrades. After a brief discussion of available funds, **Rose Bisson moved to authorize the superintendent to use funds from the 2012-13 budget to complete capital projects on the 5-year plan, as outlined, and security upgrades. Joan Fox seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**
- 8. Discussion and Action on 2013-14 Budget:** The board discussed the recent budget vote as well as Minimum Budget Requirements as outlined by the state and the programs at the elementary school. Dr. Graseck distributed a list of suggested budget changes, but the budget would remain at the same bottom line which is currently a 0% increase. The board directed the superintendent to investigate the MBR requirements when a portion of the education budget is controlled by a regional district and the elementary budget is controlled by the town's board of education and would like to continue to investigate interdistrict agreements. The Board of Finance is scheduled to meet on June 17th. After a continued discussion of the needs of the elementary school, **Rose Bisson moved to accept the superintendent recommendations for changes to the 2013-14 budget with a bottom line of \$2,258,188. Ann Gruenberg seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**
- 9. Air Conditioning:** Air conditioning remains a concern since school is going deeper into the summer season and since temperatures remain high in the fall. Teachers have offered to bring in personal window units for their classrooms. The board held a brief discussion of the issue including safety concerns, the use of private equipment, productivity rates, and the electrical load on the building. The board finds it is extremely generous of the teaching staff but will continue the discussion during broader discussions of school needs.
- 10. Audience for Citizens:** Mr. Becker commented there is one full-sized school bus that travels throughout the town mid-day to transport preschool children and perhaps the school could investigate a less expensive vehicle.
- 11. Staffing:** **Rose Bisson moved to accept the resignation of Rachel Butterfield with regret, effective 8/5/2013. Lisa Siegmund seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

Rose Bisson moved to enter into executive session for discussion concerning the employment of the public employee at 8:00 PM and to invite Dr. Graseck to attend. Catherine Wade seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The Board re-entered public session at 8:32 PM. **Rose Bisson made a motion to hire Sarah Rondini for the position of Speech and Language Pathologist for .53 FTE at the salary of master's first step. Ann Gruenberg seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Maryellen Donnelly made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ann Gruenberg seconded it and the motion carried unanimously.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Nelson, Recording Clerk

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.