

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

At 8:25 PM Board President Mary Wirth welcomed all to the Regular Meeting of September 11, 2006.

REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Superintendent Robert Shaps reported saying the opening of school had met with excitement from students and staff and some anxiety from new parents. He remarked that the two Superintendent's Conference Days prior to opening when the faculty had come together had begun the focus on the work ahead. Most welcome were staff comments and initiatives. Guest speaker, Bena Kallick, presented "Habits of Mind" which had inspired much thought and commentary. Dr. Kallick is to return in March to reinforce her ideas with further comments.

Mr. Shaps spoke of recognition of the impact of 9/11 at all three schools noting a brief ceremony in the HS courtyard during which the Student Union President spoke of looking to the future.

He also announced the winning of HHS' first football game and that three students had been named "Allstate Musicians".

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| September 11 | First Full Day of Classes-Grades 1-12:K dismissed at 12 noon until 10/3 |
| September 11 | HS Parent Liaison Meeting – Rm. 225 – 6:45 PM |
| September 11 | Board of Education Meeting – Russell Lecture Room – 8:00 PM |
| September 13 | Grade 9 Breakfast Meeting – HS Auditorium – 7:30 AM |
| September 13 | Community Leaders Group Meeting – Russell Lecture Room – 3:30 PM |
| September 14-15 | Peer Leadership Senior Training Retreat – Blue Mountain Reservation |
| September 19 | PTSA Newcomers' Dinner – Hillside Café – 6:30 PM |
| September 20 | Grade 12 Guidance Breakfast Meeting – HS Auditorium – 7:30 AM |
| September 21 | FMS Back-to-School Night – 7:00 PM |
| September 25 | C.I.A.C. Meeting – Russell Lecture Room – 3:30 PM |
| September 25 | Hillside Parent Liaison Meeting – Hillside Café – 6:45 PM |
| September 25 | Board of Education Meeting – Russell Lecture Room – 8:00 PM |

PERSONNEL:

P.1. & P.2. Lindsey Hicks moved to approve the following:

To accept the resignation of **Patti Jo Wilson** as an annual substitute teacher, effective August 14, 2006

AND

To grant FMLA leave of absence, without pay, to **Tasnim Nagrath**, from September 18, 2006 to December 8, 2006 and then a parental leave of absence, without pay, from December 11, 2006 through June 30, 2007.

Eric Sweeting seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

P.3. Patricia Anne Woods moved to approve the following recommendation:

WHEREAS, on September 11, 2006 it was determined that a vacancy exists for a leave replacement Elementary School teacher during the 2006-07 school year, effective September 1, 2006, which will be integral to Hastings-on-Hudson's operations in the 2006-07 school year; and WHEREAS, the Board has identified **Kristin M. Morgan** as a qualified candidate and wishes to appoint her to a 1.0 FTE leave replacement position as an Elementary School teacher, effective September 1, 2006; and

WHEREAS, Kristin M. Morgan, 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, Kristen M. Morgan 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 Kristen M. Morgan on an emergency basis to the 1.0 FTE leave replacement position of Elementary School teacher subject to such limitations as are set forth in Board Policy #6170.
2. Upon receipt of notice from the State Education Department that Kristen M. Morgan 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 Kristen M. Morgan's continued employment by the Board.

Tenure Area: n/a

Salary Placement: BA+20, Step 1

Date of Commencement of Probationary Service: n/a

Date of Expiration of Probationary Service: n/a

Anticipated Tenure Date: n/a

Certification Status: Initial

Ms. Ostermann, Hillside Principal spoke of Ms. Morgan's attributes.

Gabrielle Lesser seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

P.4.-P.13 Patricia Anne Woods moved to approve the following resolutions:

WHEREAS, on September 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 **Eileen Cruz** as a qualified candidate and wishes to appoint her to a substitute teacher position for the 2006-2007 school year, effective September 12, 2006; and

WHEREAS, Eileen Cruz, 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, Eileen Cruz 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 Eileen Cruz 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 Eileen Cruz 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 Eileen Cruz's continued employment by the Board

AND:

WHEREAS, on September 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 **Victoria DiSalvo** as a qualified candidate and wishes to appoint her to a substitute teacher position, for the 2006-07 school year, effective September 12, 2006; and,

WHEREAS, Victoria DiSalvo, 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, Victoria DiSalvo 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 Victoria DiSalvo 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 Victoria DiSalvo 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 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 Victoria DiSalvo's continued employment by the Board.

AND

WHEREAS, on September 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 **Elizabeth Marouk-Coe** as a qualified candidate and wishes to appoint her to a substitute teacher position for the 2006-07 school year, effective September 12, 2006; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Marouk-Coe, 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, Elizabeth Marouk-Coe 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 Elizabeth Marouk-Coe on an emergency basis to a substitute teacher position 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 Elizabeth Marouk-Coe 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 Elizabeth Marouk-Coe's continued employment by the Board.

AND

WHEREAS, on September 11, 2006 it was determined that a vacancy exists for a substitute clerical/substitute teacher aide 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 **Valerie Civitano-Gill** as a qualified candidate and wishes to appoint her to a substitute clerical/substitute teacher aide position for the 2006-07 school year, effective September 12, 2006; and

WHEREAS, Valerie Civitano-Gill, 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, Valerie Civitano-Gill 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 Valerie Civitano-Gill on an emergency basis to a substitute teacher position 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 Valerie Civitano-Gill 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 Valerie Civitano-Gill's continued employment by the Board.

AND

To rescind the Schedule B appointment of **Christina Repp** as Co-Advisor of the MS Diversity Club for the 2006-07 school year

AND

To amend the stipend of the Schedule B appointment of **Sonja Cherry-Paul** as Co-Advisor of the MS Diversity Club for the 2006-07 school year from \$546.00 to \$819.00

AND

To amend the stipend of the Schedule B appointment of **Carolyn Denton** as Co-Advisor of the MS Diversity Club for the 2006-07 school year from \$546.00 to \$819.00

AND

To amend the Schedule B appointment of **Arthur Ralston** as Co-Advisor of the HS World of Difference Moderator for the 2006-07 school year from \$1,489.00 to \$745.00

AND

To appoint the following individuals to Schedule B positions for the 2006-07 school year:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>STEP</u>	<u>STIPEND</u>
Dominic Cecere	Social Studies Chair-Interim	n/a	\$4,655
Christina Repp	HS World of Difference Co-Advisor	3	\$819

AND

To appoint **Luis Palacio** to a probationary position as a .5 FTE Cleaner, Column 1, Step 1, effective September 12, 2006

Lindsey Hicks seconded and Items P.4.through P.13. were approved by unanimous vote.

P.14. Caryn Campbell moved to amend **Angela Shimazack’s** position as a teacher aide, 10-month, Column III, Step 8 from 6.5 hours to 7 hours per day, effective September 12, 2006 to enable extending computer lab time at Hillside Elementary School. Lindsey Hicks seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

Patricia Anne Woods moved to approve

P.15. 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 Education Department, whichever occurs sooner; and

WHEREAS, the emergency appointment period is set 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 October 11, 2006:

Rosinna Aviles	David Freedman	Stephanie Mayer
Majiid Benarafa	Gina Gerdes	Gina Manedez
Tanya Bobson	John Hudak	Elana Brownstein Militzok
Janice Bochicchio	Kristine Kesselman	Joe Morante
Myra Brent	Michael King	Judith Sanseverino
Shira Cahn-Lipman	Jeanette Kocur	Randy Shaw
Kelly Clark	Nicole LaVista	Holly Silvestri
Matthew Dachik	Krista Lifrieri	Merle Sternberg
Lauren Dwyer	Jody Lyn	Travis Thornton
Eszter Fejer-Kui	Charles Marion	Laurie Walton
	Robert Matos	

Lindsey Hicks seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION:

C&I.1 Opening of Schools (Principals' Reports): Superintendent Shaps thanked the entire staff for their efforts in making school opening so successful.

Reports on the opening were then made by the principals of Hillside, Middle School and High Schools.

Gail Osterman, Hillside Principal, said 553 students were welcomed with an average class size of 20. She said the All-Purpose Room had been “refreshed”, the back playground had been resurfaced and the two days of staff development had been enormously valuable. The new instructional schedule was in place with its effectiveness to be assessed at a later date. The HDAC was brainstorming with a report expected shortly.

Gail Kipper, Middle School Principal announced that FMS was 523 students strong with an average class size of 21. Opening had gone smoothly; “Habits of Mind” was exciting the staff and Smart Board training was underway.

Tom Fazio, High School Principal, remarked that the seniors had started the year by rolling out a red carpet entry for 565 students. He noted significant changes: juniors and seniors off campus for lunch; 14 new teachers; new computer and music labs; new course offerings - AP Physics, AP Studio Arts and Advanced Conversational Spanish and plans for senior alternatives (internships) for the second semester well underway.

C&I.2. Following a review of the Annual Professional Performance Review (“APPR”), Lindsey Hicks moved to approve it with Patricia Anne Woods seconding. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

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

MINUTES: Eric Sweeting moved to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 21, 2006. Caryn Campbell seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

C.1. Board Operations Committee: (see Old Business)

BUSINESS:

B.1. Having been moved and seconded previously, the Board voted unanimously to elect Thomas Knight to the New York State School Boards Association Board of Directors.

B.2. & B.3. Patricia Anne Woods moved to approve the following:

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

#90-037 #89-016 #92-000

AND

To appoint **Arthur Venezia** as an Impartial Hearing Officer for the hearing which will be convened concerning a student with I.D. #92-012 regarding the provision of special education and related services to such student.

Lindsey Hicks seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

B.4. Patricia Anne Woods moved to approve the school staffing agreement with HTA of New York, Inc. for the 2006-07 school year and authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to execute the contract.

Lindsey Hicks seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

B.5. Patricia Anne Woods moved to accept the Treasurer’s Report for May and June 2006. Caryn Campbell seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

B.5. Lindsey Hicks moved to approve Dr. Richard Goodman as the facilitator for the September 16, 2006 Board of Education retreat for the fee of \$2,500.00.
Eileen Baecher seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

OTHER BUSINESS:

O.B.1. 2006-07 Board of Education Meeting Topics were presented and reviewed with some changes made.

O.B.2. Eric Sweeting presented a proposed agenda for the Board retreat. It was discussed with a view to goals desired.

O.B.3. Lindsey Hicks moved to delegate power to authorize attendance at the Annual Meeting of the New York State School Boards Association to the President of the Board of Education, pursuant to Board policy No.:2320
Patricia Anne Woods seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

Old Business: Audience to Board. No comments were made at this time

New Business: Board of Education:

- It was suggested that the procedure to establish bussing routes should be made available so board members would be better informed to answer parental concerns.
- Board attendance at school events was discussed.

New Business: Audience to Board. No comments were made at this time..

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Board President Mary Wirth declared the meeting closed at 9:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy S. Caruso
District Clerk