

HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, November 6, 2006

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 Monday evening, November 6, 2006. Present were Trustees Mary Wirth, Eric Sweeting, Patricia Anne Woods, Lindsey Hicks, Caryn Campbell and Eileen Baecher. Trustee Gabrielle Lesser was absent. Also present were Robert I. Shaps, Superintendent of Schools, John L. Chow, Assistant Superintendent of Business Operations & Finance, Rebecca Gourevitch, Student Liaison, Nancy S. Caruso, District Clerk, and guests.

CALL TO ORDER:

Board of Education President Mary Wirth called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Eileen Baecher moved to adjourn the meeting into Executive Session to discuss specific personnel items and pending litigation. Eric Sweeting seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees present. Following discussion, Lindsey Hicks moved to reconvene the Regular Meeting. Eileen Baecher seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees present.

At 7:40 PM Board President Mary Wirth welcomed all to the Regular Meeting of November 6, 2006.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ms. Wirth reminded all that the following announcements appear on the website and on WHOH.

- November 7 Election Day - No school for students
- November 7 Supt's Conference Day – AM: Parent/Teacher Conferences
PM: Staff Development
- November 8 Peer Leadership Parents' Night – HHS Auditorium – 7:30 PM
- November 9 Junior Class Formal – Westchester Marriott – 7:30 PM
- November 10 Schools & Offices Closed – Veterans' Day Observed
- November 13 Parents' Visiting Day – FMS & Hillside – 9-11:00 AM & 1-2:00 PM
- November 13 Parent Liaison Meeting – Room #225 – 6:45 PM
- November 14 SEPTA sponsored school lecture: Drs. Fern Leventhal & Joan Toglia;
Topic: *Non-Verbal Learning Disorders: Easily Missed and Often Misunderstood* – HHS Auditorium – 7:00 PM
- November 14 National Honor Society Inductions – Russell Lecture Room – 7:30 PM
- November 16 Evening Parent/Teacher Conferences – Hillside – 6-8:00 PM
- November 16 Evening Parent/Teacher Conferences – FMS & HHS – 7-9:00 PM
- November 17 ½ Day for Students – PM Parent/Teacher Conferences
- November 18 14th Annual Harvest Moon Ball – HHS Cafeteria – 7:00 PM
- November 20 Board of Education Meeting – Russell Lecture Room – 8:00 PM
- November 21 Project SHARE Thanksgiving Dinner for Homeless – HHS Cafeteria – 6:30 PM

PERSONNEL:

P.1. Patricia Anne Woods moved to appoint **Rachel Pilla** to tenure in the Elementary K-6 tenure area, effective November 10, 2006. Eric Sweeting seconded.

Gail Ostermann, Hillside Principal, spoke of Ms. Pillas many accomplishments.

The motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees in attendance.

P.2. Patricia Anne Woods moved to appoint **Arthur Ralston** to tenure in the 7-12 Social Studies tenure area, effective December 2, 2006. Lindsey Hicks seconded.

Dr. Tom Fazio, High School Principal, spoke of Mr. Ralston’s many accomplishments. The motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees in attendance.

P.3. – P. 16. Patricia Anne Woods moved to approve the following recommendations:

To approve instructional salary adjustments for extra credits in accordance with Article 12 of the 2006-2009 agreement between the Board of Education and the Hastings Teachers Association per the attached list

AND

To accept the resignation of **Michele Depew** as a Permanent Substitute teacher for the 2006-07 school year, effective October 24, 2006

AND

To amend the appointment of **Joseph Morante** as .8 FTE leave replacement HS Science teacher to September 1, 2006 through November 10, 2006

AND

To rescind the Schedule B appointment of **Kerry Tighe** as Varsity Spring Assistant Track Coach for 2006-07

AND

To appoint the following individuals to Schedule B positions for the 2006-07 school year:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>STEP</u>	<u>STIPEND</u>
Sabrina Johnston	Music Director-Gr. 7/8	5	\$3,094
Dennis Kiely	Varsity Spring Asst. Track Coach	8	\$4,205
Stephanie Stroud	Varsity Winter Asst. Track Coach	1	\$3,138

AND

WHEREAS, on November 6, 2006 it was determined that a vacancy exists for a substitute teacher for the 2006-07 school year, which will be integral to Hastings-on-Hudson’s operations in the 2006-07 school year; and

WHEREAS, the Board has identified **Vicki Moss** as a qualified candidate and wishes to appoint her to a substitute teacher position for the 2006-07 school year, effective November 7, 2006; and

WHEREAS, Vicki Moss, as a new hire, is required by state law to submit to a background check and obtain clearance from the State Education Department before being eligible for employment; and

WHEREAS, Vicki Moss has not yet obtained such clearance but has attested to the fact that she has never been convicted of a crime.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Board hereby resolves to conditionally appoint Vicki Moss on an emergency basis to the position of substitute teacher for the 2006-07 school year subject to such limitations as are set forth in Board Policy #6170.
2. Upon receipt of notice from the State Education Department that Vicki Moss has obtained conditional clearance, her emergency status shall be changed to conditional status. Upon receipt of notice that she has obtained full clearance, her conditional status shall be removed, she shall no longer be subject to Board Policy #6170 and she shall be accorded the same status and seniority as if she had possessed such clearance as of the date of her conditional appointment.
3. In the event that clearance is denied, the Board shall reconvene to ascertain what steps, if any, shall be taken with regard to Vicki Moss’ continued employment by the Board.

AND

WHEREAS, on November 6, 2006, it was determined that a vacancy exists for a substitute teacher, for the 2006-07 school year, which will be integral to Hastings-on-Hudson’s operations in the 2006-07 school year; and

WHEREAS, the Board has identified **Barbara Prisament** as a qualified candidate and wishes to appoint her to a substitute teacher position, effective November 7, 2006; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Prisament, as a new hire, is required by state law to submit to a background check and obtain clearance from the State Education Department before being eligible for employment; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Prisament has not yet obtained such clearance but has attested to the fact that she has never been convicted of a crime.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1 The Board hereby resolves to conditionally appoint Barbara Prisament on an emergency basis to the position of substitute teacher subject to such limitations as are set forth in Board Policy #6170.
- 2 Upon receipt of notice from the State Education Department that Barbara Prisament has obtained conditional clearance, her emergency status shall be changed to conditional status. Upon receipt of notice that she has obtained full clearance, her conditional status shall be removed, she shall no longer be subject to Board Policy #6170 and she shall be accorded the same status and seniority as if she had possessed such clearance as of the date of her conditional appointment
- 3 In the event that clearance is denied, the Board shall reconvene to ascertain what steps, if any, shall be taken with regard to Barbara Prisament's continued employment by the Board.

AND

WHEREAS, on November 6, 2006, it was determined that a vacancy exists for a substitute teacher for the 2006-07 school year, effective November 7, 2006, which will be integral to Hastings-on-Hudson's operations in the 2006-07 school year; and

WHEREAS, the Board has identified **Sandra Ruscitto** as a qualified candidate and wishes to appoint her to a substitute teacher position for the 2006-07 school year, effective November 7, 2006; and

WHEREAS, Sandra Ruscitto, as a new hire, is required by state law to submit to a background check and obtain clearance from the State Education Department before being eligible for employment; and

WHEREAS, Sandra Ruscitto has not yet obtained such clearance but has attested to the fact that she has never been convicted of a crime.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Board hereby resolves to conditionally appoint Sandra Ruscitto on an emergency basis to the position of substitute teacher for the 2006-07 school year, subject to such limitations as are set forth in Board Policy #6170.
2. Upon receipt of notice from the State Education Department that Sandra Ruscitto has obtained conditional clearance her emergency status shall be changed to conditional status. Upon receipt of notice that she has obtained full clearance, her conditional status shall be removed, she shall no longer be subject to Board Policy #6170 and she shall be accorded the same status and seniority as if she had possessed such clearance as of the date of her conditional appointment.
3. In the event that clearance is denied, the Board shall reconvene to ascertain what steps, if any, shall be taken with regards to Sandra Ruscitto's continued employment by the Board.

AND

WHEREAS, on November 6, 2006, it was determined that a vacancy exists for a substitute teacher, for the 2006-07 school year, which will be integral to Hastings-on-Hudson's operations in the 2006-07 school year

WHEREAS, the Board has identified **Eryn Wagner** as a qualified candidate and wishes to appoint her to a substitute teacher position, effective November 7, 2006; and
WHEREAS, Eryn Wagner, as a new hire, is required by state law to submit to a background check and obtain clearance from the State Education Department before being eligible for employment; and

WHEREAS, Eryn Wagner has not yet obtained such clearance but has attested to the fact that she has never been convicted of a crime.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1 The Board hereby resolves to conditionally appoint Eryn Wagner on an emergency basis to the position of substitute teacher subject to such limitations as are set forth in Board Policy #6170.
- 2 Upon receipt of notice from the State Education Department that Eryn Wagner has obtained conditional clearance, her emergency status shall be changed to conditional status. Upon receipt of notice that she has obtained full clearance, her conditional status shall be removed, she shall no longer be subject to Board Policy #6170 and she shall be accorded the same status and seniority as if she had possessed such clearance as of the date of her conditional appointment
- 3 In the event that clearance is denied, the Board shall reconvene to ascertain what steps, if any, shall be taken with regard to Eryn Wagner's continued employment by the Board.

AND

WHEREAS, on November 7, 2006, it was determined that a vacancy exists for an Elementary Play Director during the 2006-07 school year, which will be integral to Hastings-on-Hudson's operations in the 2006-07 school year

WHEREAS, the Board has identified **Keith Abrams** as a qualified candidate and wishes to appoint him to a Schedule B position as Elementary Play Director, Step 1, effective November 7, 2006; and

WHEREAS, Keith Abrams, as a new hire, is required by state law to submit to a background check and obtain clearance from the State Education Department before being eligible for employment; and

WHEREAS, Keith Abrams has not yet obtained such clearance but has attested to the fact that he has never been convicted of a crime.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1 The Board hereby resolves to conditionally appoint Keith Abrams on an emergency basis to the Schedule B position of Elementary Play Director for the 2006-07 school year subject to such limitations as are set forth in Board Policy #6170.
- 2 Upon receipt of notice from the State Education Department that Keith Abrams has obtained conditional clearance, his emergency status shall be changed to conditional status. Upon receipt of notice that he has obtained full clearance, his conditional status shall be removed, he shall no longer be subject to Board Policy #6170 and he shall be accorded the same status and seniority as if he had possessed such clearance as of the date of his conditional appointment
- 3 In the event that clearance is denied, the Board shall reconvene to ascertain what steps, if any, shall be taken with regard to Keith Abrams' continued employment by the Board.

AND

WHEREAS, on November 6, 2006, it was determined that a vacancy exists for a Schedule B Elementary Musical co-Director during the 2006-07 school year, which will be integral to Hastings-on-Hudson's operations in the 2006-07 school year

WHEREAS, the Board has identified **Alison Sheehy** as a qualified candidate and wishes to appoint her to a Schedule B position as Elementary Musical co-Director, Step 1, effective November 7, 2006; and

WHEREAS, Alison Sheehy, as a new hire, is required by state law to submit to a background check and obtain clearance from the State Education Department before being eligible for employment; and

WHEREAS, Alison Sheehy has not yet obtained such clearance but has attested to the fact that he has never been convicted of a crime.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1 The Board hereby resolves to conditionally appoint Alison Sheehy on an emergency basis to the Schedule B position of Elementary Musical co-Director for the 2006-07 school year, subject to such limitations as are set forth in Board Policy #6170.
- 2 Upon receipt of notice from the State Education Department that Alison Sheehy has obtained conditional clearance, her emergency status shall be changed to conditional status. Upon receipt of notice that she has obtained full clearance, her conditional status shall be removed, she shall no longer be subject to Board Policy #6170 and she shall be accorded the same status and seniority as if she had possessed such clearance as of the date of her conditional appointment
- 3 In the event that clearance is denied, the Board shall reconvene to ascertain what steps, if any, shall be taken with regard to Alison Sheehy's continued employment by the Board.

AND

WHEREAS, on November 7, 2006, it was determined that a vacancy exists for a Schedule B Elementary Musical co-Director during the 2006-07 school year, which will be integral to Hastings-on-Hudson's operations in the 2006-07 school year

WHEREAS, the Board has identified **Judith Skoog** as a qualified candidate and wishes to appoint her to a Schedule B position as Elementary Musical co-Director, Step 1, effective November 7, 2006; and

WHEREAS, Judith Skoog, as a new hire, is required by state law to submit to a background check and obtain clearance from the State Education Department before being eligible for employment; and

WHEREAS, Judith Skoog has not yet obtained such clearance but has attested to the fact that she has never been convicted of a crime.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1 The Board hereby resolves to conditionally appoint Judith Skoog on an emergency basis to the Schedule B position of Elementary Musical co-Director for the 2006-07 school year, subject to such limitations as are set forth in Board Policy #6170.
- 2 Upon receipt of notice from the State Education Department that Judith Skoog has obtained conditional clearance, her emergency status shall be changed to conditional status. Upon receipt of notice that she has obtained full clearance, her conditional status shall be removed, she shall no longer be subject to Board Policy #6170 and she shall be accorded the same status and seniority as if she had possessed such clearance as of the date of her conditional appointment
- 3 In the event that clearance is denied, the Board shall reconvene to ascertain what steps, if any, shall be taken with regard to Judith Skoog's continued employment by the Board

AND

To appoint **Michele Depew** to the probationary position of Teacher Aide, 10-month, Column III, Step 4, effective October 24, 2006. The probationary period will be from October 24, 2006 through October 23, 2007

AND

To appoint **Juan Villamar** to the probationary position of Cleaner, Column I, Step 1A, effective November 7, 2006. The probationary period will be from November 7, 2006 through November 6, 2007.

Lindsey Hicks seconded and Personnel Items 3 through 16 carried by unanimous vote of those trustees in attendance.

BUSINESS:

B.1. - B.7. Patricia Anne Woods moved to approve the following recommendations:
To appoint Suzanne LaPlante as Parent Member of the Committee on Pre-school Special Education

AND

To approve the following recommendations from the Committee on Special Education for the 2006-07 school year:

#91-018 #95-025 #96-005

AND

To approve the Side Letter between the Board of Education of the Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District and the Hastings Teachers Association and to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute the Side Letter

AND

To approve the Xerox Corporation’s proposal to remove four existing copiers and replace them with two new ones and to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute the agreements.

AND

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District hereby approves and ratifies the terms and conditions set forth in the Settlement Agreement pertaining to employee No. 9931; and hereby authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to execute same and take all actions consistent therewith

AND

To accept the Treasurer’s Report for September 2006

AND

To approve budget transfers.

Eric Sweeting seconded and Business items 1 through 7 carried by unanimous vote of those trustees in attendance.

At this time a brief recess was called for congratulatory refreshments.

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION:

C&I.1. Schools Attuned: This meeting was scheduled as a one topic meeting and is devoted to a discussion of Schools Attuned at the Hastings-on-Hudson Public Schools, including a framework for program implementation, development and review.

15 staff members and the Board had an active discussion of ways developed to incorporate this thinking into program with new approaches being found all the time. Success has been found with students who formerly would have been referred to special education. The Board was especially interested in measuring effectiveness to justify investment of resources.

PUBLIC HEARING: No comments or questions were raised at this time.

ADJOURNMENT:

Lindsey Hicks moved to reconvene the Executive Session with Eric Sweeting seconding and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees in attendance. Following discussion and there being no further business, Board President Mary Wirth declared the meeting closed at 11:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy S. Caruso, District Clerk