

**HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**Monday, March 12, 2007**

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, March 12, 2007. 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 7:15 PM. Gabrielle Lesser moved to adjourn the meeting into Executive Session to discuss specific personnel matters. Caryn Campbell seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote. Following discussion, Lindsey Hicks 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 March 12, 2007.

**REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT:**

Mr. Shaps announced that four students had represented HHS at the Greenburgh Winter Scholastic, a tournament sponsored by the National Scholastic Chess Foundation and brought home several trophies.

On February 6, 150 students participated in the American Mathematics Competition and had several placed well. Additionally, there were several fine results of the FMS Climbing Club Competition held on February 27<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Shaps also noted that three winter sports teams have been recognized as Scholar Athlete Teams by the NYS Public High School Athletic Association. To be so cited the team must have a composite academic grade average of 90 or above.

He said congratulations were to be expressed to HHS Science teacher, John Neering, for being selected nationally to receive the 2006-07 Siemens Award for Advanced Placement.

Mr. Shaps reported that the Hillside Student Council is preparing a parent-child health fair and pot-luck dinner on Thursday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> to increase awareness of good food choices.

Finally, Mr. Shaps added to the names of colleges that have accepted members of the Class of 2007.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

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

- March 12-16 Grades 6, 7,8 NYS Math Testing
- March 14 Community Leaders Group Meeting – Russell Lecture Room – 3:30 PM
- March 15 Kindergarten Orientation: Part 1 – Hillside Café – 7:00 PM
- March 15 SEPTA’s “Just Desserts” at blu’ Restaurant – 7:30 PM
- March 16-18 WestMUNC XXXI
- March 21 SEPTA sponsored speaking event: Laurette Olsen, Ph.D. - Hillside – 7:00 PM
- March 22 Diversity Social Emotional Learning Committee Meeting – 3:30 PM
- March 22 “Healthy Family Night” – Hillside All Purpose Room – 5:00 PM
- March 23 Hillside Mentoring Program Celebration Breakfast – Hillside – 8:00 AM
- March 23-24 Grade 7/8 Musical “Man of La Mancha”- HHS Auditorium – 7:00 PM
- March 26 FMS Parent Liaison Meeting – Lloyd Library – 6:45 PM

March 26 Board of Education Meeting – Russell Lecture Room – 8:00 PM

**PERSONNEL:**

**P.1. – P.14.** Patricia Anne Woods moved to approve the following recommendations:

To accept the resignation of **Kristin Doherty**, effective July 1, 2007

AND

To accept the resignation of **Indu Raghuraman** effective July 1, 2007

AND

To grant a parental leave of absence, without pay, to **Miriam Emery** for the 2007-08 school year

AND

To grant a parental leave of absence, without pay, to **Katrina Forbes** for the 2007-08 school year

AND

To grant a parental leave of absence, without pay, to **Maryanne Gocmen**, effective July 26, 2007 for the 2007-08 school year

AND

To grant a 12 week FMLA leave of absence, without pay, to **Joan Lynch**, effective June 25, 2007 through August 21, 2007, followed by a parental leave of absence, without pay, for the 2007-08 school year

AND

To grant a 12 week FMLA leave of absence, without pay, to **Sarah Walters**, effective May 29, 2007 through August 21, 2007, followed by a parental leave of absence, without pay for the 2007-08 school year

AND

To appoint **Stephanie Gould** to a .8 FTE position as a School Psychologist for the 2007-08 school year

AND

To rescind the Schedule B appointment of **Robert Tucker** as WestMUNC Advisor for the 2006-07 school year

AND

To appoint **Dominic Cecere** to the Schedule B position as WestMUNC Advisor for the 2006-07 school year (Step 1, Stipend=\$1,398)

AND

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2007, 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; and

WHEREAS, the Board has identified **Mariana Cintron** as a qualified candidate and wishes to appoint her to a substitute teacher position for the 2006-07 school year, effective March 8, 2007; and

WHEREAS, Mariana Cintron, 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, Mariana Cintron 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 Mariana Cintron 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 Mariana Cintron 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 Mariana Cintron's continued employment by the Board.

AND

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2007, it was determined that a vacancy exists for 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 **Jo-Ann Findel** as a qualified candidate and wishes to appoint her to a substitute teacher position for the 2006-07 school year, effective March 13, 2007, and

WHEREAS, Jo-Ann Findel, 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, Jo-Ann Findel 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 Jo-Ann Findel 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 Jo-Ann Findel 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 Jo-Ann Findel's continued employment by the Board

AND

To appoint **Liisa Elsner** to the probationary 12-month position of Senior Office Assistant-Automated Systems, Column VIA, Step 5, effective March 13, 2007. The probationary period for this position will be from March 13, 2007 through March 12, 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 Educational Department, whichever occurs sooner; and

WHEREAS, the emergency appointment period is said 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 April 16, 2007:

Janice Bochicchio	John Feinstein	Bernard Keating	Kristine Kesselman
Jeanette Kocur	Alexis Malaszuk	Adina L. Ruskin	JudithSanseverino
Merle Sternberg	Binny Tercek	Jennifer Vasil	Juan Villamar
Eryn Wagner	Laurie Walton		

Lindsey Hicks seconded and Items P.1.–P.14.carried by unanimous vote.

**CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION:**

C&I.1: 2007-08 Budget - Non-Instruction: Superintendent Shaps discussed in detail this portion of the proposed budget. He explained that Instruction comprised over 60% of the budget and that included in Non-Instruction were items such as Health benefits, Social Security payments, Transportation and General Support. He thanked the Finance Committee for their considerable input.

C&I.2: EXCEL Aid Projects 2007: Mr. Shaps explained the details of this one time grant to the District. Items to be considered were prioritized. The Board authorized the Superintendent to go forward with these proposals to present to the public along with the budget as a separate proposition..

**PUBLIC HEARING:** No questions or statements were made at this time.

**MINUTES:** Eric Sweeting moved to accept the Minutes of the Regular Meetings of February 12 and 26, 2007 as amended. Patricia Anne Woods seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

C.1. Finance Committee: Gabrielle Lesser reported saying they had reviewed the proposed EXCEL Aid projects as well as going over plans to “get out the vote” for the budget and EXCEL proposition-coffees, public meetings, frequently asked questions, etc.

C.2. Facilities Committee: Mary Wirth said they, too, had discussed the EXCEL Aid projects. Further discussion centered around safety issues, i.e. traffic patterns around schools.

C.3. Student/Board Liaison Committee: Patricia Anne Woods indicated they had discussed the student lounge furniture and the upcoming “walk to school week”. She announced that a “Hi-Tech” information board was upcoming.

C.4. Policy Committee: Eric Sweeting reported they had worked on updating the Acceptable Use of Technology; Code of Conduct language was questioned and interest expressed in what other districts used.

C.5. Operations Committee: Patricia Anne Woods said work on updating Goals was progressing; that an agenda for the Spring Retreat was moving forward; Superintendent Evaluation form was discussed.

**BUSINESS:**

**B.1.& B.2.** Patricia Anne Woods moved to approve the following recommendations of the Committee on Preschool Special Education for the 2006-07 school year. #6706 #7183  
AND

To approve the following recommendations of the Committee on Special Education for the 2006-07 school year: #6091 #7203 #7197 #7111 #6683  
Gabrielle Lesser seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

**B.3.** Patricia Anne Woods moved to approve the Finance Manager Software Proposal (an interactive fund accounting software) provided through the Lower Hudson Regional Information Center and to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute the agreement.  
Eileen Baecher seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

**B.4.** Patricia Anne Woods moved to approve the revised 2007-08 school calendar.  
Caryn Campbell seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

**B.5.** Patricia Anne Woods moved to award bid at the hourly rate for trade as listed for period March 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008:

- Atlantic Westchester
- Mechanic for HVAC, Refrigeration & Automatic Temperature Controls
  - Straight Time \$115.00 per hour
  - After 8 Hours & Saturdays \$172.50 per hour
  - Sundays & Holidays \$230.00 per hour
- If digital control programmer is required, the following labor rates apply:
  - Straight Time \$200.00 per hour
  - After 8 Hours & Saturdays \$300.00 per hour
  - Sundays & Holidays \$400.00 per hour

Gabrielle Lesser seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Old Business – Board of Education:

Date for Spring Retreat? May 29?

Old Business – Audience to Board of Education: None

New Business – Board of Education:

Patricia Anne Woods moved to adopt Personnel Policy #6570 “Fringe Benefits for Employees Not Covered by a Negotiated Contract” (first reading)

Caryn Campbell seconded.

District Clerk explained procedures for Nominee Petitions and for Absentee Ballots.

New Business – Audience to Board of Education: None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, Mary Wirth, Board President, declared the Meeting closed at 10:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy S. Caruso  
District Clerk