

Hampton Board of Education
380 Main Street
Hampton, CT 06247
Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 27, 2021
7:00 PM Zoom Meeting

1. Call to Order

Chair Rose Bisson called the meeting to order at 7:06. Present were Board of Education members Juan Arriola, Mark Becker, Rose Bisson, Maryellen Donnelly, Ann Gruenberg, and Susan Lovegreen. David Halbach, who was appointed to the Board of Education on September 15, was also present but had not been sworn in by the Town Clerk. Also present were Superintendent Frank Olah, Principal Sam Roberson, and Business Coordinator Sally Lehoux.

2. Audience for Citizens and Staff

First Selectman Allan Cahill commented that there is a commission meeting on the fourth Monday of the month. Dayna McDermott Arriola offered her research of Board of Education minutes regarding minority representation. She requests information for the Gazette.

3. Correspondence to the Board-Letters of resignation of Dr. Judy Benson-Clarke and Lisa Soule

The letters were read. End dates are September 24 for Dr. Benson-Clarke and September 30 for Lisa Soule.

4. Approval of the Minutes from 7/28/21, 8/30/21 and Special Meeting 9/15/21

Maryellen Donnelly moved, Mark Becker seconded, to approve the minutes of 7/28/21, 8/30/21 and 9/15/21. It was noted that in the August 30 minutes, that the names of the reporters were interchanged on the CABA and EASTCONN reports. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Olah presented his report with an update that the auditor accepted the expenditure for technology in the 2020-21 budget but rejected the expenditure of the playscape unit. Both were ordered during the 2020-21 school year but not received prior to July 1, 2021.

6. Principal's Report

Principal Roberson presented her report. As of the date of the meeting: 72 students attend in the school; 78 students are part of the budgeted expenses; 34 families transport their children to the school.

7. Director of Special Education Report

No report

8. Business Coordinator's Report

There were no questions for the Business Coordinator.

9. Discussion and possible action on the line item transfers for the 2020-2021 budget

Maryellen Donnelly moved, Ann Gruenberg seconded, to move \$9,500 from (100) Salaries/Wages to (400) Purchased Property Services, \$35,000 from (200) Benefits to (700) Equipment, and \$61,000 from (300) Purchased Professional/Technical Services to (500) Other Purchase Services. The motion passed with Becker, Donnelly, Gruenberg, Lovegreen voting Yes and Arriola voting No.

10. Discussion and possible action on the finalized 2020-2021 budget report

The Board of Education meeting paused after receiving messages that a person had requested to be allowed into the Zoom session and was not admitted. After several unsuccessful attempts to admit him, the session was closed at 7:53 in order to correct the problem that was not allowing his admittance. Participants were asked to sign in again at 8:00.

The meeting was resumed at 8:08 with the same Board of Education members, Superintendent Olah, Principal Roberson and Business Coordinator Lehoux present.

Mark Becker moved, Susan Lovegreen seconded, to encumber both the playscape unit and technology in the 2020-21 budget. The motion passed with Becker, Donnelly, Gruenberg, Lovegreen voting Yes and Arriola voting No.

The Hampton Board of Finance will look at the budget report.

11. Committee and Liaison Reports

1. Communications

No report

2. Finance and Operations

Chair Mark Becker reported that the committee was looking at mini-splits and installation of the playscape unit.

3. Policies

Chair Ann Gruenberg reported that there is a meeting scheduled for Wednesday the 29th.

4. Ad Hoc Minority Recruitment

Board chair Bisson requested that committee chair Juan Arriola call a meeting to include Ann Gruenberg and Rose Bisson.

5. Ad Hoc Superintendent's Evaluation

Board chair Bisson, Juan Arriola and Ann Gruenberg will meet.

6. Ad Hoc Hampton/Scotland Cost Reduction

A governance subcommittee Zoom meeting is posted for 10 AM September 28 with hiring an attorney, budget requests, meeting dates, and audience for citizens as part of the agenda. A programming subcommittee Zoom meeting is posted for 6 PM September 29 with general discussion and audience for citizens on the agenda.

7. Ad Hoc Shared Services with Chaplin

It has been indicated that Hampton would like to have a discussion. No meeting has been set.

8. CAFE

Ann Gruenberg reported that there will be a one-day in-person convention in November this year.

9. EASTCONN

Maryellen Donnelly reported that there will be a vote on the new by-laws on September 28. EASTCONN has consistently provided drivers for Hampton. There are no drivers who refused to be either vaccinated or tested. However, there is a shortage of drivers.

12. Additions to the Agenda

Mark Becker moved, Susan Lovegreen seconded, to add acceptance of resignations, evaluation of the superintendent, and special meeting topic to the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

12a.

Juan Arriola moved, Ann Gruenberg seconded, to accept the resignation of Dr. Judy Benson-Clarke with appreciation and regret and wish her well with future endeavors. The motion passed unanimously.

Mark Becker moved, Susan Lovegreen seconded, to accept the resignation of Lisa Soule with appreciation for her services. The motion passed unanimously.

12b.

A special meeting will be held on October 18 at 5PM in the Hampton Elementary School Library for the purpose of evaluation of the superintendent.

12c.

Mark Becker reminded the board that those who did not return to the September 15 Hampton board meeting following an interruption would be given the opportunity to speak on a motion if they chose. The motion which passed on September 15 is not to waive a confidentiality issue for the Hampton district's law firm so that the Hampton/Scotland Cost Saving Committee could use an attorney in the same law firm. Rose Bisson explained the issue and no comments were made.

Maryellen Donnelly moved, Susan Lovegreen seconded, to add to the agenda moving the October 25 board meeting to October 27 and to remain as a Zoom meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Maryellen Donnelly moved, Susan Lovegreen seconded, to move the October 25 board meeting to October 27 and to remain as a Zoom meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

13. Audience for Citizens and Staff

Kathy Donahue spoke about Zoom, asked about mini-splits, and the need for microphones during in-person meetings.

Sally Lehoux said that the October meeting should be a special meeting.

Juan Arriola congratulated Linda Sanchini on the grant (in superintendent's report).

Linda Sanchini spoke about special events coming up at HES.

Allan Cahill asked asked about the flag at HES.

14. Adjournment

Ann Gruenberg moved, Susan Lovegreen seconded, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Maryellen Donnelly