

Town of Hampton
Board of Finance
Special Meeting Minutes
Wednesday July 23, 2026
7:00 PM
Town Hall Community Room

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Board Chair Kathy Donahue.

2. Roll Call/Alternates: Members present were Board Chair Kathy Donahue. Board members present were Joan Fox, Kate Donnelly, Ed Adleman, Vice-Chair Nick Brown (by request, present through phone connection at 6:59PM), and alternate members Fran Gustavesen, and Regina DeCesare. Unable to attend was regular member Judy Buell and alternate member Kathi Newcombe. We will vote by roll call. This is an in-person meeting and votes will be done by roll call.

2. Seating of Alternates: Judy Buell requested Regina DeCesare is seated in her absence.

3. Audience for citizens: None

4. Discussion and Possible Action on Revised FY 2027 Hampton Elementary School Budget: **Ed Adleman moved to discuss and approve the FY 2027 Hampton Elementary School Budget. Joan Fox seconded the motion.** Board Chair Donahue confirmed Nick Brown was able to hear the discussion. Superintendent Andrew Skarzynski explained the current status of the budget proposal, including the rollover of carryover funds and applying non-lapsing funds available from 2025, changes that were implemented including additional staffing, and new student counts that reflected the needs of the student body resulting in a 4.19% increase. Copies of the revised budget and list of changes were made available.

Nick Brown: Yes

Joan Fox: Yes

Kate Donnelly: Yes

Ed Adleman: Yes

Kathy Donahue: No

Regina DeCesare: No

The motion carries with a vote of 4 and 2.

5. Discussion and possible action on Request for Temporary Funding pursuant to CGS §7-405 to support district operations pending passage of the Hampton Elementary School FY

2027 school budget: Board Chair Donahue also referred to agenda item #6 and sought to clarify agenda item #5 would refer to temporary funds before a budget is approved and referred to permanent funds after a budget is approved. Superintendent Skarzynski also explained his understanding of taxpayer funding of school funds. Since the school is currently operating on the taxpayer previously approved 2025-26 budget of the previous year. Ms. Donahue, Mr. Skarzynski, the members of the board of finance and Mark Becker, HES board chair discussed the temporary and supplemental funding for the elementary school budget, including process or need for a town meeting, voice vote at town meeting, or a possible referendum. Mr. Skarzynski asked the school attorney to provide feedback, and Chair Donahue expressed concerns the Board of Finance authority was limited to \$20,000 for emergency funding per line item. First Selectman Cahill has also sought clarification, and is waiting for the reply. Mr. Skarzynski also explained his understanding of the difference between the two different agenda items. Board members, and attending audience members were also made aware of scheduling restrictions due to primary elections on August 11. **Kate Donnelly moved to approve temporary funding in the amount of \$94,797 pursuant to CGS §7-405 pending passage of the 2027 budget. Joan Fox seconded the motion.** This is all pending the legal opinion of the town attorney regarding town meeting requirements questions regarding funding based on previously approved budgets, supplemental requests of approved budgets and amount thresholds. After continuing discussion, **Kate Donnelly moved to amend her motion to reflect an amount of \$18,960. Joan Fox seconded the amendment.**

The motion passed 4-2 with the following vote:

Nick Brown: Yes

Joan Fox: Yes

Kate Donnelly: Yes

Ed Adleman: Yes

Kathy Donahue: No

Regina DeCesare: No

6. Discussion and possible Action on Request for Supplemental Appropriations pursuant to CGS § 10-222 for supplemental appropriations for additional funds required for the operation of the Hampton Elementary School: **Kate Donnelly moved to approve the request for supplemental appropriations pursuant to §10-222 for \$94,790 for additional funds for the operation of the Hampton Elementary School for FY 2027. Joan Fox seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following vote:**

Nick Brown: Yes

Joan Fox: Yes

Kate Donnelly: Yes

Ed Adleman: Yes

Kathy Donahue: Yes

Regina DeCesare: Yes

7. Citizen Comments:

Maryellen Donnelly wondered if any of the motions become moot if the budget is approved by town meeting. First Selectman Cahill also opined the same question may be moot.

Mark Becker also appreciates public support of requested funding, and exigencies surrounding student privacy.

Board members wanted to ensure the board reflects information when received.

Regina DeCesare moved to adjourn at 7:40 PM. Kate Donnelly seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously by roll call:

Nick Brown: Yes

Joan Fox: Yes

Kate Donnelly: Yes

Ed Adleman: Yes

Kathy Donaue: Yes

Regina DeCesare: Yes

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Nelson, recording secretary