

HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, May 1, 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 on Tuesday evening, May 1, 2007. Present were Trustees Mary Wirth, Eric Sweeting, Patricia Anne Woods, Gabrielle Lesser, Caryn Campbell and Eileen Baecher. Trustee Lindsey Hicks 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 7:15 PM. Caryn Campbell moved to adjourn the meeting into Executive Session to discuss specific personnel matters. Eric Sweeting seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees present. Following discussion, Eileen Baecher moved to reconvene the Regular Meeting. Patricia Anne Woods seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees present.

At 8:10 PM Board President Mary Wirth welcomed all to the Regular Meeting of May 1, 2007.

REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Mr. Shaps first announced that the Senior Show and Supper on May 17th at 4 PM this year would be "West Side Story." Please contact David Hayes at 478-6206 for reservations

He then congratulated the 44 students who took the National Latin Exams in March with such success. All earned awards! He also named students who participated in the Westchester County 2007 National French Contest with most ranking well. He noted that 6 students sat for both exams.

The Hastings' Academic Challenge teams had strong performances in White Plains. Thursday's Community Quiz Bowl was a huge success, fun and raised over \$1,600 to send the team to Orlando for the National tournament.

He then added to the list of colleges who have accepted Class of 2007 graduates.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

- May 2 Hillside "Meet the Superintendent" follow-up – Hillside Library – 8:30 AM
- May 2-3 Grade 6 trip to Metropolitan Museum of Art
- May 3 National Art Honor Society Induction Ceremony – HHS Lobby – 7:00 PM
- May 8 C.I.A.C. Meeting – Russell Lecture Room – 3:30 PM
- May 9-11 Grade 9 Boston Trip
- May 9 Budget Forum – Hillside Café – 7:30 PM
- May 10 Student/Board Liaison Committee Meeting – Lloyd Library – 7:30 AM
- May 12 Hastings Education Foundation Spring Event – Alder Manor, Yonkers – 7:00 PM
- May 15 District Budget Vote & Election – Cochran Gym – 7:00 AM-9:00 PM**
- May 15 Grades 5&6 Spring Concert – HHS Auditorium – 7:00 PM
- May 16 Audit Committee Meeting – District Conference Room – 9:00 AM
- May 17 Senior Show & Supper – HHS Lobby/Auditorium – 4:00 PM
- May 18 HS Musical – "West Side Story" – HHS Auditorium – 7:30 PM
- May 21 HS Parent Liaison Meeting – HHS Room 223 – 6:45 PM
- May 21 Board of Education Meeting – Russell Lecture Room – 8:00 PM

Board President Mary Wirth announced that one item would be taken out of agenda order.

B.1. Patricia Anne Woods moved to accept a gift of furniture for the High School Lobby from the High School Student Union. Students from the Student Union spoke describing the three sofas, three armchairs and two coffee tables of “industrial grade” expected in mid-June to refurbish the student lounge area.

Caryn Campbell seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees present.

PERSONNEL:

P.1.-P.2. Eric Sweeting moved to accept the resignation of **Holly Silvestri**, effective August 31, 2007

AND

To amend the resignation of **Rosinna Aviles** to be effective August 31, 2007.

Patricia Anne Woods seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees present.

P.3. Patricia Anne Woods moved to appoint **Velva Edwards** to tenure in the School Counseling and Guidance tenure area, effective May 18, 2007. Dr. Tom Fazio, HS Principal, spoke of Ms. Edwards’ attributes.

Caryn Campbell seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees present.

P.4. Patricia Anne Woods moved to appoint **Alison McArdle** to tenure in the Speech tenure area, effective September 1, 2007. Dr. Heidi McCarthy, Director of Special Education, spoke of Ms. McArdle’s attributes.

Gabrielle Lesser seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees present.

P.5. Patricia Anne Woods moved to appoint **W. Bradley Hunt** to tenure in the 7-12 Social Studies tenure area, effective September 1, 2007. Dr. Tom Fazio, HS Principal, spoke of Mr. Hunt’s attributes.

Eileen Baecher seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees present.

P.6. Eileen Baecher moved to appoint **Janet Lyons** to tenure in the Special Education tenure area, effective September 1, 2007. Dr. Heidi McCarthy, Director of Special Education, spoke of Ms. Lyons’ attributes.

Eric Sweeting seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees present.

P.7. Caryn Campbell moved to appoint **Seanna O’Donnell** to tenure in the Special Education tenure area, effective September 1, 2007. Dr. Heidi McCarthy, Director of Special Education, spoke of Ms. O’Donnell’s attributes.

Gabrielle Lesser seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees present.

P.8. Patricia Anne Woods moved to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, on May 1, 2007, it was determined that a vacancy exists for a 1.0 FTE Foreign Language teacher, for the 2007-08 school year, which will be integral to Hastings-on-Hudson’s operations; and

WHEREAS, the Board has identified **James J. Adamo** as a qualified candidate and wishes to appoint him to a 1.0 FTE Foreign Language teacher position for the 2007-08 school year, effective September 1, 2007; and

WHEREAS, James J. Adamo, 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, James J. Adamo 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 James J. Adamo on an emergency basis to the 1.0 FTE position of Foreign Language teacher, for the 2007-08 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 James J. Adamo 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. In the event that clearance is denied, the Board shall reconvene to ascertain what steps, if any, shall be taken with regard to James J. Adamo's continued employment by the Board.

Tenure Area: Foreign Language 7-12

Salary Placement: MA Step 8

Date of Commencement of Probationary Service: September 1, 2007

Date of Expiration of Probationary Service: June 30, 2009

Anticipated Tenure Date: September 1, 2009*

Certification Status: Permanent

*Previously awarded tenure in New York State

Middle School Principal Gail Kipper spoke of Mr. Adamo's qualifications.

Gabrielle Lesser seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees present

P.9. Gabrielle Lesser moved to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, on May 1, 2007, it was determined that a vacancy exists for a 1.0 FTE leave replacement Social Studies teacher for the 2007-08 school year, which will be integral to Hastings-on-Hudson's operations in the 2007-08 school year; and

WHEREAS, the Board has identified **Sophia Thwaites** as a qualified candidate and wishes to appoint her to a 1.0 FTE leave replacement position as a Social Studies teacher, effective September 1, 2007, and

WHEREAS, Sophia Thwaites, 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, Sophia Thwaites 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 Sophia Thwaites on an emergency basis to the 1.0 FTE leave replacement position of Social Studies teacher for the 2007-08 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 Sophia Thwaites 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 Sophia Thwaites' continued employment by the Board.

Tenure Area: n/a

Salary Placement: MA+30, Step 5

Date of Commencement of Probationary Service: n/a

Date of Expiration of Probationary Service: n/a
Anticipated Tenure Date: n/a
Certification Status: Provisional

Middle School Principal, Gail Kipper spoke of Ms. Thwaites' qualifications.
Caryn Campbell seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees present.

P.10.-P.15. Patricia Anne Woods moved to approve the following:

To appoint **Liliane Tanzer** to a .4 FTE position as a Foreign Language teacher for the 2007-08 school year, effective September 1, 2007, as follows:

Tenure Area: n/a
Salary Placement: MA+40, Step 10
Date of Commencement of Probationary Service: n/a
Date of Expiration of Probationary Service: n/a
Anticipated Tenure Date: n/a
Certification Status: Permanent

AND

To appoint **Bernard Keating** to a 1.0 FTE leave replacement position as a Mathematics teacher for the 2007-08 school year, effective September 1, 2007, as follows:

Tenure Area: n/a
Salary Placement: BA, Step 2
Date of Commencement of Probationary Service: n/a
Date of Expiration of Probationary Service: n/a
Anticipated Tenure Date: n/a
Certification Status: Initial

AND

To appoint the following to positions in the 2007 Summer Institute at the contractual hourly rate for the 2006-07 and 2007-08 school years:

<u>Institute Coordinator</u>	Paula Higgins
<u>Position</u>	<u>Teacher</u>
1 st Grade Language Arts	Kathy Barnes Caren Cort
2 nd Grade Language Arts	Julie Alcee Roseanne Cirasella Stefanie Denison Krista Lifrieri Susan Medonis
3 rd Grade Language Arts/Math	Marian Sommer Eileen Kamerdin Debbie Troop
4 th Grade Language Arts	Tony Terraforte Kerry Tighe
4 th -5 th Grade Math	Fred Sandhop Kim Smith
5 th -6 th Grade Language Arts	Shari Kavanagh Seanna O'Donnell
ESL	Jenice Mateo-Toledo

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>
Adam Fennel	Modified Girls' Lacrosse Coach	1	\$2,667

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 May 30, 2007:

Janice Bochicchio	Mariana Cintron	Brian Dunne	Jo-Ann Findel
George Friery	Kristine Kesselman	Jeanette Kocur	Adina L. Ruskin
Judith Sanseverino	Merle Sternberg	Binny Tercek	Arylene Tessler
Melissa Vigada	Juan Villamar	Eryn Wagner	

AND

WHEREAS, on May 1, 2007, it was determined that a vacancy exists for a 1.0 FTE leave replacement elementary school collaborative classroom 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 **Marisa Cipriano** as a qualified candidate and wishes to appoint her to a 1.0 FTE leave replacement elementary collaborative classroom teacher , effective May 15, 2007, and

WHEREAS, Marisa Cipriano, 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, Marisa Cipriano 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 Marisa Cipriano on an emergency basis to the 1.0 FTE replacement position of elementary school collaborative classroom 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 Marisa Cipriano 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 Marisa Cipriano’s continued employment by the Board

Gabrielle Lesser seconded and Items P.10. through P.15.carried by unanimous vote of those trustees present .

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION:

C&I.1: Budget Hearing: Board President Mary Wirth commented saying the tremendous work done by the Finance Committee as well as the administration was extremely appreciated, especially because it had resulted in a budget in which “we all can be very proud.” Discussed were plans to educate the public.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

C.1. Policy Committee: Eric Sweeting reported saying topics discussed included acceptable use of technology, out-of-district employee children, and especially, the code of conduct and any new approaches that might be incorporated.

BUSINESS:

B.1. covered earlier

B.2. Patricia Anne Woods moved to accept the Extraclassroom Activity Funds Report for the quarter ended March 31, 2007.

Following discussion, Eileen Baecher seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees present.

B.3. Patricia Anne Woods moved to accept with thanks a donation of various office and laboratory equipment from Akzo Nobel Surface Chemistry LLC. Valued at \$15,000.00.

Caryn Campbell seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees present.

B.4. Caryn Campbell moved to adopt the revised 2006-07 Board of Education Meeting topics.

Eileen Baecher seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees present.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Old Business – Board of Education:

O.B.1. Distribution of Budget Vote Flyer

O.B.2. Budget Q&A: Discussion of clarity, brevity and efficiency was held; Sweeting and Lesser to edit.

O.B.3. Walk Through August Meeting: Farragut Complex. Hillside in the Fall

Old Business – Audience to Board of Education: No statements or questions were raised at this time

New Business – Board of Education: None

N.B.1. Reorganization Meeting Date – July 2nd at 8:00 AM.

New Business – Audience to Board of Education: None

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy S. Caruso
District Clerk