

**Hampton Elementary School  
Board of Education Meeting  
October 28, 2020**

**Present:** BOE: Rose Bisson, Chair, Juan Arriola, Maryellen Donnelly, Ann Gruenberg, Susan Lovegreen, Mark Becker, Neal Moon, Russ Moffitt, Matt Flegert. STAFF: Sam Roberson, Principal, Dr. Judy Benson-Clarke, Psychologist.

**Call to order**

At 7:03PM by Rose Bisson, recording in process.

**Audience for Staff and Citizens**

Allan Cahill, Hampton First Selectman, commending the board “through perilous times in light of declining enrollment”, queried need for sharing resources, ie: transportation, bus location.

Additional discussion re: work completed on driveway and improvement to culverts.

**Correspondence**

- Emcor Report from Superintendent Olah: ventilation is working at 100% capacity, filters to be replaced, new filters will keep more particulate out of air system. Additional discussion of ventilation process.
- CSDE assessments: letter from Commissioner of Education that many assessments statewide are being delayed because of COVID.
- Letter from long term substitute, Sharon Wapin read by Chair Rose Bisson re: request for appropriate compensation.

**Approval of September minutes:** Motion by Mark Becker to approve, Maryellen Donnelly, 2<sup>nd</sup>, corrections, none, no discussion, motion carries unanimously.

**Superintendent Report:**

Main report and discussion centered on Professional Development (PD) and teacher response:

1. Teachers have unique sets of needs, suggestion for efforts to be more individualized. Additional recommendation for focused support in distance learning
2. Condition of building, new cleaning crew, Helping Hands. Issues with learning curve on using alarm.
3. Curriculum, Principal Roberson is looking to receiving additional information from EASTCONN.

Additional discussion on generator and ventilation, Mark Becker will supply in operations report.

Additional curriculum discussion concerning: Language Arts and Math, early childhood, PreK and K, NAEYC support for our programming, and digitized curriculum. Supt. Olah confirmed that staff have access to hardcopies.

**Principal Report**

Principal Roberson reported EMT training and drills completed, students are acclimating to routine, November plans in place for school spirit-oriented activities for positivity and morale.

### **Special Education Report**

Discussion led by Dr. Judith Benson Clarke:

- Qualification of total number of students
- Percentages of Special Ed. population
- Speech language (Grade 1 and below)
- Audits in neighboring districts
- IEPS for students at STEM school

Questions re: increase/decrease in changes, discussion of students moving in and out of district. Additional questions and discussion re: students needing restraint when in danger of harming self or others, and goals for de-escalation. Suggestion and planning for training to reduce risk of harm in redirecting students. Dr. Clarke commented on the: "Need to celebrate diversity and practice inclusivity and emotional safety."

### **Business Coordinator Report**

General discussion re: school readiness grant and ability to carryover from last year without penalty. Currently funded for 16 total students. Discussion of possible use of FEMA funding, this does not apply since Covid covers a different set of parameters.

### **Meeting Dates**

2021 dates were presented: Motion by Mark Becker to approve, Ann Gruenberg, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Discussion, none: Motion approved by majority, Juan Arriola abstained. Dates to be sent to Town Clerk.

### **Substitute Pay**

Discussion of substitute payscale:

- Daily rates from \$120 to capping out at \$175 in comparable districts, depending on degree, licensure.
- Differences in class size/responsibility
- Tasks, planning and prep
- Short term-long term
- Hourly v. day rate

Recommendation to increase pay for substitutes

Motion by Maryellen Donnelly to accept proposal as presented from Business Coordinator, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ann Gruenberg. No discussion. Motion carries: Yes: Bisson, Donnelly, Flegert, Gruenberg, Lovegreen, No: Arriola, Moffitt, Moon; Abstain: Becker

### **Covid Directives**

Discussion of information provided in report, including:

- Sharing with entire board.
- Add to emergency protocol/policy
- Curriculum responsibility and the role of the Board move to Committee report
- Include for an action item for November meeting

### **BOE Committees and Responsibilities**

Maryellen Donnelly stated this was erroneously included on the agenda and requested for removal from agenda.

### **Committee and Liaison Reports**

- Communications, Matt Flegert: Discussion of Fall and Spring Newsletters, cost, use of Hampton Gazette to provide information from Staff and student contributions. Additional discussion that content is important to functioning of the school. Recommendation of 2 academic newsletters to be produced with options for more.
- Finance and Operations, Mark Becker: Reported that Newington electric diagnostic completed and works well for HES needs: a good unit with little need for maintenance. Good to go. Discussion of investigation replacing with better unit that would run at lower rpm re: sound.
- Policies. Ann Gruenberg: Discussion on shared policy, role of board for curricular guidance: primary function of committee and board is development and Superintendent for implementation. Committee and BOE can be responsible for curricular direction. Additional discussion of requirements for specific directives, ie: safe schools, diversity.
- Ad Hoc, no scheduled meetings.
- CABE, Ann Gruenberg: discussion of alternative professional development, webinars, focused on legal issues, adapted based on COVID. Well attended virtually than in-person. Regular conference has been adjusted to be held in the spring. Delegate assembly virtual on November 16.
- Next retreat on November 5, Nick Caruso will facilitate. Present at both EASTCONN and ZOOM platform.

### **Additions to Agenda**

Motion by Mark Becker to add contract item to agenda. Ann Gruenberg 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Superintendent Contract**

Discussion of Superintendent pay raise suspended for 2 years at the request of the Frank Olah; continued discussion of original agreement, review goal and outcomes, community input, and formal vote from the Board. Suggestion to take as agenda item for December. Motion by Mark Becker to extend contract consistent with last year's contract to June 2021, Matt 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carries, Yes: Becker, Bisson, Donnelly, Flegert, Gruenberg, Lovegreen, Moffitt, Moon; No, Arriola.

### **Audience for Citizens and Staff**

Kathy Donahue requested the Board send the Board of Finance accounting reports and information for review. Need to be added to school website.

Discussion re: Halloween celebration to school, with appropriate protocols.

**Adjourn** Ann Gruenberg moved to adjourn, Matt Flegert 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8:44PM, meeting ended with unanimous agreement.