

HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District, Town of Greenburgh, County of Westchester, N.Y., held in the John J. Russell Lecture Room at the Farragut Complex on Tuesday evening, April 29, 2008. Present were Trustees Eric Sweeting, Gabrielle Lesser, Eva Neubauer Alligood, Caryn Campbell, and Mary A. Wirth. Trustee Eileen Baecher was absent. Also present were Robert I. Shaps, Superintendent of Schools; Rebecca Gourevitch, Student Liaison; David Hayes, District Clerk; members of the administration and guests.

CALL TO ORDER:

Board of Education President Eric Sweeting called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM. Mary Wirth moved to adjourn the meeting into Executive Session to discuss matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of any particular person or corporation. Caryn Campbell seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote. Following discussion, Eva Alligood moved to reconvene the Regular Meeting. Mary Wirth seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

At 8:11 PM Board President Eric Sweeting welcomed all to the Regular Meeting of April 29, 2008.

REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Shaps first announced that the Hastings PTSA is sponsoring their Third Annual Riverfront Puppet & Popcorn Festival on Sunday, May 4th at 2:00 PM at MacEachron Park. This event will have something for everyone and will feature original short puppet shows, a spring puppet pageant, live jazz, interactive art, food and drinks and local artisans on display selling original work. In addition, students from Hillside Elementary will be presenting pieces that originated from a PTSA sponsored puppet workshop at the school. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$5 for kids; and free for children 4 and under.

Also, tickets are now available for the annual Hastings Education Foundation's Benefit and Auction on Saturday, May 10, at 7:30 PM at Alder Manor in Yonkers. This evening is sure to be a festive event with a live silent auction, jazz by Mark Kaufman and his trio, cocktails and light refreshments. Tickets are \$75 per person. For tickets or for more information, please call 478-1375 or visit the Foundation's website: www.hastingseducationfoundation.org.

He continued by saying that on behalf of Farragut Middle School teacher Romeo Spiniello and the eighth-grade class, I would like to thank Victoria Bugbee, Ellen Dominus, Janet Freed, William Hacking, Tim Hays, Phillip Raelyn, Pat Chemka Speranza and Anthony Wan for volunteering their time and expertise to make this year's Career Afternoon a tremendous success. On April 18th students spoke with presenters about their respective careers, and learned about the responsibilities of different occupations, the necessary educational backgrounds for different positions, and the subjects in school that influence and enhance career decisions.

Mr. Shaps then mentioned that a few months ago Hillside Librarian Dee Ratterree distributed a flier about submitting student poetry for a National Schools Project. A panel of educators evaluated thousands of entries based on creativity, age-appropriate language, sensory/figurative images, structure, and poetic techniques. I am pleased to announce that every student in Gail Watkin's third grade class had a poem selected and will be published in the 2008 Young American Poetry Digest.

Mr. Shaps then announced the results of the 2008 National French Contest, which is a 60-minute examination designed, written, and disseminated by the members of the American Association of Teachers of French. Its purpose is to help stimulate further interest in the teaching and learning of French and to help identify and reward achievement on the part of both students and teachers.

On the French Level 1 Exam:

2 Hastings High School students ranked in the Top Ten from Westchester County.

Congratulations to Samuel Walker and Nicolee Spiller.

On the French Level 2 Exam:

8 Hastings High School students ranked in the Top Ten from Westchester County.

Congratulations to Jacob Nordlinger, Julia Salinaro, Julia Hogan, Eddie Nolan, Hannah Wyman, Andrea Stephens, Kyla Vanburen, and Linda Crowley.

On the French Level 3 Exam:

3 Hastings High School students ranked in the Top Ten from Westchester County.
 Congratulations to Irene Zanolli, Emily Bernstein, and Lena Street.

On the French Level 4 Exam:

3 Hastings High School students ranked in the Top Ten from Westchester County.
 Congratulations to Allison Hopkins, Julian Ordman, and Sarina Spector.

Mr. Shap s concluded his report by saying, “The safety of our students as they navigate their way to school has always been a concern of the District. However, in recent years, it has become very clear that some steps should be taken to ensure a safer beginning to the school day. The area in the vicinity of the Mount Hope and Farragut Avenue intersection has been under serious scrutiny and a trial plan has been developed. To this end, I’d like to take this opportunity to remind the community that, beginning Monday, May 5th, there will be a designated student drop-off/pick-up zone on Mount Hope Boulevard, from the corner of School Street to the current “no parking” space in front of the High School.

[A slide was shown with a detailed map with suggested alternative routes to reach the Drop-off/Pick-up zone.] We ask that everyone cooperates and gives this a chance to work. Again, this will be in effect from Monday, May 5th to June 27th and the plan will be evaluated during the summer.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

April	21-25	Schools and Offices are closed – Spring Recess	
April	29-30	Kindergarten Screening	
April	29	Hillside Parent Liaison Meeting – Hillside Café	6:45 pm
April	29	Board of Education Meeting – Russell Lecture Room	
		- Executive Session	7:15 pm
		- Regular Meeting	8:00 pm
April	29-30	Grade 7 Science Acceleration Test	
April	30	Grade 8 Science Performance Test for students taking M/S/T course	
April	30	Board of Education Operations Committee Mtg. – Conference Room	8:00 am
April	30	Student Union Blood Drive – Cochran Gym	1:00 pm – 6:00 pm
April	30	Everyday Math Parent’s Night for grades K-2 – Hillside Cafe	7:00 pm
May	1	Grade 8 Science Written Test for students taking M/S/T course	
May	1-16	<i>School Days</i> – Historical Society exhibit on display in HHS Lobby	
May	1	District Health & Safety/Wellness Committee Mtg. – Russell Lecture Room	3:45pm
May	1	Everyday Math Parent’s Night for grades 3-4 – Hillside Cafe	7:00 pm
May	4	PTSA “Popcorn & Puppet Festival” – MacEchron Park	2:00 pm – 5:00 pm
May	4-7	Grade 4 NYS Science Assessment Test	
May	5-16	Advanced Placement Exams	
May	5	Board of Education Policy Committee Meeting – Russell Lecture Room	7:45 am
May	6	HHS Parent Liaison Meeting – Room 225	6:45 pm
May	6	Board of Education Meeting – Russell Lecture Room	
		- Executive Session	7:15 pm
		- Regular Meeting	8:00 pm

PERSONNEL

P.1 Mary Wirth moved to approve the following recommendation:

To accept the resignation of **David Rosengren**, for retirement purposes, effective July 1, 2008.
 Pam Coren and Gail Kipper reminisced of Mr. Rosengren’s time while here at Hastings.
 Gabrielle Lesser seconded and Item P.1 carried by unanimous vote.

P.2-P.4 Mary Wirth moved to approve the following resolutions:

WHEREAS, on April 29, 2008 it was determined that a vacancy exists for an annual substitute teacher for the 2007-2008 school year, which will be integral to Hastings-on-Hudson’s operations in the 2007-2008 school year; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board has identified **Kathleen Craig** as a qualified candidate and wishes to appoint her to an annual substitute teacher position for the 2007-2008 school year, effective April 28, 2008.

AND

WHEREAS, on April 29, 2008 it was determined that a vacancy exists for an annual substitute teacher for the 2007-2008 school year, which will be integral to Hastings-on-Hudson's operations in the 2007-2008 school year; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board has identified **Robert Michael Duff** as a qualified candidate and wishes to appoint him to an annual substitute teacher position for the 2007-2008 school year, effective April 28, 2008.

AND

WHEREAS, at previous meetings, the Board of Education of the Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District appointed the following employees to various positions on an emergency basis, consistent with Board Policy #6170; and

WHEREAS, by statute, such emergency appointments expire after twenty (20) business days after such appointment or upon receipt of conditional clearance by the State Education Department, whichever occurs sooner; and

WHEREAS, the emergency appointment period is set to expire for these employees; and

WHEREAS, these employees are in positions that are integral to the proper functioning of the District;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the emergency appointments of the following employees are extended and renewed until May 28, 2008: Ronald Fusco, Juan Rico, Jeanne Simchick, Donald Westrich Lindsey Hicks seconded and Items P.2-P.4 carried by unanimous vote.

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

C&I.1 School District Report Card: Mr. Shaps informed the Board that the School District Report Card scheduled for discussion was delayed by Albany and may not be ready until June 2008.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. David Skolnick of 47 Hillside Drive presented the Board with traffic volume numbers for Hillside Avenue and Farragut Avenue in 5-minute intervals in anticipation of the District's new traffic pattern pilot program scheduled to begin May 5th. He then asked who designed the pilot program. Mr. Sweeting thanks Mr. Skolnick for the research but reminded everyone that the new traffic pattern was not intended to reduce the number of cars, but rather to change the flow of traffic around the Farragut Complex to alleviate congestion and bottleneaking during morning drop-offs. Mr. Sweeting then said the plan was developed in tandem with the Facilities Committee, the Village Safety Counsel and police personnel.

MINUTES

M.1 Mary Wirth moved to approve the following recommendation:

To accept the minutes of the March 31, 2008 Regular Meeting.

Eileen Baecher seconded and Item M.1, as amended, carried by unanimous vote.

BUSINESS

B.1 Mary Wirth moved to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the 2008-2009 Estimated Administrative Budget for the Southern Westchester Board of Cooperative Educational Services in the amount of \$8,058,073 be approved.

Gabrielle Lesser seconded and Item B.1 carried by unanimous vote.

B.2 Lindsey Hicks moved to approve the following recommendation:

To elect two (2) Southern Westchester Board of Cooperative Educational Services trustees:

Candidates:

John DeSantis Hastings-on-Hudson UFSD

Beverly A. Levine Ardsley UFSD

Board members discussed the service and attributes of these two incumbent candidates.

Mary Wirth seconded and Item B.2 carried by unanimous vote.

B.3 Mary Wirth moved to approve the following recommendation:

To accept the following Claims Auditor Warrant Reports:

Warrant #6: Fund C - Computer Checks for 3/1/08 – 3/31/08

Warrant #7: Fund C - Computer Checks for 3/20/08 – 3/31/08

Warrant #8: Fund TE - Computer Checks for 3/01/08 – 3/31/08

Warrant #8: Fund F - Computer Checks for 3/19/08 – 3/19/08

Warrant #9: Fund F - Computer Checks for 3/01/08 – 3/31/08

Warrant #10: Fund F - Computer Checks for 3/27/08 – 3/27/08

Warrant #25: Fund A - Computer Checks for 3/11/08 – 3/25/08

Warrant #26: Fund A - Computer Checks for 3/01/08 – 3/31/08

Warrant #27: Fund A - Computer Checks for 4/01/08 – 4/15/08

-Warrant #6 was explained as a payment of the sales tax collected from the resale of pizza from Slices Pizzeria to adults (sales tax is not collected from students).

-Warrant #27 was explained as payment of the Town of Greenburgh Sewer Tax.

Gabrielle Lesser seconded and Item B.3 carried by unanimous vote.

B.4 Mary Wirth moved to approve the following recommendation:

To accept the Treasurer's Report for February 2008.

Gabrielle Lesser seconded and Item B.4 carried by unanimous vote.

B.5 Gabrielle Lesser moved to approve the following recommendation:

To accept the Revenue and Expenditures Reports for March 2008.

It was explained that unearned revenue is on target and no shortfalls are expected.

Lindsey Hicks seconded and Item B.5 carried by unanimous vote.

B.6-B.8 Lindsey Hicks moved to approve the following recommendations:

To approve the following Committee on Special Education recommendations for the 2007-2008 school year: #4297 #7111 #6059 #93-027

AND

To approve the following Committee on Preschool Special Education recommendations for the 2008-2009 school year: #7406 #7408

AND

To approve the following Committee on Special Education recommendations for the 2008-2009 school year: #96-008 #00-002 #7231 #97-006 #92-046 #92-015

Mary Wirth seconded and Items B.6-B.8 carried by a vote of 6-0-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

Old Business – Board of Education

No items were discussed at this time

Old Business – Audience to Board of Education

No comments were made at this time.

New Business – Board of Education

Mr. Shaps announced that, since the adoption of the 2008-09 School Budget on April 14, 2008, the District received word from Albany that the District can anticipate and increase in the amount of State Aide between \$150,000 to \$200,000. Never knowing what to expect from Albany, Mr. Shaps recommended that, to be on the safe side, an additional \$150,000 in State Aide be applied to the Revenue portion of the Budget thereby reducing the estimated tax rate increase from 5.41% to 4.98%. Mr. Shaps reminded the Board that the Budget has not changed in any way, only that this additional \$150,000 in anticipated State Aide would simply reduce the total amount of revenue needed to be raised from property taxes to support the 2008-09 School Budget.

Mary Wirth moved to approve the following recommendation:

To amend the School District Property Tax Report Card to reflect an additional contribution in State Aide Revenue in the amount of \$150,000.

Caryn Campbell seconded and this item carried by unanimous vote.

The Board addressed the May 1st deadline to pass a resolution regarding Tax Relief for Volunteer Firefighter's. Without fully knowing what the financial impact would be on the already adopted 2008-2009 School budget, it was suggested and agreed upon that the Board would not act on this at this time. It was also suggested to place this item on the Finance Board agenda so they can put the numbers together and make a recommendation when the next school budget is in development.

New Business – Audience to Board of Education

No comments were made at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Eric Sweeting, Board President, declared the meeting closed at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

David Hayes, District Clerk