

Hampton Board of Education
Hampton, Connecticut
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2010
7:00 PM
Hampton Elementary School Media Center

1. CALL TO ORDER: 7:05

Chairman Burnham called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Board Members in attendance: Dan Savino, John Burnham, Lisa Siegmund, Ann Gruenberg, Catherine Wade, Carol Misak, and Doug Stewart.

Others present: Marsha Willhoit, Superintendent/Principal, Sally Lehoux, Finance/Administrative Assistant.

2. AUDIENCE FOR TEACHERS: NONE

3. AUDIENCE FOR CITIZENS

Gay Wagner noted that the Consumer Price Index is down and that there was no increase in social security last year and this year.

Sue Hocstetter spoke about a negative atmosphere/perception of bullying at HES.

Juan Arriola read and submitted a letter conveying his concerns about material not covered in his daughter's class that was sent home as homework.

Tara Murphy thanked members of the BOE for their work. She expressed concern about a leak in the gym and the outdoor playscape. She also spoke about the grade 4 class size and stated that she hopes this situation won't happen again next year. She suggested the idea of an after-school homework club.

Laua Petrix expressed concerns about the 4th grade class and policy on homework during the CMTs. She wonders what is being done to prepare the class for 5th grade.

4. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO BOARD—NONE

5. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA--NONE

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 03/02/10

Ann Gruenberg made a motion to accept the minutes of March 2, 2010. Doug Stewart seconded. Minutes were accepted with 6 members voting to pass and Catherine Wade abstaining.

7. SUPERINTENDENT/PRINCIPAL REPORT/RECOMMENDATIONS

a) Superintendent/Principal Willhoit reviewed the financial report. Currently the budget is on target and it is expected that HES will finish the year with some cushion.

b) Ms. Willhoit gave an update on grade 4 and stated that Daniel Rearick has started and that the double room is working out well. Doug Stewart asked about the concern about homework. Ms. Willhoit stated that she had spoken with the classroom teachers

and they had not been made aware of a problem. John Burnham asked about a homework policy and the number of minutes expected at each grade level and suggested that this area be looked into. Doug Stewart asked about what was being done to ready the class for next year and Marsha Willhoit explained that this has been on-going with some new group arrangements for additional support.

c) Other—Nothing else to add

8. COMMITTEE AND REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

a) CABE—Ann Gruenberg attended the annual Day on the Hill in Hartford

b) Community and Staff Relations—This committee will set a time for their next meeting at the end of this meeting.

c) FINANCE—John Burnham reported that the Finance Committee met and looked at the budget. The Committee got information to present at tonight's meeting.

d) EASTCONN—Catherine Wade reported that EASTCONN is getting its expansion approved and making plans for its 30th Anniversary Celebration.

e) PHYSICAL PLANT—Marsha Willhoit reported that she had heard from the State about a bid for the roof, however first we must obtain an architect or engineer to create a plan for the project. Ms. Willhoit has registered the roof project with the State.

Doug Stewart made a motion to add a business item to the agenda concerning the roof project. Seconded by Ann Gruenberg. Motion carried unanimously.

Doug Stewart will follow up on the leak in the gym.

f) POLICY—The Policy Committee met prior to the BOE Meeting and discussed several policies, some which may be able to be rescinded. There will be no action tonight on policies as the reviewed policies need to be submitted for BOE members' examination. Doug Stewart asked whether there was a policy concerning absent BOE members. Ann Gruenberg said that there was no policy, but that this can be put on the agenda for the next Policy Committee meeting. Mr. Stewart asked about whether the town has a policy on absenteeism. Ms. Gruenberg wasn't sure, but would check on this. John Burnham recommended that the BOE look into the legal aspects of an absenteeism policy.

9. BUSINESS

a) POLICIES—Tabled until the next regular Board meeting.

b) CALENDAR 2010/2011—Marsha Willhoit presented the proposed calendar and reviewed changes. John Burnham asked about professional development days for teachers. Ms. Willhoit noted that 5 professional development days were missing.

Ann Gruenberg made a motion to adopt the calendar for 2010/2011 with the inclusion of the 5 professional development days (December, February, March, April, and May). Doug Stewart seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Willhoit spoke about a suggestion for the beginning of school schedule. There was some discussion concerning the logistics.

c) BUDGET 2010/2011—Marsha Willhoit distributed a list of certified and non-certified staff members (full and part-time). She distributed the proposed budget before the first draft and then the first draft with proposed reductions (made as of March 17, 2010), which included the reduction of a 0.5 teacher. Ms. Willhoit made a

recommendation for a teacher retirement incentive and distributed a copy of a previously made incentive from 2003. She reviewed the best case/worst case scenarios depending on whether teachers took advantage of the incentive. Ms. Willhoit noted that there seemed to be some interest. There was discussion of this idea and Ms. Willhoit will speak to BOE's attorneys about the 2003 incentive and will have information for the BOE for the 3/23/10 meeting.

There was discussion regarding the reduction of the 0.5 teacher and possible ways to maintain this position.

There was discussion of the School Readiness Grant, which is being reduced.

The Consumer Price Index was examined and there was discussion concerning the decrease in this index and its impact on salaries.

Carol Misak made a motion to write a letter to the HEA asking certified staff if they would be willing to consider forgoing raises for the 2010/2011 school year. Doug Stewart seconded. After some discussion, the motion carried with 6 voting in favor and 1 opposed (Catherine Wade).

d) DISCUSSION OF TOWN ORDINANCES—only two ordinances pertain to the HES BOE: open voting and the establishment of a 4-year term. There was discussion about going to a 7 member board. Doug Stewart suggested tabling this item until the next regular BOE meeting and including a solicitation for public input in the Gazette regarding the number of members on the Board.

e) SUPERINTENDENT/LEADERSHIP TEAM EVALUATION—

Doug Stewart made a motion to move this item to the last item on the agenda. Ann Gruenberg seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

f) ROOF PROJECT—Discussion centered on the hiring of the architect/engineer and where the money for this could come from.

Doug Stewart made a motion to direct the Superintendent (Marsha Willhoit) to put out a request for a proposal for an architect/engineer to develop a design for the roof replacement. Catherine Wade seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

10. BOE COMMUNICATION TO THE PUBLIC—John Burnham will communicate with the Gazette about where the Board is in the budget process, about the ordinance concerning the make-up of the Board, and about the roof project.

11. AUDIENCE FOR CITIZENS

Gay Wagner asked about the solar arrays in the roof and reminded the Board that this will impact the design of the roof. She spoke about the difference between a construction manager and general manager. Additionally, Ms. Wagner asked about the REAP Grant and when and how it can be spent.

Juan Arriola asked about whether parents should be notified when their children are being pulled out of their specials to get support in reading and math.

Alan Cahill asked about how many times the Board has met as a full Board. He also recommended looking at the guidance position as an area for reduction.

Kate Donnelly applauded the Board's progress on the budget process and wondered if it was necessary to re-tile the divided classroom this year.

Laura Petrix asked several questions about the guidance counselor.

9. e) SUPERINTENDENT/LEADERSHIP TEAM EVALUATION

John Burnham reviewed the goals of the 11/09 meeting. The Superintendent's goals were reviewed and discussed.

12. NEXT AGENDA PLANNING—REGULAR MEETING

Start of the school year

Ordinance pertaining to number of BOE members

Policies

Finalize budget

13. ADJOURNMENT

Doug Stewart made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:12 PM. Catherine seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Siegmund, Secretary