



Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

Re: CGS 10-222 question

1 message

Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>
 To: Maryellen Donnelly <mdonnelly@hamptonschool.org>
 Cc: Mark Becker <mbecker@hamptonschool.org>

Thu, Jul 9, 2026 at 8:22 AM

[REDACTED] I put a number of scenarios into four AI models to continue to dig a little deeper. I'll also share the article with the full board and the First Selectman so that everyone is in the loop.

On Wed, Jul 8, 2026 at 3:43 PM Maryellen Donnelly <mdonnelly@hamptonschool.org> wrote:

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Regarding legal action, Ed (Elizabeth's husband and on the BOF) is sending the CT Mirror article to Donahue about the increase in districts being sued for not meeting IEPs and AI being used to help parents do so.
<https://ctmirror.org/2026/06/26/ct-special-education-complaints-artificial-intelligence-ai/>

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On Wed, Jul 8, 2026 at 2:52 PM Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org> wrote:

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in the discretion of the board of education. Except as provided in this subsection, any such board may transfer any unexpended or uncontracted-for portion of any appropriation for school purposes to any other item of such itemized estimate. Boards may, by adopting policies and procedures, authorize designated personnel to make limited transfers under emergency circumstances if the urgent need for the transfer prevents the board from meeting in a timely fashion to consider such transfer. All transfers made in such instances shall be announced at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the board and a written explanation of such transfer shall be provided to the legislative body of the municipality or, in a municipality where the legislative body is a town meeting, to the board of selectmen. Expenditures by the board of education shall not exceed the appropriation made by the municipality, with such money as may be received from other sources for school purposes. If any occasion arises whereby additional funds are needed by such board, the chairman of such board shall notify the board of finance, board of selectmen or appropriating authority, as the case may be, and shall submit a request for additional funds in the same manner as is provided for departments, boards or agencies of the municipality and no additional funds shall be expended unless such supplemental appropriation shall be granted and no supplemental expenditures shall be made in excess of those granted through the appropriating authority. The annual report of the board of education shall, in accordance with section 10-224, include a summary showing (1) the total cost of the maintenance of schools, (2) the amount received from the state and other sources for the maintenance of schools, and (3) the net cost to the municipality of the maintenance of schools. For purposes of this subsection, "meeting" means a meeting, as defined in section 1-200, and "itemized estimate" means an estimate in which broad budgetary categories including, but not limited to, salaries, fringe benefits, utilities, supplies and grounds maintenance are divided into one or more line items.

I'll let you know what I find out.

Andy



Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

CT Mirror article

1 message

Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

Thu, Jul 9, 2026 at 8:32 AM

To: Mark Becker <mbecker@hamptonschool.org>, Maryellen Donnelly <mdonnelly@hamptonschool.org>, Tim Studer <tstuder@hamptonschool.org>, Dennis Timberman <dtimberman@hamptonschool.org>, Elizabeth Lindorff <elindorff@hamptonschool.org>, Juan Arriola <jarriola@hamptonschool.org>, Stephanie Bora <sbora@hamptonschool.org>, Laura Barrow <lbarrow@hamptonschool.org>, Nick Brockett <nbrockett@hamptonschool.org>, Allan Cahill <firstselectman@hamptonct.org>
Cc: Victoria Smith <vsmith@hamptonschool.org>, Mary Jo Chretien <mchretien@hamptonschool.org>

Hello all,

Please do not respond all to this email so that we avoid violating open meeting law.

This article was in the CT Mirror recently and is being circulated among schools. It points to continued and growing legal exposure school districts face with regards to the implementation of special education IEPs and how parents are using LLM AI to file complaints. I'm sharing it with you as it is relevant for the your understanding of the current educational landscape both in CT and nationally and the implications of ensuring fidelity of implementation of IEPs.

<https://ctmirror.org/2026/06/26/ct-special-education-complaints-artificial-intelligence-ai/>

Have a good day,

Andy

Andrew Skarzynski

Superintendent

Hampton Elementary School

380 Main Street

Hampton, CT 06247



Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

Re: CGS 10-222 question

1 message

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items for budget and negotiations

1 message

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To: Mark Becker <mbecker@hamptonschool.org>, Maryellen Donnelly <mdonnelly@hamptonschool.org>

Hi Mark and Maryellen,

I spoke with Jessica Ritter today to review some of the outstanding concerns on the budget as well as negotiations. Here is a quick summary of things:

- With no budget, we are set at our FY26 allocation;
 - Mark as chair can appeal through CGS 7-405 to spend necessary funds; this is essentially be deducted from any budget passed in the future so it could be favorable to the BOF as it wouldn't raise MBR;
 - Mark, as chair, can also file for a supplemental appropriation now under 10-222 so that we can meet our legal requirements under IDEA.
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Jessica also suggested that one of her associates can serve on negotiations if we'd like out of budgetary concerns. She's happy to do it but her rates have increased. I told her I'd check with you to see if we want to use a different Shimpian attorney at a lower rate. Given some of the union issues across the state this year, these negotiations may be a little more complicated this year.

I'll share more as I hear it.

Thanks,

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Re: items for budget and negotiations

1 message

Maryellen Donnelly <mdonnelly@hamptonschool.org>
To: Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>
Cc: Mark Becker <mbecker@hamptonschool.org>

Thu, Jul 9, 2026 at 4:31 PM

Thank you for the research.

Can I assume that Mark can do either without board vote? So much less complicated if we don't need a board vote.

Would the supplemental funding using 10-222 raise MBR?

Did Jessica say anything about BOF being past their 10 day window to respond to our budget?

Maryellen

Sent from my iPhone

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> Jessica will send us the statutory language and we can circle back to her on that.

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Thu, Jul 9, 2026 at 4:44 PM

She didn't say anything about the ten day window but that really only impacts them in terms of providing feedback - they still get to set the bottom line.

I'm not sure if we would need the Board to ask for a supplemental under 10-222. Our policies for Chair are not totally clear in this case as item 1 would imply a Board vote whereas item 6 would convey that as the Chair, Mark is the spokesperson. In terms of item 1, having staff in place to meet IEP needs would be a state requirement.

Chairperson The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Education and shall perform other duties as directed by law, State Department of Education regulations, and by this Board. In carrying out these responsibilities, the Chairperson shall: 1. Sign the instruments, acts, and orders necessary to carry out state requirements and the will of the Board. 2. Consult with the Superintendent in the planning of the Board's agendas. 3. Confer with the Superintendent on crucial matters which may occur between Board meetings. 4. Appoint Board committees, subject to Board approval. 5. Call special meetings of the Board as necessary. 6. Be public spokesperson for the Board at all times except as this responsibility is specifically delegated to others. 7. Be responsible for the orderly conduct of all Board meetings.

I'm not advocating for a meeting but something, even online, would help things remain clean. Supplemental funds would have an impact on MBR as well.

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Agenda for a special meeting on July 13th

1 message

Mark Becker <mbecker@hamptonschool.org>

Thu, Jul 9, 2026 at 5:17 PM

To: Kellie Schimmelpfennig <kschimmelpfennig@hamptonschool.org>, Town Clerk <townclerk@hamptonct.org>, Maryellen Donnelly <mdonnelly@hamptonschool.org>, Tim Studer <tstuder@hamptonschool.org>, Dennis Timberman <dtimberman@hamptonschool.org>, Juan Arriola <jarriola@hamptonschool.org>, Laura Barrow <lbarrow@hamptonschool.org>, Nick Brockett <nbrockett@hamptonschool.org>, Stephanie Bora <sbora@hamptonschool.org>, Elizabeth Lindorff <elindorff@hamptonschool.org>, Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

Please distribute and post the meeting Agenda attached for a special BOE meeting on the 13th.

Thanks

Mark

**Hampton BoE Special Meeting Agenda 7.13.2026.pdf**

119K



Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

Re: CGS 10-222 question

1 message

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Fri, Jul 10, 2026 at 8:55 AM

To: Mark Becker <mbecker@hamptonschool.org>

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I'll see what was sent to Chaplin - the region had to do this a few years ago due to a high cost situation.

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Fwd: Information Request - 2026 Hampton Negotiations

1 message

Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

Mon, Jul 13, 2026 at 12:11 PM

To: Lynn Gurnham <lgurnham@mdgbenefits.com>

Cc: Sally Lehoux <slehoux@hamptonschool.org>, Mark Becker <mbecker@hamptonschool.org>

Hi Lynn,

Please see attached. Can you provide the last two pages?

thanks,

Andy

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Andrew Skarzynski** <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

Date: Fri, Jun 26, 2026 at 8:01 AM

Subject: Fwd: Information Request - 2026 Hampton Negotiations

To: Sally Lehoux <slehoux@hamptonschool.org>

Cc: Mark Becker <mbecker@hamptonschool.org>

Hi Sally,

Please see attached. Let's discuss shortly.

Thanks,

Andy

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Cumpstone, Patrick [CT]** <patrickc@cea.org>

Date: Fri, Jun 26, 2026 at 7:58 AM

Subject: Information Request - 2026 Hampton Negotiations

To: askarzynski@hamptonschool.org <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

CC: Chrissy Stone <cstone@hamptonschool.org>, mbecker@hamptonschool.org <mbecker@hamptonschool.org>

Good Morning,

Please see the attached information request from the Hampton Education Association to prepare for the upcoming contract negotiations. We thank you in advance for assisting the Association in obtaining these requested materials and data. We're looking forward to a productive and meaningful bargaining period.

Best,

Patrick Cumpstone*UniServ Representative*

patrickc@cea.org

959-276-8208



 **HEA-HBOE RFI 2026 Negotiations.pdf**
172K



Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

Fwd: FOIA Doc

1 message

Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

Mon, Jul 13, 2026 at 12:39 PM

To: Mark Becker <mbecker@hamptonschool.org>

Mark -
Please see attached. Didn't we resolve this?

thanks,

Andy

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kellie Schimmelpfennig** <kschimmelpfennig@hamptonschool.org>

Date: Mon, Jul 13, 2026 at 12:34 PM

Subject: FOIA Doc

To: Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

—
Kindly,



Kellie Schimmelpfennig
Executive Assistant
Hampton Elementary School
380 Main St
Hampton CT 06247
860 455 9409 (phone) ext. 110
860 455 2289 (fax)

**FOIA Doc.pdf**
597K



Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

Fwd: FOIA Doc

1 message

Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

Mon, Jul 13, 2026 at 1:20 PM

To: Maryellen Donnelly <mdonnelly@hamptonschool.org>, Mark Becker <mbecker@hamptonschool.org>

Maryellen and Mark,

I shared this with Mark earlier today. I believed we resolved this in the past.

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**FOIA Doc.pdf**

597K



Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

Re: FOIA Doc

1 message

Maryellen Donnelly <mdonnelly@hamptonschool.org>
To: Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>
Cc: Mark Becker <mbecker@hamptonschool.org>

Mon, Jul 13, 2026 at 3:26 PM

I thought it was resolved by Mark meeting with Russell Blair & statement Mark provided that is in minutes. Do you think Blair or Juan failed to notify the commission?

Maryellen

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 13, 2026, at 1:20 PM, Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org> wrote:

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Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

Re: FOIA Doc

1 message

Maryellen Donnelly <mdonnelly@hamptonschool.org>
 To: Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>
 Cc: Mark Becker <mbecker@hamptonschool.org>

Mon, Jul 13, 2026 at 5:06 PM

1. Does Mark have notes following the executive session on November 19, 2025 (the meeting the complaint references) that says we developed goals or did we talk about how Andy was doing in order to write goals?

Note, Juan voted yes to going into executive session for purpose of Superintendent Goals as evidenced from:

Minutes of November 19, 2025

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.

2. Juan filed the complaint on November 28, 2025.

3. On December 17, we didn't go into executive session because Juan said we could not due the agenda reading Superintendent Goals.

Minutes from December 17, 2025

14. Possible Executive Session: Superintendent Goals

An executive session was not held. Juan Arriola read reasons to hold an executive session and said that superintendent evaluation is a reason to meet in executive session.

3. In January 2026, there was not an ex session dealing with the superintendent eval or goals

4. There was no February meeting due to weather and the agenda did not include superintendent goals or eval.

5. Minutes to the March 4, 2026 special meeting included the following:

4. Correspondent to the Board

Board members received an investigative report from Rogin Nassau Attorneys at Law regarding a September 19, 2024 letter received from the Strafaci Law Firm, Patrice Merendina's counsel.

Juan Arriola read a letter responding to the findings.

A complaint was filed with the Freedom of Information (FOI) Commission by Juan Arriola regarding the reason for entering an executive session during the November 19, 2025 BOE meeting, which stated *discussion of superintendent goals* rather than discussion of superintendent evaluation.

6. The minutes for March 25, 2026 include the following

5. Approval of Minutes from Special Board Meeting 3/4/2026

Motion: Juan Arriola moved to approve the minutes of March 4, 2026. Laura Barrow seconded the motion. Juan Arriola withdrew the motion. Laura Barrow withdrew the second.

Juan Arriola moved to approve the minutes as amended: A complaint was filed with the Freedom of Information (FOI) Commission by Juan Arriola regarding the reason for entering an executive session during the November 19, 2025 BOE meeting, which stated discussion of superintendent goals (strike) rather than discussion of superintendent evaluation. Board members received an investigative report from Rogin Nassau Attorneys at Law regarding a September 19, 2024 letter received from the Strafaci Law Firm, Patrice Merendina's counsel. (add from page 7) *"The allegations made in the letter from Ms. Merendina's counsel do not contain the required specificity of a viable defamation claim."*

Laura Barrow seconded the motion as amended.

Voting yes were Juan Arriola, Laura Barrow, Mark Becker, Stephanie Bora, Nick Brockett, Maryellen Donnelly, Elizabeth Lindorff, Tim

7. Juan's complaint

- a. does contain reference to it not being superintendent evaluation which he requested we strike.
- b. if he questioned the agenda in November 2025, why did he vote yes to enter the session?

8. The April 22 2026 minutes reflect that a meeting was held with Russell Blair:

10. Discussion and Possible Action: FOIA Complaint Against Hampton Board of Education
Chair Mark Becker, Juan Arriola and Russell Blair, FOIA Director of Education and Communications, met. Mark Becker provided Juan Arriola with the written statement:
The agenda and subsequent minutes for the Hampton Board of Education meeting of November 19, 2025 listed an executive session for Superintendent Goals. This description was too vague and did not meet the requirement of Freedom of Information. The agenda should have stated a reason such as "to discuss the performance and evaluation process of the superintendent". In the future, I will be more descriptive to allow the public to know why the Board is entering executive session.

8. If I remember correctly, when I sat with Rose in the commission's hearing room (regarding a previous complaint by Juan), there were cases that did not go further because they were resolved. Maybe there is no mechanism to stop a complaint that has been mediated.

9. I think that we should hire our attorney or one of her colleagues to go to this commission hearing if it is not called off.

10. The commission requires documents (in triplicate) and I think that the full agenda and minutes regarding anything to do with the complaint should be submitted. There are other issues in those minutes which are enlightening. Oops, November 19 attachment is in Pages. I'll attach in pdf, too.

Maryellen

On Jul 13, 2026, at 3:26 PM, Maryellen Donnelly <mdonnelly@hamptonschool.org> wrote:

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Sent from my iPhone

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Date: Mon, Jul 13, 2026 at 12:34 PM
Subject: FOIA Doc
To: Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

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Kindly,



Kellie Schimmelpfennig
Executive Assistant
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<FOIA Doc.pdf>

6 attachments

-  **BOE minutes 11 19 25.pages**
283K
-  **BOE Meeting Minutes 12 17 25.pdf**
105K
-  **BOE Minutes 3 4 2026.pdf**
97K
-  **BOE Minutes 3 25 26.pdf**
105K
-  **BOE 4-22-26 Minutes & Rogin Nassau Report.pdf**
5238K
-  **BOE Minutes 11 19 25.pdf**
119K



Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

Re: FOIA Doc

1 message

Maryellen Donnelly <mdonnelly@hamptonschool.org>
To: Mark Becker <mbecker@hamptonschool.org>
Cc: Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

Mon, Jul 13, 2026 at 5:10 PM

LOL

I was writing my dissertation while Mark sent the email that the complaint was withdrawn.
A walk down memory (or nightmare) lane.
See you tonight
Maryellen

On Mon, Jul 13, 2026 at 4:13 PM Mark Becker <mbecker@hamptonschool.org> wrote:
Good afternoon, please see the below on the FOI - should be all set

Fasciano, Linda <Linda.Fasciano@ct.gov> Mon, Jul 6, 4:20 PM (7 days ago)

to flowergirl32357@yahoo.com, me

Docket #FIC 2025-1126, Juan Arriola v. Chair, Hampton Elementary School Board of Education, Hampton Public Schools; and Hampton Elementary School Board of Education, Hampton Public Schools.

The Complainant(s) has(have) withdrawn the complaint in the above captioned matter. The hearing scheduled for 7/20/2026 at 11:00 AM is cancelled.

Please see the attached Notice of Withdrawal.

Thank you.

Linda Fasciano

Administrative Assistant

Freedom of Information Commission

One attachment • Scanned by Gmail

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Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

Re: items for budget and negotiations

1 message

Maryellen Donnelly <mdonnelly@hamptonschool.org>
 To: Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>
 Cc: Mark Becker <mbecker@hamptonschool.org>

Mon, Jul 13, 2026 at 11:13 PM

So far, no BOF meeting set.

Regarding Andy's reply, I understand that they still get to set the bottom line, but can we do anything about the violation of 10 days to provide feedback? The clock is ticking regarding finding a teacher or arranging placement if the unthinkable happens that we need to send students elsewhere.

Can we send something like the following to let the BOF chair know that she is out of compliance?

The Board of Education respectfully requests that the Board of Finance meet to discuss the Board of Education budget of June 17, 2026 in accordance with its obligation under Sec. 10-222. Appropriations and budget. The board or authority that receives such estimate shall, not later than ten days after the date the board of education submits such estimate, make spending recommendations and suggestions to such board of education as to how such board of education may consolidate noneducational services and realize financial efficiencies.

Did Jessica send language to request either supplemental funds or the CGS 7-405?

Thanks
 Maryellen

On Thu, Jul 9, 2026 at 4:45 PM Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org> wrote:

She didn't say anything about the ten day window but that really only impacts them in terms of providing feedback - they still get to set the bottom line.

I'm not sure if we would need the Board to ask for a supplemental under 10-222. Our policies for Chair are not totally clear in this case as item 1 would imply a Board vote whereas item 6 would convey that as the Chair, Mark is the spokesperson. In terms of item 1, having staff in place to meet IEP needs would be a state requirement.

Chairperson The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Education and shall perform other duties as directed by law, State Department of Education regulations, and by this Board. In carrying out these responsibilities, the Chairperson shall: 1. Sign the instruments, acts, and orders necessary to carry out state requirements and the will of the Board. 2. Consult with the Superintendent in the planning of the Board's agendas. 3. Confer with the Superintendent on crucial matters which may occur between Board meetings. 4. Appoint Board committees, subject to Board approval. 5. Call special meetings of the Board as necessary. 6. Be public spokesperson for the Board at all times except as this responsibility is specifically delegated to others. 7. Be responsible for the orderly conduct of all Board meetings.

I'm not advocating for a meeting but something, even online, would help things remain clean. Supplemental funds would have an impact on MBR as well.

On Thu, Jul 9, 2026 at 4:31 PM Maryellen Donnelly <mdonnelly@hamptonschool.org> wrote:

Thank you for the research.

Can I assume that Mark can do either without board vote? So much less complicated if we don't need a board vote.

Would the supplemental funding using 10-222 raise MBR?

Did Jessica say anything about BOF being past their 10 day window to respond to our budget?

Maryellen

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jul 9, 2026, at 3:23 PM, Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org> wrote:

>

>

> Hi Mark and Maryellen,

>
> I spoke with Jessica Ritter today to review some of the outstanding concerns on the budget as well as negotiations. Here is a quick summary of things:
> - With no budget, we are set at our FY26 allocation;
> - Mark as chair can appeal through CGS 7-405 to spend necessary funds; this is essentially be deducted from any budget passed in the future so it could be favorable to the BOF as it wouldn't raise MBR;
> - Mark, as chair, can also file for a supplemental appropriation now under 10-222 so that we can meet our legal requirements under IDEA.
> [REDACTED]
>
> Jessica also suggested that one of her associates can serve on negotiations if we'd like out of budgetary concerns. She's happy to do it but her rates have increased. I told her I'd check with you to see if we want to use a different Shimpan attorney at a lower rate. Given some of the union issues across the state this year, these negotiations may be a little more complicated this year.
>
> I'll share more as I hear it.
>
> Thanks,
>
> Andy



Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

Fwd: Budget question

1 message

Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

Tue, Jul 14, 2026 at 9:20 AM

To: Mark Becker <mbecker@hamptonschool.org>, Maryellen Donnelly <mdonnelly@hamptonschool.org>

Mark and Maryellen,

Please see below and attached. Let's try to touch base this week on this.

Thanks,

Andy

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ritter, Jessica L.** <JRitter@goodwin.com>

Date: Thu, Jul 9, 2026 at 6:38 PM

Subject: RE: [REDACTED]

To: Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

Hi Andy:

I have attached [REDACTED]

(a) When annual appropriations have not been made by a municipality before the beginning of any fiscal year, the disbursing officers may make necessary expenditures during the period of ninety days after the beginning of such year on proper warrants for purposes and in amounts authorized by the appropriating body or by the board of finance or other budget-making authority. When annual appropriations have not been made by such municipality before the end of such ninety-day period, the disbursing officers may make necessary expenditures during successive monthly periods in such year on proper warrants for purposes and in amounts authorized by the appropriating body or by the board of finance or other budget-making authority within the limits of appropriations specified in budgetary line items for the previous fiscal year. For this purpose, necessary borrowing may be authorized by resolution of the budget-making authority, provided all such borrowing shall mature and be payable not later than the end of the fiscal year for which such borrowings are made. Any notes so authorized may be issued and sold in the manner provided by such resolution. Such expenditures authorized by this section and interest costs and other expenses incidental to any such borrowing shall constitute the first charges against appropriations for the fiscal year in which they are made.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, when an annual budget of a regional school district is not approved by a majority of voters of the member towns of such district before the beginning of any fiscal year, the disbursing officer for each member town of the regional school district shall make necessary expenditures to such district in an amount equal to the total of the town's appropriation to the district for the previous fiscal year and the town's proportionate share in any increment in debt service over the previous fiscal year, until the regional school district budget is approved pursuant to section 10-51. Each such town shall receive credit for such expenditures once the budget is approved for the fiscal year.

Conn. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 7-405 (West)



Jessica L. Ritter

Shipman & Goodwin LLP

Partner

One Constitution Plaza

Hartford, CT 06103-1919

Tel: (860) 251-5034

Fax: (860) 251-5315

JRitter@goodwin.com

www.shipmangoodwin.com

Boston | Greenwich | Hartford | Lakeville | New Haven | New York | Old Lyme | Stamford

Disclaimer: Privileged and confidential. If received in error, please notify me by e-mail and delete the message.

From: Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2026 10:48 AM
To: Ritter, Jessica L. <JRitter@goodwin.com>
Subject: Budget question

CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL: Please be cautious of links and attachments.

Hi Jessica,

I hope you're having a great day.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Thanks,

Andy



Hampton Letter to Fiscal Authority re_ Negotiations.docx
24K



Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

BOE meeting

1 message

Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

Tue, Jul 14, 2026 at 10:48 AM

To: Mark Becker <mbecker@hamptonschool.org>, Maryellen Donnelly <mdonnelly@hamptonschool.org>

Hi Mark and Maryellen,

As much as we have tried to limit the July meetings, I do think we need to hold a special BOE meeting shortly. Due to the arrival of [REDACTED], we will have 6 student requiring a 1:1 paraeducator in addition to specialized instruction. This places us in a situation of not being able to provide FAPE (free and appropriate public education) in the students' Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) and creates the potential for conducting emergency PPTs to review outplacements.

My suggestions are to do the following:

- Revisit the budget: we can have the team work to revamp the initial request with the additional staff necessary. This may be a relatively small increase since we captured a number of the new paras on the prior budget.
- Seek approval from the Board for Mark to request expenditures in excess of the FY26 budget for the first 90 days of FY27 under CGS 7-405. [REDACTED]
- Simultaneously, seek supplemental funding from the BOF that is above and beyond the amount from FY27 to pay for the necessary staff that would enable the school to be the LRE for the identified students.

Vikki has created a lengthy summary and analysis of the needs. It isn't really for broad public consumption but I'll send you a copy of it (it's about 12 pages long).

Thoughts? Should we try to warn something for early next week, even if it's on zoom?

Thanks,

Andy



Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

Re: BOE meeting

1 message

Maryellen Donnelly <mdonnelly@hamptonschool.org>
To: Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>
Cc: Mark Becker <mbecker@hamptonschool.org>

Tue, Jul 14, 2026 at 5:19 PM

Yes, let's meet early next week. There is still a cry for the number of students with IEPs and how many of them are only speech and language. We are talking about people who want simple things and don't want to understand that is not how services are delivered. I say give them the simple numbers. Vikki did a great job for those who really want to understand. There is a voiced threat that the next budget will be defeated and it's really about them being heard and in control. Meanwhile, I will poll when BOF members who voted for our last budget will be in town. I do not think that breaks any policy or statutes.
Maryellen

On Tue, Jul 14, 2026 at 10:48AM Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org> wrote:
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Re: BOE meeting

1 message

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Tue, Jul 14, 2026 at 5:47 PM

To: Maryellen Donnelly <mdonnelly@hamptonschool.org>

Cc: Mark Becker <mbecker@hamptonschool.org>

I will get additional information from Jessica and the Shipman team about why much of that data is suppressed- the numbers are not big enough to be shared.

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Re: BOE meeting

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To: Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>
Cc: Mark Becker <mbecker@hamptonschool.org>

Tue, Jul 14, 2026 at 6:40 PM

I don't mean to include grade or team numbers, just the total. Like 23 children, 0 of whom are speech and language only with no additional instructional services.
me

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- Revisit the budget: we can have the team work to revamp the initial request with the additional staff necessary. This may be a relatively small increase since we captured a number of the new paras on the prior budget.
- Seek approval from the Board for Mark to request expenditures in excess of the FY26 budget for the first 90 days of FY27 under CGS 7-405. [REDACTED]
- Simultaneously, seek supplemental funding from the BOF that is above and beyond the amount from FY27 to pay for the necessary staff that would enable the school to be the LRE for the identified students.

Vikki has created a lengthy summary and analysis of the needs. It isn't really for broad public consumption but I'll send you a copy of it (it's about 12 pages long).

Thoughts? Should we try to warn something for early next week, even if it's on zoom?

Thanks,

Andy



Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

Re: Document shared with you: "Copy of HES Executive Summary and Required Staffing Needs 2026-2027"

1 message

Mark Becker <mbecker@hamptonschool.org>

Tue, Jul 14, 2026 at 7:13 PM

To: Maryellen Donnelly <mdonnelly@hamptonschool.org>

Cc: Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

What are your thoughts with sharing that with our board? Juan just last night was saying he tells people that the school cannot even tell us the level of Special Education needed and this document lays it out pretty well. Could go against too.

Mark

On Tue, Jul 14, 2026 at 5:11 PM Maryellen Donnelly <mdonnelly@hamptonschool.org> wrote:

It is obvious that there was a lot of work put into that document. What I believe will pop out to the BOF members is the 7.5 and the 9.5. I think we need to be prepared to say that those are the hours that the teacher is required, not the teacher and para. If the 7.5 is direct teacher instruction by a certified teacher, the BOF would love to fund one and a half teachers.

Please thank Vikki for this work for me.
Maryellen

On Tue, Jul 14, 2026 at 10:53AM Andrew Skarzynski (via Google Docs) <drive-shares-dm-noreply@google.com> wrote:

Andrew Skarzynski shared a document

Andrew Skarzynski (askarzynski@hamptonschool.org) has invited you to **edit** the following document:

**Copy of HES Executive Summary and Required Staffing Needs 2026-2027**[Open](#)

Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA
You have received this email because askarzynski@hamptonschool.org
shared a document with you from Google Docs.

Google Workspace



Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

Re: Document shared with you: "Copy of HES Executive Summary and Required Staffing Needs 2026-2027"

1 message

Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>
To: Mark Becker <mbecker@hamptonschool.org>
Cc: Maryellen Donnelly <mdonnelly@hamptonschool.org>

Tue, Jul 14, 2026 at 7:15 PM

I'll run it by Vikki and Mary Jo. We may want to tweak a few things in it just to be sure we are FERPA compliant.

On Tue, Jul 14, 2026 at 7:14 PM Mark Becker <mbecker@hamptonschool.org> wrote:

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Copy of HES Executive Summary and Required Staffing Needs 2026-2027

Open

10/2/26, 11:08 AM

Hamptonschool.org Mail - Re: Document shared with you: "Copy of HES Executive Summary and Required Staffing Needs 2026-2027"

Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA
You have received this email because askarzynski@hamptonschool.org
shared a document with you from Google Docs.

Google Workspace



Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

Need for additional meeting.

1 message

Mark Becker <mbecker@hamptonschool.org>

Tue, Jul 14, 2026 at 7:23 PM

To: Maryellen Donnelly <mdonnelly@hamptonschool.org>, Tim Studer <tstuder@hamptonschool.org>, Dennis Timberman <dtimberman@hamptonschool.org>, Elizabeth Lindorff <elindorff@hamptonschool.org>, Juan Arriola <jarriola@hamptonschool.org>, Stephanie Bora <sbora@hamptonschool.org>, Laura Barrow <lbarrow@hamptonschool.org>, Nick Brockett <nbrockett@hamptonschool.org>, Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

Good Evening all,

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Based on that we need to have another special meeting next week. Please let me know if you support Monday or Tuesday of next week.

Thanks
Mark

This was a summary sent by Andy:

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Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

Re: Document shared with you: "Copy of HES Executive Summary and Required Staffing Needs 2026-2027"

1 message

Maryellen Donnelly <mdonnelly@hamptonschool.org>
To: Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>
Cc: Mark Becker <mbecker@hamptonschool.org>

Tue, Jul 14, 2026 at 8:39 PM

You do think of everything, like FERPA. You sure you only work 12 hours a week for us??!!
Thanks Andy
Maryellen
Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 14, 2026, at 7:16 PM, Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org> wrote:

I'll run it by Vikki and Mary Jo. We may want to tweak a few things in it just to be sure we are FERPA compliant.

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Andrew Skarzynski shared a document



Andrew Skarzynski (askarzynski@hamptonschool.org) has invited you to **edit** the following document:

10/2/26, 11:09 AM

Hamptonschool.org Mail - Re: Document shared with you: "Copy of HES Executive Summary and Required Staffing Needs 2026-2027"



Copy of HES Executive Summary and Required Staffing Needs ...

Open

Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA
94043, USA

You have received this email because
askarzynski@hamptonschool.org shared a document with you
from Google Docs.

Google Workspace



Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

Re: Need for additional meeting.

1 message

Laura Barrow <lbarrow@hamptonschool.org>

Wed, Jul 15, 2026 at 8:39 AM

To: Mark Becker <mbecker@hamptonschool.org>

Cc: Maryellen Donnelly <mdonnelly@hamptonschool.org>, Tim Studer <istuder@hamptonschool.org>, Dennis Timberman <dtimberman@hamptonschool.org>, Elizabeth Lindorff <elindorff@hamptonschool.org>, Juan Arriola <jarriola@hamptonschool.org>, Stephanie Bora <sbora@hamptonschool.org>, Nick Brockett <nbrockett@hamptonschool.org>, Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

Its a Monday for me, Tuesday evening I won't be available

Laura Barrow

On Tue, Jul 14, 2026, 7:23 PM Mark Becker <mbecker@hamptonschool.org> wrote:

Good Evening all,

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Mark

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- Simultaneously, seek supplemental funding from the BOF that is above and beyond the amount from FY27 to pay for the necessary staff that would enable the school to be the LRE for the identified students.



Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

Fwd: Legislative updates

1 message

Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

Wed, Jul 15, 2026 at 1:25 PM

To: Mark Becker <mbecker@hamptonschool.org>, Maryellen Donnelly <mdonnelly@hamptonschool.org>, Laura Barrow <lbarrow@hamptonschool.org>, Dennis Timberman <dtimberman@hamptonschool.org>, Elizabeth Lindorff <elindorff@hamptonschool.org>, Juan Arriola <jarriola@hamptonschool.org>, Nick Brockett <nbrockett@hamptonschool.org>, Stephanie Bora <sbora@hamptonschool.org>, Tim Studer <tstuder@hamptonschool.org>

Hello everyone,

Please see below for links to legislative updates from the last session.

Have a nice day,

Andy

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Skarzynski, Andrew** <askarzynski@parishill.org>

Date: Wed, Jul 15, 2026 at 1:21 PM

Subject: Legislative updates

To: McKenna, Tom <tmckenna@parishill.org>, Kevin Chavez <KChavez@chaplinschool.org>, Morse, Jocelyn <jmorse@parishill.org>, Victoria Smith <vsmith@hamptonschool.org>, Miller, Jobina <jmiller@parishill.org>, Mary Jo Chretien <mchretien@hamptonschool.org>, Salvas, Michelle <msalvas@parishill.org>

Cc: Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

Hi all,

Shipman just released a summary of the 2026 education legislation. It can be found at <https://www.shipmangoodwin.com/a/web/5bSZBbRENGy2eoQeefzcjP/education-legislation-summary-2026.pdf>

The Superintendents' Circular letter from the Commissioner contains additional links and information. It can be found at <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/sde/circular-letters/circ26-27/circular-letter-c-1-summary-of-education-related-legislation-enacted-in-the-2026-regular-session.pdf?rev=df11304b881347cd840e9abf6f2385bc&hash=FFC17052D9DE28A202A9DC7E89BDD6D5>

The CABA legislative summary can be found at <https://heyzine.com/flip-book/CABA2026EdLawSummaries.html#page/1>

Have a nice day,

Andy

Andrew Skarzynski

Superintendent of Schools

Regional School District #11/Chaplin School District

10/2/26, 11:10 AM

Hamptonschool.org Mail - Fwd: Legislative updates

304 Parish Hill Road

Chaplin, CT 06235

P: 860-455-9584 x4302

F: 860-455-1263



Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

agenda for Monday

1 message

Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

Wed, Jul 15, 2026 at 2:53 PM

To: Mark Becker <mbecker@hamptonschool.org>, Kellie Schimmelpfennig <kschimmelpfennig@hamptonschool.org>

Hi Mark and Kellie,

Please see attached.

thanks,

Andy



Hampton BoE Meeting Agenda Special Meeting 7.20.2026.docx

89K



Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

Re: Need for additional meeting.

1 message

Juan Arriola <jarriola@hamptonschool.org>

Wed, Jul 15, 2026 at 4:48 PM

To: Laura Barrow <lbarrow@hamptonschool.org>

Cc: Mark Becker <mbecker@hamptonschool.org>, Maryellen Donnelly <mdonnelly@hamptonschool.org>, Tim Studer <tstuder@hamptonschool.org>, Dennis Timberman <dtimberman@hamptonschool.org>, Elizabeth Lindorff <elindorff@hamptonschool.org>, Stephanie Bora <sbora@hamptonschool.org>, Nick Brockett <nbrockett@hamptonschool.org>, Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

I will be away, so I am requesting to participate via the phone. Let me know who might facilitate that, and I will send my phone number.

Thanks,
Juan



Virus-free.www.avast.com

On Wed, Jul 15, 2026 at 8:39AM Laura Barrow <lbarrow@hamptonschool.org> wrote:

Its a Monday for me, Tuesday evening I won't be available

Laura Barrow

On Tue, Jul 14, 2026, 7:23 PM Mark Becker <mbecker@hamptonschool.org> wrote:

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- Simultaneously, seek supplemental funding from the BOF that is above and beyond the amount from FY27 to pay for the necessary staff that would enable the school to be the LRE for the identified students.



Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

Information requested

1 message

Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

Wed, Jul 15, 2026 at 5:37 PM

To: Allan Cahill <firstselectman@hamptonct.org>

Cc: Mark Becker <mbecker@hamptonschool.org>

Hi Allan,

I hope you're having a nice summer so far and finding some places to cool off with the heat. Can you provide me with a copy of the lease agreement with the Mennonite School at town hall as well as a contact name? This relates to two things:

- First, with the updated legislation around parent/home education, I need to be able to provide the parents with registration information that relates to requirements going forward. While much of the changes are delayed a year, we do not have a robust or accurate list of parents home schooling in the community.
- Second, the school has been referred to frequently as a private Christian academy or Christian day school. I'd like any information available (lease, contact information, personnel) so a determination can be made as to whether or not they would be deemed a non-public school. This is necessary so the Board of Education can remain compliant with Statute as to what it must provide to non-public schools as well as to ensure the non-public school is fulfilling their obligations with the State.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Andy



Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

need to revise agenda to include phone

1 message

Maryellen Donnelly <mdonnelly@hamptonschool.org>

Wed, Jul 15, 2026 at 8:19 PM

To: Mark Becker <mbecker@hamptonschool.org>, Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

I don't want to get into another FOIA complaint, so we need to follow some rules in order to let Juan on by phone. When using any telecommunications during a meeting, the connection must be available to everyone including the public.

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/FOI/Notices_General/New-Primer---Remote-Meetings.pdf

Our posted agenda has to be revised. Town Hall is open tomorrow.

I don't volunteer to be the phone connection while taking minutes.

Maryellen



Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

Fwd: Special BOE Meeting

1 message

Mark Becker <mbecker@hamptonschool.org>

Wed, Jul 15, 2026 at 8:28 PM

To: Kathy Donahue <skset69@gmail.com>

Cc: Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>, poonjabrown@gmail.com

Good evening Kathy,

I wanted to let you know the BOE is meeting next Monday, primarily to go over either to authorize the Chair of the Board of Education, pursuant to CGS § 7-405, to request temporary funding from the Hampton Board of Finance to support district operations pending passage of the Hampton Elementary School FY2027 school budget.

or

to authorize the Chair of the Board of Education, pursuant to CGS § 10-222, to submit requests for supplemental appropriations to the Hampton Board of Finance for additional funds required for the operation of the Hampton Elementary School district budget

These are due to our current restriction to the 2026 budget while needing to hire the Special Education Teacher and Paras to meet the need of the kids.

The line item for review of the budget is not intended to review further reductions to the budget but to assess changes needed to address another paraprofessional required to support another child that moved in with a qualified IEP.

Finally, I am just pointing out that per CT General Statutes, section 10-222 which covers the budget I was told that the BOF is outside of its 10 day window to respond to the new budget. Is there a plan with the BOF to rectify this?

Thanks
Mark

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kellie Schimmelpfennig** <kschimmelpfennig@hamptonschool.org>

Date: Wed, Jul 15, 2026 at 4:19 PM

Subject: Special BOE Meeting

To:

Good afternoon,

Please see the attached agenda for a Special Board of Education meeting on Monday, 7/20.

--
Kindly,



Kellie Schimmelpfennig
Executive Assistant
Hampton Elementary School
380 Main St
Hampton CT 06247
860 455 9409 (phone) ext. 110
860 455 2289 (fax)



Hampton BoE Meeting Agenda Special Meeting 7.20.2026.pdf

107K



Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

Update from Shipman regarding OSHA

1 message

Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

Fri, Jul 17, 2026 at 11:11 AM

To: Mark Becker <mbecker@hamptonschool.org>, Maryellen Donnelly <mdonnelly@hamptonschool.org>, Dennis Timberman <dtimberman@hamptonschool.org>, Tim Studer <tstuder@hamptonschool.org>, Elizabeth Lindorff <elindorff@hamptonschool.org>, Stephanie Bora <sbora@hamptonschool.org>, Laura Barrow <lbarrow@hamptonschool.org>, Nick Brockett <nbrockett@hamptonschool.org>, Juan Arriola <jarriola@hamptonschool.org>
Cc: Victoria Smith <vsmith@hamptonschool.org>, Sally Lehoux <slehoux@hamptonschool.org>, Kellie Schimmelpfennig <kschimmelpfennig@hamptonschool.org>

Good morning everyone,

Schools in Connecticut are now designated 'high-hazard workplaces' according to Conn-HSHA. Shipman and Goodwin prepared the following analysis.

https://www.shipmangoodwin.com/insights/your-school-is-now-a-high-hazard-workplace-conn-oshas-heightened-focus-on-public-schools.html?utm_campaign=School%20Law&utm_medium=email&_hsenc=p2ANqtz--ltfXQ163griqJfJ_wDhi7iCyvJ-wc_us75B1Y39btU1Cph3qzi-0_b7xYITOGwXb2mBSr0Hlh3bW8Z7rQSOTofq1zMTv-wS9AbBaGsnjCLDetWAg&_hsmi=428601224&utm_content=428601224&utm_source=hs_email

Tommy Lehoux has already scheduled the consultation visit with CONN-OSHA so that we can determine any gaps. We will also meet as a team in order to review all the practical implications of this change as well as to discuss our record keeping process at the school.

Have a nice weekend,

Andy

--

Andrew Skarzynski

Superintendent

Hampton Elementary School

380 Main Street

Hampton, CT 06247



Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

agenda for Monday

1 message

Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

Wed, Jul 15, 2026 at 2:53 PM

To: Mark Becker <mbecker@hamptonschool.org>, Kellie Schimmelpfennig <kschimmelpfennig@hamptonschool.org>

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thanks,

Andy



Hampton BoE Meeting Agenda Special Meeting 7.20.2026.docx

89K



Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

need to revise agenda to include phone

1 message

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Fwd: Special BOE Meeting

1 message

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Cc: Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>, poonjabrown@gmail.com

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Thanks
Mark

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kellie Schimmelpfennig** <kschimmelpfennig@hamptonschool.org>

Date: Wed, Jul 15, 2026 at 4:19 PM

Subject: Special BOE Meeting

To:

Good afternoon,

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Kindly,



Kellie Schimmelpfennig
Executive Assistant
Hampton Elementary School
380 Main St
Hampton CT 06247
860 455 9409 (phone) ext. 110
860 455 2289 (fax)



Hampton BoE Meeting Agenda Special Meeting 7.20.2026.pdf

107K



Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

Re: PA 26-68

1 message

Maryellen Donnelly <mdonnelly@hamptonschool.org>
To: Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>
Cc: Mark Becker <mbecker@hamptonschool.org>

Fri, Jul 17, 2026 at 12:58 PM

How about discussing this at a board meeting? Even if not used, it is a wake-up call to BoF & selectmen that there is an authority over them. I suggest we ask Jessica now.

Maryellen .

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jul 17, 2026, at 11:23AM, Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org> wrote:

>

>

> Hi Mark and Maryellen,,

>

> The following was in the Shipman legislative update this year on page 20. This would need to be vetted by the Board's attorney, but in theory, the Board could vote to move to voluntarily seek state fiscal intervention and oversight. I don't think this was the intention of the act and this would certainly be an aggressive move. It would, though, accomplish a few things. First, it would demonstrate the transparency the Board has around the budget. Second, it would cause an extra set of eyes and accountability for the budgeting practices in town, and third, it may be another voice reporting that Hampton is not a distressed municipality. Again, all of this would need counsel to review and it may be a hammer when a different tool is needed but we may want to keep this in the back of our minds as a few moves that could be made down the road if necessary.

>

> The language is below:

>

> Reviewing Board of Education Financial Conditions Sections 388 and 389 of Public Act 26-68 create a new process by which local or regional boards of education may voluntarily seek state fiscal intervention and oversight from the Municipal Accountability Review Board ("MARB"), a state board charged with providing technical, financial, and other assistance and oversight to municipalities experiencing fiscal distress. Section 389 adds the Commissioner of Education or designee as a member of MARB.

>

> Under Section 388 of the Act, a local or regional board of education may, by a majority vote, submit an application to the Commissioner of Education to participate in a fiscal intervention and oversight plan. Upon receipt of such application, the Commissioner, in consultation with the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management ("OPM"), must conduct an initial review of the board's financial condition, which may include meeting with local officials, assessing the board's budget deficit and the underlying causes of such deficit, and assessing the financial condition of the municipality or municipalities served by the board.

>

> After conducting the initial review, the Commissioner must develop a fiscal intervention and oversight plan for the board and submit the plan to MARB for review. MARB must review the plan in accordance with specific statutory requirements and may recommend revisions to support the long-term financial sustainability of the board and the municipality or municipalities it serves. MARB may also require the board to appear before it to discuss compliance with the plan.

>

> After its review, MARB must submit the plan to the OPM Secretary, who must approve the plan (with or without revisions) and then submit the plan to the SBE for approval. The board of education must implement the plan upon SBE approval.

>

> Have a nice weekend,

>

> Andy



Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

Re: PA 26-68

1 message

Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>
To: Maryellen Donnelly <mdonnelly@hamptonschool.org>
Cc: Mark Becker <mbecker@hamptonschool.org>

Fri, Jul 17, 2026 at 1:33 PM

I agree. I also want to verify where we are with FERPA and releasing data as they have requested.

On Fri, Jul 17, 2026 at 12:58 PM Maryellen Donnelly <mdonnelly@hamptonschool.org> wrote:

How about discussing this at a board meeting? Even if not used, it is a wake-up call to BoF & selectmen that there is an authority over them. I suggest we ask Jessica now.

Maryellen .

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jul 17, 2026, at 11:23AM, Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org> wrote:

>

>

> Hi Mark and Maryellen,,

>

> The following was in the Shipman legislative update this year on page 20. This would need to be vetted by the Board's attorney, but in theory, the Board could vote to move to voluntarily seek state fiscal intervention and oversight. I don't think this was the intention of the act and this would certainly be an aggressive move. It would, though, accomplish a few things. First, it would demonstrate the transparency the Board has around the budget. Second, it would cause an extra set of eyes and accountability for the budgeting practices in town, and third, it may be another voice reporting that Hampton is not a distressed municipality. Again, all of this would need counsel to review and it may be a hammer when a different tool is needed but we may want to keep this in the back of our minds as a few moves that could be made down the road if necessary.

>

> The language is below:

>

> Reviewing Board of Education Financial Conditions Sections 388 and 389 of Public Act 26-68 create a new process by which local or regional boards of education may voluntarily seek state fiscal intervention and oversight from the Municipal Accountability Review Board ("MARB"), a state board charged with providing technical, financial, and other assistance and oversight to municipalities experiencing fiscal distress. Section 389 adds the Commissioner of Education or designee as a member of MARB.

>

> Under Section 388 of the Act, a local or regional board of education may, by a majority vote, submit an application to the Commissioner of Education to participate in a fiscal intervention and oversight plan. Upon receipt of such application, the Commissioner, in consultation with the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management ("OPM"), must conduct an initial review of the board's financial condition, which may include meeting with local officials, assessing the board's budget deficit and the underlying causes of such deficit, and assessing the financial condition of the municipality or municipalities served by the board.

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>

> After its review, MARB must submit the plan to the OPM Secretary, who must approve the plan (with or without revisions) and then submit the plan to the SBE for approval. The board of education must implement the plan upon SBE approval.

>

> Have a nice weekend,

>

> Andy



Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

Questions and negotiations

1 message

Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

Fri, Jul 17, 2026 at 2:14 PM

To: "Ritter, Jessica L." <JRitter@goodwin.com>

Cc: Mark Becker <mbecker@hamptonschool.org>

Hi Jessica,

I have a few questions and am hoping you can provide some direction.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Many thanks in advance for your responses.

Take care,

Andy



Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

statute reference from agenda

1 message

Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

Fri, Jul 17, 2026 at 2:42 PM

To: Mark Becker <mbecker@hamptonschool.org>, Maryellen Donnelly <mdonnelly@hamptonschool.org>, Dennis Timberman <dtimberman@hamptonschool.org>, Elizabeth Lindorff <elindorff@hamptonschool.org>, Stephanie Bora <sbora@hamptonschool.org>, Tim Studer <tstuder@hamptonschool.org>, Laura Barrow <lbarrow@hamptonschool.org>, Nick Brockett <nbrockett@hamptonschool.org>, Juan Arriola <jarriola@hamptonschool.org>

Hello everyone,

Please find attached the statutes referenced in the agenda for Monday's special meeting.

Have a nice day,

Andy

**Budget statutes1.docx**

16K



Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

Information for special budget meeting Monday1 message

Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

Fri, Jul 17, 2026 at 4:16 PM

To: Mark Becker <mbecker@hamptonschool.org>, Maryellen Donnelly <mdonnelly@hamptonschool.org>, Tim Studer <tstuder@hamptonschool.org>, Dennis Timberman <dtimberman@hamptonschool.org>, Elizabeth Lindorff <elindorff@hamptonschool.org>, Stephanie Bora <sbora@hamptonschool.org>, Laura Barrow <lbarrow@hamptonschool.org>, Nick Brockett <nbrockett@hamptonschool.org>, Juan Arriola <jarriola@hamptonschool.org>
Bcc: Victoria Smith <vsmith@hamptonschool.org>, Mary Jo Chretien <mchretien@hamptonschool.org>

Subject: Important Update: FY27 Budget, Special Education Data, and Student Privacy

Hello everyone,

Please do not reply all to this email. I will be unavailable over the weekend and responding to any emails later in the day on Monday.

Our budget request for FY27 includes the provision of one-to-one paraeducators necessary to fulfill mandated Individualized Education Program (IEP) requirements. We have received requests from the community for information regarding specific numbers of students by primary identification areas.

While I appreciate the desire for transparency regarding district operations, I must formally advise the Board that releasing this data would violate both federal and state data privacy laws. As Superintendent, I cannot authorize the disclosure of this information. As we have shared in presentations throughout this year, specific student data is suppressed when student confidentiality cannot be guaranteed.

Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the district is legally mandated to protect all Personally Identifiable Information (PII) contained in student education records. FERPA explicitly states that protected data includes not only direct identifiers (like student names) but also indirect identifiers. These are pieces of information that, when combined, would allow a "reasonable person in the school community" to identify a specific student with reasonable certainty.

Given our district's small size, our community is highly connected. Releasing micro-data regarding specific diagnoses creates an immediate and unlawful risk of indirect student identification.

To ensure compliance with FERPA, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) maintains strict data suppression rules through its official data portal, EdSight. These rules are mandatory for all Connecticut public school districts and require the following protocols:

- **The Primary Suppression Rule:** CSDE guidelines dictate that if any "cell count" (the number of students in a specific category) is less than or equal to 5, the value must be suppressed from public reports. With only 23 total special education students spread across 13 federal disability categories, almost every single category in our district would fall below this threshold.
- **Complementary Suppression:** State rules dictate that we cannot simply mask the categories that have 5 or fewer students. If only one or two categories are masked, a viewer could use simple subtraction from our total (23) to deduce the missing numbers. Therefore, CSDE requires the suppression of the next highest, visible cell counts to prevent mathematical deduction. Attempting to apply these state-mandated suppression rules to our tiny dataset would render the entire table blank.

The district has publicly shared that we employ a number of paraeducators for mandated, one-to-one instructional support. Releasing data on primary disabilities would allow community members to use a technique known as data triangulation. If the community knows which students utilize one-to-one support, and a public table reveals that only one or two students in the entire district hold a specific primary diagnosis (e.g., Autism or Emotional Disturbance), the private medical and educational diagnoses of those individual children would be exposed to the public.

The Federal Education Department, statute, and CSDE are clear: The public's right to know does not supersede a child's federal right to privacy.

The EdSight guidelines to data suppression can be found here. The EdSight data table for student primary disability can be found here. When reviewing these links, you will notice there are fields marked with an asterisk, indicating the numbers are suppressed according to Connecticut data suppression guidelines.

In the meantime, I have consulted with the State Department of Education Bureau of Special Education as well as our attorney as to whether any data beyond the gross total number of identified students can be released. Please note, we are not withholding any information that can legally be released.

Have a nice weekend,

Andy

--

Andrew Skarzynski

Superintendent

Hampton Elementary School

380 Main Street

Hampton, CT 06247



Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

Fwd: Information for special budget meeting Monday

1 message

Maryellen Donnelly <mdonnelly@hamptonschool.org>

Mon, Jul 20, 2026 at 1:59 PM

To: Mark Becker <mbecker@hamptonschool.org>, Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

Hi,
We need to convince the BOF members about the data and student privacy since this seems to be a reason they are not approving the budget. How can we get this information to the BOF members?
Maryellen

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Andrew Skarzynski** <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

Date: Sat, Jul 18, 2026 at 11:09AM

Subject: Re: Information for special budget meeting Monday

To: Maryellen Donnelly <mdonnelly@hamptonschool.org>

Thank you!

On Sat, Jul 18, 2026 at 10:41AM Maryellen Donnelly <mdonnelly@hamptonschool.org> wrote:

Again you are educating the board & public. Your efforts are commendable. Thank you.

Maryellen

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 17, 2026, at 4:16 PM, Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org> wrote:

Subject: Important Update: FY27 Budget, Special Education Data, and Student Privacy

Hello everyone,

Please do not reply all to this email. I will be unavailable over the weekend and responding to any emails later in the day on Monday.

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Have a nice weekend,

Andy

—

Andrew Skarzynski
Superintendent
Hampton Elementary School
380 Main Street
Hampton, CT 06247



Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

Fwd: final

1 message

Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>

Mon, Jul 20, 2026 at 6:03 PM

To: Mark Becker <mbecker@hamptonschool.org>, Maryellen Donnelly <mdonnelly@hamptonschool.org>, Tim Studer <tstuder@hamptonschool.org>, Dennis Timberman <dtimberman@hamptonschool.org>, Stephanie Bora <sbora@hamptonschool.org>, Elizabeth Lindorff <elindorff@hamptonschool.org>, Laura Barrow <lbarrow@hamptonschool.org>, Nick Brockett <nbrockett@hamptonschool.org>, Juan Arriola <jarriola@hamptonschool.org>

Hello everyone,

Here is the information we are sharing this evening. A hard copy is available for you at yr meeting.
See you soon,

Andy

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Sally Lehoux** <slehoux@hamptonschool.org>

Date: Mon, Jul 20, 2026 at 4:17 PM

Subject: final

To: Andrew Skarzynski <askarzynski@hamptonschool.org>, Victoria Smith <vsmith@hamptonschool.org>, Mary Jo Chretien <mchretien@hamptonschool.org>, Kellie Schimmelpfennig <kschimmelpfennig@hamptonschool.org>

CC: Sally Lehoux <slehoux@hamptonschool.org>

I've now gone through line by line and I think I've got everything = 4.19%

—

Kind Regards,
Sally



Sally K. Lehoux
Business Coordinator
Hampton Elementary School
380 Main St
Hampton CT 06247
860 455 9409 (phone)
860 455 2289 (fax)

2 attachments**FY27 BoE Proposed Budget 07 20 26 Final.pdf**

197K

**Changes and additional information 07 20 26 Final.pdf**

182K