



Hampton Board of Education
380 Main Street
Hampton, CT 06247

December 20, 2023
7:00 pm
Live in HES Library
Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chair Rose Bisson called the meeting to order at 7:01 Present were Juan Arriola, Mark Becker, Maryellen Donnelly, Diane Gagnon, David Halbach, Elizabeth Lindorff, John Russell and Dennis Timberman. Also present was Superintendent Dr. Samantha Sarli.

2. Audience for Citizens and Staff

None

3. Correspondence to the Board

None

4. Approval of Minutes from Special Board Meetings on 11/29/23 and 12/11/23

Motion: Maryellen Donnelly motioned to approve the 11/29/23 and 12/11/23 special board meeting minutes. Mark Becker seconded the motion.

Mark Becker, Rose Bisson, Maryellen Donnelly, David Halbach, Elizabeth Lindorff, John Russell and Dennis Timberman voted Yes. Juan Arriola voted No. Diane Gagnon Abstained. The motion carried.

5. Superintendent's Report

- ❖ Dr. Sarli reported that families were appreciative of the good communications regarding the school closings due to power outages.
- ❖ Cleaning of the ventilation ducts will begin on December 26 and likely take three days. A grant is funding the cleaning.
- ❖ Hampton received a grant written for after school programs in the amount of \$50,000. Dr. Sarli will coordinate activities funded through the grant with the Scotland superintendent.
- ❖ Dr. Sarli encouraged board members to participate in a 21-day Challenges found at <https://www.debyirving.com> in preparation for equity work beginning in January with Kerry Lord, the Director of Programs for the Partners for Educational Leadership.
- ❖ Students have been enthusiastic about earning PAWS which reward positive behaviors in PBIS, Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports used in Hampton Elementary School.
- ❖ Team B passed 534 lessons in reading and math on iReady winning the fall race.
- ❖ Repair of the flagpole is being sought; raising the flag will resume when it is repaired.

Juan Arriola requested that the principal attends board meetings. This request will be added to the board agenda.

6. Business Coordinator's Report

A new minimum wage of \$15.69 is required starting January 1, 2024. The rate increase in the Business Coordinator's report applies only to substitutes that were earning below the new minimum wage.

7. Committee and Liaison reports

1. Finance & Operations



Mark Beker updated the board on the HVAC project and grant. Oil tank replacement is on the radar of the committee as well as security updates.

2. Policy

Rose Bisson shared that they were not able to meet and an update will come in January

3. CABA

Juan Arriola resigned as liaison to CABA. A new representative is needed.

4. EASTCONN

Maryellen Donnelly shared that the CT center for School Safety is a good resource for school districts.

Eastconn will hold free grant writing workshops in January.

Eastconn is convening discussions on a regional approach regarding waivers to the requirement that children be age 5 by September 1 in order to enter Kindergarten.

8. Discussion and Possible Action on Finance & Operations Subcommittee Regular Meeting Dates for 2024

Dates will be submitted to the town. No vote by the board is necessary.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on Security Upgrade Bids

Motion: Diane Gagnon motioned to approve the security bid from Alarm New England in the amount of \$29,609.00. David Halbach seconded the motion.

Discussion: 63.93% is grant funded. HES will be responsible for the remainder. An executive session was added to the agenda to answer questions. See 11 b for the vote on the motion.

10. Discussion and Possible Action on Participating in the RD#11 Insurance Group for the 2024/2025 Year

Motion: Mark Becker motioned to participate in the RD #11 Insurance Group for the 2024/2025 and authorize Chair Rose Bisson to sign the form. Maryellen Donnelly seconded the motion.

Mark Becker, Rose Bisson, Maryellen Donnelly, Diane Gagnon, David Halbach, Elizabeth Lindorff, John Russell and Dennis Timberman voted Yes. Juan Arriola Abstained. The motion carried.

11. Motion: Juan Arriola motioned to add *Additions to the Agenda* to the agenda. David Halbach seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Juan Arriola motioned to add to the agenda bringing the principal back to the board meetings. Diane Gagnon seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. See 11a.

Motion: Diane Gagnon motioned to add an executive session to the agenda to discuss the security upgrade bid. Juan Arriola seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. See 11b.

Motion: Juan Arriola motioned to add discussion of FOIA to the agenda. Diane Gagnon second the motion. The motion passed unanimously. See 11 c.

A previous request to add to the agenda the resolution of the discrimination grievance was not moved.

11a. **Motion:** David Halbach moved to have the principal attend each board meeting. Diane Gagnon seconded the motion.

Juan Arriola, Diane Gagnon and David Halbach voted Yes. Mark Becker, Rose Bisson, Maryellen Donnelly, Elizabeth Lindorff, John Russell and Dennis Timberman voted No. The motion failed.



11b. **Motion:** Maryellen Donnelly moved to enter executive session for the purpose of discussion of the security upgrade bid. Mark Becker seconded the motion.

Mark Becker, Rose Bisson, Maryellen Donnelly, Diane Gagnon, David Halbach, Elizabeth Lindorff, John Russell and Dennis Timberman voted Yes. Juan Arriola voted No.

Motion: Maryellen Donnelly amended her motion to enter executive session for the purpose of discussion of the security upgrade bid and invite Dr. Sarli. Mark Becker seconded the amended motion.

Mark Becker, Rose Bisson, Maryellen Donnelly, Diane Gagnon, David Halbach, Elizabeth Lindorff, John Russell and Dennis Timberman voted Yes. Juan Arriola voted No. The motion carried.

The board moved to executive session at 8:25pm. Executive session was exited 8:37pm.

Motion: Diane Gagnon motioned to approve the security bid from Alarm New England in the amount of \$29,609.00. David Halbach seconded the motion.

Mark Becker, Rose Bisson, Maryellen Donnelly, Diane Gagnon, David Halbach, Elizabeth Lindorff, John Russell and Dennis Timberman voted Yes. Juan Arriola Abstained. The motion carried.

11c. The filed FOIA complaint was sent to all board members by Chair Rose Bisson. A hearing in Hartford will occur January 3. The complaint was briefly discussed.

12. Next Agenda Planning

Additions may be made by contacting Chair Rose Bisson or Superintendent Dr. Sarli

13. Audience for Citizens and Staff

Dennis Timberman shared that he attended the morning concert at the school and congratulated Mrs. Peck, the staff and the students for their work and performance.

14. Adjournment

Motion: Diane Gagnon moved to adjourn. Juan Arriola seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Maryellen Donnelly and Dr. Sarli

Please Note: Board of Education meetings are meetings held in public and are not open hearings. Citizen comments are welcomed during the audience participation sections of the agenda. Any citizen may appear before the Board to express his/her opinion relevant to the Board of Education. Persons wishing to address the Board should give their names and addresses. The Board may limit the time allowed for comment. At a regular meeting, action may be taken on any item listed or added to the agenda.

BOARD MEMBERS: PLEASE EMAIL OR CALL THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE AT
860 455 9409 x139 IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND