



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

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 23, 2026
6:30 PM
HAMPTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Chair Mark Becker called the meeting to order at 6:43.

Those in attendance were Board of Education (BOE) members Juan Arriola, Mark Becker, Stephanie Bora, Nick Brockett, Maryellen Donnelly, Elizabeth Lindorff, and Dennis Timberman. 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

Dayna McDermot Arriola addressed an FOI request, submissions to the *Hampton Gazette*, and BOE and school relations with community. Board of Finance Chair Kathy Donahue addressed reconciling budgets and requests for meetings and information. Juan Arriola and Dayna McDermott Arriola commented on communication about the budget.

3. Correspondent to the Board

Chair Becker received correspondence from Board of Finance Chair Kathy Donahue and a FOI request from the *Hampton Gazette*.

4. Approval of Minutes from Board Meeting 8/26/2026

Motion: Elizabeth Lindorff moved to approve the minutes 8/26/2026.

Dennis Timberman seconded the motion.

Following discussion, Elizabeth Lindorff amended her motion to approve the minutes of August 26, 2026 with the following amendment to Item 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. discussed that a discrepancy between the Town Treasurer Board of Education budget and school records for 2025-2026 and July 2027-2027 was found.*

Dennis Timberman seconded the motion.

Voting yes were Mark Becker, Stephanie Bora, Nick Brockett, Maryellen Donnelly, Elizabeth Lindorff, and Dennis Timberman.

Abstaining was Juan Arriola.

The motion passed.

5. Principal's Report

Principal Victoria Smith's September report includes information provided to families, the after school program, meeting with the town's historical society, PTO, the spaghetti dinner supporting the 6th graders Outside Classroom trip and how the Multi Tiered System of Support (MTSS) was being implemented. Director of Special Education Mary Jo Chretien's report included information on school population, MTSS, disabilities, special education eligibility, and prevalence of students with Individual Education Plans.

6. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Skarzynski's report included reading comprehension, "Leading Together: The Responsibilities of Boards and Superintendents." found at

<https://heyzine.com/flip-book/CABECAPSSGovernance.html#page/1>

screen time and use of AI, timelines for submission of data to the Connecticut State Department of Education, when "reply all" to a quorum of the BOE is a violation of the Freedom of Information Act <https://www.pullcom.com/education-law-notes/dont-press-send-dangers-of-e-mail-the-inadvertent-meeting-and-updated-foic-guidance>

Superintendent Skarzyński's participation in a Rural Health Transformation Program, and an analysis of the change in special education prevalence and costs.

7. Business Coordinator's Report

Business Coordinator Sally Lehoux reported the August 2026 bank register, expenditures, revised grant receipts, the BOE budget vs actual report distributed at the August BOE meeting showed that the BOE did not overspend its FY26 budget, a process for monthly reconciliation of the town's BOE accounting records with those of the BOE was created, and audits for FY26 were begun on September 24 and are scheduled to be completed by December 31, 2026.

8. Committee and Liaison Reports

a. Finance and Operations

The F & O committee did not meet.

b. EASTCONN

Maryellen reported on a staff evaluation platform, early childhood, career and workforce pathways and AI.

c. Policy Committee

The policy committee did not meet.

d. Communications

The communications committee did not meet.

e. Superintendent Evaluation Ad Hoc

Chair Becker distributed the "Superintendent Evaluation Timeline" and the "Superintendent Evaluation Process" documents to be reviewed by BOE members.

f. Curriculum Review

The curriculum review committee did not meet.

9. Information: Board-Superintendent Communication Protocol

The protocol is as follows: BOE members make requests to the Board Chair and the Board Chair will communicate to the Superintendent.

Do not Reply All to superintendent administrative communications to the whole Board (see Item 6).

10. Information: Board and Superintendent Roles

Board members are asked to read "Leading Together: The Responsibilities of Boards and Superintendents." found at

<https://heyzine.com/flip-book/CABECAPSSGovernance.html#page/1>

11. Information: Freedom of Information Act Request: Superintendent and Board of Education Email Records Request

Chair Becker met with *Hampton Gazette* editor Dayna McDermott Arriola and the FOI request was reduced to certain time periods.

12. Discussion and possible action: Request for Capital Non-recurring Funds for Mini Split in Server Room

Motion: Maryellen Donnelly moved that the BOE approve the expenditure of up to ten thousand dollars for replacement of server room mini-splits. Elizabeth Lindorff seconded the motion.

Voting yes were Mark Becker, Stephanie Bora, Nick Brockett, Maryellen Donnelly, Elizabeth Lindorff, and Dennis Timberman.
Abstaining was Juan Arriola.
The motion passed.

13. Discussion and Possible Action: Board of Education Goals
Chair Becker distributed the "Board General Duties (Event Calendar) on a Monthly Basis" document and revision of three goals with bulleted action items for review in October.
14. Discussion and Possible Action: Board of Education Scheduling of Committees
For those committees not recently meeting, Chair Becker will determine dates for the next committee meeting during which committee chairs will be chosen. Committee chairs will schedule subsequent meetings, and post agenda and minutes.
15. Additions to the Agenda
None
16. Next Agenda Planning
BOE approval of timeline and process for superintendent evaluation
BOE approval of board goals and actions
BOE monthly calendar of duties
Possible executive session for superintendent evaluation
Policies
Presentation on terminology
17. Second Audience for Citizens and Staff
None
18. Adjournment
Motion: Juan Arriola moved to adjourn. Elizabeth Lindorff seconded the motion.
Voting yes were Juan Arriola, Mark Becker, Stephanie Bora, Nick Brockett, Maryellen Donnelly, Elizabeth Lindorff, and Dennis Timberman.
The motion passed unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 8:52.

Respectfully submitted,
Maryellen Donnelly