



Hampton Board of Education  
380 Main Street Hampton, CT 06247  
Wednesday, May 22nd, 2024  
7:00 pm  
HES Media Center

### Minutes

1. Call to Order: Chair Bisson called the meeting to order at 7:05. Present were Board of Education members Juan Arriola, Dennis Timberman, Mark Becker, Elizabeth Lindorff, Maryellen Donnelly, Sally Lehoux, Andrew Skarzynski, Rose Bisson
2. Audience for Citizens and Staff:
  - a. Audience member raised concern about the figures presented in May 9th minutes. Chair Bisson said they would be discussed later in the lesson. Further reminded Mr. Skarzynski about sending along an article to be published in the Hampton Gazette.
  - b. Board of Education Member Juan Arriola: Updated Board on hearing before the Board of Freedom of Information Commission.
3. Correspondence to the Board
  - a. Resignation of Karen Avis, part time Art Teacher at HES.
4. Approval of Minutes from Board Meeting April 24th, 2024
  - a. **Motion to Accept Meeting Minutes from April 24th, 2024** by Mark Becker, 2nd by Elizabeth Lindorff. Motion carries 5:1.
  - b. Approval of Minutes from Special Board Meeting May 9th, 2024.
    - i. Motion to Approve Corrections by Maryellen Donnelly, 2nd by Sally Lehoux.
    - ii. Sally Lehoux Suggested Correction on May 9th, 2024 Motion: *“David Halbach moved to appoint Andrew Skarzynski as the Hampton school district Superintendent of Schools beginning May 9th, 2024 at an annual salary of \$52,439, prorated from May 18, 2024-June 30th, 2024 and for the 2024-2025 school year, Year 1 of a 3 Year contract from July 1 2024-June 30th 2027.*
    - iii. Correction of typos of Board of Education member’s names (Rose Bisson/ Rose Brisson, Andrew Skarzynski/Andrew Sharzysnki, Diane Gagnon/Diane Holmes)
    - iv. Juan Arriola: David Halbach made the original May 9th, 2024 motion, but is not currently present.
      1. Maryellen Donnelly withdrew the motion to approve corrections
    - v. **Motion by Mark Becker to table discussion of the May 9th evening minutes.** 2nd by Dennis Timberman. Motion carried unanimously
5. Principal’s Report
  - a. Success of “How to Be a Pirate in 7 Easy Songs” Drama production May 14th from Teams B & C
  - b. Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) is underway. Classroom’s are also completing iReady assessments.

- c. Field Day (5/21) theme was the “Summer Olympics.” Ms. Garrison did an amazing job and it was a huge success.
  - d. Grade 6th celebration will be Tuesday June 11th at 5:30. Flyers have been created. Principal Merendina is working with the PTO to gauge how many community members would like to attend the ceremony.
  - e. Friday 5/24/24 is a professional development day for staff. Principal Merendina will focus on vertical alignment of standards and planning for the 2024-2025 school year. Mrs. Smith will focus on science of reading and literacy needs assessments with Pre-K, K, Grades 1-2 teachers, and others. A State of CT training on Human Trafficking will also be conducted as well.
  - f. School breakfast menu updates.
6. Superintendent’s Report
- a. Staffing Update
    - i. Karen Avis resignation as part time Art Teacher at HES. She was also part time in Chaplin Elementary, HES will be working alongside Chaplin Elementary to find a suitable candidate that could serve both places.
    - ii. Will be posting for a permanent teacher position for Team A to replace the current long-term substitute position. All other classrooms are fully staffed.
  - b. Legislative Update
    - i. Senate Bill 5, Subsection 6 on Indoor Air Quality Inspections of HVAC systems. State of CT new extended deadline of completing these inspections from January 1st, 2025 to June 30th, 2031.
    - ii. Senate Bill 114, Subsection 24 & 25: Makes the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) responsible for operating and administering state funded early care programs.
    - iii. Senate Bill 154, Subsection 6: Epinephrine Training by Paraprofessionals; Subsection 10 ECS grant estimates require information by December 31st; Subsection 11: Defining “challenging” behavior vs. “misbehavior”
    - iv. House Bill 5437, Subsections 1 & 30: Establishing mandate review advisory council. Subsection 7 & 8 Would allow local Boards of Education rather than local Boards of Finance, or other similar entities, to deposit unexpected education funds into a non- lapsing account.
7. Business Coordinator’s Report
- a. Sally Lehoux: Asked for questions surrounding the report. No concerns were expressed.
8. Committee and Liaison reports
- a. Finance & Operations
    - i. Heat Pump Project. Looking for other grants and funding sources to offset cost. Researching replacement of oil tank, as well as the transition from a hot water heater to a propane heater.
    - ii. **Motion by Maryellen Donnelly to ask Superintendent of schools to purchase eight air conditioners for use in HES and one water bottle filling station not to exceed \$9,000.** Mark Becker 2nd. Motion carries 5:1
  - b. EASTCONN: Last meeting was postponed. No new updates at this time.

9. **Motion by Maryellen Donnelly to approve the 2024-2025 budget of \$2,179,600.** 2nd by Mark Becker. Motion carries 5:1
10. Additions to the agenda
  - a. Committee to negotiate the Superintendent contract. David Halbach is not able to serve on the committee. New committee members are Dennis Timberman, Mark Becker, and Maryellen Donnelly.
  - b. **Motion for acceptance of Karen Avis resignation from HES.** 2nd by Elizabeth Lindorff. Motion carried unanimously.
11. Next Agenda Planning
  - a. Discussion of Superintendent contract.
  - b. Budget Transfers
  - c. Presentation of school data from Principal Merendina
12. Audience for Citizens and Staff
  - a. Kathy: Express appreciation for taking a look at the budget
  - b. Michael McKinnon: Thanking everyone on the Board for all their hard and effort. Reiterated the importance of school by The Town of Hampton.
13. Committee went into a 5-minute Recess at 8:20 pm before reconvening in Executive Session: Discussion concerning an attorney client privileged communication related to the Board's role in addressing a discrimination complaint

Respectfully submitted,  
Annalicia Berard