



HAMPTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER  
380 MAIN STREET  
HAMPTON, CT 06247

WEDNESDAY MARCH 4, 2026  
6:30 PM  
HAMPTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Chair Mark Becker called the meeting to order at 6:34.

Those in attendance were Juan Arriola, Laura Barrow, Mark Becker, Nick Brockett, Maryellen Donnelly, Elizabeth Lindorff, and Tim Studer. Also in attendance were Principal Victoria Smith, Director of Special Education Mary Jo Chretien, and Business Coordinator Sally Lehoux.

2. Board Training: Edsight and CSDE Data Systems

The presentation was postponed.

3. Audience for Citizens and Staff on the Agenda Items

Danielle McIver corrected the January 28 minutes. Rather than *highlighted a need for a librarian*, she highlighted the need for a library media specialist.

Juan Arriola asked if there would be discussion of correspondence to the board.

4. Correspondent to the Board

Board members received an investigative report from Rogin Nassau Attorneys at Law regarding a September 19, 2024 letter received from the Strafaci Law Firm, Patrice Merendina's counsel.

Juan Arriola read a letter responding to the findings.

A complaint was filed with the Freedom of Information (FOI) Commission by Juan Arriola regarding the reason for entering an executive session during the November 19, 2025 BOE meeting, which stated *discussion of superintendent goals* rather than discussion of superintendent evaluation.

5. Approval of Minutes from Special Board Meeting 1/28/2026

**Motion:** Tim Studer moved to approve the minutes of January 28, 2026 as amended. (Item 3, Audience for Citizens, Danielle McIver ...highlighted the need for a *librarian* changed to *library media specialist*.)

Laura Barrow seconded the motion.

Voting yes were Juan Arriola, Laura Barrow, Mark Becker, Nick Brockett, Elizabeth Lindorff, and Tim Studer. Maryellen Donnelly abstained.

The motion passed.

6. Principal's Report

Principal Smith reported on school events, school climate, and the after school program. Special Education Director Mary Jo Chretien reported on IEP and 504 meetings, summer school, and CSDE trainings.

7. Superintendent's Report

Principal Smith presented Superintendent Skarzynski's power point on the budget.

8. Business Coordinator's Report

Sally Lehoux reported that HES is within budget for the current school year. A District Repair and Improvement Project (DRIP) state grant of \$33,000 was received.

9. Committee and Liaison Reports

a. Finance and Operations

Mark Becker reported that quotes are needed to repair the AC in the library media center, for a new phone system, and to enclose the oil tank. Testing for arsenic revealed that there is no current need to replace a tank. Another water tank should be replaced.

b. EASTCONN

Maryellen Donnelly reported on a school climate checklist for statewide use, a job description for a Registered Behavior Technician (RBT), child care for businesses, awarded grants for cultural outreach, indigenous studies and construction, grant opportunities, and legislative funding proposals.

c. Policy Committee

The policy committee did not meet.

d. Communications

Elizabeth Lindorff provided a document about the committee's mission, assessment of current communications and next steps. Elizabeth and Nick Brockett reported further.

e. Superintendent Evaluation

The superintendent evaluation committee did not meet.

f. Curriculum Review

The curriculum review committee did not meet.

10. Discussion and Possible Action: 2026-2027 Budget

The board reviewed and discussed the February 25 draft budget. Mark Becker summarized items to share with Superintendent Skarzynski.

11. Discussion and Possible Action: 2026-2027 School Calendar Approval

**Motion:** Maryellen Donnelly moved to approve the presented 2026-2027 calendar correcting Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day and noting February 16 as a school break rather than part of President's Day. Elizabeth Lindorff seconded the motion.

Voting yes were Juan Arriola, Laura Barrow, Mark Becker, Nick Brockett, Maryellen Donnelly, Elizabeth Lindorff, and Tim Studer.

The motion passed unanimously.

12. Discussion and Possible Action: Board Retreat Revised Date

Given conflicts for some board members with the March 12 date, Mark Becker and Superintendent Skarzynski will discuss whether a revised date is possible.

13. Additions to the Agenda

The meeting was rescheduled and was a special meeting; no additions to the agenda were made.

14. Next Agenda Planning

Edsight and CSDE data systems training

Budget

Board evaluation-April, Superintendent evaluation-May

15. Second Audience for Citizens

Mark Becker praised and thanked the public works department for their snow removal service and Tom Lehoux for his work at the school.

Kathy Donahue asked for the superintendent's powerpoint on the FY 2027 budget, the 5-year plan, costs and where funds would be taken, and stated factors to be considered when comparing compensation for work.

Allan Cahill praised Tom Lehoux for his snow removal work at HES. He reported that a question was asked at the selectmen's meeting whether a response was given to Pomfret regarding sending elementary school students there.

Juan Arriola stated that he intends to ask the Memorial Day committee which honors veterans to consider the 250 year anniversary of the country and suggested that HES participate.

16. Adjournment

**Motion:** Juan Arriola moved to adjourn.

Elizabeth Lindorff seconded the motion.

Voting yes were Juan Arriola, Laura Barrow, Mark Becker, Nick Brockett, Maryellen Donnelly, Elizabeth Lindorff, and Tim Studer.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maryellen Donnelly