

**HAMPTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
HAMPTON, CONNECTICUT 06247**

**REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, March 19, 2014
6:30 PM**

HAMPTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER

PRESENT: Board Members John Burnham, Maryellen Donnelly, Lisa Siegmund, Stan Crawford, Rose Bisson (electronically), Doug Stewart, Joan Fox and Catherine Wade. Superintendent Paul Graseck, Principal Elise Guari and Business Coordinator Sally Lehoux. Unable to attend was Ann Gruenberg.

1. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:40 PM by Chairman John Burnham.

2. AUDIENCE FOR STAFF: none

3. AUDIENCE FOR CITIZENS: Several citizens spoke about the budget. Kathy Donahue spoke saying that the board's proposed budget increase is too high in light of several factors such as property reevaluations. Mark Becker spoke urging the board to keep music and art at its present level. Dayna Arriola-McDermott asked about the number of donors to the Education Donations Fund and about whether positions had been reduced prior to giving the CMTs last year. Kerry Brown reminded those present that the proposed increase is actually putting the budget back to its level of two years ago.

4. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO BOARD: none

5. POLICIES: Dr. Graseck reminded board members that the policy in the 0000 Series: Mission, Goals, and Objectives distributed several meetings ago should be reviewed for possible changes. There were no comments from board members. Safety Policy 3516 was presented for board member's examination via email. CAFE has several versions of this policy, which must be in place by July 1, 2014. Ms. Guari said that the School Safety and Climate Committee could function as the Safety Committee required in Safety Policy 3516.

6. NEWSLETTER: Joan Fox reported that the newsletter is coming along nicely and that John Burnham's introduction letter had been received.

7. TEACHER EVALUATION: Ms. Guari explained to the board members that the State of Connecticut is allowing the Teacher Evaluation Plan to be revised. Since the original plan was very challenging, she would like to make a change to the original plan allowing there to be two formal observations for tenured teachers instead of three. Non-tenured teachers would remain under the original plan. Doug Stewart made a motion to approve the change to the Connecticut Educator Evaluation and Support System

Flexibility Request for the 2013-2014 school year. Maryellen Donnelly seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

8. ADDITION TO THE AGENDA: Maryellen Donnelly made a motion to add the Approval of the Healthy Food Certification Statement to the agenda. Stan Crawford seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Maryellen Donnelly made a motion to approve the Healthy Food Certification Statement for July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015. Stan Crawford seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. TRANSPORTATION: Dr. Graseck reminded the board of last week's discussion of bus contracts. First Student has the best proposal. Dr. Graseck read the language about changing the contract and it was agreed that this language would work for us. Dr. Graseck asked our attorney to look over the contract and there was just one concern regarding a clause in the First Student contract. Dr. Graseck contacted First Student and they agreed to remove the clause. There was much debate regarding the length of the contract: 3 or 5 years. Members of the audience also weighed in asking questions about the bus routes and the number of buses needed. Doug Stewart made a motion to accept the bid from First Student for five years beginning in 2014 -2015. Lisa Siegmund seconded. The vote was seven in favor with one opposed: Maryellen Donnelly.

10. 2014 – 2015 BUDGET: The current budget draft includes the recent health insurance costs and reflects the transportation costs with First Student's contract. This draft reflects a 5.89% increase. Debate ensued with questions both from board members and citizens. Some discussion concerned the amount of time devoted to "special" subjects such as art, music, and physical education vs. core instructional time. Another topic of discussion was class size. Maryellen Donnelly made a motion to present a budget of \$2,257,756 to the Board of Finance for their consideration. Doug Stewart seconded the motion. The vote was seven in favor with one opposed: Stan Crawford.

11. AUDIENCE FOR STAFF/CITIZENS: Nick Brown asked that soft copies of the proposed budget be sent to Ellen Rodriguez so she can prepared copies for Board of Finance members. Kathy Donahue asked Ms. Guari to send her class projections for next year. Dayna Arriola-McDermott asked about non-renewals for non-tenured staff. Board members reviewed upcoming meeting dates: Wednesday, April 2, 2014 will be a special meeting. Wednesday, April 23, 2014 will be the next regular meeting. The meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 26, 2014 will be cancelled.

12. ADJOURNMENT: Stan Crawford made a motion to adjourn. Catherine Wade seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by
Lisa Siegmund, Secretary

