

**HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**Monday, December 11, 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, December 11, 2006. Present were Trustees Mary Wirth, Eric Sweeting, Patricia Anne Woods, Lindsey Hicks, Gabrielle Lesser, Caryn Campbell and Eileen Baecher. 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 6:05 PM. Gabrielle Lesser moved to adjourn the meeting into Executive Session to discuss specific personnel items. Lindsey Hicks seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote. Following discussion, Eileen Baecher moved to reconvene the Regular Meeting. Caryn Campbell seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

At 8:10 PM Board President Mary Wirth welcomed all to the Regular Meeting of December 11, 2006.

**REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT:**

Mr. Shaps asked those assembled to please observe a moment of silence for teacher Lenny Levine, lost suddenly this past week.

Mr. Shaps then thanked the staff for their participation in tonight's presentations. He went on to announce that the Varsity teams will be conducting a toy drive to benefit Blythdale Children's Hospital and all unwrapped gifts will be appreciated. Additionally, he announced and congratulated the 8 HHS fall teams were recognized as "Scholar Athlete Teams" by the NYS Public High School Athletic Association.

He then reminded all that the joint meeting tomorrow night at 8 PM is open to the public.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

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

- December 12 HHS Winter Concert – HHS Auditorium – 7:00 PM
- December 12 Joint Village Board/Board of Education –Russell Lecture Room – 8:00 PM
- December 14 Student Board/Board of Education meeting – Lloyd Library – 7:30 AM
- December 14-16 John Costello Holiday Basketball Tournament – Cochran Gym
- December 18 Board of Education Operations Committee meeting – 8:00 AM
- December 19 Grade 7/8 Winter Concert – HHS Auditorium – 7:00 PM
- December 20 Community Leaders Group meeting – Russell Lecture Room – 3:30 PM
- December 25 January 1 Schools Closed – Winter Recess
- January 8 Board of Education Meeting – Russell Lecture Room – 8:00 PM
- January 12&13 HHS Play: "The Laramie Project"- HHS Auditorium – 7:30 PM
- January 15 Schools Closed – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

**PERSONNEL:**

**P.1. through P.9.** Patricia Anne Woods moved to approve the following recommendations:  
To amend the appointment of **Tanya Bobson** as a 1.0 FTE leave replacement teacher for the 2006-07 school year to be effective September 5, 2006 through December 1, 2006.

AND

To appoint the following individual to a Schedule B position for the 2006-07 school year:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>STEP</u>	<u>STIPEND</u>
Craig Zern	Intramural Wrestling Coach	n/a	\$44/hour

AND

WHEREAS, on December 11, 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 **Gregory M. Casey** as a qualified candidate and wishes to appoint him to a substitute teacher position, effective December 12, 2006; and

WHEREAS, Gregory M. Casey, 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, Gregory M. Casey 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 Gregory M. Casey 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 Gregory M. Casey 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 Gregory M. Casey’s continued employment by the Board.

AND

WHEREAS, on December 11, 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 **Amy Del Savio** as a qualified candidate and wishes to appoint her to a substitute teacher position for the 2006-07 school year, effective December 12, 2006; and

WHEREAS, Amy Del Savio, 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, Amy Del Savio 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 Amy Del Savio 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 Amy Del Savio 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 Amy Del Savio's continued employment by the Board.

AND

WHEREAS, on December 11, 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 **Alexis E. Malaszuk** as a qualified candidate and wishes to appoint her to a substitute teacher position for the 2006-07 school year, effective December 12, 2006; and

WHEREAS, Alexis E. Malaszuk, 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, Alexis E. Malaszuk 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 Alexis E. Malaszuk 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 Alexis E. Malaszuk 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 Alexis E. Malaszuk's continued employment by the Board.

AND

WHEREAS, on December 11, 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 **Adina L. Ruskin** as a qualified candidate and wishes to appoint her to a substitute teacher position, effective December 12, 2006; and

WHEREAS, Adina L. Ruskin, 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, Adina L. Ruskin 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 Adina L. Ruskin 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 Adina L. Ruskin 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 Adina L. Ruskin's continued employment by the Board.

AND

To appoint **Eugene Brown** to the permanent position of Cleaner, Column I, Step 2, effective January 10, 2007

AND

To amend the appointment of **Nidia Ferrara** as a Teacher Aide, to 10-month, Column III, Step 7, 19.5 hours per week, effective December 12, 2006 through June 30, 2006.

AND

BE IT RESOLVED, that the emergency appointments of the following employees are extended and renewed until January 17, 2007:

<b>Keith Abrams</b>	<b>Rosinna Aviles</b>	<b>Majid Benarafa</b>	<b>Tanya Bobson</b>
<b>Janice Bochicchio</b>	<b>Kelly Clark</b>		
<b>Eileen Cruz</b>	<b>Matthew Dachik</b>	<b>Victoria DiSalvo</b>	<b>Lauren Dwyer</b>
<b>Eszter Fejer-Kui</b>	<b>John Feinstein</b>	<b>David Freedman</b>	<b>Gina Gerdes</b>
<b>Lesley Gold</b>	<b>Michael Ingram</b>	<b>Bernard Keating</b>	<b>Kristine Kesselman</b>
<b>Jeanette Kocur</b>	<b>Krista Lifrieri</b>	<b>Nicole LaVista</b>	<b>Jody Lyn</b>
<b>Brendan Mannion</b>	<b>Charles Marion</b>	<b>Robert Matos</b>	<b>Stephanie Mayer</b>
<b>Gina Menedez</b>	<b>Elana Militzok</b>	<b>Kristen Morgan</b>	<b>Vicki Moss</b>
<b>Barbara Prisament</b>	<b>Sandra Ruscitto</b>	<b>Randy Shaw</b>	<b>Alison Sheedy</b>
<b>Holly Silvestri</b>	<b>Judith Skoog</b>	<b>Merle Sternberg</b>	<b>Travis Thornton</b>
<b>Juan Villamar</b>	<b>Eryn Wagner</b>	<b>Laurie Walton</b>	

Lindsey Hicks seconded and Items P.1 through P.9 carried by unanimous vote.

**CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION:**

C&I.1. Curriculum Initiatives:

Visual Arts: Marty Merchant gave the Board an update on the district wide curriculum coordination.

Science Assessment: Dan Brownstein spoke to the Board on changes in the HS Science program and Hilda McGiveney discussed the MS program.

Foreign Language Assessment: Gail Kipper, MS Principal, and members of her committee, presented a summary of actions in this area since the last update in January 2005.

Math 6-12: Greg Stephens' presentation discussed changes in state guidelines and an increased focus on basic skills and strategies.

C&I.2. Sue Guiney's quarterly update on Technology was based on goals of the Strategic Plan through year one and projections into year two.

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

**MINUTES:**

Lindsey Hicks moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 20, 2006 as amended and Eric Sweeting seconded. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** There were no reports at this time

**BUSINESS:**

**B.1.** Lindsey Hicks moved to approve the following Committee on Special Education recommendations for the 2006-07 school year.

#01-006      #99-008      #7204      #98-001      #90-007      #4297

Patricia Anne Woods seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

**B.2.** Patricia Anne Woods moved to accept the terms and conditions outlined in the Engagement Letter (“Agreement”) between the Outsourcing Partnership, LLC d/b/a Accume Partners and the Hastings-on-Hudson UFSD and to authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute such Agreement. Gabrielle Lesser seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

**B.3.** Gabrielle Lesser moved to approve the amended agreement which is reformed to be a contract under the Purchase Option Plan, under the State of New York Contract (Invitation for Bids #01649) (“the State Contract”), pursuant to the Purchase Option Plan Terms and Conditions included within the State Contract, and to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to sign this agreement.

Lindsey Hicks seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

**B.4.& B.5.** Patricia Anne Woods moved to approve the proposal submitted by Christine Rosner, Math Consultant for Math Trailblazers staff training at Hillside school during the 2006-07 school year. The total fee should not exceed \$5,600.

AND

To approve the proposal submitted by Anne Schefer of K&E Consulting as Math Consultant for Math Trailblazers staff training at Hillside school during the 2006-07 school year. The total fee should not exceed \$10,000.

Eric Sweeting seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

**B.6. & B.7.** Gabrielle Lesser moved to accept the revised Treasurer’s Report for October 2006.

AND

To accept the Expenditure & Revenue Reports for November 2006.

Eric Sweeting seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Old Business-Board of Education:**

O.B.1. Joint Village Board/Board of Education Meeting – Discussion of agenda

O.B.2. Caryn Campbell moved to adopt the revised schedule of Board of Education Meeting Topics for the 2006-07 school year. Patricia Anne Woods seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

O.B.3. Moved by Lindsey Hicks, seconded by Eric Sweeting, a vote was held to adopt Policy No.5810: Meals and Refreshments at District Events and Expense Reimbursement for Attendance at Meetings and Conferences. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Old Business-Audience to Board of Education:**

No comments or questions were heard at this time.

**New Business-Board of Education:**

N.B.1. Discussion was held re: the upcoming One-Topic Meeting-Guidance Department. Mr. Shaps will frame the Board’s concerns and further discussion will be held.

**New Business-Audience to Board of Education:**

No questions or comments were heard at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, Board President Mary Wirth declared the meeting closed at 11:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy S. Caruso, District Clerk