



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

WEDNESDAY MAY 27, 2026  
6:30 PM  
HAMPTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Chair Mark Becker called the meeting to order at 6:33.

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 Training: HES After School Program

Principal Smith presented an overview of the afterschool program and answered questions. The grant for the program is a two-year grant and the afterschool program will be offered during the 2026-2027 school year.

3. Audience for Citizens and Staff on Agenda Items

Jill Patterson, Team C teacher, praised Principal Smith who is substituting in Team B in addition to acting as Principal. She also praised Nick Brockett for his work establishing soccer for Hampton students along with students from other towns.

Nick Brockett thanked the school for its assistance with youth soccer.

First Selectman Allan Cahill praised Tommy Lehoux and Principal Smith for opening the building for the town's Memorial Day presentations.

4. Correspondent to the Board

None

5. Approval of Minutes from Special Board Meeting 4/22/2026

**Motion:** Dennis Timberman moved to approve the minutes of 4/22/2026.

Elizabeth Lindorff seconded the motion.

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

The motion passed.

6. Principal's Report

Principal Smith provided written information about school events, academic testing, professional development, the focus of school climate work, enrichment, PreK enrollment and the beginning of PreK NAEYC accreditation. In the spirit of Speech-Language-Hearing month, Director Chretien shared information about keeping voice and hearing safe, and provided written information about resources for families and teachers, planning for the next school year, appreciation for Sally Lehoux's work on the IDEA grant, and the inclusion of 40% of HES students with disabilities who require Extended School Year in the Scotland summer program.

Principal Smith showed graphics of fall to fall student growth data and stated that she will share spring to spring data in the future. Jill Patterson shared that packets have been made for students to explore over the summer.

7. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Skarzyński provided written information about two teacher resignations, septic problems at HES, state provision of supplemental aid and SEED money for education, the collaborative art show with RD 11 and Chaplin, and changes in education made by the legislature.

8. Business Coordinator's Report

In addition to Budget vs Actuals through April 2026 and the Bank Register, Business Coordinator Sally Lehoux provided written information about legislative changes to business practices, and 2026-2027 projected grants, PreK tuition and fund balances.

9. Committee and Liaison Reports

a. Finance and Operations

Mark Becker reported that the F & O committee discussed the septic problem and ongoing plans for repair in the building.

b. EASTCONN

Maryellen Donnelly reported on EASTCONN's annual meeting: performances, guest speak Jen Leper who is the House Chair of the Education Committee, the inclusion of EASTCONN's Executive Director Eric Protulis on the Governor's Commission on Education Funding and Accountability, EASTCONN's continued emphasis on child care and youth employment, and a USDA grant that will renovate a kitchen into a production facility for food that is delivered to various sites including HES.

c. Policy Committee

The policy committee did not meet.

d. Communications

The communications committee did not meet. There was discussion on the need for the committee.

- e. Superintendent Evaluation Ad Hoc  
The superintendent evaluation committee did not meet.
- f. Curriculum Review  
The curriculum review committee did not meet. Principal Smith said that the scope and sequence required by the CSDE will be produced during the last three days for teachers.

10. Discussion and Possible Action: Acceptance of Staff Resignations, as Presented

**Motion:** Juan Arriola moved to accept the resignation of Kyra Garrison, Physical Education Teacher, and Mellisa O'Donovan, Team A Teacher, with regret and well wishes and thanking them very much for their service. Dennis Timberman 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.

11. Discussion and Possible Action: Calendar Updates and Final Day of School for Students

Due to septic system problems, school was canceled on May 22.

**Motion:** Juan Arriola moved that the last day for students will be on June 19. Dennis Timberman 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.

June 19 will be a half day.

12. Discussion and Possible Action: Board of Education Goals Review

Mark Becker reviewed the goals. If a facilitator can be found, a retreat will be scheduled between June 8 and 12<sup>th</sup> for long range and strategic planning. Communication to the public and receipt of written reports prior to meetings were also noted for improvement.

13. Additions to the Agenda

None

14. Next Agenda Planning

Requests for agenda items should be sent to Chair Becker &/or Superintendent Skarzynski.

15. Second Audience for Citizens and Staff

Principal Smith thanked Tommy Lehoux for his extra work during building problems, and Kellie Schimmelpfennig, Laura Sorel and Mary Jo Chretien for helping while she served in the roles of Principal and substitute teacher, and the HES teachers for their flexibility.

Jill Patterson agreed with Principal Smith and recognized that this work affects timeliness.

**Motion:** Maryellen Donnelly moved to move item 16 after items 17 and 18. Dennis Timberman 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.

17. Possible Executive Session for Discussion Concerning the Health of an Employee and Related Personnel Matter, Including Consideration of Leave Provisions under the Collective Bargaining Agreement

**Motion:** Maryellen Donnelly moved to enter executive session for discussion concerning the health of an employee and related personnel matter, including consideration of leave provisions under the collective bargaining agreement and invite Superintendent Skarzynski. 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.

The board entered executive session at 8:20.

The board exited the executive session at 8:53.

18. Discussion and Possible Action Related to Employee Leave Time in Accordance with the Provisions of the Collective Bargaining Agreement

**Motion:** Maryellen Donnelly moved to deny the request for paid leave. Juan Arriola seconded the motion.

Voting yes were Juan Arriola, Laura Barrow, Maryellen Donnelly, Elizabeth Lindorff, Tim Studer, and Dennis Timberman.

Abstaining were Mark Becker, Stephanie Bora, and Nick Brockett.

16. Possible Executive Session to Discuss the Performance of a Public Employee.

**Motion:** Maryellen Donnelly moved to enter executive session to discuss the performance of a public employee and invite Superintendent Skarzynski. 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 board entered executive session at 8:58.

The board exited the executive session at 9:09.

19. Adjournment

Maryellen Donnelly moved to adjourn. 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.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maryellen Donnelly