

HAMPTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

HAMPTON, CT

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

October 23, 2013

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair John Burnham at 7:09 PM. Members present were Joan Fox, Carol Misak, Ann Gruenberg, Catherine Wade, Rose Bisson, and Maryellen Donnelly. Also present were Superintendent of Schools Paul Graseck and Principal Elise Guari. Board member Doug Stewart arrived at 7:55 PM. Unable to attend was board member Lisa Siegmund and Business Coordinator Sally Lehoux.

3. Audience for Staff: Maryellen Kania delivered a report on behalf of Sam Roberson including information on:

- Peer mediators working towards first mediation and helping to count Box Tops for school fundraising;
- The Hampton Fire Department visited to share information regarding fire safety and fire prevention;
- Third graders shared ideas for Unity Day with the PBIS team.

4. Audience for Citizens:

- ✓ Dayna McDermott hoped the board would consider taking budget cuts from administrative raises instead of the school music program.
- ✓ Mark Becker said that although he was disappointed with the outcome of the referendum, there is still a large contingent of the town that supports the school and are investigating the option of contributing a ½ mil of taxes to help move the school forward.
- ✓ Kathy Donahue recommended the school actively pursue grants that could support school initiatives.

5. Written Communications to the Board: None

6. Approval of Minutes: The board discussed the method that should be used to address written comments and documents and believed any document or written comment should be dated and have the author noted and should be sent out electronically. All board documents should have the Hampton Board of Education heading.

Ann Gruenberg moved to approve the minutes of September 25, 2013. Rose Bisson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Ann Gruenberg moved to approve the minutes of October 3, 2013. Rose Bisson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

7. Superintendent Reports/Recommendations:

a. Financials: Dr. Graseck distributed financial statements to the board and discussed the current financial position of the school as well as any differences that were noted versus the previous year's spending.

b. Other: Dr. Graseck attended the first vertical team meeting with Chaplin, Scotland, Parish Hill, 6th grade teachers, and administrators to discuss the transition for students from 6th grade to 7th grade. Meeting dates for the rest of the year will be finalized.

8. Principal Report:

a. CMT Report: Ms. Guari delivered the CMT report for Hampton Elementary School which included Hampton and state scores for 3 years, a strand analysis for 2013 and a guide that is designed to assist the school to identify areas of need based on criterion referenced in the assessment data. The board appreciated Ms. Guari's presentation and inquired as to whether or not a presentation was planned for parents—perhaps in conjunction with the PTO.

b. Other: Ms. Guari distributed her monthly principal report which included the following highlights:

- ✓ A calendar of upcoming events;
- ✓ NWEA Professional Development and Testing plans;
- ✓ School Improvement Planning;
- ✓ Teacher Evaluation Plan Implementation;
- ✓ Field Trip Goodwin
- ✓ Visit and performance by Parish Hill Orchestra;
- ✓ Aesop's Fables in November.

9. Additions to Agenda: Rose Bisson moved to add authorization of the superintendent to approach the Board of Finance to use the Capital Non-Recurring Fund to fund the pump project at 9.a. and appoint a delegate to the CAFE delegate assembly at 9.b. Maryellen Donnelly seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

a. Authorize Superintendent to Request the BOF use the CNR to fund the Pump project:

Ann Gruenberg moved to authorize Paul Graseck to approach the Board of Finance to fund pump project with Capital Non-Recurring Funds. Catherine Wade seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

b. Appoint Delegate to the CAFE Delegate Assembly:

Rose Bisson moved to appoint Ann Gruenberg as delegate to the CAFE delegate assembly. Doug Stewart seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

10. Approval of "Evaluation Choice" for Hampton Professional Education and Learning Evaluation Plan:

The board must give formal approval to the evaluation plan. Ann Gruenberg moved that the Smarter Balanced ELA and Math tests replace CMT in grades 3-6 and that this choice constitutes a decision to amend the state-approved educator evaluation and support plan to reflect the replacement of the CMTs with the Smarter Balanced assessments as permitted by the State Department of Education. Catherine Wade seconded the motion. After the board discussed the request, the motion passed unanimously.

11. BOE Action on 2013-2014 Budget:

The board discussed the results of the referendum. **Rose Bisson moved to reduce the budget with the following cuts:**

- Reduce the time for Business Coordinator position to 29.75 hours;**
- Eliminate the half-time paraprofessional position;**
- Reduce the Art Teacher from .6 FTE to .534 FTE;**
- Reduce the Library-Media Teacher from .7 FTE to .6 FTE;**
- Reduce Guidance Counselor Position from .9 FTE to .8 FTE;**
- Reduce the Reading Specialist from 1.0 FTE to .6 FTE;**
- Reduce Music Teacher from .4 FTE to .3 FTE;**
- Reduce line 600 by \$20,509.**

Carol Misak seconded the motion and it failed with the following vote:

YES: C. Misak, A. Gruenberg, R. Bisson, J. Burnham

NO: J. Fox, C. Wade, M. Donnelly, D. Stewart

The board then discussed the outcome of the vote and the responsibility of the board to honor the referendum results. After a discussion of the vote, **Rose Bisson moved to present the same motion as made previously. Carol Misak seconded the motion and it passed with the following vote:**

YES: J. Fox, A. Gruenberg, C. Wade, C. Misak, R. Bisson, J. Burnham, M. Donnelly

NO: D. Stewart

12. Policies: The policy committee presented the following policies to be reapproved at a future meeting:

- 4118.21—Academic Freedom;
- 4118.233/4218.233—Weapons and Dangerous Instruments;
- 4118.3/4218.3—Duties of Personnel.

13. Updated Benefit Chart: An updated benefit chart will be distributed at the next meeting.

14. Grandfathered Sick Days and Insurance Agreements: This agenda item was inadvertently left on the agenda. No discussion.

15. Delayed Openings: To be continued with discussion at the superintendent level.

16. Taping of Meetings and Use of Sound Amplifying System: The board discussed amplifying and taping meetings with existing equipment. The board will explore the ability to enhance the sound at the board meeting using available equipment.

17. Request from BOF to Review and Revise BOE Member Job19 Description:

The Board of Finance has created a human resources committee. This committee has made requests of elected boards to outline responsibilities. Mr. Burnham will speak with the Board of Finance to gain clarity on the request.

18. Expectations of Shared Resources Committee: The committee will reach out to other boards again to start discussions of possible places to share resources. The state is encouraging the sharing of services for financial benefit.

19. Committee and Representative Reports/Recommendations:

- a. CABE:** The conference is in November. The delegate assembly is open to all board members and does not have a membership fee associated with it.
- b. EASTCONN:** EASTCONN discussed changes in CMT testing and information was already shared by Dr. Graseck.

c. Finance: The transportation contract is up for renewal. The board discussed various opportunities.

d. Policies: The policy committee didn't meet. There will be a full report next month.

20. BOE Communications to the Public: There are great opportunities for volunteerism this year and the board will reach out through various communication tools.

21. Next Agenda Planning:

- ✓ Reorganization;
- ✓ Set calendar of regular meetings for 2014.

22. Audience for Citizens/Staff:

Mark Becker thought the referendum was a painful vote, but he felt it was important to remember that 30 people still felt the budget was too high.

Kathy Donahue encouraged the board to reach out to the community and commented that volunteerism could be a way to achieve the goal and thanked the board for their service.

Rich LeBlanc felt the community should reach out and consider who in the community is responsible for setting town goals.

Carol Misak moved to adjourn at 9:10 PM. Ann Gruenberg seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Nelson, recording clerk

Note: Per C.G.S. 10 – 218, Board of Education meeting minutes are provided in a draft format. With the exception of motions and votes recorded, these minutes are unofficial until they have been read and approved by a majority vote of the Board. Should edits be necessary, they will be made at the next regularly scheduled meeting, noted in the meeting minutes, and voted upon.