

**HAMPTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
September 30, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER - Mrs. Monaghan, Board President Time: 7:01 PM

Open Public Meeting Announcement

In accordance with the State's Sunshine Law, adequate notice of this meeting was provided by sending a notice of the time, date, location, and, to the extent known, the agenda of this meeting on September 23, 2021 to the Express-times and Star Ledger. Copies of the notice were also placed in the Board Office, on the district school bulletin board, posted on the District website, and sent to the Township Clerk on September 24, 2021.

Pledge of Allegiance

District Mission Statement

The Hampton Borough School District, committed to quality and excellence, will provide a broad-based education which is responsive to the needs of all students. Our District seeks to create a challenging learning environment that encourages high expectations for success through the development of appropriate instruction that allows for individual differences and learning styles. Our school promotes a safe, orderly, caring, and supportive environment. Each student's self-esteem is fostered by positive relationships with students, staff and the community. We strive to have our students, parents, teachers and community members actively involved in a desire for lifelong learning.

District Goals:

1. To ensure fidelity to a high quality instructional program that provides equitable opportunities for all students for in person and remote learning.
2. To implement project based learning and activities that develop and foster like skills.
3. To invest in and offer professional development for staff on project based learning and other professional development needs as identified in collaboration with the teaching staff.
4. To develop alternative sources of revenue for the district.

Board Goal:

1. To engage in ongoing professional development in areas that the Board identifies as crucial to expanding their knowledge as effective school board members.

Roll Call – Victoria L Stevens, Interim Board Secretary

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|--------------------------------------|---|
| X Mrs. Elizabeth Monaghan- President | X Dr. Timothy Frederiks, Interim Superintendent |
| X Mrs. Alicia Noon- Vice President | X Victoria L Stevens, Interim Board Secretary |
| X Mrs. Megan Bruton | |
| X Mrs. Dana Daneault | |

Tim Phelan of Hampton Borough Fire Department was in attendance to solicit support for the upcoming Barrel Fight, Community Day Celebration schedule for Saturday, October 9, 2021. Gates open 1 PM and the event runs till 10 PM. They are hoping to have the BOE sponsor the Bounce House and monitor it. No cost for volunteers. All support is appreciated. Other activities they hope to include is an Obstacle Course for Kids using drill maneuvers and fire company equipment. Duck Race is at 3:00 pm, cost for Duck is \$20 donation. There will be free birch beer and water. Mrs. Bruton has agreed to organize the BOE's participation.

Review of Minutes

- June 15, 2021 Regular Business Meeting Minutes
- June 15, 2021 Executive Session Meeting Minutes

- July 13, 2021 Special Business Meeting Minutes
- August 12, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes
- August 12, 2021 Executive Session Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion: **Mrs. Bruton** **Second:** **Mrs. Daneault**

Mrs. Bruton	Mrs. Daneault	Mrs. Monaghan	Mrs. Noon
Y	Y	Y	Y

Board President’s Report - Mrs. Monaghan – Nothing new to report at this time.

Interim Superintendent’s Report – Dr. Timothy Frederiks

An (internal) assessment schedule for Math Testing has been established. The benchmark data is to be shared at conferences. Start Strong third week in October will be done by October 31 for 4th & 5th Grades (50 minutes each) Language Arts and Math to determine level of learning loss across the state. NJ SLA will be done in the Spring.

Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) Report -2021-2022

Month	# Incidents Investigated	# Incidents HIB Confirmed	Remediation (Y/N)	Discipline (Y/N)
July	0	0		
August	0	0		

Safety Drill Report 2021-2022 SY

Date	Drill	Time	Evacuation Time	Details
7//26/21	Fire Drill	8:45 am	32 Secs	ESY * used bullhorn Siren as notification
7/26/2021	Safety Drill LOCK OUT Drill	9:15 am	n/a	ESY
8/4/2021	Safety Drill Hold Drill	12:05 pm	n/a	ESY Hold in the classroom
8/5/2021	Fire Drill	10:42 am	19 sec	*only 1 class in ESY in building

Hampton Student Enrollment

	District: In	Choice: In	District: Out
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Pre K	19		1
Kindergarten	10		
First Grade	19	2	
Second Grade	10		
Third Grade	6	1	1
Fourth Grade	14	2	
Fifth Grade	8		
SUB TOTAL	86*	5*	2
Choice Out	6		
LT - 6	14		1
LT - 7	16		1
LT - 8	8		
SUB TOTAL	44		2
TOTAL	130	5	4

***Present in Building**

Interim Business Administrator's Report – Victoria L Stevens

- **Correspondence – Resignation Mr. Corey Mauger**

Letter of resignation was received from Mr. Corey Mauger. He will be moving out of Hampton and will no longer be eligible to serve on the Board of Education. His term would have been expiring in December 2021 so he chose not to run for re-election.

Future Board of Education Meetings

- October 19, 2021

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC I (Public discussion of agenda items)

Brief comments on any matter of interest to the district should be reserved for the time reserved in the order of business.

File Code: 9322

1. *During each regular meeting, two opportunities are provided for citizens to ask questions and to make comments. During the first opportunity, early on the agenda, comments are invited regarding subjects on this agenda. Persons wishing to speak must, upon being recognized, rise and state their name and address. The Board reserves the right to establish rules for the conduct of its meetings including such matters as the time at which the public will be heard if at all, who may speak, and for how long. All such rules shall be monitored by the presiding officer. All cell phones must be turned off or be in vibrating or silent ring mode. Persons should leave the meeting room before answering their cell phones. All comments and questions must be addressed to the Board President or the presiding officer, and shall be limited to school-related*

issues. If personal remarks or discourteous statements are made, the presiding officer may require the speaker to sit down.

DISCUSSION:

Michele Molotzak, 12 Riddle Ave, questioned the terminology and meaning of data listed in the Safety Drill report. It was also clarified the previously approved Work-Family Connection program being provided after school is a non-profit entity.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Motion: Mrs. Noon Second: Mrs. Bruton

A-1 FACILITIES USE

RESOLVED, that Hunterdon Medical Center (HMC) currently runs an After Care Program, and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that every Tuesday HMC wishes to provide a strictly recreational period of time for participation by all who wish to attend. This is provided free of charge for the students attending this program. In exchange for these services, the school district hereby agrees to provide Use of Facilities free of charge to HMC.

Mrs. Bruton	Mrs. Daneault	Mrs. Monaghan	Mrs. Noon
Y	Y	Y	Y

B. FINANCE

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, and Business Administrative, motion to approve items B-1 and B-2.

Motion: Mrs. Noon Second: Mrs. Daneault

B-1 Approve Bill List

Motion to approve the Bill List for the period of September 15, 2021, through September 30, 2021.

Fund	Total
Fund 10 – Current Expense	5,157.74
Fund 11 - Current Expense	132,504.51
Fund 20 – Special Revenue	33,026.02
Fund 40 – Debt Service	0.00
Fund 50 – Food Service	0.00
Grand Total:	199,870.64

B-2 Accept Donation

RESOLVED, that donation of \$400 be accepted from Martha Monaghan, in memory of her late husband Malcom Monaghan. She has requested that it be used to purchase recess supplies and equipment. Dr. Frederiks reported Mrs. Dalrymple is working with the staff to prepare their wish list.

Mrs. Bruton	Mrs. Daneault	Mrs. Monaghan	Mrs. Noon
Y	Y	Y	Y

C. PERSONNEL AND NEGOTIATIONS

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, motion to approve personnel item C-1 as presented.

Motion: Mrs. Noon Second: Mrs. Daneault

C-1 Amended Step on Guide – Laura Kiernan

RESOLVED, that Laura Kiernan’s employment contract was approved by the Hampton Board of Education on 5/10/21. Upon further review, her prior experience dictates she should be moved to **BA-Step 5a**, effective for the 2021-22 school year and beyond, based on the ratification of the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) at the proper salary of \$60,762, upon recommendation of the Superintendent and as agreed upon by placement used to determine CBA and Salary Guides for years 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24.

Mrs. Bruton	Mrs. Daneault	Mrs. Monaghan	Mrs. Noon
Y	Y	Y	Y

D. POLICY

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, motion to approve Items D-1 and D-2 for First Reading.

Motion: Mrs. Daneault Second: Mrs. Noon

D.1 RESOLVED, that mandated Policy – Administration 1648.11 – The Road Forward – Covid 19 – Health and Safety be presented for First Reading.

D.2 RESOLVED, that mandated Policy – Administration 1648.13 – School Employees Vaccination Requirements – Health and Safety be presented for First Reading.*

Mrs. Bruton	Mrs. Daneault	Mrs. Monaghan	Mrs. Noon
Y*	Y	Y	Y

*Noted – NO CHOICE

E. CURRICULUM AND TECHNOLOGY

None

F. COMMUNICATION

None

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Noon requested clarification on the previous discussion of the 2nd Tuesday and the 4th Thursday for two meetings a month.

NEW BUSINESS

• **Committee Structure**

Mrs. Bruton is not in favor of Committee structure as her experience in the past wasn’t positive. She felt matters were presented during Committee, questions and determinations were made and when presented at the meeting for approval the details were missing. She believes you learn from others’ questions and constructive dialog ensues.

• **Formulation of Ad-Hoc Committee - *Forthcoming***

• **Policy Implemented to Allow for Committee Structure –**

In order for the Board to move toward two meetings a month and/or Committee structure, a First Reading on Policy allowing for either of these scenarios will need to be presented at the October meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC II (Public discussion of any matter of interest)

Brief comments on any matter of interest to the district should be reserved for the time reserved in the order of business. File Code:9322

During each regular meeting, two opportunities are provided for citizens to ask questions and to make comments. During the second opportunity, just prior to adjournment, citizens may address general questions and comments to the Board. Persons wishing to speak must, upon being recognized, rise and state their name and address. The Board reserves the right to establish rules for the conduct of its meetings including such matters as the time at which the public will be heard if at all, who may speak, and for how long. All such rules shall be monitored by the presiding officer. All cell phones must be turned off or on vibrate or silent ring mode. Persons should leave the meeting room before answering their cell phones. All comments and questions must be addressed to the Board President or the presiding officer, and shall be limited to school-related issues. If personal remarks or discourteous statements are made, the presiding officer may require the speaker to sit down.

Discussion:

Karen Cunningham, 65 Valley Road, presented the following to the BOE:

September 30, 2021

To the Members of the Hampton School Board

Subject: The Closure of Hampton Public School

A group of concerned citizens attended the Hampton Borough Council meeting on Monday, September 27th, to discuss the increase in homeowner taxes as it relates to the cost of educating Hampton students. The consensus was that it was time to close our Hampton school. The cost of ongoing maintenance, staffing, benefits, materials, computers, safety and security far exceeds that which residents can afford to support.

The cost vs the benefit to the students was another issue. Many felt that the school is simply too small to offer the advantages and opportunities afforded by larger school districts. There was discussion around academics, athletics, socialization, diversity, test scores, home values and community interaction. More importantly, Hampton is placed in the bottom 50% of all New Jersey schools for overall test scores when compared to all other school districts in the state. Specific data analysis and comparisons are available on various websites.

Today there are 130 students enrolled in Hampton, but only 86 of these are present in the school itself, Pre-K to 5. The other 44 are already in the Lebanon Township School District for Grades 6-8. That integration began with the 2018-2019 school year and there seems to be broad based agreement that it is working well. Without the 19 children in Pre-K, the actual student total for Kindergarten through 5th grade is **67**.

The challenge is always to provide our children with the best possible all-around education at the most affordable cost to the taxpayer. Keeping Hampton School open for such a small student population is not the way to do it. We must find a solution that **will** provide the best education for our students without bankrupting our resources.

The time for cost vs benefit analysis has passed. Shared service expenditures with other school districts makes sense from a cost perspective and we all know it.

The time for establishing review committees has also passed. However, there are ways to quickly assess the pulse of this community with regard to this issue. We can initiate a ballot referendum, conduct surveys, sign petitions and listen to taxpayer input. The challenge for taxpayers will be to make their voices heard. The challenge for school board members will be to listen to the people who pay the bills and then act accordingly.

Rather than engage in contested exchanges between the school board members and the taxpayers of Hampton, I would encourage all of us to work together. We must first acknowledge the existence of the "elephant in the room" that we can no longer afford to feed and keep.

I respectfully request our leaders to act now to plan and execute the closure of Hampton School in a reasonable, fair and timely manner by integrating ALL of our students into a neighboring school district.

I welcome your comments and suggestions regarding this matter. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Karen Cunningham
65 Valley Road
Hampton, NJ 08827

Maria Costa, 166 Main St, grew up in Hampton and was a 2011 graduate. She wanted to put down roots here. She is now an accountant with Ernst & Young, formerly working for the firm of William Supplee. The BOE was inspired by her story and hope to feature past students to help showcase the school.

Roberta Kresge, 84 New Street, expressed her discontentment with the school and teachers her students had encountered.

Robert Wotanowski, 41 Wells Ave, current Borough Councilman, suggested redoing a Shared Service Agreement with the Borough and the School in order to assist each entity. Also, perhaps the sale of the fields would be in order.

Robert Salantano of Charter Road, inquired if perhaps the space could be shared with a Charter School and/or private school. The Board felt that would still require sending our children elsewhere as renting to a compatible entity would not be possible since NJ public education would not allow for co/intermingling of different types of educational institutions.

Board President Elizabeth Monaghan thanked the 14 public in attendance and requested "Patience Please" as the Board moves forward to investigate its options. She stated that these matters will not be taken lightly and not without a calculated thought process.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Mrs. Daneault Second: Mrs. Noon Time: 9:08 PM

Voice Vote: Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Abstentions: 0

Resolved the Board adjourn the Regular Business Meeting of September 14, 2021 at 9:08 PM

Respectively Submitted by,

Victoria L Stevens

Victoria L. Stevens, Interim BA/Board Secretary

Elizabeth Monaghan, Board President