

Board Update

8/25/2026

School staff have returned! We were happy to welcome our new staff and those staff members returning from summer break.

Prior to the arrival of staff, the administrators of Parish Hill, Chaplin Elementary School, and Hampton Elementary School met for a day of leadership planning. The emphasis of the day was on focused and strategic actions to move student learning and performance forward. Included in our discussion were topics such as year long professional learning plans, classroom walkthroughs, data meetings, and the structure of the 1:1 check in meetings. The article “The Fast Track to Strategic Leadership” by Rachel Curtis was shared and discussed as well. The team has begun the process of school improvement planning, connecting their efforts to demonstrable results in student achievement, attendance, climate, and reductions of office referrals.

Convocation was held on Monday, August 24th at Parish Hill. Staff from Parish Hill, Chaplin Elementary School, and Hampton Elementary School attended. The purpose of convocation is to collectively celebrate the start of the school year and revisit our shared promise to meet the needs of our students. Information was shared related to the importance of connections and relationships, especially as they relate to schools in small communities.

Anthropic has authorized teachers to sign up for its LLM AI, Claude, for one free year once their email credentials are authenticated. The impact of AI has already arrived; we will be seeking to develop Board policy around AI as well as to engage the staff in the development of a school-based technology practice. The concerns regarding AI are both practical and legal. With the potential for FERPA or other violations of student PII, it will be essential to have a coherent policy in place.

Special thanks go out to Tommy Lehoux, Gary Salois, and Eddie Andino for all their efforts on preparing HES for the arrival of students.

New Hires

Leo Bienvenue, PE/Health

Shawntel Spiteri, grade 4

Jessica Miglio, Special Education

Amber Edwards, Music

Resignations

Rebecca Stewart

Louise Edwards, para-educator

Still searching: .2 FTE Art, para-educator(s)

CONN-OSHA:

Schools are now considered High Hazard workplaces. CONN OSHA has made a commitment to routine and surprise inspections of schools to ensure safe practices are taking place for students. In order to support this, they have implemented a consultation team. HES is participating in the consultation program and our exposure to surprise visits will be limited. we are effectively pulled out of the pool of schools selected for random monitoring and surprise visits.

High Quality Special Education Grant

HES applied for a high-quality special education grant for a collaborative with Chaplin. While the State issued 41 grant awards, it was a deep pool of over 120 applications and Hampton did not receive a grant.

FY26

It was reported recently that the district overspent its FY2026 budget by \$106,000. That information is inaccurate. HES did not overspend; the gap is the result of an accounting difference.

Town Reports (GAAP) basis - expenses reported when incurred - auditor gave town entry for GAAP basis to include FY25 encumbrances in FY26 expenses. Town has \$24,610 of FY25 board encumbrances in their current reports. This is not wrong, it is a different accounting method.

Accrued payroll for FY25 entry was not reversed therefore those expenses were being reported in board expense line

Budgetary basis - board reports are budgetary and encumbrances are included in the year they are contracted

JEs for grant fund payroll run through board checking are provided to the town throughout the year. JEs were provided February, March, August 2026.

New Legislation:

The following are among, but not limited, many new laws passed this last legislative session:

- Kindergarten age waivers are now only accepted with Board policy allowing them
- Notice of seclusion and restraint codified to same day
- Updates on immunization standards
- Student safety plans with mental health care providers (new communication framework to be set up)
- Parent managed learning/homeschool (mostly starting 7/1/2027)
 - o Implementation of 'intent to educate' forms
 - o Requirements of specific number of attempts to contact parents and/or notify CSDE
 - o New requirements on withdrawals including background checks
 - o Reporting requirements as to how many students are educated via
- Upcoming broad assessment reduction incentive program
- Crisis response drills – emphasis on psychological and emotional safety, consistency of language, developmentally appropriate training, and parent notification timelines. Language changes are also included that require schools to provide portions of the 'All Hazards Safety Plan' to members of the public if requested
- Teacher termination hearings – moved to third party arbitration and no longer in purview of the Board of Education
- Paraeducator health care subsidy – program for HSA contribution from the State remains intact for paraeducators
- Enhanced workers' compensation benefits for employees assaulted at work (100% of average weekly earnings)
- Expanded applicant disclosure requirements
- Disclosure of wage and benefit information in job postings
- Budgeting changes as of FY28 – including original and actual amounts in budget lines for the two preceding years to the budget year being developed
- Budget notification – allows Superintendent to distribute written notification (not mass communication system) to school families on upcoming budget referendum dates; chief elected officer of town can use town notification system
- Zero emission school buses – delayed

Labor Negotiations

A short primer on the negotiations can be found at <https://portal.ct.gov/sde/legal/legal-and-governmental-affairs/teacher-negotiations>

Initial information has been requested and provided to the CEA for the purposes of negotiations. The Board team will meet on the following dates: 9/10, 10/6, and 11/2. Attorney Jessica Ritter will be representing the Hampton Board of Education during negotiations.

Dates from the State are below

Hampton	T	9/3/2026	10/23/2026		11/17/2026
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Per CGS 10-153b:

A member of such board of finance, such board of selectmen, or such other authority making appropriations, shall be permitted to be present during negotiations pursuant to this section and shall provide such fiscal information as may be requested by the board of education.

Board Training SY26-27*

September: Staff Reception

October: An introduction to common education terms

November: School Data Performance Report

December: Reducing Screen Time and Digital Trends

January: A Deeper Look At EdSight

February: Smarter Balanced Assessments

March: Special Education

April: Unpacking Curriculum Standards

May: End of Year Recognitions

*One session may be replaced with training from CAFE or a different external provider