



HAMPTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER
380 MAIN STREET
HAMPTON, CT 06247

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2025
7:00 PM
HAMPTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Mark Becker, in accordance with Policy 9121, called the meeting to order at 7:00.

Those in attendance were Juan Arriola, Laura Barrow, Mark Becker, Stephanie Bora, Nick Brockett, Maryellen Donnelly, Elizabeth Lindorff, Tim Studer, and Dennis Timberman. Also in attendance were Superintendent Andrew Skarzynski, Principal Victoria Smith, Director of Special Education Mary Jo Chretien, and Business Coordinator Sally Lehoux.

2. Board Reorganization

a. Election of Officers

i. Chair

Motion: Maryellen Donnelly nominated Mark Becker for Board Chair. Elizabeth Lindorff seconded the nomination.

Voting yes were Juan Arriola, Laura Barrow, Stephanie Bora, Nick Brockett, Maryellen Donnelly, Elizabeth Lindorff, Tim Studer, and Dennis Timberman. Abstaining was Mark Becker.

ii. Vice Chair

Motion: Elizabeth Lindorff nominated Maryellen Donnelly for Board Vice Chair. Stephanie Bora seconded the motion.

Voting yes were Laura Barrow, Mark Becker, Stephanie Bora, Nick Brockett, Elizabeth Lindorff, Tim Studer, and Dennis Timberman. Voting no was Juan Arriola. Abstaining was Maryellen Donnelly.

iii. Secretary

Motion: Dennis Timberman nominated Stephanie Bora for Board Secretary. Elizabeth Lindorff seconded the motion.

Voting yes were Laura Barrow, Mark Becker, Nick Brockett, Maryellen Donnelly, Elizabeth Lindorff, Tim Studer, and Dennis Timberman. Voting no was Juan Arriola. Abstaining was Stephanie Bora.

b. Committee Assignment Requests

i. Finance & Operations

ii. EASTCONN

iii. Policy Committee

iv. Curriculum Committee

Mark Becker shared descriptions of committees and the requirement for a curriculum committee per PA 250174 Section 219. Board members provided the Chair with requests for committee assignments.

c. Ad Hoc Committees

Mark Becker shared the charges of ad hoc committees and their status (Job Description, completed; Advocacy, completed; Non-Certified Staff Representation, not to be pursued per attorney advice; Minority Recruitment and Retention, and Superintendent Evaluation.)

Board members provided the Chair with requests for Minority Recruitment and Retention and Superintendent Evaluation ad hoc committee assignments.

3. Audience for Citizens and Staff: Members of the public may address the Board regarding items on the agenda
 - Kathy Donahue, Board of Finance Chair, commented that she had not received the Business Coordinator's report prior to the meeting and advocated for a second audience for citizens.
 - Dayna McDermott Arriola advocated for a second audience for citizens.
 - Allan Cahill, First Selectman, requested a review of the enumeration report he received.
 - Juan Arriola thanked the staff for three endeavors including acknowledging him as a veteran, October minutes and prepared copies of the packets.

4. Correspondent to the Board
 - Superintendent Skarzyński reported that Board members are invited to a Regional Collaboration Meeting and dinner facilitated by Scotland Elementary School on December 3 from 5:00-7:00. He will send new Board members the invitation.

5. Approval of Minutes from Board Meetings 9/24/25 & 10/22/25
 - Motion:** Maryellen Donnelly moved to approve the minutes of September 24, 2025. Stephanie Bora seconded the motion. During discussion, Mark Becker made the following amendments.
 - Item 2a. Luther Gerlach made a statement *relative to not continuing on the Board of Education.*
 - Item 11a. ~~The Board discuss this topic.~~ *The Board Chair discussed conversations that were being held with the Pomfret Board of Education Chair.*
 - Item 14a. Kathy Donahue ~~made a comment~~ *commented on having board packages available.*
 - Item 14b. First Selectman Allan Cahill made a ~~comment~~ *request for information on enumeration.*
 - Maryellen Donnelly moved to approve the minutes of September 24, 2025 as amended. Stephanie Bora seconded the motion.
 - Voting yes were Juan Arriola, Laura Barrow, Mark Becker, Stephanie Bora, Nick Brockett, Maryellen Donnelly, Elizabeth Lindorff, Tim Studer, and Dennis Timberman. The motion passed unanimously.
 - Motion:** Maryellen Donnelly moved to approve the minutes of October 22, 2025. Juan Arriola seconded the motion.
 - Voting yes were Juan Arriola, Laura Barrow, Mark Becker, Stephanie Bora, Nick Brockett, Maryellen Donnelly, Elizabeth Lindorff, Tim Studer, and Dennis Timberman. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Principal's Report
 - Principal Smith presented a report that included acknowledgement of veterans, schedule for report cards and conferences, instruction, science of reading, restorative practices, after school curriculum, request for community members to attend meetings for birth to 5, and naming of HES as a School of Distinction for growth in math.
 - Director of Special Education Mary Jo Chretien reported that at HES, all students are offered the opportunities to access instruction and demonstrate learning.

7. Superintendent's Report
 - a. Draft Presentation Agenda
 - December, Restorative Approaches
 - January, Science of Reading
 - February, EdSight, School Performance, and Accountability Systems
 - March, Smarter Balanced Assessment
 - April, Special Education Overview
 - May, HES After School Program
 - Superintendent Skarzyński invited new board members to meet with him and informed board members of CAFE and FOI training, team work with the Science of Reading, EdSight, acronyms used in education, the Next Generation Accountability System, and data reporting to the Connecticut State Department of Education and its use.

8. Business Coordinator's Report
 - Sally Lehoux reviewed her written report including the on-tract current budget expenditures, receipt of a subsidy that reduces out-of-pocket healthcare costs for paraeducators, receipt of a Special

Education Expansion and Development Grant, an increase of the Connecticut minimum wage to \$16.94 per hour, a request to destroy 2007-2014 records, and a report that 43% of HES students are eligible for Medicaid.

9. Committee and Liaison Reports

a. Finance and Operations

Mark Becker reported that the sun room windows have been delivered and the sunroom should be finished this fall. The committee did not meet in November.

b. EASTCONN

Maryellen Donnelly reported that the regional calendar was approved by the EASTCONN board, continued leadership of staff in many departments on statewide initiatives benefits our region and state, and completion of the EASTCONN teachers' contract.

c. Policy Committee

The policy committee did not meet. See item 10.

10. Second Read and Possible Action: approval of Board Policies

a. Policy 6161.12 Library Material Review and Reconsideration Policy

b. Policy 6161.13 Library Collection Development and Maintenance Policy

c. Policy 6164.14 Library Display and Program Policy

Motion: Maryellen Donnelly moved to approve Policy 6161.12 Library Material Review and Reconsideration Policy, Policy 6161.13 Library Collection Development and Maintenance Policy, and Policy 6164.14 Library Display and Program Policy. Dennis Timberman seconded the motion. Voting yes were Laura Barrow, Mark Becker, Stephanie Bora, Nick Brockett, Maryellen Donnelly, Elizabeth Lindorff, Tim Studer, and Dennis Timberman. Abstaining was Juan Arriola. The motion passed.

4. Additions to the Agenda

Motion: Maryellen Donnelly moved to add review and potential action on board goals action items. Elizabeth Lindorff seconded the motion.

Voting yes were Juan Arriola, Laura Barrow, Mark Becker, Stephanie Bora, Nick Brockett, Maryellen Donnelly, Elizabeth Lindorff, Tim Studer, and Dennis Timberman. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Juan Arriola moved to add discussion of having a second audience for citizens for tonight or future meetings. Elizabeth Lindorff seconded the motion.

Voting yes were Juan Arriola, Laura Barrow, Mark Becker, Stephanie Bora, Nick Brockett, Maryellen Donnelly, Elizabeth Lindorff, Tim Studer, and Dennis Timberman. The motion passed unanimously.

11a. Mark Becker presented a draft of board goals and action plans made at previous meetings. The board made further revisions.

Motion: Dennis Timberman moved to approve the board goals action plans as amended. Elizabeth Lindorff seconded the motion.

Voting yes were Juan Arriola, Laura Barrow, Mark Becker, Stephanie Bora, Nick Brockett, Maryellen Donnelly, Elizabeth Lindorff, Tim Studer, and Dennis Timberman. The motion passed unanimously.

11b. Board members discussed including a second audience for citizens.

13. Next Agenda Planning

Committees

School Calendar

2026 Dates for Board Meetings, F & O Committee

Budget Concepts

12. Possible Executive Session: Superintendent Goals

Motion: Maryellen Donnelly moved to go into executive session for the purpose of discussion of Superintendent goals and invite Superintendent Skarzynski. Tim Studer seconded the motion.

Voting yes were Juan Arriola, Laura Barrow, Mark Becker, Stephanie Bora, Nick Brockett, Maryellen Donnelly, Elizabeth Lindorff, Tim Studer, and Dennis Timberman. The motion passed unanimously.

Juan Arriola, Laura Barrow, Mark Becker, Stephanie Bora, Nick Brockett, Maryellen Donnelly, Elizabeth Lindorff, Tim Studer, and Dennis Timberman and Superintendent Skarzynski entered executive session at 9:03. Superintendent Skarzynski exited the session at 9:21. All board members exited the session at 9:23.

13. Adjournment

Motion: Juan Arriola moved to adjourn. Laura Barrow seconded the motion.

Voting yes were Juan Arriola, Laura Barrow, Mark Becker, Stephanie Bora, Nick Brockett, Maryellen Donnelly, Elizabeth Lindorff, Tim Studer, and Dennis Timberman. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:24.

Respectfully submitted,
Maryellen Donnelly