

February 23, 2022

Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chairman Bisson called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Present: Rose Bisson, Mark Becker, Juan Arriola, Maryellen Donnelly, David Halbach, Russ Moffitt, Matthew Flegert, Diane Gagnon.

Staff and Others Present: Superintendent Frank Olah; Principal Sam Roberson; Director of Pupil Services Shelly McNulty; Business Coordinator Sally Lehoux; Special Education Teacher James Shifrin; Board of Finance Chairman Kathy Donahue; Recording Secretary Dayna Arriola.

2. Audience for Citizens and Staff

Board of Finance Chairman Kathy Donahue asked for information on anticipated class sizes for next year and whether or not there were changes in the schedules for special classes next year.

The Recording Secretary apprised the Board that a Motion demanding that employees of the Board of Education receive compensation through Direct Deposit contradicts State statute and should be revisited to comply with the law.

3. Correspondences: none.

4. Approval of Minutes

Motion: Diane Gagnon, seconded by Mark Becker, to approve the Minutes of the January 26, 2022 Meeting, with the following amendment: under Audience for Citizens and Staff "... Chairman Bisson apologized for the statement *that appeared to say that Mr. Arriola was disruptive, she doesn't believe that he was...*", and the Minutes of the February 3, 2022 and February 17, 2022 Special Meetings.

In Favor: Mark Becker, Juan Arriola, David Halbach, Russ Moffitt, Diane Gagnon

Opposed: Maryellen Donnelly

Abstentions: Rose Bisson, Matt Flegert

Motion passed, 5-1, with 2 abstentions.

5. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Olah distributed his report with information regarding mask mandates. The HES Reopening Discussion Group reconvened to create a plan which includes mask mandates for students in Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten and grade one remaining in place until March 15, with parental choice for older students in Team A, B and C beginning on March 1; however, certain protective protocols will remain in place, such as masks on buses, in hallways, and in all areas of the school other than classrooms, including resource rooms.

6. Principal's Report

Sam Roberson reported that NWEA assessments are continuing. She also noted that the students wrote "thank you" cards to Kathy Donahue for Valentine's Day decorations and treats. In response to Juan Arriola's question regarding Social and Emotional Learning, Ms. Roberson explained that this instruction, delivered by the school counselor, involves coping skills and strategies as well as school climate. On Chairman Bisson's recommendation, it was decided that a more detailed explanation would be beneficial for a future Agenda item.

7. Director of Pupil Services' Report

Shelly McNulty distributed her report, which included the staff's progress in transitioning to the State Department of Education's new statewide Special Education Data System. She also reported that she is assessing the use of the school's resources for special education, as well as the use of data to drive decisions in the referral process. To Juan Arriola's question on the amount of time spent at Pupil Placement Team meetings, Ms. McNulty

estimated sixty hours per year.

8. Business Coordinator’s Report

Sally Lehoux distributed her reports. Dave Halbach thanked Ms. Lehoux for providing the information, particularly the comparative data on per pupil costs. To his question on why Hampton’s operating costs were significantly higher than Scotland’s during the reported year, 2019, Mark Becker said that the septic system and the repaving of the playground contributed to the costs.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on the 2022-2023 School Calendar

The proposed calendar was distributed and reviewed.

Motion: Maryellen Donnelly, seconded by Russ Moffitt, to accept the 2022-2023 school calendar as proposed. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Discussion and Possible Action on Auditor’s Report: tabled.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on Juneteenth Holiday Calendar for Paid Time

Dr. Olah addressed the concern raised regarding potential costs, stating that the only financial impact would be the expense of paying paraprofessionals, approximately \$900, if the school year extended to the 19th of June due to snow days. He reported that this has only happened once in recent memory. To Dave Halbach’s question, Dr. Olah said this would be the only way it would impact this budget, or the proposed budget for next year.

Motion: Maryellen Donnelly, seconded by Juan Arriola, to make Juneteenth a paid holiday.

In Favor: Mark Becker, Juan Arriola, Maryellen Donnelly, Dave Halbach, Matthew Flegert

Opposed: Russ Moffitt, Diane Gagnon

Abstentions: Rose Bisson

Motion passed, 5-2, with one abstention.

12. Discussion and Possible Action on Draft 2022-2023 Budget

Dr. Olah listed the additional materials requested and supplied to board members: 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 staffing levels; reports from the Connecticut Association of School Business Officials on per pupil costs and increases in proposed budgets of Connecticut schools, the paraprofessional step scale, and this year’s schedules for Art, Music, Health and Physical Education. Reportedly, the Minimum Budget Requirement has not yet been determined. Juan Arriola questioned the amount in the substitute line and reiterated Kathy Donahue’s question on the schedules for special classes. Dr. Olah stated that the schedules for special classes would remain the same to accommodate social distancing, a decision on which Mark Becker and Maryellen Donnelly voiced support. To Russ Moffitt’s question on the staff’s ability to assure social distancing, Dr. Olah said that a distance of three feet is closely monitored. Dave Halbach stated that he would prefer a 0% increase over last year’s budget, but his repeated question as to where funding could be reduced remained unanswered.

Motion: Mark Becker, seconded by Maryellen Donnelly, to approve the FY2022-2023 budget of \$2,049,382 as presented in the draft version by the Superintendent.

In Favor: Mark Becker, Maryellen Donnelly, Matthew Flegert, Dave Halbach, Russ Moffitt

Opposed: Juan Arriola, Diane Gagnon

Abstaining: Rose Bisson

Motion carried, 5 – 2, with one abstention.

13. Discussion and Possible Action on the Superintendent’s Evaluation: tabled.

14. Committee and Liaison Reports

a. **Communications:** the committee did not meet.

b. **Finance and Operations:** Mark Becker reported that the committee discussed estimates on projects, such as the sun room and the parking lot.

c. **Policies:** Ann Gruenberg was not present to report.

d. **Ad-Hoc Minority Recruitment:** Chairman Bisson stated that the committee’s charge has yet to be established.

- e. **Ad-Hoc Superintendent's Evaluation:** the committee did not meet.
- f. **CABE:** Chairman Bisson reported attendance at a presentation on Board Fundamentals.
- g. **EastConn:** Maryellen Donnelly reported that EastConn is working on strategic planning.
- h. **Non-BoE Meeting of Hampton/Scotland Discussions:** Chairman Bisson reported that, though a meeting was scheduled for March 2 for First Selectman Gary Greenberg to present the draft of the cooperative agreement to the school board, a CABE attorney expressed the opinion that the presentation could not occur in executive session, as previously planned. Therefore, the meeting will probably be canceled and re-scheduled for a later date. She also reminded members that the draft version of the cooperative agreement distributed to board members has not been released to the public.

15. Additions to the Agenda: none.

16. Audience for Citizens and Staff

Kathy Donahue requested all documents that were sent to the board members for the meeting.

Juan Arriola, speaking as a citizen and Chairman of the *Hampton Gazette*, thanked Linda Sanchini for her contributions of student work to the newspaper. He also thanked her for welcoming him to her classroom when he delivered copies of the *Gazette* to students whose essays and illustrations were published, and for inviting him to discuss Mexican culture and Native American culture when the students study those cultures.

17. Adjournment

Motion: Diane Gagnon, seconded by Juan Arriola, to adjourn the meeting at 8:18pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dayna Arriola

This is a draft version of the Minutes until approved by the Board of Education.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YYJtbCtPdQVgbKo9rOlR5AKeEbhInoCw/view?usp=drive_web