

HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, November 20, 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 20, 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 7:15 PM. Caryn Campbell moved to adjourn the meeting into Executive Session to discuss specific personnel items and pending litigation. Lindsey Hicks seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote. Following discussion, Lindsey Hicks moved to reconvene the Regular Meeting. Gabrielle Lesser seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

At 8:10 PM Board President Mary Wirth welcomed all to the Regular Meeting of November 20, 2006.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

- November 21 Project SHARE Thanksgiving Dinner for Homeless – HHS Cafeteria – 6:30 PM
- November 22 District-wide Early Dismissal Drill – 1:00 PM
- November 23-24 Thanksgiving Recess-Schools and Offices Closed
- November 28 Senior Alternatives Program Parent Information Meeting – HHS Aud.– 7:00 PM
- December 1-2 Grade 4 Musical: *Hillside on Broadway* – All-Purpose Room – 7:00 PM
- December 8-9 Grade 7/8 “One Act” Plays – FMS Auditorium – 7:00 PM
- December 11 Board of Education Meeting – Russell Lecture Room – 8:00 PM

REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Mr. Robert Shaps reminded everyone of the 18th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner for the Homeless urging all to attend. He announced that he had attended the National Honor Society Induction where five students were so honored. He said that the 14th Annual Harvest Moon Dance on Nov. 18th was a great success for about 100 participants with marvelous music by the Jazz Ensemble. He congratulated the Farragut Middle School on being one of 19 nominated to become a Blue Ribbon School and his kudos went to the Academic Challenge Teams for reaching the finals.

PERSONNEL:

P.1. through P.9. Lindsey Hicks moved the following recommendations:

To amend the FMLA leave of absence, without pay, of **Shari Kavanagh** to November 13, 2006 through November 30, 2006.

AND

To amend the appointment of **Tanya Bobson** as a 1.0 FTE leave replacement teacher for the 2006-07 school year to effective September 5, 2006 through November 30, 2006

AND

To amend the appointment of **Michele Depew** as a Teacher Aide to 10-month, Column III, Step 4, 6 hours per day, effective October 24, 2006. The probationary period is from October 24, 2006 through October 23, 2007

AND

To amend the appointment of **Nidia Ferrara** as a Teacher Aide to 10-month, Column III, Step 7, 2.5 days per week, effective November 28, 2006 through June 30, 2007

AND

To rescind the Schedule B appointment of **Jeffrey Rosef** as Hillside Technology/Staff Developer for the 2006-07 school year, effective November 14, 2006

AND

To appoint the following individual(s) to Schedule B positions for the 2006-07 school year:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>STEP</u>	<u>STIPEND</u>
Pam Coren	Alternate MS Detention Supervisor	n/a	\$44/hour
Dennis Kiely	Modified Winter Track Coach	8	\$2,986
Randie Shaw	Intramural Track Coach	n/a	\$44/hour

AND

BE IT RESOLVED, that the emergency appointments of the following employees are extended and renewed until December 20, 2006:

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

Patricia Anne Woods seconded and Items P.1 through P.9 carried by unanimous vote.

Business.1. Taking Item B.1. out of agenda order, Board President Mary Wirth called for the presentation by Bennett, Kielson, Storch, DeSantis, the Government Services Division of O’Conner, Davis, Munns & Dobbins, LLP of the Independent Auditor’s Report and Financial Statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2006. Susan Boroski and John Cosgrove were the presenters and indicated a team of 6 had been in attendance for a week; that as per the state comptroller’s “5 point plan”, Hastings Public Schools received a rating of “unqualified opinion”, the highest rating.

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION:

C&I.1. Curriculum Initiative: Math Part I- Elementary *Trailblazers* Program:

Superintendent Shaps indicated that changes are also being made at the 5-12 grade level and a follow-up program, Math Part II will show how the program is staying on the track of conceptual learning.

Gail Osterman, Hillside Principal, spoke of summer staff development meetings, parent math nights and a math specialist providing model lessons, all leading to an introduction of a multi-year program of 60 minute lessons with concepts being presented in any number of new ways. Struggling learners are passed to Special Ed personnel and assessment of the program is ongoing with changes made continually.

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

MINUTES:

Gabrielle Lesser moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meetings of October 23, 2006 and November 6, 2006. Lindsey Hicks seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

C.1. Board Operations Committee – Patricia Anne Woods reported saying the committee had reviewed the draft of the Board manual and the structure of meetings. They intended to ask for the format of other districts. Also under consideration is a Board “informal retreat” with agenda and the superintendent’s evaluation.

C.2. Policy Committee – Eric Sweeting indicated items under Business were up for vote and the revamping of the code of conduct will be under consideration next.

C.3. Student/Board Liaison Committee – Lindsey Hicks said the primary topic was the Senior Prom and post prom activities; the possibility of changing the day seemed important.

C.4. Finance Committee – Gabrielle Lesser said this year’s approach to the budget was uppermost; that other schools outside funding will be examined; that tax certioraris must be dealt with; that an internal auditor must be selected (7 different proposals received); that money spent on memberships should be reduced; that communication with the Village should be improved.

BUSINESS:

B.2. Gabriel Lesser moved to accept the Independent Auditor’s Report and Financial Statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2006. Eric Sweeting seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

B.3. Patricia Anne Woods moved to accept Accume Partners’ proposal for Internal Audit services and appoint Accume Partners as the Internal Auditor for the Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District for school years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09, subject to satisfactory engagement agreement negotiations. Eileen Baecher seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

B.4. & B.5. Lindsey Hicks moved to appoint the following member to the Committee on Preschool Special Education for the 2006-07 school year:

Patti Anker Parent Member

AND

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

#95-050 #98-013 #01-010

Eric Sweeting seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

B.6. Lindsey Hicks moved to approve programs and fees for visiting artists as proposed by the Committee on Cultural Arts for the 2006-07 school year. Patricia Anne Woods seconded. Discussion indicated some questions regarding value vs. costs and whether program was weighted across grade levels were held. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

B.7. Lindsey Hicks moved to adopt the budget calendar for the 2007-08 school year. Gabrielle Lesser seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

B.8. Patricia Anne Woods moved to accept the Revenue & Expenditure Reports for October 2006. Lindsey Hicks seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

B.9. Patricia Anne Woods moved to accept with thanks a donation of \$300 from John A. Seltzer for the HS Chess Club. Eric Sweeting seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

B.10. Patricia Anne Woods moved to appoint Wendy Naidich as the Senior Alternatives Coordinator for the 2006-07 school year and through August 2007, for a fee of \$16,500, which is funded in two parts, \$1,500 from the Hastings Education Foundation and \$15,000 from the general fund. Caryn Campbell 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 was held re: Agenda

O.B.2. Moved by Lindsey Hicks and seconded by Eric Sweeting at the first reading on October 23, the recommendation to adopt Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District Audit Committee Charter carried by unanimous vote.

O.B.3. Discussion was held of Board of Education Meeting topics. Some changes were made.

Old Business-Audience to Board of Education:

No comments or questions were heard at this time

New Business-Board of Education:

N.B.1. Lindsey Hicks moved to adopt Policy N. 5810: Meals and Refreshments at District Events and Expense Reimbursement for Attendance at Meetings and Conferences (first reading). Eric Sweeting seconded. Following review of the policy, a vote will be taken at an ensuing meeting.

N.B.2. Westchester-Putnam School Boards Association-Legislative Priorities for 2007. A question was raised as to whether the Board wanted to assume this level of commitment.

New Business-Audience to Board of Education:

No questions or comments were heard at this time.

ADJOURNMENT:

Lindsey Hicks moved to reconvene the Executive Session with Eric Sweeting seconding and the motion carried by unanimous vote. Following discussion and there being no further business, Board President Mary Wirth declared the meeting closed at 11:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy S. Caruso
District Clerk

