

HAMBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Hamburg, Berks County, PA 19526-0401
March 10, 2025

The Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board was called to order by President, Ryan Gebely, at 6:30 p.m. This meeting was held in the James A. Gilmartin Community Room of Hamburg Area School District

A roll call of directors followed, and following directors were present:

Carson Adams, Thomas DeAngelo, Steven Gilbert, Tonia Krick, Toni McFadden, Daniel Sarna, Birgit White, Ryan Gebely

Absent- Laura "Lolly" Leshner

There were eight directors present at the meeting when roll call was taken.

OTHERS PRESENT

Christopher Beissel, Superintendent; Michele Zimmerman, Business Manager; Teresa Freiwald, Chief Learning Officer; Ryan McGinley, High School Principal; Alyssa Fink, High School Assistant Principal; John Henne, Middle School Assistant Principal; Lacie Cucciuffo, Elementary Principal; Rob Marra, Student Services and Special Education Director; Matt Bertschy, Director of Transportation and Child Accounting; Aaron Menapace, Athletic Director; Elaine Ruppert, Director of Facilities; Andrew Diehl, Director of Information Technology; Molly Fox, Student Council Representative; James Mancuso, District Solicitor; Nicolette Hoover, Board Secretary; Visitors – Marcy Donatelli, Terri McCarthy, Nathaniel Vancampen, Chris Vancampen

Mr. Gebely opened the meeting with the pledge to the flag.

The Board met in Executive Session prior to this meeting to discuss personnel.

IV. Public Comments

Mr. Gebely asked for Public Comments. There were no public comments.

V. Report of the Business Manager

A. Ms. Zimmerman reviewed the year-to-date 2024-2025 financial results

VI. Report of the Superintendent

A. Superintendent Goals Update

1. ELA Pilot Update- Mrs. Freiwald

- Last Update: November
- Programs: Narrowed from 4 to 2 – CKLA and ARC
- Teachers Involved: 17 total (5 Perry, 12 Tilden)
- Leadership Team: Involved from the beginning
- Focus: Specifics on foundational skills and developing solid skills
- Transparency:
 - All teachers included in the process, whether part of the pilot or not
 - Root of the programs explained to all

- Meeting Schedule:
 - Three times a month (CKLA and ARC program)
 - Once a month additional meeting
- Parent Communication:
 - Letter sent home for every student in pilot classrooms
- Monitoring & Support:
 - Virtual sessions on adult learning days
 - Classroom visits and ongoing support
 - Check-ins and opportunities for teachers to ask questions
- Leadership Involvement:
 - Dr. Beissel and leadership teams visiting classrooms
 - Teachers using a rubric and evaluation instrument
- Decision Process:
 - Toni McFadden asked if the plan is to choose one program based on teacher feedback?
 - Mrs Freiwald: That is the plan but we will continue monitoring progress.
 - Full duration of the pilot needed before making a final decision
 - Pilot offers different units to ensure a thorough evaluation
- Overall Approach: Strong, structured process

2. Yearly Evaluation Update- Mrs. Ruppert
 - Mrs. Ruppert provided a handout (See Exhibit XXVIf-99)
3. High School Renovation Project Update- Dr. Beissel
 - Recent Update: Dr. Beissel and the leadership team met two weeks ago for a 2-hour session
 - Meeting Focus:
 - Defined objectives and long-term vision (next 30 years)
 - Each person shared their needs, wants, and nice-to-haves
 - Next Steps:
 - Bring items to the formal board committee
 - Share conversations and initiate a feasibility study by June 2025
 - Facility Update:
 - Chillers on track – cool air expected by spring
 - Target date: April 1st, if not by mid-April

B. First Reading of the following policy:

1. 803 School Calendar

C. Acknowledgement of the following Leave of Absence:

1. Employee # 2097 – non-FMLA paid sick leave
 - Anticipated leave period: 02/19/25 – 03/07/25

D. Acknowledgement of the following separations:

1. Kayla Rehrer – Paraeducator
 - Effective 02/21/2025
2. Nathan Santiago – Assistant Coach, High School Boys Basketball & Athletics Game Help
 - Effective 02/24/2025
3. Jodi Miller – Paraeducator
 - Effective date: 02/25/2025
4. Lisa Welgo – Building Secretary, Registration and Transportation
 - Last workday: 06/05/2025
 - Retirement date: 06/27/2025
 - Resignation submitted for the purpose of retirement

5. Dennis Welgo – Food Service Employee
 - Effective date: 06/05/2025
 - Resignation submitted for the purpose of retirement
- E. Recommend approval of the following Support staff:
 1. Donna Wertz – Paraeducator
 - Replacing Jodi Miller
 - Effective 03/12/2025
 - Hourly rate: \$16.00 (Certified Licensed Professional)
 2. Alina Holmes – Food Service Employee
 - Replacing Billie Engle
 - Effective 03/12/2025
 - Hourly rate: \$13.34 / 4.25 hours per day

A motion was made by Toni McFadden, seconded by Birgit White to approve the following Support staff as presented

A roll call voice vote was taken as follows:

Yes- Carson Adams, Thomas DeAngelo, Steven Gilbert, Tonia Krick, Toni McFadden, Daniel Sarna, Birgit White, Ryan Gebely

No- None

Motion carried with eight directors voting yes.

- F. Recommend approval of the following Extra-curricular staff:
 1. Jason Berger – Assistant Coach, High School Girls Soccer
 - Replacing Kristin Newpher
 - Effective upon receipt of all required employment documents
 - Stipend: \$3297 / Step 3

A motion was made by Birgit White, seconded by Tonia Krick to approve the Extra-curricular staff as presented

A roll call voice vote was taken as follows:

Yes- Thomas DeAngelo, Steven Gilbert, Tonia Krick, Toni McFadden, Daniel Sarna, Birgit White, Carson Adams, Ryan Gebely

No- None

Motion carried with eight directors voting yes.

- G. Recommend approval of the following District Volunteers:
 1. Charissa Donovan
 2. Elizabeth Kriner
 3. Amanda Marbarger
 4. Veronica McGonigal
 5. Jared Miller
 6. Tiffany Rollman
 7. Christine Russell
 8. Heather Stitzer
 9. Melinda Wheeler

A motion was made by Daniel Sarna, seconded by Carson Adams to approve the following District Volunteers as presented.

A roll call voice vote was taken as follows:

Yes- Steven Gilbert, Tonia Krick, Toni McFadden, Daniel Sarna, Birgit White, Carson Adams, Thomas DeAngelo, Ryan Gebely

No- None

Motion carried with eight directors voting yes.

VII. Information Items

VIII. Dates to Remember

Month	Day	Event	Time
March	24	Board Meeting	6:30 pm
April	14	Committee Meeting	6:30 pm
April	15	Full Day for Students	
April	16	Early Dismissal for Students Adult Learning PM	
April	17,18,21	Spring Holiday Recess	

IX. New Business

- None at this time.

X. Adjournment

A motion was made by Birgit White, seconded by Daniel Sarna to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 p.m. Motion carried.

MINUTES APPROVED
March 24, 2025

RECORDED BY

Ryan J. Gebely

Nicolette A. Hoover