

**HAMPTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
HAMPTON, CT**

REGULAR MEETING
July 15, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by Board Chair John Burnham. Members present were Carol Misak, Rose Bisson, Maryellen Donnelly, Doug Stewart, Catherine Wade, and Ann Gruenberg. Also present were Superintendent/Principal Marsha Willhoit and Financial Assistant Sally Lehoux. Unable to attend were board members Dan Savino and Lisa Siegmund.

2. Audience for Teachers: None

3. Audience for Citizens: None

4. Written Communications to the Board: John Burnham received a letter relating to the subject of agenda item 9.b and will share it then.

5. Additions to the Agenda:

Doug Stewart moved to add discussion of roof architectural services bids to the agenda under 9.i.i. Rose Bisson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Maryellen Donnelly moved to add discussion of meeting with the Hampton Green Energy Committee and energy audit to the agenda under 8.g. Doug Stewart seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Maryellen Donnelly moved to add discussion of needs assessment survey for before/after school care to the agenda under 9.b.i. Rose Bisson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

6. Approval of Minutes:

Rose Bisson moved to approve the minutes of 5/20/10 as submitted. Dan Savino seconded the motion.

The minutes should be amended, as follows:

The last line on page one (starts with 'Ann') can be deleted.

The minutes, as amended, passed with the following vote:

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

ABSTAIN: D. Stewart

Maryellen Donnelly moved to approve the minutes of 6/17/10 as submitted. Rose Bisson seconded the motion.

The minutes should be amended, as follows:

Under item 10.e. Mr. Stewart would like the minutes to reflect that the letter from the non-certified staff was discussed and the non-certified staff is always welcome to attend board of education meetings and could express their opinions at that time, but they did not attend meetings during budget deliberations.

The minutes, as amended, passed unanimously.

7. Superintendent/Principal Report/Recommendations:

- **Financial Report:**

The financial statements are on track, but not all the bills have arrived yet. The budget should reach a "0" balance with money spent as directed.

- **Other:**

✓ Mrs. Willhoit reported the school had a successful class night at the end of the year;

- ✓ All construction/repair projects are on schedule and all work should be completed during the summer months;
- ✓ Computers have been ordered.

8. Committee and Representative Reports/Recommendations:

a. CABE:

The association is gearing up for the fall conference and a topic of discussion is addressing the achievement gap in Connecticut. Nick Caruso, a CABA representative, is giving a presentation at Parish Hill on September 13 about board roles and responsibilities and all board members at HES are welcome to attend, as well as any interested community members.

b. Community and Staff Relations:

The committee met tonight (7/15/10) and reviewed the need for a website, the work that has been done to accomplish this goal and what is needed to achieve a site. Mrs. Willhoit was asked to acquire cost estimates for this project. The committee also discussed developing general email distribution lists and other ways to generate information distribution. A website proposal had been developed during the budget season, but had been cut due to cost-cutting efforts. The board is encouraged to use the town website to list information items.

c. EASTCONN:

The board approved the bonding question for construction of the new building behind the existing administration building in Hampton.

d. Finance: None

e. Physical Plant and Operations:

The committee reviewed the 5-year maintenance plan, the architectural design bids for roof repairs. The committee received 6 bids for architectural services.

f. Policies:

The committee reviewed the bylaws and discussed strategy for an update to them. The committee will meet again to reconcile the differences between CABA model bylaws. A recommendation will be made under business for policy 5131.81.

g. Green Energy Committee:

The committee would like to hold a sustainable green energy fair on September 25th at the elementary school. The fair will be open to contractors and vendors who use green energy practices and products. Bill Leahy of the Institute for Sustainable Energy at ECSU would like to come to HES with his students on Tuesday to perform an energy audit at the school. The last audit was done within the last 4 years. The Hampton Green Energy Committee will be added to the regular agenda for discussion each month.

9. BUSINESS: (Action anticipated)

a. Policies:

i. Ann Gruenberg moved the BOE give tentative approval to policy 5131.81 – Use of Electronic Devices. Rose Bisson seconded the motion. The current proposal represents changes discussed at the June meeting. **The motion to grant tentative approval passed unanimously.**

ii. Review Bylaws:

Discussed under 8.f.

b. Review of Special Education Services for Private or Home-Schooled Child:

The board discussed information received from Special Education consultant Judy Sommariva, as well as information gathered from the State Department of Education regarding the delivery of related services for students that otherwise qualify for special education but are not enrolled in the public school system. Mr. Burnham submitted the letter from Michelle Mlyniec addressed to the board at this time regarding this issue and

conflicting information also supplied by the State Department of Education. This question will be tabled until conflicting opinions of the State are reconciled.

i. Needs Assessment Survey Results for Before/After School Care:

The school readiness council conducted a survey of needs for before/after school care. The board discussed the results of this survey and the parameters that would need to be addressed to satisfy the results.

c. Budget 2010-2011 – School Readiness/Preschool Configuration:

Mrs. Willhoit informed the board that Hampton would not receive 100% of the funding of the school readiness grant. The board discussed the impact of this decision and the configuration of preschool classes at HES.

d. Certified Staff Positions:

i. Renewal of Teacher Contracts for 2010/2011:

Ann Gruenberg moved to approve and accept the nominations for teachers for the ensuing school year, 2010-2011 submitted by Superintendent/Principal Marsha Willhoit. Rose Bisson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

ii. Reading Position:

Doug Stewart moved to enter into executive session at 8:35 P.M. for the purpose of discussing employment of a public officer or employee and to invite Marsha Willhoit to attend the session. Rose Bisson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The board entered public session at 9:10 P.M.

Rose Bisson moved to hire Karen Basil as the reading specialist with placement on the salary scale to be determined based on evidence of certified, public school experience up to and including step 8 on the master's pay scale. Maryellen Donnelly seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

e. Review of Negotiations Process and Timeline:

Contract negotiations for certified staff will commence this year. The board needs to establish a negotiating committee of no more than 4 board members. After a discussion of the process, **Doug Stewart moved to appoint Rose Bisson, Dan Savino, Ann Gruenberg, and Carol Misak to the negotiating subcommittee. Catherine Wade seconded the motion and it passed with the following vote:**

YES: J. Burnham, C. Wade, D. Stewart, M. Donnelly

ABSTAIN: R. Bisson, C. Misak, and A. Gruenberg

f. Set Meeting Date with Selectmen to Discuss Upcoming Negotiations:

Under state law the BOE must schedule a meeting with the board with financial authority for the town to discuss upcoming contract negotiations. This meeting shall be scheduled before August 22, 2010.

g. Discussion of School Website:

Discussed under item 7.b. Mrs. Willhoit will consult with EASTCONN for technical help and will have a plan that outlines cost and interactive components of such a site if money becomes available.

h. Schedule Meeting With Nick Caruso, CABA Representative:

Ms. Gruenberg will determine Mr. Caruso's availability in the fall.

i. BOE Communications to the Public:

Mr. Burnham will prepare a release to be put on the town's website to update the community on happenings and information from HES.

The board discussed the bidding for the architectural services for the roof replacement. The board received 6 bids. Ms. Bisson reviewed each bid. After a continued discussion of the roof replacement process, **Ann Gruenberg moved to accept the bid of Hibbard**

& Rose Architects, LLC for architectural services for the roof replacement. Catherine Wade seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

j. Audience for Citizens

Tara Murphy inquired about the possible date for contractor bidding and continues to encourage the board to consider support for a ½ time teacher for the incoming 5th grade. Ms. Murphy also shared a letter regarding the item discussed in 9.b.

Linda Sanchini also supports the idea of continued support for the incoming 5th grade and was concerned with room requirements for before/after school care.

k. Next Agenda Planning:

➤ Staffing Assignments/Class Size

l. Superintendent/Leadership Evaluation:

Dan Savino moved to enter into executive session at 9:55 PM for the purpose of discussion concerning performance and evaluation of a public officer or employee. Rose Bisson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mrs. Willhoit was invited to remain.

The Board returned to regular session at 11:23 pm.

m. Adjournment

Maryellen Donnelly moved to adjourn at 11:24 pm. Carol Misak seconded the motion and it passes unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Nelson
Recording Secretary

Note: Per C.G.S. 10 – 218, Board of Education meeting minutes are provided in a draft format within 48 hours of the date the meeting was held. 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.