

**Hampton Elementary School
Board of Education Meeting
November 18, 2020 7:00 PM**

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

Call to order by Rose Bisson 7:01, statement that meeting is being recorded.
discussion

Audience for Staff and Citizens: Questions from Dayna Arriola regarding how much is budgeted for communications and how much is budgeted for attorney fees in a non-negotiating year. Chair Bisson stated she will consult with Business Coordinator. Question from Allan Cahill if HES can go full remote, Supt. Olah responded, it could if need be, currently doing well safely social distancing.

Correspondence to the Board: Chair Bisson read Letter of Resignation from the Kindergarten teacher due to COVID concerns.

Approval of 10/28/20 Minutes (See Attachment) Ann Gruenberg clarified the role of Board with curriculum—states section on role of board is irrelevant and does not need to be included in the minutes. Chair Bisson suggested changes to Sally’s report re: “ability to carryover from last year without penalty” and plan to send corrections to recording secretary in writing. Juan Arriola questioned the absence of the rate amount in substitute pay and the need to include the rate in the subsequent vote. Maryellen Donnelly responded the amount should have been included in the amount itself. She also suggested that subsequent language in the minutes should not include the word “discussion” and primarily include motion items. Juan Arriola stated his concern for “meat on the bones rather than bones” concluding that the record may not be corrected following a meeting, but amended at the next. Both Maryellen Donnelly and Juan Arriola stated they would research the issue and report for next meeting. Motion to accept by Ann Gruenberg with revisions, Matt Flegert 2nd. Y: Gruenberg, Flegert, Lovegreen, Moon, Becker, N: Arriola. A: Donnelly.

Superintendent’s Report (See Attachment) Dr. Olah began his report with apology for using student performance report without complete redaction of identity. Program is Success Maker, an online curriculum for performance to share with parents. Includes copy of report card, information for parents re: parent-teacher conferences. The hybrid program will also include teams with the goal for “every student, every day for 183 days”. Dr. Olah states that he is comfortable that distance learning plan is in place if needed and that students should be able to carry on successfully. A tutoring system can be individualized to gauge success or challenges. Teachers may intervene if needed. Chair Bisson stated that the new format is helpful for BOE to have presented.

Principal's Report (Oral Report) Sam Roberson state the school year is progressing, "not a lot happening". Staff continue to use best practices for strategies and styles to problem solve. Attendance remains somewhat fluid. PTO still plans for events, pie pick up 11/19 and organizing book fair. All events are online with contactless access. Dr. Olah contributed that Beverly Danielson has attended all COVID-related NDDH meetings and Governor's presentations for student absent level. All adults with any issues, were reported to Beverly; all tested negative. Chair Bisson observed that fewer children seem to be getting colds and flus.

Director of Special Education Report (Oral report): Dr. Benson-Clarke compared the 2019 and 2020 statistics requested from the last meeting. October 1 data from 2019/20 Statewide, is verified, and is used for State grants. In 2019 there were 15 students and in 2020, 17 students. 15 continue to qualify and remain eligible, 17 were newly identified. Ann Gruenberg asked for the motivation for asking question, re: conspicuous patterns for increasing/decreasing need for identification. Dr. Benson-Clarke replied that 2 students not a dramatic increase, but important to to be careful when interpreting numbers and data.

Business Coordinator's Report (See Attachment) Mark Becker expressed the report is a "good write up", since most expenses incurred have been offset by COVID grant. Dr. Olah stated he and Sally will check with Beverly Danielson and Andy re: additional purchasing and to anticipate future needs, re: having order in place. Supply delivery should be on hand before December. Filters have been delivered and installed in ventilating system, fully functioning. There remains \$500 in excess for filters and cleaning supplies. Chair Bisson stated helpful format of report. Maryellen mentioned that the ERS report was only sent to Finance committee, concerns with exhaust fan issues, and need to set up meeting with person who wrote report.

Discussion and Possible Action on resignation: Motion to accept by Matt Flegert, "regretfully, and with great appreciation for her many successful years at HES". Ann Gruenberg: 2nd ; Juan Arriola: stated he would like to see BOE step up and hire a more diverse individual. Dr. Olah replied they are at the beginning process of hiring, and have some candidates to look at. The substitute will begin on 12/18. Ann Gruenberg reiterated the policy required for non-discriminatory hiring; Chair Bisson added they are actively trying for diversity hiring. Y: motion carries unanimously.

Committee and Liaison Representatives' Reports-Recommendations from Board Committees:

- Communications: Matt Flegert reported the budget stands at \$6780. Committee meeting can occur in January have committee meeting. Questioned when and what type of materials should be sent to Town and the possibility of regularly scheduled communications. Flegert solicited suggestions to either newsletter or connect to Gazette. Juan Arriola thanked Linda Sanchini for student contributions.
- Finance & Operations: Mark Becker stated plan to schedule meeting after Thanksgiving.

- Policies - Discussion and Possible Action on policy to follow COVID related directives from the CSDE and/or State of Connecticut (See Attachment) Response to emergency. 10/14/20 minutes were supplied and reviewed by Matt Flegert, with additional requirements from the State to supercede anything created locally. Policy that was presented was articulated “as simply as we could”. Motion to accept by Ann Gruenberg, 2nd Matt Flegert: p. 29 of what was sent last month. Y: motion carries unanimously.
- Ad Hoc: Job Description Sub-Committee - Membership (SRBI /LibraryMedia Teacher) Chair Bisson states they have not yet met, and need assistance working around Mr. Gervais’ schedule and welcomed any and all teacher’s participation.
- CAFE: Ann Gruenberg announced the 11/19/20 1st virtual delegate assembly.
- EASTCONN: Maryellen announced upcoming meeting on Tuesday, next week. 11/24

Additions to the Agenda: none

Audience for Citizens and Staff: Kathy Donahue: thank you for reports and bus reports in timely fashion, thank you. Matt: Covid fatigue, thank the staff. Stay safe, happy and healthy. Sam: exciting for kids: decoration of Halloween surprise by Kathy and Andrea, uplifting for students.

Executive Session for the purpose of a review of the proposed HEA Teacher contract Motion by: Ann, 2nd by Mark. Y: motion carries.

8:08PM Entered Executive Session for the purpose of discussion and possible action on the proposed HEA teacher contract

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Oliver
Recording Secretary