

HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, May 21, 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 Monday evening, May 21, 2007. Present were Trustees Mary Wirth, Eric Sweeting, Patricia Anne Woods, Gabrielle Lesser, Lindsey Hicks and Eileen Baecher. Trustee Caryn Campbell 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. Patricia Anne Woods moved to adjourn the meeting into Executive Session to discuss specific personnel matters. Eileen Baecher seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees present. Following discussion, Lindsey Hicks moved to reconvene the Regular Meeting. Gabrielle Lesser 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 21, 2007.

REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Mr. Shaps noted that 13 students had been inducted into the National Art Honor Society on May 13th and expressed congratulations to all. He also announced that four teams had achieved “scholar/athlete” status and congratulated them, as well.

He said that over 70 seniors had enjoyed the Senior Show and Supper on May 17th this year. The show was “West Side Story” and the two other performances played to a packed house.

He thanked the community for the success of the 2007-08 budget and for the approval of the EXCEL program. He singled out Nancy Brickman of the PTSA for her efforts to “get out the vote” for the past 15 years and was pleased to present her with a certificate to that effect and a bouquet of flowers.

Trustee Patricia Anne Woods announced that the HASP graduation exercises had been especially wonderful.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

May 22 National Honor Society Induction - Russell Lecture Room – 7:00 PM

May 23-25 Kindergarten Visits at Hillside

May 23 International Thespian Honor Society Induction – HHS Lobby – 7:30 PM

May 23 HHS Spring Concert – HHS Auditorium – 7:00 PM

May 25 Grade 8 Arts Extravaganza Day

May 28 Memorial Day – Schools Closed

May 30 SEPTA Annual Election Meeting – Hillside Café – 7:00 PM

May 31 High School Memorial Day Assembly – HHS Courtyard

May 31 Grades 7/8 Spring Concert – HHS Auditorium – 7:00 PM

June 1 Grade 6 Grecian Festival – MS Main Corridor

June 2 SAT 1 & 2 – HHS – 8:00 AM

June 3 Jazz Brunch – HHS Courtyard – 3:00 PM

June 4 Board of Education Meeting – Russell Lecture Room – 8:00 PM

PERSONNEL:

P.1. Gabrielle Lesser moved to accept the resignation of **Carlos “Alfredo” A. Camacho**, for retirement purposes, effective August 20, 2007. Eric Sweeting seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees present.

P.2.-P.7. Patricia Anne Woods moved to approve the following recommendations:
To amend the commencement of **Marisa Cipriano’s** appointment as a 1.0 FTE leave replacement position as an elementary school collaborative classroom teacher to be effective May 14, 2007.

AND

To appoint **Janice Bochicchio** to a 1.0 FTE probationary position as an Elementary School teacher for the 2007-08 school year, effective September 1, 2007, as follows:

Tenure Area: Pre-K,K,1-6
Salary Placement: MA+10, Step 16
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 tenured in New York State

AND

To appoint **Elaine Barella** to a 1.0 FTE probationary position as a Social Studies teacher for the 2006-07 school year, effective September 1, 2007, as follows:

Tenure Area: Social Studies 7-12
Salary Placement: MA+30, Step 5
Date of Commencement of Probationary Service: September 1, 2007
Date of Expiration of Probationary Service: June 30, 2008
Anticipated Tenure Date: September 1, 2008*
Certification Status: Supplementary
*Leave replacement service since Nov. 11, 2005 applied toward tenure

AND

To appoint **Stefanie Denison** to a 1.0 FTE probationary position as Special Education teacher for the 2007-08 school year, effective September 1, 2007, as follows:

Tenure Area: Special Education
Salary Placement: MA+10, Step 5
Date of Commencement of Probationary Service: September 1, 2007
Expiration Date of Probationary Service: June 30, 2009
Anticipated Tenure Date: September 1, 2009*
Certification Status: Provisional
*Leave replacement service since Sept. 1, 2006 applied toward tenure

AND

To appoint **Jennifer Litts** to a 1.0 FTE probationary position as an English Language Arts teacher for the 2007-08 school year, effective September 1, 2007, as follows:

Tenure Area: English 7-12
Salary Placement: MA, Step 10
Date of Commencement of Probationary Service: September 1, 2007
Date of Expiration of Probationary Service: June 30, 2008
Anticipated Tenure Date; September 1, 2008*
Certification Status: Permanent
*Leave replacement service since Sept. 1, 2005 applied toward tenure

AND

To appoint **Gloria Szeszko** to a .8 FTE probationary position as a School Psychologist and a .2 FTE probationary position as the CSE Chairperson for the 2007-08 school year, effective September 1, 2007, as follows:

Tenure Area: School Psychologist

Salary Placement: DR, Step 14
 Date of Commencement of Probationary Service: September 1, 2007
 Date of Expiration of Probationary Service: June 30, 2010
 Anticipated Tenure Date: September 1, 2010
 Certification Status: Permanent

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 21, 2007, it was determined that a vacancy exists for a 1.0 FTE Art teacher, for the 2007-08 school year, which will be integral to Hastings-on-Hudson’s operations; and WHEREAS, the Board has identified **Mary L. Trainor** as a qualified candidate and wishes to appoint her to a 1.0 FTE probationary position as an Art teacher for the 2007-08 school year, effective September 1, 2007; and

WHEREAS, Mary L. Trainor, 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, Mary L. Trainor 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 Mary L. Trainor on an emergency basis to the 1.0 FTE probationary position as Art 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 Mary L. Trainor 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 Mary L. Trainor’s continued employment by the Board.

Tenure Area: Art
 Salary Placement: MA+60, Step 6
 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

Superintendent Robert Shaps spoke of Ms. Trainor’s qualifications.

Lindsey Hicks seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees present.

P.9 & P.10 plus P.12.-P.16. Eileen Baecher moved to approve the following recommendations:

To appoint **Krista Lifrieri** to a 1.0 FTE leave replacement position as an Elementary School teacher for the 2007-08 school year, effective September 1, 2007, as follows:

Tenure Area: n/a
 Salary Placement: MA, 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

AND

To appoint **Kristen Morgan** to a 1.0 FTE leave replacement position as a Special Education teacher for the 2007-08 school year, effective September 1, 2007, as follows:

- Tenure Area: n/a
- Salary Placement: BA+20, 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 **Linda Herring** to a .71 FTE position as a Music teacher for the 2007-08 school year, effective September 1, 2007, as follows:

- Tenure Area: n/a
- Salary Placement: MA+60, Step 12
- 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 **Charles F. Marion** as a .4 FTE position as a Mathematics teacher for the 2007-08 school year, effective September 1, 2007, as follows:

- Tenure Area: n/a
- Salary Placement: MA+60, Step 16
- 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 **Regina Galligan** to a .3 FTE position as a School Media Specialist for the 2007-08 school year, effective September 1, 2007, as follows:

- Tenure Area: n/a
- Salary Placement: MA+60, Step 15
- 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 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>
John Morabito	MS Math Club Advisor	6	\$1,351

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 June 19, 2007:

Janice Bochicchio	Brian Dunne	Jo-Ann Findel	George Friery
Kristine Kesselman	Jeanette Kocur	Adina Ruskin	Merle Sternberg
Binny Tercek	Arylene Tessler	Melissa Vigada	Juan Villamar

Lindsey Hicks seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees present.

P.11. Patricia Anne Woods moved to appoint **Christina Shanahan** to a 1.0 FTE leave replacement position as an English teacher for the 2007-08 school year, effective September 1, 2007, as follows:

Tenure Area: n/a
Salary Placement: MA, 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: Provisional

Assistant HS Principal Lou Adpietro spoke of Ms. Shanahan's qualifications.

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

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION:

C&I.1. Risk Assessment – ACCUME Partners: Gabrielle Lesser, chair of the Audit Committee, introduced the “internal auditors”. They indicated they had interviewed many key employees and completed the Hastings UFSD risk assessment. The Board came to a consensus to move forward with the report

C&I.2. School Report Card: Superintendent Shaps discussed the data saying it was helpful as a tool to use in deciding how to approach learning.

C&I.3. Strategic Planning Quarterly Report: Mr. Shaps indicated quite a lot of the tasks had been accomplished. The Strategic Plan is a road map prioritizing the community's hopes for the District.

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

MINUTES:

Lindsey Hicks moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meetings of April 24 and May 1, 2007. Gabrielle Lesser seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees present.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

C.1. Audit Committee: Gabrielle Lesser said the committee had discussed the external auditors and wanted to get a sense of what other districts are doing. She indicated that we were ahead of many others, which is commendable. She noted that new software to improve reporting and control would be in place by July 1.

C.2. Student/Board Liaison Committee: Patricia Anne Woods said the new officers were introduced and added that discussion involved the addition of a HASP representative. It would need an amendment to the original premise.

C.3. Development Committee: Gabrielle Lesser said they had reviewed LWRP and indicated many of the original numbers were now outdated and that there were some misconceptions about the impact on the district.

BUSINESS:

B.1.–B.3. Lindsey Hicks moved to approve the following Committee on PreSchool Special Education recommendations for the 2006-07 school year:

#6533 #7163 #7232

AND

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

#6685 #5422 #7157 #6915 #93-044

AND

To approve the following Committee on Special Education recommendation for the 2007-08 school year:

#5735

B.4. Eileen Baecher moved to approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education acknowledges the official results of the May 15, 2007 Budget Vote, EXCEL Aid Projects Vote and Election of Trustees, and enters them formally into the record:

Budget Vote Results:	Yes: 881
	No: 610
EXCEL Aid Projects Vote Results:	Yes: 1225
	No: 252
School Trustee Vote Results:	Caryn Campbell: 876
	Jacqueline Burns: 568
	Eva Alligood: 723

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District hereby determines that for the 2007-08 school year, the annual reorganization meeting shall be held on Monday, July 2, 2007 at 8:00 AM in the Russell Lecture Room.

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

B.6. Lindsey Hicks moved to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District desires to enter into a five year contract with the Southern Westchester BOCES in order for the Lower Hudson Regional Information Center to furnish certain computer services to the District pursuant to Education Law 1950(4)(JJ), both parties are in agreement on the following:

1. Computer services to be rendered through Southern Westchester BOCES will require the purchase of hardware and software.
2. As part of this service agreement, Southern Westchester BOCES will obtain financing through an installment purchase agreement, for the purchase of equipment and software necessary to deliver the computer services.
3. The Hastings School District hereby agrees to pay the total contract cost to the Southern Westchester BOCES. The District further acknowledges its responsibility for the 60 payments to the Southern Westchester BOCES to cover principal and interest.
4. In the event that the Hastings School District desires to prepay the outstanding balance prior to the completion of the term of this agreement, any applicable penalties and/or interest charges will also be a liability to the School District.

5. The equipment is the property of the Southern Westchester BOCES. Upon final payment of the Installment Purchase Agreement, the District shall have continued use of the equipment for the next ten years at no cost, with or without purchase of services through the Lower Hudson Regional Information Center. In the event the District is not purchasing services through the Lower Hudson Regional Information Center, the District will be billed the annual insurance premium on the equipment. At the conclusion of the ten-year period, the District may purchase the equipment at fair market value.
6. It is further agreed that the District will pay all BOCES invoices in full and within 30 days of the invoice date. Appropriate credit and/or charges for any given billing period will be applied to the subsequent month's invoice.
7. NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District agrees to enter into contract with the Southern Westchester BOCES, for the provision of said services to the District, as noted in Schedule A in the amount of \$190,000 plus \$24,239 for applicable interest for a period of 5 years.

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

B.7. Patricia Anne Woods moved to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, lawsuits have been commenced to challenge the assessments on the property currently owned by Uhlich Color Company, Inc., having a street address of One Railroad Avenue, Hastings-on-Hudson, New York and designated and described as Section 10, Sheet 4, Lots P58 and P58A2, P59H and P59K on the Tax Maps and Assessment Rolls of the Town of Greenburgh for assessment years of 1996 through 2006; and

WHEREAS, the Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District, through its attorneys Keane & Beane, P.C. appeared in the pending litigation to protect the interests of the School District; and WHEREAS, several meetings were held with the attorney for the petitioner, the Deputy Town Attorney for the Town of Greenburgh, special counsel for the Village of Hastings and counsel for the School District and various settlement proposals were discussed at length prior to arriving at a tentative settlement; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that it is in the best interests of the School District to settle this law suit with the following reductions in assessed values:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>ASSESSED VALUE</u>	<u>NEW ASSESSED VALUE</u>	<u>REDUCTION</u>
1996	\$348,070	\$348,070	\$0
1997	\$348,070	\$348,070	\$0
1998	\$348,070	\$348,070	\$0
1999	\$348,070	\$348,070	\$0
2000	\$348,070	\$217,000	\$131,070
2001	\$348,070	\$197,750	\$150,320
2002	\$348,070	\$135,600	\$212,470
2003	\$170,120	\$ 41,800	\$128,320
2004	\$170,120	\$ 36,400	\$133,720
2005	\$170,120	\$ 33,700	\$136,420
2006	\$170,120	\$30,500	\$139,620

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Keane & Beane, P.C. is authorized to execute a Stipulation,

Consent Judgment and any other relevant settlement documents consistent with this Resolution on behalf of the respondent-intervener, the Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District.

Lindsey Hicks seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees present.

B.8. Gabrielle Lesser moved to approve the recommendation to adjust the non-resident tuition rates for the 2007-08 school year as follows:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>2006-07</u>	<u>2007-08</u>
K-6	\$12,794	\$13,631
7-12	\$14,279	\$15,213

The rates were adjusted by the estimated tax rate increase (6.54%) that was approved by the voters for the 2007-08 budget.

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

B.9. Patricia Anne Woods moved to approve the following resolution:

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 Side Letter of Agreement pertaining to employee No. 8536; and hereby authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to execute same and take all actions consistent therewith.

Lindsey Hicks seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees present.

B.10. Lindsey Hicks moved to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District hereby approves and ratifies the terms of the Stipulation of Settlement with the Hastings Teachers Association dated May 2, 2007 and hereby authorizes the Superintendent and/or his designee to take all actions consistent therewith.

B.11.-B.13. Eileen Baecher moved to approve the contract for cooperative educational services with Southern Westchester BOCES for the 2007-08 school year and to authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract

AND

To approve the supplemental agreement with the New York Power Authority for calendar years 2007 and 2008 and to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute the agreement

AND

To designate Signature Bank as one of the official depositories for school district funds.

Lindsey Hicks seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees present

B.14. Lindsey Hicks moved to accept the Revenue & Expenditures Reports for April 2007.

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

B.15. Lindsey Hicks moved to accept with thanks a donation of various books from Rob Schaeffer valued a \$901.33. Patricia Anne Woods seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees present.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Old Business – Board of Education:

O.B.1. Spring Board Retreat – date, time, where.

O.B.2. Memorial Day Parade

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

New Business – Board of Education:

N.B.1. Patricia Anne Woods moved to approve Revised Policy # 4212 “Organizational Chart.” Lindsey Hicks seconded. Vote will be taken at the next meeting.

N.B.2. Patricia Anne Woods moved to approve Revised Policy #7131 “Non-Resident Students.” Eileen Baecher seconded. Vote will be taken at the next meeting.

N.B.3. Patricia Anne Woods moved to approve Revised Policy #7314 “Acceptable Technology Use.” Gabrielle Lesser seconded. Vote will be taken at next meeting.

Also discussed was the public use of Reynolds Field and the possibility of a Facilities update.

New Business – Audience to Board of Education: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Eileen Baecher moved to adjourn the meeting into Executive Session to discuss personnel items. Eric Sweeting seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees present. Following the Executive Session and there being no further business, Mary Wirth, Board President, declared the meeting closed at 11:10 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy S. Caruso
District Clerk