

**HAMPTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
WORK SESSION MEETING
Minutes
October 15, 2013**

Call to Order – Cheryl Drzewoszewski, President –The meeting was called to order by President Cheryl Drzewoszewski at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the Hampton Public School Library as publicly advertised.

Open Public Meeting Announcement - The following is made part of the minutes:

“In accordance with requirements of the Open Public Meeting Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., adequate notices have been given of tonight’s meeting in area newspaper, the Hunterdon Democrat, on October 5, 2013 and posted in public buildings which include the Hampton Borough Hall and Hampton School.”

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

District Mission Statement was read into the minutes by President Drzewoszewski:

The Hampton Borough School District, committed to quality and excellence, will provide a broad-based education which is responsive to the needs of all students. Working with the community, the district shall:

- Offer a wide range of academic experiences that encourages all students to meet their potential and prepares them to meet the New Jersey Core Curriculum Standards.
- Foster a respect for self and others
- Encourage personal, social, and civic responsibility
- Develop a continuing interest in self-improvement in all areas
- Create an environment that encourages a desire for successful learning
- Generate an enthusiasm for life-long learning

District Goals for 2013 – 2014

1. To design and implement an outreach program to expand district enrollment as a choice school.
2. To reduce per pupil costs without sacrificing quality educational opportunities for all students.
3. To implement a seamless administrative transition.
4. To continue to improve student achievement as measured by multiple authentic assessments so that every child reaches his/her full potential.

Board of Education Goals 2013-2014

1. To complete the revisions and updates to the policy manual; conversion to NJSBA system.
2. To expand and continue community engagement and encourage two-way communications.

3. **Aides for Self-Contained PreSchool Program** - Interim Chief School Administrator DiBenedetto provided an overview of the district's one to one aide staff needed to provide services for a newly enrolled severely disabled preschool child. Interim Chief School Administrator DiBenedetto stated that he will recommend two (2) additional part time one to one aides for our new student. A brief discussion ensued. Interim Chief School Administrator DiBenedetto stated that a resolution to approve two additional one to one aides as discussed this evening will be included on the October 22, 2013 agenda.
4. **Student Enrollment** - Interim Chief School Administrator DiBenedetto provided an update regarding HPS enrollment numbers. Interim Chief School Administrator DiBenedetto stated that HPS currently has 111 students (October 15 2013). A brief discussion ensued.
5. **Use of School Messenger** – Interim Chief School Administrator DiBenedetto discussed the use of a School Messenger for emergency purposes only.
6. **Report on Hampton Students' Grades at High School** – Interim Chief School Administrator DiBenedetto stated that Administration was currently compiling data with regard to Hampton Public School students' grades – “A, B, C marks” of the freshman class attending NHVHS. Upon completion of compiling said data, Interim Chief School Administrator DiBenedetto stated that he would send share said information with the Board of Education at a public meeting. A brief discussion ensued.
7. **State Police and Security** – Interim Chief School Administrator DiBenedetto briefly discussed State Police and Security matters affecting HPS. Discussion ensued.
8. **School Psychologist** – Interim Chief School Administrator DiBenedetto discussed the School Psychologist vacancy. A brief discussion ensued.

Discussion Items – Assistant Principal's Report – Michael Jones

Assistant Principal Michael Jones discussed the following matters:

1. **Enrichment Update**: Assistant Principal Jones provided an overview of the HPS Enrichment programs being offered to our students.
2. **Hampton Week of Respect Activities**: Assistant Principal Jones provided an overview of the HPS “Week of Respect” activities.
3. **Hampton School Activities Sharing**: Assistant Principal Jones provided an overview of the Hampton School activities sharing.

Board Secretary Werner entered the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Discussion Items –Business Administrator/Board Secretary Report – Christine M. Werner

Board Secretary Werner discussed the following matters:

- Preparation for the upcoming Audit and status pertaining to same.
- Municipal Tax Check receipt – General Fund Tax Levy.
- Status Update of NJDOE Annual reports including the ASSA, DRTRS and Debt Service.

Comments from Public I (Public discussion of agenda items.)

Board Trustee Elizabeth Dilts moved, seconded by Board Trustee Megan Bruton to open the public session at 7:55 p.m. and was approved by a unanimous voice vote by all members present. President Drzewoszewski opened the meeting to the public at 7:55 p.m.

Steven Dilts (Wells Avenue) inquired as to the HPS district's "parent keeping" efforts. Interim Chief School Administrator DiBenedetto stated that he and Assistant Principal Jones are outside every day welcoming students and greeting/speaking with parents in the morning, as well as, to be outside at dismissal. Interim Chief School Administrator DiBenedetto stated that both he and Assistant Principal Jones have received both positive feedback and complaints – "getting the good, the bad and the ugly" and noted that the most significant complaint received this year was pertaining to the use of the Emergency Calling system. Interim Chief School Administrator DiBenedetto stated that, in his opinion, HPS parents feel their children are learning engaged and that they are satisfied with the educational program being provided to their children.

Much discussion ensued regarding School Choice and the formula change which limits our district's ability to grow enrollment. Interim Chief School Administrator noted that the 2013-2014 District Goal "To design and implement an outreach program to expand district enrollment as a choice school." is now significantly limited in its ability to increase HPS enrollment as was intended. Board Trustee Elizabeth Dilts stated the NJDOE changed the rules for School Choice and, in fact, not only have a reduced number of NJ Public schools been given Choice School designation, but the NJDOE has limited the number of students a Choice School may accept and that which the district will receive choice aid funding. Board Trustee Elizabeth Dilts stated that the district's plan to provide for student enrollment growth through school choice is a very limited opportunity. Discussion ensued. Interim Chief School Administrator DiBenedetto stated that he would appeal the NJ Department of Education with regard to this restriction. Board Trustee Elizabeth Dilts stated she would like to know the % of appeals NJ Choice School Districts have submitted to the Commissioner of Education with regard to this new restriction. Interim Chief School Administrator DiBenedetto and Board Trustee Elizabeth Dilts stated they would convey the disappointment of the Hampton Public School Administration and Board of Education and complain to the NJDOE.

There being no additional items presented for discussion at this time, Board Trustee Gina Sharkey moved, seconded by Board Trustee Robert Shumski to close the public session at 8:06 pm. This was approved by a unanimous voice vote by all members present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Board Trustee Robert Shumski, seconded by Board Trustee Gina Sharkey, that RESOLVED, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-13 and 10:4-12 that the Hampton Board of Education hold a closed Executive Session regarding personnel matters and student matters. It is expected that the discussion undertaken in this closed session can be made public at the time official action is taken.

The motion was made at 8:06 pm and was approved by a unanimous voice vote by all members present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – A motion is requested to come out of executive session.

Motion by Board Trustee Elizabeth Dilts, seconded by Board Trustee Robert Shumski, to close executive session at 8:31 pm. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote by all members present.

The Board reconvened in Public Session at 8:31 pm with the following members present:

Present: Mrs. Bruton, Mrs. Dilts, Mr. Shumski, Mrs. Sharkey and Mrs. Drzewoszewski, President.

Committee Reports

A. Budget and Finance - Elizabeth Dilts and Cheryl Drzewoszewski

There were no additional Budget and Finance matters presented for discussion this evening.

B. Buildings and Grounds – Megan Bruton and Robert Shumski

Security System glitches and repairs – Interim Chief School Administrator stated that the district’s front door video camera monitor located in the main office requires service and repairs. Interim Chief School Administrator DiBenedetto stated that this is expected to cost the district \$1,000.00 and while it is unanticipated, it will need to be done.

C. Personnel and Negotiations – Gina Sharkey and Robert Shumski

Two part time aides to be appointed – Interim Chief School Administrator stated that he will recommend that two part time 1:1 aides be appointed next week at the Regular Business meeting to be held on October 22, 2013. OK for Agenda.

D. Policy – Elizabeth Dilts and Robert Shumski

Update on Before Care / After Care Payment Policy - Board Trustee Elizabeth Dilts stated that the Before Care / After Care policy provided by Interim Chief School Administrator DiBenedetto is an exceptional policy whose language accurately reflects what is being practiced. It was suggested that a change be made to the “Alternate Payment Options”. Discussion ensued. Board Trustee Elizabeth Dilts requested that if there are any other suggestions with regard to this policy, that Board members should email her before next week.

E. Legislative Delegate & NJSBA and HCSBA Representative – Elizabeth Dilts

Board Trustee Elizabeth Dilts stated that there was nothing to report pertaining to the Legislative Delegate & NJSBA and HCSBA matters at this time.

F. Curriculum and Technology – Elizabeth Dilts and Gina Sharkey

Network Difficulties and Repairs – Interim Chief School Administrator DiBenedetto informed the Board of Education that the HPS district was experiencing network difficulties and is in need of repair/service. Interim Chief School Administrator stated that the NHVHS district technology staff was providing technical support for the server but that the district may find that upgrades will cost our district \$12,000.00 to address wiring and hardware problems. Interim Chief School Administrator DiBenedetto stated that our district will certainly need to increase bandwidth for our computer system especially with the new PARCC testing. Discussion ensued.

F. ESC Representative – Robert Shumski

Board Trustee Robert Shumski stated that there was nothing to report pertaining to the ESC this evening.

G. Shared Services and Neighboring School Outreach Committee – Cheryl Drzewoszewski and Megan Bruton

Board President Drzewoszewski presented a summary of actions, discussions, progress and citations of work completed from approximately April 2012 - December 2012. The purpose of this review was to assure the BOE members were “on the same page” with regard to the Board’s consideration and response to the Hampton Exploratory Committee’s report of May 2012.

Board President Drzewoszewski stated that the Hampton Board of Education did a lot of work pertaining to the survey conducted by the committee. Using the Board of Education meeting minutes from July 2012 – December 2012 and other resources to compile the list, Board President Drzewoszewski reviewed each item explaining the aspect to which it tied in the Report. A brief discussion ensued. Board President Drzewoszewski stated that she felt it was important for the BOE as a whole to be cognizant of the substantial amount of attention the BOE had given, and continues to give, to the Exploratory Committee report. Board Trustee Gina Sharkey stated that, in her opinion, the Board of Education made every effort to address the results of the survey and noted that despite our efforts, many suggestions/recommendations made within the document resulted in a dead end, particularly shared services efforts. (i.e. Shared Services – many meetings and hours were spent with 4 other BOE/school districts regarding shared services considerations.)

Board Trustee Elizabeth Dilts stated that it was her comment on the Board Self Evaluation “In my opinion, the results of that survey were almost completely disregarded by the Board.” that prompted Board President Drzewoszewski’s discussion and that she still felt her comment is/was as was stated. Board Trustee Elizabeth Dilts commended President Drzewoszewski for her efforts in compiling the list of Board of Education actions/accomplishments in response to the Hampton Exploratory Committee’s community survey but that, in her opinion, the survey was never discussed by the Board of Education and that the Board’s direct response to the survey was silent and missing in the minutes. President Drzewoszewski stated that she wished to clarify that while the meeting minutes does not directly tie discussion or actions taken by the BOE to a section of the Exploratory Committee’s report, the actions of the Board of Education were/are a direct response to the report.. And that, in fact, Interim Chief School Administrator DiBenedetto responded to the Exploratory Committee’s community report in writing, while meeting with community members, HPS parents, HPS staff, and held a number of meetings discussing many of the matters cited within the report. President Drzewoszewski stated that the report requested that the Board address issues of concern by the community and that she believes the Board of Education has done that. Board Trustee Elizabeth Dilts stated that if she were to review the minutes of BOE meetings she would not agree that the BOE has done that. A brief discussion ensued. Board Trustee Elizabeth Dilts stated that Interim Chief School Administrator DiBenedetto is not the Board and Interim Chief School Administrator DiBenedetto stated that the Superintendent is a non-voting member of the Board of Education. President Drzewoszewski stated that she has personally done a lot of work in response to the report. Board President Drzewoszewski also explained that addressing the Exploratory Committee report, and valid feedback gleaned from the survey itself, was made a top priority for the incoming Interim Chief School Administrator hired in July 2012. In fact, Interim Chief School Administrator DiBenedetto developed a plan taking the concerns of the Exploratory Committee report into account, presented it to the BOE for approval, and executed actions accordingly. Board Trustee Elizabeth Dilts stated she still did not hear nor do the minutes record that the Board of Education has stated anything directly in response to the survey. Board President Drzewoszewski stated that the Board of Education has been very responsive to the Exploratory Committee’s report; as to how things were accomplished is (i.e. by the CSA vs. the BOE directly), that is form over substance. What is more important is recognizing the work that got done. Discussion ensued. Board Trustee Gina Sharkey stated a lot of work was done in response to the survey, in fact she personally had missed dinner with her family at least 2 times/week to explore potential shared services opportunities with other school districts. Board Trustee Gina Sharkey stated “20% of Hampton Borough residents completed the survey and yes, the Board of Education took all of the recommendations of the survey under consideration but it also needs to consider that the responses received represent only 20% of the Hampton Borough community. The Board of Education members put a lot of time and effort into reviewing/addressing the survey and yet you feel it was not responded to. Board Trustee Elizabeth Dilts stated that members of the Exploratory

Committee indicated to her that they felt like it wasn't dealt with. Board Trustee Elizabeth Dilts stated that the Exploratory Committee member she spoke with felt that the survey was dismissed. President Drzewoszewski stated that no Exploratory Committee member has ever expressed to that to the BOE, and if they had come to the meetings following the report they would have recognized the work being done and had an opportunity to correct their perception. Board Trustee Gina Sharkey stated that the Exploratory Committee's community survey was a hot topic at times and if anyone from the committee had attended a BOE meeting, they would have known this. Board Trustee Elizabeth Dilts stated that she and her husband had attended many BOE meetings but felt that while they had made many public comments over the past several years, they felt that the BOE did not feel their comments were valid, and even wondered if the BOE had actually heard what they had said. When you feel that you are not heard or that the other party does not feel your comments/statements are valid, you won't come to a BOE meeting.

Board Trustee Elizabeth Dilts referred to the Hampton School Dashboard paper provided to the Board of Education this evening, and stated that the information contained within the "dashboard" is quantitative and represents a snapshot of what you would want to see. i.e. cost per pupil This is not qualitative data – the dashboard is measurable information. Interim Chief School Administrator DiBenedetto was asked to add "Cost Per Pupil" data on the dashboard document. Discussion ensued. Board Trustee Gina Sharkey requested that comment boxes be added as a means of getting feedback, and personal responses are valuable feedback. Discussion ensued.

H. Communications – Gina Sharkey and Megan Bruton

There were no additional Communications matters presented for discussion this evening.

New Business

There were no New Business matters presented for discussion this evening.

Old Business

There were no Old Business matters presented for discussion this evening.

Comments from Public II

Board Trustee Elizabeth Dilts moved, seconded by Board Trustee Megan Bruton to open the public session at 9:16 p.m. and was approved by a unanimous voice vote by all members present. President Drzewoszewski opened the meeting to the public at 9:16 p.m.

Steven Dilts (Wells Avenue) stated "Mrs. Sharkey, you said that only 20% of the town (Hampton Borough) is not significant, is not a large % of the community. You also stated, at a previous meeting, that it is like a skunk at a garden party, it is toxic and no one really wants to touch it. Mrs. Drzewoszewski you have listed the BOE's great achievements over the past 6 months yet the BOE has never given credit to nor acknowledged the Hampton Exploratory Committee's community survey. What the Board of Education did do was to give the survey to Mr. DiBenedetto to address and prepare a response. There are no BOE Committee reports, or Board of Education direct comments in response to the survey, as a matter of fact, it seems as though because you did not like the survey results or perhaps you just did agree so then what you did was give the responsibility for preparing a response to it to Mr. DiBenedetto. Perhaps 20% of the responses is not a "significant" % of all Hampton Borough residents, it is still significant. The Hampton Exploratory Committee put in so much time, and Mrs. Drzewoszewski, you were very much a part of it and I am

disappointed that the Board of Education hired someone to make your response and come up with a plan to address the recommendations of the Exploratory Committee.” President Drzewoszewski stated that she disagreed with Mr. Dilts’s comments. The school began taking action in response to the community feedback before the report was even issued (i.e. before and after care program was researched and implemented). The BOE acknowledged receipt of the report immediately following it’s issuance; the BOE indicated that a committee would be established as was requested in the report; and indicated that the BOE wanted to consider the report in conjunction with other priorities at the time, not the lease of which was quickly hiring a replacement CSA so as to not lose momentum with the BOE’s efforts. Board President Drzewoszewski indicated that the BOE shared the Exploratory Committee report with the new CSA on the day he was hired, and agreed to the CSA coming up with a plan for BOE approval that the CSA would then execute. I have presented a listing of the dates and actions the Board of Education has taken at public meetings in response to the survey. Mr. Dilts stated that he would review prior minutes to verify accuracy of the listing presented. He also stated that the public perception of the actions of the Board of Education at a public meeting is what is important, no matter what % of the population attends the meeting or responds to a survey, public perception is significant, it is important! Your “spin” on it describes/speaks to your motivation. Board President Drzewoszewski stated that the Board of Education wanted to get the work completed and respond to the survey responsibly, and that that has been accomplished through many actions that have been received positively by the parents/community. Board Trustee Gina Sharkey stated that some Hampton residents might feel that the % of responses was significant while others might not feel that the % of responses was not significant but that, she (Gina Sharkey) did feel that how a person feels is very important regardless of %s. What was most important matter to address over the last two years was trying to fix the local debt service tax billing issue.” Mr. Dilts commented “agree”.

Mr. Dilts stated that he wished to stand by his comments this evening but appreciated Board Trustee Gina Sharkey’s comments and reflections this evening.

There being no additional items presented for discussion at this time, Board Trustee Elizabeth Dilts moved, seconded by Board Trustee Gina Sharkey to close the public session at 9:28 pm. This was approved by a unanimous voice vote by all members present.

ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business to come before the board, Board Trustee Robert Shumski made a motion, seconded by Board Trustee Gina Sharkey and carried by Unanimous Voice Vote to adjourn the October 19, 2013 Work Session Meeting of the Hampton Board of Education at 9:29 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine M. Werner
Board Secretary