HAMPTON SCHOOL BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
July 8, 2025

A Regular Meeting of the Hampton School Board was held on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the Hampton Academy Cafeteria, 29 Academy Ave, Hampton, NH.

Board Members Present
Wendy Rega
Andrea Shepard
Molly St. Jeanne
Candace O'Neil
Sarah Elliott

Board Members Absent

Others Present
Dr. Lois Costa, Superintendent
Mariah Curtis, Business Administrator

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Rega called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was said.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

4. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

4.1 Budget Committee
4.2 Building/Facilities
4.3 CIP
4.4 Curriculum
4.5 Master Plan Implementation Committee
4.6 NHSBA
4.7 Policy
4.8 Professional Development
4.9 PTA
4.11 SEA Negotiations
4.12 SESPA Negotiations
4.13 Steering
4.14 Wellness
4.15 Legislative.

5. REPORTS

5.1 Mr. Marc Robitaille – Centre School Principal

Mr. Robitaille gave a quick update on staffing for the FY26 school year. Centre School is currently hiring for one case manager position and a few paraprofessional positions.

5.2 Mr. Nathan Saddler – Marston School Principal

Mr. Saddler offered the same update. Marston is hiring for two paraprofessional positions and one ABA Technician. All jobs are posted on the school's Facebook page as well as the SAU90 and Applitrack websites.

5.3 Dr. Neal Campbell – Hampton Academy Principal

Dr. Campbell provided the same update. Hampton Academy is hiring for one case manager and one paraprofessional as well as a long-term sub covering for Chorus through winter break. Mrs. O'Neill asked Dr. Campbell to clarify if there is no teacher to cover this position, does that mean there will be no chorus? Dr. Campbell confirmed that is true at least through winter break.

5.4 Ms. Deena Jensen – Student Services Director

5.5 Mr. Tim Smith – Technology

5.6 Mr. Tim Harrington – Facilities Director

Mrs. Curtis provided a brief facilities update. The HVAC project at Centre school is progressing as planned with only minor hiccups. The NEC room at Marston is also currently under construction. It was discovered recently that the irrigation system at Hampton Academy stopped working so they're working on repair plans for that. The Dam at Batchelder Pond falls under the facilities budget. They are currently working with Apex to develop a plan for compliance and State guidelines. Mrs. Shepard asked when this work will start. Mrs. Curtis stated it has already started. Chair Rega remarked the Dam needs to be an agenda item and asked that it be included in the October Board agenda for discussion. Eventually it will need to go to the Town Board of Selectman. At this time, any ideas or thoughts on the property can be directed to Chair Rega.

5.7 Mrs. Mary Borg – Food Services Director

5.8 Dr. Lois Costa – Superintendent

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1. Introductions

Dr. Costa introduced the Board to Deena Jensen, the new Student Services Director who began with SAU90 on July 1, 2025, taking over for Dr. Lois DaSilva-Knapton.

6.2 WHS Graduates

Dr. Costa recognized the Winnacunnet High School class of 2025 graduates who are also SAU90 alumni.

6.3 Summer Updates

The Leadership Team is attending their annual retreat. They're focusing on goals and curriculum for the coming year. Centre School is currently under construction for a new HVAC system. Summer School is underway at Hampton Academy.

6.4 Rosemary Buia Memorial Education Fund

Rosemary was a long-time educator who worked with Dr. Costa and sadly passed away lats year. Rosemary's daughter, Stephanie, is establishing a Memorial Education Fund in her memory. She would like to see the award given to a new teacher each year. A committee has been established to develop criteria for the award. The designee will be publicly awarded at a Board meeting each year.

6.5 Revisit School Lunch Prices

Chair Rega made the public aware that Mary Bord, Food Services Director, is attending the meeting remotely to answer any questions on this agenda item. At the June meeting, Mrs. Borg proposed a fifteen cent ($0.15) increase in lunch prices for the FY26 school year, bringing lunch prices from $3.50 to $3.65. Mrs. Curtis provided the Board with some additional financial information and guidance. In January 2013 a school lunch cost $2.50; in January 2020 lunch cost $3.00 and in January 2025, lunch cost $3.50. The percentage of lunches served has remained about the same, however, losses have increased year over year. This year, Food Service experienced a total loss of $21,445.00 in operating costs (this amount does not include unpaid student account balances). Mrs. Curtis reminded the Board there is a fund balance of $134,189.00 left over from 2020/2021 when the school was receiving funds to offset the cost of free lunch for all students during the COVID-19 pandemic. This money is used to offset the cost of equipment, repairs, etc., however it can also be used to offset losses at this time. However, because future laws governing this fund balance may change, Mrs. Curtis cautioned the Board against using this as the only means to offset loss. Another tool used to determine school lunch prices is the State PLE tool which uses the consumer price index to make recommendations. The current State average for lunch price is about $4.00, the recommendation for SAU90 is $3.70 with an increase of anywhere from $0.05-0.10 annually. Chair Rega asked if the additional $1,100 is even worth it. She later clarified the $1,100 increase in revenue is only for the month of January. Raising the school lunch price by $0.15 would increase revenue by about $13,645 for the entire year. Mrs. Elliott asked if more students "opted in" to school lunch if that would help with the deficit. Mrs. Curtis stated she would need to look into the numbers, but the general idea being more student participation would equal more food needing to be purchased. Mrs. Borg works hard to ensure there is not a significant amount of food wasted each year. Mrs. O'Neill asked about using community support to offset the deficit. Mrs. Curtis stated that she believes community support could be utilized through "directed donations" specifically stating the purpose of the donation would be to offset the cost of Food Service. Typically, food service donations are used to purchase "extra" food for students enrolled in the Free & Reduced Meal program. Mrs. Curtis clarified that increasing the cost of school lunch will not keep the department out of debt, but it will close the gap between the deficit and the consumer index guidelines. Mrs. St. Jeanne stated, based on the discussion and the information she's heard so far, she believes the issue needs to be addressed rather than kicking it down the road. Mrs. Shepard agreed and liked the idea of smaller increases over time rather than a large increase all at once. Mrs. Elliott did some quick math to determine the impact of a $0.15 increase on a family of three children, which would equal about $81.00 total for the year. Chair Rega requested Dr. Costa to reach out to the attorneys for guidance on community donations specifically directed toward Food Service budget deficit. She then called for a motion. **Motion to increase school lunch prices by five cents ($0.05) annually for a total increase of fifteen cents ($0.15) over the next three years was made by Ms. Shepard. Seconded by Mrs. O'Neil. Discussion: Chair Rega commented that this amount may not have the desired**

impact, and it will need to be revisited. All Board members agreed but think it's a good place to start. Vote: 5 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

7. GOVERNANCE

7.1 Enrollment

8. OPERATIONS, RESOURCES AND SAFETY – Business Administrator

8.1 Monthly Finances

Mrs. Curtis provided the "final" budgeted numbers, not including the GASB which is reviewed through the budget process and usually changes the final numbers by anywhere from $10,000 to $20,000. The final number including all revenues ($221,456.88), unassigned expenditure ($244,910.16), and last year's retained balance ($508,079.00) totals $974,446.04 for FY25. Mrs. Curtis's recommendation is to return $250,000.00 to the taxpayers of Hampton and retain the balance for contingencies. Dr. Costa reiterated that it was a good proposal based on the uncertainty surrounding state and federal funding. Mrs. St. Jeanne asked if it rolls over. Mrs. Curtis explained the retained earnings must be pulled back into the final budget number each year, then recalculated based on a certain percentage. The final number is provided by the State. Mrs. O'Neill questioned the amount in a specific budget line for teacher in-service training. Mrs. Curtis gave a brief explanation of the budget process and when/how those line items be readdressed. **Motion of return two-hundred and fifty thousand dollars ($250,000.00) to the taxpayers of Hampton was made by Mrs. St. Jeanne. Seconded by Mrs. Shepard. No further discussion. Vote: 5 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.**

8.2 Revenues

8.3 Audit Questionnaire

Chair Rega read the annual audit questionnaire from Plozdik & Sanderson aloud publicly and answered each of the questions accordingly as a Board.

9. PERSONNEL

9.1 Resignations

A letter of resignation was received from Shawn McMahon, Special Education Case Manager at Hampton Academy. **Mrs. Shepard made a motion to accept the letter of resignation from Mr. McMahon. Seconded by Mrs. Elliott. No further discussion. Vote: 5 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.**

9.2 Nominations

10. POLICY REVIEW

Discussion regarding the following policies ensued. Suggestions and edits were noted. All first reads will be presented to the Board, with edits, at the next meeting.

10.1 FF – Naming Rights – 1st Read

10.2 GBCD – Background Investigation and Criminal Records History Check – 1st Read

10.3 IHBB – Programs for Gifted Pupils – 1st Read
10.4 IJOA – Field Trips & Excursions – 1st Read
10.5 JLCEA – Use of Automated External Defibrillator – 1st Read
10.6 JLCJA – Emergency Plan for Sports Related Injuries and Additional Protocols for Athletics Participation – 1st Read

11. CONSENT AGENDA

11.1 Consideration of Minutes

- **June 10, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes** – Chair Rega had one change on p. 5 under policy review, the motion was not seconded by Mrs. O'Neil. It was seconded by Mrs. Elliot. The change was noted. **Motion to approve the June 10, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes as amended was made by Mrs. Shepard. Seconded by Mrs. Elliott. No further discussion. 3 yes, 0 no, 2 abstentions. Motion passed.**
- **June 10, 2025 Non-public Board Minutes – Motion to approve the June 10, 2025 Non-public Board Meeting Minutes was made by Mrs. Shepard. Seconded by Mrs. Elliott. No further discussion. 3 yes, 0 no, 2 abstentions. Motion passed.**

11.12 Correspondence

11.13 Signing of Manifests

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

13. NON-PUBLIC SESSION

Chair Rega moved the Board to retire to non-public session at 6:42pm under RSA 91-A:3 II. (a). Seconded by Mrs. Shepard. Roll Call Vote Required. All in favor.

14. ADJOURN

The Board returns to public session at 8:16 pm. **Mrs. St. Jeanne made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 pm. Seconded by Chair Rega. No further discussion. Vote: 5 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.**

Next Meeting: August 12, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

Danielle Albright
Board Secretary