

**HAMPTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
HAMPTON, CT**

MEETING MINUTES

March 21, 2012

- 1. Call to Order:** Board chair John Burnham called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M. Members present were Carol Misak, Catherine Wade, Ann Gruenberg, Lisa Siegmund, Rose Bisson (by electronic skype connection), Doug Stewart and Maryellen Donnelly. Also present were Superintendent of Schools Paul Graseck, Principal Marsha Willhoit and Business Coordinator/Admin. Asst. Sally Lehoux. Unable to attend was board member Joan Fox.
- 2. Audience for Staff:** A large number of staff in attendance, however nothing was presented by them at this point
- 3. Audience for Citizens:**
 - a. Gordan Hansen – addressed the board with his concerns of the budget.
 - b. Kathie Newcombe suggested that the superintendent meet with the board of selectmen about Anthem eligibility for school staff.
 - c. Dayna McDermott questioned why the physical education would be decreased in the pm instead of the am and also stressed her concern with the increase in school administration.
 - d. Kathy Donahue stressed her concern about the need of splitting the Administrative Assistant position and the Business Coordinator position.
 - e. Preston Britner – addressed his concern with the cuts in staff.
 - f. Bridget Alvarez – also addressed her concerns with the cuts in staff.
- 4. Written Communications to the Board:** None
- 5. Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Graseck stated that all the items in his report were budget related so could wait until the budget part of the meeting.
- 6. 2012/2013 Budget**
 - a. Dr. Graseck qualified a budget as being a fluid document and that it is always changing. He also referenced the amount of feedback he had received on the budget was welcomed. Dr. Graseck presented the board with a new budget which included, however not limited to, the withdrawing the healthcare offer for the Business Coordinator, the restoration of the art position to six-tenths, and the restoration of the library position to seven-tenths. Also including the projected savings of the installation of more solar panels, the new budget Dr. Graseck presented had a total cost of \$2,285,779.00 with a 1.31% increase.
 - b. Dr. Graseck answered questions concerning staff cuts from multiple board members including, but not limited to John Burnham, Ann Gruenberg, Carol Misak and Doug Stewart.
 - c. Maryellen Donnelly addressed her concern with the cut in math support.
 - d. Multiple board members interjected their thoughts on the offering of healthcare to the business coordinator position.
- 7. Audience for Citizens:**
 - a. Preston Britner expressed his concerns on staff and support cutting and its impact on the children.
 - b. Deb Leavens stressed the fact that Hampton is a small district and that comparing it to other districts is not effective.
 - c. Irene Brown asked about summer school and if the \$170.00 dollars in the budget is what we spend on summer school. Sally Lehoux explained that this line is used to pay for outsourced summer school. The school does not anticipate any outsourced summer school needs at this time.
 - d. Bridget Alvarez stressed her concern about staff and support cutting and the impact it would have on her children and the other children in the town.
 - e. Kathy Donahue stressed the importance of reviewing contracts of non-certified staff.
 - f. Alan Cahill questioned whether the board of education meetings were included in hours worked by the Business Coordinator. Sally Lehoux fielded this question and informed him that time spent at Board of Education Meetings is included in her hours.

Doug Stewart made a motion to approve the \$2,285,779.00 budget with a 1.31% increase that Dr. Graseck presented the board. Carol Misak seconded the motion. Ann Gruenburg abstained all the rest were in favor. Motion passed.

- 8. Next Agenda Planning:** John Burnham mentioned that agenda items needed to be emailed to Dr. Graseck before the next meeting.
- 9. Adjournment:** Doug Stewart moved to adjourn at 9:05 PM. Lisa Siegmand seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Rachel Linkkila

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.