

**HAMPTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
HAMPTON, CT**

**MEETING MINUTES  
November 30, 2011**

Superintendent Paul Graseck called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. Members present were Ann Gruenberg, Joan Fox, Catherine Wade, Lisa Siegmund, Rose Bisson, John Burnham, Carol Misak, and Dan Savino. Also present were Principal Marsha Willhoit and Business Coordinator/Admin. Asst. Sally Lehoux. Unable to attend was board member Maryellen Donnelly.

**2. Board Reorganization:**

**a. Election of Chairperson:**

**Ann Gruenberg nominated John Burnham for board chair. Hearing no other nominations, John Burnham was elected chair by acclamation.**

**b. Election of Vice Chair:**

**Dan Savino nominated Rose Bisson for vice chair. Hearing no other nominations, Rose Bisson was elected vice chair by acclamation.**

**c. Election of Secretary:**

**Ann Gruenberg nominated Lisa Siegmund for secretary. Hearing no other nominations, Lisa Siegmund was elected secretary by acclamation.**

**d. Committee Assignments:**

Members will serve in their current committee assignments until next month. A survey of interest will be completed for the next meeting and assignments will be made at the December meeting.

**3. Audience for Staff: None**

**4. Audience for Citizens:**

-Dayna McDermott spoke on behalf of the organizations sponsoring this year's tree lighting and carol sing. Since this is a community wide event, Ms. McDermott hopes the students of the elementary school will feel welcome to participate. Ms. McDermott will work with administration to send out flyers with the students. Ms. McDermott also wished to register her complaint with the board regarding an apparent disconnect in communication between the elementary school and the rest of the community. She also asked what step new staff of the last ten years were hired on.

-Laura Petix noted there were no children from the elementary school last year and would also like to encourage their participation. Ms. Petix will also work with the administration to secure permission to use pictures of students in the Gazette that participate in the event. Ms. Petix also told the board The Gazette will be establishing a "kid stuff" page in February and encourages submissions of achievements and outstanding events for any Hampton child.

-Doug Stewart did not support establishing any retirement incentives at this time.

-Kathy Donahue reminded the board retirement incentives did not always benefit the school's budget.

-Allan Cahill, First Selectman of Hampton, asked the board to appoint a member to the school readiness council. Mr. Burnham explained to Mr. Cahill that he was empowered to recommend representation to the council with the advice of the superintendent. In response to Ms. McDermott's and Ms. Petix' earlier requests, Mr. Cahill also remembered that while a young student he was told that model citizenship included contributing to the community.

-Ms. McDermott asked the board if 6<sup>th</sup> grade students were required to complete any public service projects to support the need to understand the concept of reciprocity.

Dr. Graseck responded he supports public service projects and would support such activity.

#### **5. Written Communications to the Board:**

The board received the following:

- a letter from the State Dept. of Education approving the appointment of Dr. Paul Graseck;
- the board needs to affirm their intent to stay with the Region District 11 health insurance group or discontinue participation;
- Dan Savino submitted his letter of resignation from the Board of Education effective at the end of this meeting. Mr. Burnham expressed his gratitude to Mr. Savino for his service to the board.

#### **6. Additions to the Agenda:**

**Rose Bisson moved to add the following to the agenda:**

**11.g-check signing authority;**

**11.h-budget transfers;**

**11.i-board resignation.**

**Dan Savino seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

#### **7. Approval of Minutes: 10/26/11:**

**Rose Bisson moved to approve the minutes of 10/26/11 with the following amendments:**

- Under 9.e-all references to Hampton Elementary School District should be Hampton Public School District;
- Under 9.b.i policy 9323 should be 9325;
- Under 9.b.iii should include policy 4131.

**Ann Gruenberg seconded the motion and the motion to approve the minutes as amended passed with the following vote:**

**YES: J. Burnham, R. Bisson, A. Gruenberg, L. Siegmund, C. Wade, C. Misak, D. Savino**

**ABSTAIN: J. Fox**

#### **8. Superintendent Reports/Recommendations:**

**a. Financial Report:** The budget is currently in good shape. The school will need to use caution when ordering supplies and each request will be carefully evaluated and the administration continues to evaluate oil bids. Prices are quite high right now. The Region 11 insurance consortium met Nov. 29 to discuss next year's insurance bid opportunities. Dr. Graseck also discussed the roof project payment administration.

**b. Other:** Dr. Graseck thanked the board and the community for the reception on 11/10. His transition to Hampton is going well. The staff and board members have been extremely helpful. He is meeting with all staff members-certified and non-certified-to gauge school culture. One long-term goal is to also meet with parents in small groups to understand their vision and wishes for the district. Dr. Graseck has also resolved 3 grievances that have been brought before him. He has been made aware of a concern regarding the generator and will speak with Ken Henrici, Allan Cahill, and Marsha Willhoit to coordinate snow day decisions.

#### **9. Principal Reports:**

**a. Staff Development Update:** The staff is working with Jane Cooke from EASTCONN.

**b. Safe School Climate Report:** The report is due to the state by 1/1/12.

**c. Other:** The school winter concert date has been changed to December 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. There will be a dress rehearsal at 10 AM. All are invited.

- a. **CABE:** Ann reported the convention was very successful. The Governor and new commissioner was there. There is a new member and leadership conference on Dec. 6.
- b. **Community and Staff Relations:** A meeting will be planned.
- c. **EASTCONN:** The meeting focused on bullying legislation this month.
- d. **Finance:** The committee will make transfer recommendations and discussed the Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> requested deadline for insurance commitments.
- e. **Physical Plant and Operations/Room Building Committee:** The committee discussed minor revisions to the 5-year plan.
- f. **Policies:** The committee is reviewing state mandated changes to the bullying and hazing policies. The committee will also discuss a bylaw regarding electronic participation. More will be presented under 11.c.
- g. **Hampton Green Energy Commission:** None
- h. **Administrative Model:** The committee members will meet with Dr. Graseck to continue discussions.

#### 11. Business:

- a. **5-year plan:** Replacing the playscape should be moved from Year 4 to Year 2. In year 3, it should read "replace" gym floor. The board also reviewed projects that have been completed.
- b. **Discussion and Possible Action on Using REAP Funds for Certified Staff:** After a brief discussion of the recommendation to use the REAP funds, **Ann Gruenberg moved to use REAP funds to help defray costs for the math position. Rose Bisson seconded the motion and it , passed with the following vote:**  
**YES: J. Burnham, R. Bisson, A. Gruenberg, C. Wade, L. Siegmund, C. Misak, D. Savino**  
**ABSTAIN: J. Fox**
- c. **Ann Gruenberg moved to give tentative approval to 5131.911. Lisa Siegmund seconded the motion.** The board reviewed and discussed the revisions to the policy. **The motion to give tentative approval to policy 5131.911, as revised, passed unanimously.**
- d. **Discussion and Possible Action on Retirement Incentive:** No action. The superintendent was asked to canvass other superintendents regarding retirement incentives.
- e. **Discussion of BOE goals:** The board discussed the need to establish short-term goals and board self-evaluation.
- f. **Set Dates/Time for 2012 Regular Board of Education Meetings:** The following dates will be regular board meetings:

January 25	February 8	February 22	March 7
March 14	March 28	April 25	May 23
June 27	July 25	Aug 22	Sept 26
Oct 24	Nov 28	Dec 19	

At 7 PM at Hampton Elementary School.

January 25 will be the public hearing on budget matters. **Rose Bisson moved to set the above dates as regular meetings. Lisa Siegmund seconded the motion and it passed with the following vote:**

**YES: J. Burnham, A. Gruenberg, C. Wade, L. Siegmund, R. Bisson, J. Fox, C. Misak**  
**ABSTAIN: D. Savino**

g. **Check Signatory:** Rose Bisson moved to add Dr. Paul Graseck as signatory on Hampton School checking account. Ann Gruenberg seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

h. **Budget Transfers:** Rose Bisson moved to transfer \$2,318 from Acct. 111 (Non-Certified) and \$19,500 from Acct. 210 (Health Insurance) into Acct 102-001 (Superintendent.)

**i. Board Resignation:** Rose Bisson moved to accept, with great regret, the resignation of Dan Savino from the Hampton Elementary School Board of Education. Carol Misak seconded the motion and it passed with the following vote:

**YES:** J. Burnham, R. Bisson, J. Fox, C. Wade, L. Siegmund, C. Misak.

**ABSTAIN:** A. Gruenberg

The board discussed the protocol for replacement.

**12. BOE Communication to the Public:** The board discussed possible avenues to release communications to the public, including a possible communications subcommittee.

**13. Audience for Citizens:**

-Mr. Stewart expressed his frustration with audience members that don't stay for entire meetings.

-Sue Hochstetter inquired into the opportunities for grandparents to become involved with HES.

**14. Next Agenda Planning:**

- School Climate Report;

-Final Approval of Bullying Policy;

-Committee Assignments;

-Filling Vacancy;

-BOE Goals

-the Board would like a special meeting on Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> to consider insurance pools.

**Rose Bisson moved to adjourn at 9:11 P.M. Lisa Siegmund seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Nelson