



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

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 26, 2026
6:30 PM
HAMPTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order
Chair Mark Becker called the meeting to order at 6:40.
Those in attendance were Juan Arriola, Laura Barrow, Mark Becker, Nick Brockett, Maryellen Donnelly, Elizabeth Lindorff, and Tim Studer. Also in attendance were Superintendent Andrew Skarzynski, Principal Victoria Smith, Director of Special Education Mary Jo Chretien and Business Coordinator Sally Lehoux.
2. Audience for Citizens and Staff on Agenda Items
BOF Chair Kathy Donahue stated that an erroneous statement was made during a BOF meeting that the school district overspent its FY 2026 budget.
Juan Arriola requested meeting new staff during the August BOE meeting and requested an address.
3. Correspondent to the Board
HES staff corresponded about a flyer circulated prior to the June 9 school budget referendum. The author is unknown. Juan Arriola asked for the author and stated that anonymous correspondence should not be shared with BOE members. Juan Arriola stated that he never said that any special education services should be removed. He also said that a Zoom meeting should be recorded.
Maryellen Donnelly stated that the June 20 meeting was not a Zoom meeting, rather, that it was an in-person meeting during which Juan Arriola used telecommunications to attend.
4. Approval of Minutes from Special Board Meeting 6/24/2026, Special Board Meetings 7/13/2026, 7/20/2026
Motion: Elizabeth Lindorff moved to approve the minutes of 6/24, 7/13 and 7/20/2026.
Nick Brockett seconded the motion.
Voting yes were Mark Becker, Laura Barrow, Nick Brockett, Maryellen Donnelly, and Elizabeth Lindorff.
Voting no was Juan Arriola.
Abstaining was Tim Studer.
The motion passed.
5. Principal's Report
The Principal's and Special Education Director's August report includes dates for the start of school programs, the focus of teaching practices for the year, new staff, and a gift from UCONN of materials to build air filters and air quality monitors to be used in student instruction. The high quality of newly hired staff were praised by both the Principal and Special Education Director.
6. Superintendent's Report
Superintendent Skarzynski's report is included as an addendum to the minutes.
7. Business Coordinator's Report
Sally Lehoux provided a written report on the FY 2026 budget that included an overage of \$54,469 in Account 434 Building/Grounds Maintenance due to septic line jetting, mapping and repairs. To cover

the cost within the FY26 budget and preserve DRIP grant funds for future needs, the following budget transfers were requested

- \$7,500 from 100 Salaries/Wages
- \$3,500 from 200 Benefits
- \$2,500 from 300 Purchased Professional Services
- \$4,500 from 500 Other Purchased Services
- \$15,000 from 600 Supplies

An audited surplus will be transferred to the BoE Non-Lapsing Fund. The current unaudited surplus was reported as \$5,764.

8. Committee and Liaison Reports

a. Finance and Operations

The septic system was repaired. The oil tank enclosure will be redesigned. One bid to fix the parking lot lights was received as a response to a RFP. The halls were painted during the summer.

b. EASTCONN

Maryellen reported on finances, food services, requests for public comments on Headstart and the Governor's Commission on Education Funding and Accountability, regional initiatives in special education, and new guidelines for autism eligibility and MTSS.

c. Policy Committee

The policy committee did not meet.

d. Communications

The communications committee did not meet.

e. Superintendent Evaluation Ad Hoc

The superintendent evaluation committee did not meet.

f. Curriculum Review

The curriculum review committee did not meet.

9. Information Update: Meeting Dates for the Successor Agreement to the Hampton Education Association Collective Bargaining Agreement

Mark Becker will serve on the negotiation team and appointed Maryellen Donnelly and Dennis Timberman to the team. Kathy Donahue will attend as a Board of Finance member. Negotiations will be held on September 10, October 6, and November 2.

Tim Studer requested a copy of the HEA contract. It is available online at

<https://www.hampton.school.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/2024-HEA-contract.pdf>

10. Discussion and Possible Action: Board of Education Event Calendar

Mark Becker shared a document, *Board General Duties (Event Calendar) on a Monthly Basis*. Board members were encouraged to add items that are usually done during a school year. Salary of the superintendent was added to December and voting on the HEA contract in November during a negotiation year.

11. Additions to the Agenda

Motion: Maryellen Donnelly moved to add the Business Coordinator's recommended budget transfers as presented to the agenda. 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.

Motion: Maryellen Donnelly moved to add a quick summary of goals for 2027 to the agenda.

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.

11a.

Motion: Maryellen Donnelly moved to approve the transfers as presented by the Business Coordinator and listed in item 7. Elizabeth Lindorff seconded the motion.

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

Voting no was Juan Arriola.

The motion passed.

11b.

Mark Becker shared a document outlining three 2026 goals and briefly reviewed progress and goals to be continued or revised. Goal setting for 2027 will be discussed in September.

12. Next Agenda Planning

Board goals and actions for FY 27

New teacher introductions

Approval of the June 22 special meeting (board retreat) minutes

13. Second Audience for Citizens and Staff

BOF Chair Kathy Donahue reported there is a balance of \$48,574.25 in the HES Capital Funds account and there is information available on WINY Radio from the Putnam Superintendent about completing a survey for the Governor's Commission on Education Funding and Accountability. She asked for negotiation dates and an appointment to discuss school district and town budget documents. First Selectman Allan Cahill said that the vote on the school budget would be during the third week of September.

14. Possible Executive Session to Discuss the Performance of a Public Employee

Motion: Maryellen Donnelly moved to enter executive session for the discussion of the performance of a public employee. 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 Board entered executive session at 8:07.

The executive session ended at 8:14.

15. Possible Action: Superintendent Contract Approval

Motion: Maryellen Donnelly moved to approve the contract of the Superintendent as presented by Chair Becker. Elizabeth Lindorff seconded the motion.

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

Voting no was Juan Arriola.

The motion passed.

16. Adjournment

Motion: Maryellen Donnelly moved to adjourn. Tim Studer 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 8:23.

Respectfully submitted,
Maryellen Donnelly