

**HAMPTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOROUGH OF HAMPTON
SPECIAL MEETING TO REVIEW HAMPTON BOROUGH EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE FINDINGS
Minutes
May 31, 2012**

Call to Order —The meeting was called to order by Hampton Borough Mayor Peter Winter at 7:11 p.m. The meeting was held in the Hampton Public School Library as publicly advertised.

Open Public Meeting Announcement - The Open Public Meeting Announcement was read into the minutes by Mayor Petere Winter.

Pledge of Allegiance - All of those present participated in the pledge to the allegiance.

Board of Education Members Present:

Present: Tim Reeve, President (arrived at 7:21 p.m.)
Cheryl Drzewoszewski, Vice President
Gina Sharkey (arrived at 7:35 p.m.)

Absent: Megan Bruton
Kimberly Donnenberg

Also Present: Joanna Hughes, Chief School Administrator
Christine Werner, Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary
There were 16 members of the HPS community present.

It is noted that the purpose of this meeting was to conduct a Special Meeting with Hampton Borough's governing body to review the Hampton Borough Exploratory Committee Findings which was presented this evening.

An Exploratory Committee was formed earlier this year to review the Hampton Borough Community's review of the current operations and desires/wants of the Hampton Borough Community as it relates to the operations of the Hampton Borough Public School. The Exploratory has taken great care to formulate the following presentation to review, present and discuss their findings. This evening's presentation was presided over/by Councilwoman McDougall.

A powepoint presentation and the Hampton Borough Exploratory Committee's report was presented as follows:

1. Identified Wants and Continued Needs
2. Hampton Borough Public School Annual Enrollment – Actual (2006-2012) and Projected (2013-2017)
3. Overview of those who participated in the Survey conducted by the Hampton Borough Exploratory Committee.
4. Questions considered with regard to the Hampton Borough Public School:
 - a) Do we want to Shared Services?
 - b) Do we want to merge schools?

Much discussion ensued with regard to sharing services/merging schools with a detailed explanation as the impact (educational and financial) each would have on the future operations of the school district.

5. Public Impression(s) of the Hampton Borough Public School:
 - a) Administration
 - b) Teachers/Staff
 - c) Administration/Parent Relationships
 - d) Teachers and Staff/Parent Relationships
 - e) Administration/Student Relationships
 - f) Teachers and Staff/Student Relationships
 - g) Administration/Hampton Community Relationships
 - h) Teachers and Staff/Hampton Community Relationships
 - i) HPS Environment/Active Parent Involvement
 - j) Hampton Borough Community Residents/Active School Involvement
 - k) Academic Preparation of HPS Students
 - l) Social Preparation of HPS Students
 - m) Student Academic Progress at HPS
 - n) Recommendations to family member or colleague re: HPS
 - o) Local Taxation Impact(s) i.e. Higher taxation for increased student opportunities @ HPS?
 - p) HPS Parent Survey Responses – Areas of Consideration Ranked in Importance:
 - i) Enrichment (G&T)
 - ii) Sports
 - iii) Academic Clubs
 - iv) Full Time School Counselor
 - v) Before/After School Care Availability
 - vi) Full Time CST

General Comments regarding the Hampton Borough Exploratory Committee Survey will be made available online on the Hampton Borough Website: www.hamptonboro.com

Hampton Borough Exploratory Committee Recommendations:

- **The Committee recommends that the HPS Board of Education continue to pursue Shared Service Agreements with neighboring school districts in the short term, while exploring merging/regionalization with neighboring school districts in the long term.**
- **The Committee recommends the the HPS Board of Education form a Baord Committee specifically dedicated to continuing to explore and pursue Shared Service Opportunities and Merging Options for the students of HPS. The Committee also recommends that the HPS Board of Education present regular reports of this Board Committee findings at its monthly regular business meetings.**
- **The Committee recommends that the HPS Board of Education have a representative attend local district Board of Education meetings to present the circumstances that Hampton is currently in and ask for dialog with each of those Boards.**
- **The Committee recommends that the HPS Board of Education conduct advertised, focused discussions at their regular business meetings on the following topics:**
 - ASK Testing and Scores**
 - Curriculum Improvements**
 - Shared Services (Current and Future)**
 - High School Preparedness of HPS Students**
 - Community Involvement Opportunities**

Mayor Peter Winter then “thanked” the Committee for their informative presentation this evening and acknowledged the work and effort that has been done over the last few months to prepare for this evening.

Comments from the Public:

Mayor Peter Winter and Borough Council opened the meeting to the public to allow questions, concerns and statements to be made. Some of the comments/discussion is as follows:

Pat Shumsky commented that the survey results represented 22% of all Hampton households.

Sandy (Lois Lane) suggested that perhaps the survey might have been distributed/mailed to businesses as well. She also referenced consideration to closing HPS and merging like Glen Gardener had done with Clinton. It was noted that this was a different situation than Hampton. Sandy inquired as to how many teachers working in Hampton Borough Public School were residents of Hampton Borough. Discussion ensued.

Pat Shumsky inquired as to how many vacant homes were in Hampton and inquired if children lived in the vacated homes, then would enrollment increase? Speculation with regard to the number of the local vacant homes nor how many children might/would result in the increase in enrollment for the HPS cannot be made at this time.

Bob Sheridan stated that in terms of sharing services/regionalizing, this now should be turned back over to the Board of Education to look at every possibility and take action regarding the considerations proposed this evening. Discussion ensued. It was noted that the Board of Education needs a little time to digest everything but that with all of the information presented this evening there is a starting point and should look to do more in the future. Mayor Peter Winter stated that the data is here and that the Board of Education should continue the efforts and follow the information/results going forward.

Mayor Peter Winter stated that over the past 9 months the Exploratory Committee has done a wonderful job! Mayor Winter publicly “thanked” all of the members of the Exploratory Committee for their hard work and contributions to this survey noting that many hours were spent on this taking time away from the committee members’ families with meetings, etc. “I certainly appreciate all of your hard work!” Many accolades from the public and Borough Council were expressed at this time.

Board President Tim Reeve stated “Thank You the Exploratory Committee, Mayor and Council and everyone for participating – this was very important to the Hampton Borough Public School Community! While in some ways the Hampton Borough Board of Education is limited as to the things that (what) we can do, it is easy to see what and how the community feels. We are making every effort to share services whenever possible, there is a tremendous support for our teaching staff who does a wonderful job with our children! We want more and we know that the public wants more. There is always room for improvement! There are a lot of considerations out there in terms of sharing services and the Board of Education has considered this in the past and will continue to do as long as the relationship is beneficial, so this has not fallen on deaf ears. We will make an effort to make the community feel more comfortable.”

It was also noted that the Exploratory Committee’s information, data and surveys are on file at the Borough Offices should a member of the public wish to view it.

ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business to come before the Borough Council, Board, or Exploratory Committee, Councilman Kreger made a motion, seconded by Councilman Swensen and carried by Unanimous Voice Vote to adjourn the May 31, 2012 Special Meeting to Review the Findings of the Hampton Borough Exploratory Committee at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine M. Werner
Interim Board Secretary