



Hampton Board of Education  
380 Main Street  
Hampton, CT 06247

March 27, 2024  
7:00 pm  
HES Library Media Center

### Minutes

1. Call to Order  
Chair Bisson called the meeting to order at 7:04. Present were board members Juan Arriola, Mark Becker, Rose Bisson, Maryellen Donnelly, David Halbach, Elizabeth Lindorff, John Russell and Dennis Timberman. Also present were Business Coordinator Sally Lehoux and Superintendent Andrew Skarzynski.
2. Audience for Citizens and Staff  
First Selectman Allan Cahill asked for enumeration information to verify that Hampton Elementary students live in Hampton. Kathy Donahue asked for the 5-year plan.
3. Correspondence to the Board  
Superintendent Skarzynski stated that a letter was received from a teacher requesting twenty additional sick leave days and that a letter of resignation was received from the Team A teacher.
4. Approval of Minutes from Board Meeting on February 28, 2024 and Policy Meeting on March 20, 2024.  
**Motion:** Mark Becker moved to approve the minutes of February 28, 2024. Dennis Timberman seconded the motion.  
Juan Arriola requested that the minutes be amended. The motion to approve the minutes was not amended.  
Voting yes were Mark Becker, Rose Bisson, Maryellen Donnelly, Elizabeth Lindorff, and Dennis Timberman. Voting no were Juan Arriola and David Halbach. John Russell abstained. The motion carried.  
The board does not vote on policy committee minutes.
5. Principal's Report  
Superintendent Skarzynski reviewed Principal Merendina's report and answered questions.
6. Superintendent's Report  
Superintendent Skarzynski reviewed his report and answered questions.
  - a. Staffing Update
  - b. CT DPH COVID 19 Adoption of New CDC Guidelines
  - c. Civil Rights Data Collection
  - d. Substitute Compensation Rates
  - e. Presentation of FY 25 Budget
7. Business Coordinator's Report  
Business Coordinator Sally Lehoux's reviewed her report and answered questions.

8. Committee and Liaison Reports
  - a. Finance and Operations
    - i. Finance and Operations Charge (action on the charge was added to the agenda, see 12 b.)  
F & O Chair Becker reported that heat pumps and the sunroom were discussed during the committee meeting.
  - b. EASTCONN  
Maryellen reported that the EASTCONN meeting held on March 26 included a presentation of CDL driver training, employee recruitment and the approval of a 3% general wage increase for non union employees.
  - c. Policy Committee-First Read
    - i. 4115: Personnel Certifies; Policy for Education and Leader Evaluation and Support
    - ii. 5131.911: Students; Connecticut School Climate Policy
    - iii. 9323: Bylaws of the Board; Construction of the Agenda
 Superintendent Skarzynski reviewed the general provisions of each policy.
9. Executive Session
  - a. Personnel Matters, Leave Request  
**Motion:** Mark Becker moved to move 9a and 10 to after item 14. Maryellen Donnelly seconded the motion.  
The motion passed unanimously.
11. Possible Action on Substitute Rates  
**Motion:** Mark Becker moved to change reimbursement for substitutes from \$18 to \$20 per hour. Elizabeth Lindorff seconded the motion.  
**Motion:** Mark Becker moved to change reimbursement for substitutes for teachers, paraprofessionals and the executive assistant with a minimum of a bachelor's degree from \$18 to \$20 per hour. Elizabeth Lindorff seconded the motion.  
Voting yes were Mark Becker, Maryellen Donnelly, David Halbach, Elizabeth Lindorff and John Russell. Voting no was Juan Arriola. Rose Bisson abstained. Dennis Timberman recused. The motion carried.
12. Additions to the Agenda  
**Motion:** Mark Becker moved to add Superintendent Applications, Discussion and Possible Action on the 2024-2025 Budget, and Finance and Operations Committee Charge to the agenda. Elizabeth Lindorff seconded the motion.  
The motion passed unanimously.
  - a. Superintendent Applications  
Rose Bisson asked the board for input regarding three applications being received by the March 27 deadline and whether the position should be advertised again.
  - b. Finance and Operations Committee Charge  
**Motion:** Maryellen Donnelly moved to approve the Finance and Operations Committee Charge. David Halbach seconded the motion. Voting yes were Mark Becker, Rose Bisson, Maryellen Donnelly, David Halbach, Elizabeth Lindorff, John Russell and Dennis Timberman. Voting no was Juan Arriola. The motion carried.
  - c. Discussion and Possible Action on the 2024-2025 Budget  
**Motion:** Mark Becker moved to approve the 2024-25 budget of \$2,215,614 which is a 3.52% increase from the current budget. Dennis Timberman seconded the motion.  
Voting yes were Mark Becker, Rose Bisson, Maryellen Donnelly, David Halbach, Elizabeth Lindorff, John Russell and Dennis Timberman. Voting no was Juan Arriola. The motion carried.

13. Next Agenda Planning

The April agenda will include policies that were presented as first read during the March meeting.

14. Audience for Citizens and Staff

Kathy Donahue reported that the town budget includes a 3% wage increase. She requested MBR information, that enrollment by team and grade to be included in administration reports and that the board anticipate a reduction in state contribution to schools in the future. Superintendent Skarzynski answered her inquiry stating that a child would be assessed for attending kindergarten prior to age 5 by September 1 if a parent requests an exemption, and that exemptions will likely be only for the 2024-25 school year.

Adam Sheridan spoke about breakfast muffin being 50% of the daily amount of sugar allowed and read the options for breakfast on the school menu. He noted that the district contracts with EASTCONN for food services and requested that the foods offered be investigated.

9. Executive Session

a. Personnel Matters, Leave Request

**Motion:** Mark Becker moved to enter executive session for discussion of a leave request and invite Superintendent Skarzynski. Dennis Timberman seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

The board entered the executive session at 8:25. First Selectman Allan Cahill attended. The executive session ended at 8:41.

10. Possible action on Leave Request.

**Motion:** David Halbach moved to grant Chris Milton twenty paid sick days. John Russell second the motion. Voting yes were Juan Arriola, Mark Becker, Rose Bisson, Maryellen Donnelly, David Halbach, Elizabeth Lindorff, John Russell. Dennis Timberman recused. The motion carried.

15. Adjournment

**Motion:** Juan Arriola moved to adjourn. John Russell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:46.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maryellen Donnelly