



Hampton Board of Education
380 Main Street
Hampton, CT 06247

April 24, 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, John Russell, and Dennis Timberman. Also present were Principal Patrice Merendina, Business Coordinator Sally Lehoux and Superintendent Andrew Skarzynski.

2. Audience for Citizens and Staff

Diane Meade encouraged the board to consider Spanish instruction or to provide familiarity with the language and asked if the district needs a superintendent. Juan Arriola addressed the board in Spanish.

3. Correspondence to the Board

None

4. Approval of Minutes from Board Meeting on March 27, 2024

Motion: David Halbach moved to approve the minutes of March 27, 2024. Mark Becker seconded the motion.

Voting yes were Mark Becker, Rose Bisson, Maryellen Donnelly, David Halbach, John Russell and Dennis Timberman. Voting no was Juan Arriola. The motion carried.

5. Principal's Report

Principal Merendina expressed appreciation for PTO leadership and events including an upcoming Touch the Truck event on June 9 at HES, and welcomed a new Team A long-term substitute. Students in Team C attended Nature's Classroom along with Chaplin students from April 8-14. Principal Merendina praised the leadership by Hampton's sixth grade students that she observed. Upcoming events include Arbor Day (9:30, April 26 at Fletcher Memorial Library), Spring Concert (May 28, 10 am rehearsal and 6 PM performance) and Field Day (May 21, June 4 rain date). The drama production occurred on April 14.

6. Superintendent's Report

a. Staffing update

Superintendent Skarzynski noted recent changes in staffing.

- b. CT DPH COVID 19 adoption of new CDC guidelines
Updated guidance recommends that those who have COVID-19 should stay home until they've been fever-free without medication for at least 24 hours and their symptoms have been improving for 24 hours.
- c. New CT Teacher and Leader Evaluation Plan
The plan was reviewed for possible board action, see item 9.
- d. School enrollment report
Current and projected numbers of students for 2024-2025 were reported.
- e. Enumeration report
Parents were informed that directory information may be shared under certain circumstances and were given the opportunity to decline sharing. After a reasonable window of time for parents to respond, Superintendent Skarzynski reported that name, address and grade would be shared for enumeration with town official(s). Information is shared on a need to know basis which might include emergency personnel.

7. Business Coordinator's Report

The district continues to operate within the current budget.

8. Committee and Liaison reports

Finance and Operations

Chair Becker reported on the results of the April 18 meeting. Superintendent Skarzynski sent Request for Proposals (RFPs) to the attorney for review and will then advertise the RFPs. First Selectman Cahill will place a question on the budget referendum to fund design of a school-wide heating, cooling and air exchange system.

EASTCONN

Maryellen Donnelly reported that EASTCONN is operating at a loss in food services due to an increase in food prices, and in transportation due to increases in costs including diesel fuel prices. Hampton has negotiated a one-year bus contract extension. Eastconn will honor contracts in place until they expire.

9. Possible action on Teacher and Leader Evaluation Plan

Motion: Maryellen Donnelly moved to approve the Increasing Educator Diversity Plan commencing 2024-2025. John Russell seconded the motion.

Voting yes were Mark Becker, Rose Bisson, Maryellen Donnelly, David Halbach, John Russell and Dennis Timberman. Juan Arriola abstained. The motion carried.

10. Possible action on policy adoption of:

- i. 4115: Personnel Certified; Policy for Education and Leader Evaluation and Support
- ii. 5131.911: Students; Connecticut School Climate Policy
- iii. 9323: Bylaws of the Board; Construction of the Agenda

Motion: Maryellen Donnelly moved to approve 4115: Personnel Certified; Policy for Education and Leader Evaluation and Support. Mark Becker seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Maryellen Donnelly moved to approve 5131.911: Students; Connecticut School Climate Policy. David Halbach seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Mark Becker moved to approve 9323: Bylaws of the Board; Construction of the Agenda. Maryellen Donnelly seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

11. Additions to the agenda

Juan addressed a concern.

Motion: Maryellen Donnelly moved to add discussion of representation for non-union staff members when meeting with administration. Mark Becker seconded the motion.

Voting yes were Juan Arriola, Mark Becker, Maryellen Donnelly, David Halbach, John Russell and Dennis Timberman. Rose Bisson abstained. The motion carried.

Superintendent Skarzynski reported that a memo was sent to staff and would be included in a forthcoming staff handbook regarding the practice that non-union staff may have a colleague attend any meeting with administration.

12. Next Agenda Planning

Food services and legislative wrap-up. Additions can be made by contacting Chair Bisson or Superintendent Skarzynski.

13. Audience for Citizens and Staff

Board of Finance Chair Kathy Donahue said that the Board of Education budget will be reviewed during the May 1 Board of Finance meeting.

In response to questions about HVAC from Diane Meade, Michael McKinnon and Shane Agnone, the audience was advised to attend the next Finance and Operations Committee meeting on May 16 and that F & O meetings are held the Thursday prior to board meetings. Juan Arriola stated that he and Dayna McDermott support Hampton Elementary and raised \$700 for Nature's Classroom.

14. Adjournment

Motion: Mark Becker moved to adjourn. John Russell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:10.

Respectfully submitted,
Maryellen Donnelly