

** Revised ** **HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON BOARD OF EDUCATION**
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, September 8, 2008 ** Revised **

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 8, 2008. Present were Trustees Eric Sweeting, Gabrielle Lesser, Eileen Baecher, Caryn Campbell, Lindsey Hicks, Donna Laing and Jodie Meyer. Also present were Robert I. Shaps, Superintendent of Schools; Lena Street, Student Liaison; David Hayes, members of the administration and guests.

CALL TO ORDER:

Board of Education President Eric Sweeting called the meeting to order at 7:17 PM. Gabrielle Lesser moved to adjourn the meeting into Executive Session to discuss matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of any particular person or corporation. Lindsey Hicks seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote. Following discussion, Eileen Baecher moved to reconvene the Regular Meeting. Caryn Campbell seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

At 8:17 PM Board President Eric Sweeting welcomed all to the Regular Meeting of September 8, 2008.

REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Shaps reported that the opening of schools was on Wednesday, September 3rd with the arrival of over 1,610 students and 250 members of staff. In preparation for the opening of schools, the summer months were extremely busy with curriculum work and professional development activities. Toward the end of summer, we held a successful kindergarten bus run, an orientation for new staff, staff development for eSchoolData and the use of smartboard technology, and several facilities improvements projects were completed. Some of which include the upgrading of network servers, the installation of 18 smartboards, the moving and reconfiguring of some offices to enhance efficiency, the addition of air conditioning in the music lab, the resurfacing of the Cochran Gym floor, the resurfacing of the cut-thru in front of the Middle School, the resurfacing of the basketball courts at Hillside, and the new quiet room in the Lloyd Library. Mr. Shaps also thanked George Foster, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, and the entire B & G staff for completing several facilities projects in addition to the customary preparations that take place in order to get the three buildings ready for the start of the 08-09 school year.

Mr. Shaps also announced that Art Department Chair Marty Merchant on being named the New York State Art Teacher's Association Art Teacher of the Year for Region Seven, which includes Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, and Westchester Counties. Marty is an exceptional art educator who has shown his ability to further the field of art education, while providing his students with an excellent classroom experience. His dedication and vision in the field of art education has set Marty apart from his peers. Marty is now placed in a pool of ten applicants, one of which will be chosen the 2009 New York State Art Educator of the Year at the annual conference on November 23rd so we wish Marty the best of luck.

And he concluded his report by announcing that five Hastings High School students have been named "Semi-finalists" in the 2009 National Merit Scholarship Program Competition, as determined by results of the 2007 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. They are Edward Heckman, Rebecca Merton, Michael Ocana, Sarina Spector and Amelia Steinman. Only 16,000 students nationally are selected as semi-finalists so congratulations on this tremendous recognition. In addition, Akinola Orederu was named a semi-finalist in the 2009 National Achievement Scholarship Competition. This academic competition was established in 1964 to provide recognition for outstanding Black American high school students. Remarkably, Akinola is one of only 1,600 high-scoring participants in each year's National Achievement Scholarship Program to be designated as a Semifinalist.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

September	8	FMS Parent Liaison Meeting – Lloyd Library	6:45 P.M.
September	8	Board of Education Meeting – John J. Russell Lecture Room	8:00 P.M.
September	9	<i>Everyday Mathematics</i> Presentation to Grades K-2 Parents – Hillside Café	7:00 P.M.
September	10	Grade 9 Parents Breakfast Meeting – High School Auditorium	7:30 A.M.
September	10	<i>Everyday Mathematics</i> Presentation to Grades 3 & 4 Parents – Hillside Café	7:00 P.M.
September	14	Board of Education Retreat – Central/District Offices	9:00 A.M.
September	15	Hastings High School Building Leadership Team (“BLT”) Meeting – HS Main Office	3:00 P.M.
September	15	Hillside BLT Meeting – Hillside Conference Room	3:20 P.M.
September	16	PTSA Newcomers Pizza Dinner – Hillside Café	6:30 P.M.
September	18	K-2 Back-to-School Night – Hillside All Purpose Room	7:00 P.M.
September	19	Grade 12 Parents Breakfast Meeting – High School Auditorium	7:30 A.M.
September	22	Hillside Parent Liaison Meeting – Hillside Café	6:45 P.M.
September	22	Board of Education Meeting – John J. Russell Lecture Room	8:00 P.M.

School principals took a moment to introduce to the Board new staff members that were previously appointed:

Tom Fazio introduced Sarah Flanagan, who will be teaching Science at HHS and Elizabeth O’Loughlin, a new nurse at the Farragut Complex.

Gail Kipper introduced Bill Bliss, Technology Teacher; Anna Holden, science teacher; and Caitlin Smith, Language Arts teacher.

PERSONNEL

P.1 and P.4 -P14 Eileen Baecher moved to approve the following recommendations and resolutions:

To accept the resignation of Kyle Falvey, effective August 28, 2008.

AND

To grant a 12-week FMLA leave of absence to Jasmine Paulino, effective September 29, 2008 through December 10, 2008.

AND

To amend the probationary appointment of Sarah M. Flanagan as a 1.0 FTE Science 7-12 teacher for the 2008-2009 school year, effective September 2, 2008, as follows:

Tenure Area:	Science 7-12
Salary Placement:	MA + 50, Step 3
Date of Commencement of Probationary Service:	September 2, 2008
Date of Expiration of Probationary Service:	June 30, 2011
Anticipated Tenure Date:	September 2, 2011
Certification Status:	Initial

AND

WHEREAS, on September 2, 2008, it was determined that a vacancy exists for a part-time School Nurse, for the 2008-2009 school year; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Board hereby resolves to appoint Joanne Forlini Cipollina, as a qualified candidate and wishes to appoint her to the part-time position of School Nurse, 5 hours per day, Column VII, Step 8, for the 2008-2009 school year, effective September 2, 2008. The probationary period for this position shall be September 2, 2008 through September 1, 2009.

AND

WHEREAS, on July 1, 2008, it was determined that a vacancy exists for an Office Assistant – Automated Systems, for the 2008-2009 school year; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Board hereby resolves to appoint Liesbeth Drewes, as a qualified candidate and wishes to appoint her to the position of Office Assistant – Automated Systems, Column VI, Step 2, for the 2008-2009 school year, effective August 25, 2008.

The probationary period for this position shall be August 25, 2008 through August 24, 2009.

AND

To rescind the Schedule B appointment of Paolo Tagatac as Junior Varsity Girls Soccer Coach for the 2008-2009 school year.

AND

WHEREAS, on September 8, 2008, it was determined that a vacancy exists for a Schedule B Junior Varsity Boys Soccer Coach, for the 2008-2009 school year, which will be integral to Hastings-on-Hudson’s operations in the 2008-2009 school year; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board has identified Michael Denman as a qualified candidate and wishes to appoint him to a Schedule B position as Junior Varsity Boys Soccer Coach, Step 1, for the 2008-2009 school year, effective August 25, 2008.

AND

WHEREAS, on September 8, 2008, it was determined that a vacancy exists for a Schedule B Junior Varsity Girls Soccer Coach, for the 2008-2009 school year, which will be integral to Hastings-on-Hudson’s operations in the 2008-2009 school year; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board has identified Michael C. Martino as a qualified candidate and wishes to appoint him to a Schedule B position as Junior Varsity Girls Soccer Coach, Step 1, for the 2008-2009 school year, effective August 25, 2008.

AND

WHEREAS, on September 8, 2008, it was determined that a vacancy exists for a Schedule B Modified Football Assistant Coach, for the 2008-2009 school year, which will be integral to Hastings-on-Hudson’s operations in the 2008-2009 school year; and

WHEREAS, the Board has identified Daniel LoPriore as a qualified candidate and wishes to appoint him to a Schedule B position as Modified Football Assistant Coach, Step 1, for the 2008-2009 school year; and

WHEREAS, Daniel LoPriore, 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, Daniel LoPriore 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 Daniel LoPriore on an emergency basis to the Schedule B position of Modified Football Assistant Coach, for the 2008-2009 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 Daniel LoPriore 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.
3. In the event that clearance is denied, the Board shall reconvene to ascertain what steps, if any, shall be taken with regard to Daniel LoPriore’s continued employment by the Board.

AND

To appoint the following individual(s) to a Schedule B position for the 2008-2009 school year:

NAME	POSITION	STEP	STIPEND
Sarah M. Flanagan	Environmental Club Advisor	1	\$1,502
Paulo Tagatac	Modified Girls Soccer Coach	3	\$2,858

Walter Mullings Modified Boys Tennis Coach 1 \$1,304

AND

To amend the appointment of Ingrid Sorano as a teacher aide, 10-month, Column I, Step 8, from 5 hours per day to 6 hours per day, for the 2008-2009 school year, effective September 3, 2008.

AND

To eliminate the position of Athletic Trainer held by David DiMattia, effective September 2, 2008.

Jodie Meyer seconded and Items P.1 and P.4-P14 carried by a unanimous vote.

P.2 Lindsey Hicks moved to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, on September 8, 2008, it was determined that a vacancy exists for a 1.0 FTE leave replacement Math teacher, for the 2008-2009 school year, which will be integral to Hastings-on-Hudson's operations in the 2008-2009 school year; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board has identified Christopher Lembo as a qualified candidate and wishes to appoint him to a 1.0 FTE leave replacement Math teacher position for the 2008-2009 school year, effective September 9, 2008, as follows:

Salary Placement:	BA, 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

Dr. Fazio introduced Mr. Lembo to the Board

Jodie Meyer seconded and Item P.2 carried by a unanimous vote.

P.3 Eileen Baecher moved to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, on September 8, 2008, it was determined that a vacancy exists for a 1.0 FTE leave replacement Elementary Spanish teacher, for the 2008-2009 school year, which will be integral to Hastings-on-Hudson's operations in the 2008-2009 school year; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board has identified Julie Ann Ricciardi as a qualified candidate and wishes to appoint her to a 1.0 FTE leave replacement Elementary Spanish teacher position for the 2008-2009 school year, effective September 9, 2008, as follows:

Salary Placement:	MA + 20, Step 7
Date of Commencement of Probationary Service:	n/a
Date of Expiration of Probationary Service:	n/a
Anticipated Tenure Date:	n/a
Certification Status:	Permanent

Laura Sullivan introduced Ms. Ricciardi to the Board

Caryn Campbell seconded and Item P.3 carried by a unanimous vote.

P.15 Gabrielle Lesser moved to approve the following recommendation:

To appoint **Maureen Cole** as a per diem nurse for the 2008-2009 school year at the rate of \$38.45 per hour, effective August 11, 2008.

Donna Laing seconded and Item P.15 carried by a unanimous vote.

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

C&I.1 Opening of Schools (Principals' Report)

HILLSIDE - Interim Principal William Huppuch and Assistant Principal Laura Sullivan reported that, thanks to the efforts of the custodial staff, the building was cleaned and sparkling from top to bottom, new flowers were planted and mulch was placed around the playground equipment. They also reported that staff had eSschooldata training and students sang a song – "This School Is Our School" {to the tune of *This Land Is Your Land*} at Friday's all-school assembly, and that the last-minute surge of new enrollees exceeded projections but were easily accommodated.

FARRAGUT MIDDLE SCHOOL - Principal Gail Kipper reported that there are 505 students and 6 sections of each grade at the Middle School, 8 new teachers have joined the staff, and

there has already been staff development on IEP sharing and the use of smart boards and eSchooldata. At the 9/2/08 faculty meeting, staff reviewed the Emergency Management Plan

scheduled Team Coordinator Meetings and unveiled a new “Habits of Mind” – *Acceptance and Celebration for All*.

HASTINGS HIGH SCHOOL – Principal Tom Fazio reported that there are 537 students and 8 new staff members. This is the second year of the all 80-minute block schedule which is fostering a more student-centered classroom. The High School is renewing its focus on academics with the addition of three new electives and three new classes were established for struggling students, and the first day of school saw teaching and learning from the every beginning.

C&I.2 2008 School Report Card – Superintendent Shaps presented information contained in the 2006-2007 School District Report Card. He also incorporated information from the 07-08 school year as a comparison.

Mr. Shaps then provided an introduction to Data Warehousing and all of the tools and testing breakdowns available that can help teachers and administrators better address student’s needs and to differentiate instruction.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mrs. Julia Coronado of 67 Circle Drive addressed the Board over concerns stemming from an incident on Friday morning (9/6). She stated that her middle school child was verbally assaulted and physically grabbed by the parent of another student. The parent allegedly went so far as to threaten Mrs. Coronado’s child, as well as a bystander, not to tell anyone. Mrs. Coronado then stated that this same parent caused a scene at Hillside’s Traffic Circle. Mrs. Coronado concluded that current security at FMS in “not acceptable” with the absence of adult supervision both before and after school. While she was appreciative of her dialogue with Ms. Kipper, Mrs. McGivney and Ms. Horowitz, she was not pleased with the outcome of the discussion she had with Mr. Shaps.

MINUTES

M.1 Donna Laing moved to approve the following recommendation:
To accept the minutes of the August 14, 2008 regular meeting.
Gabrielle Lesser seconded and Item M.1 carried by a unanimous vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee reports at this time

BUSINESS

B.1 Lindsey Hicks moved to approve the following resolution:
WHEREAS, the negotiating teams for the Hastings-on-Hudson U.F.S.D. and the Hastings Custodial Unit have entered into a Memorandum of Agreement, dated August 27, 2008, for a three year collective bargaining agreement, from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2011.
WHEREAS, the Hastings Custodial Unit has ratified said Memorandum of Agreement; and
WHEREAS, the Board of Education finds the ratification of the Memorandum of Agreement will further the best interests of the School District;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education of the Hastings-on-Hudson U.F.S.D. hereby approves and ratifies the terms of the aforesaid Memorandum of Agreement and hereby authorizes the Superintendent of Schools and the President of the Board of Education to execute a Collective Bargaining Agreement consistent with the terms thereof.

Caryn Campbell seconded and Item B.1 carried by a unanimous vote.

B.2-B4 Caryn Campbell moved to approve the following recommendations:

To appoint Linda Agoston as an Impartial Hearing Officer for the hearing which will be convened concerning a student with I.D. #91-053 regarding the provision of special education and related services to such student.

AND

To approve the following Committee on Pre-School Special Education recommendations for the 2008-2009 school year: #7286 #6834 #6835

AND

To approve the following Committee on Special Education recommendations for the 2008-2009 school year: #6961 #7492 #7003

Gabrielle Lesser seconded and Items B.2-B.4 carried by a unanimous vote.

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

To approve the Mid-Westchester Special Education Consortium Agreement for the provision of special education and alternative education to students of the various districts which make up the consortium and to authorize the Superintendent of School to execute said contract.

Jodie Meyer seconded and Item B.5 carried by a unanimous vote.

B.6-B9 Lindsey Hicks moved to approve the following recommendations:

To approve a contract with TheraCare Preschool Services for the 2008-2009 school year and to authorize the Superintendent of Schools and/or the President of the Board of Education to execute said contract.

AND

To accept the following Claims Auditor Warrant Reports:

Warrant #1	Fund C Manual Checks for 8/01/08 – 8/31/08
Warrant #1	Fund F Computer Checks for 8/01/08 – 8/08/08
Warrant #2	Fund H Computer Checks for 7/01/08 – 7/31/08
Warrant #3	Fund A Computer Checks for 8/01/08 – 8/08/08
Warrant #4	Fund A Computer Checks for 8/09/08 – 8/22/08
Warrant #17	Fund TE Computer Checks for 6/01/08 – 6/30/08

AND

To award a contract for Food Vending Program Operations to American Vending Machines, effective September 1, 2008 through August 30, 2009, and to authorize the President of the Board of Education and/or the Superintendent of Schools to execute said contract.

AND

To set the building usage fees for the 2008-2009 school year at the following rates:

Saturdays:	\$48.00 per hour
Sundays & Holidays:	\$64.00 per hour
Week Night Overtime (after 11:00 p.m.):	\$48.00 per hour

Gabrielle Lesser seconded and Items B.6-B.9 carried by unanimous vote.

B.10 Eileen Baecher moved to approve the following recommendation:

Recommendation to accept the bid for Music Equipment to Sweetwater for the 2008-2009 school year.

Caryn Campbell seconded and Item B.10 carried by a unanimous vote.

B.11-B.12 Lindsey Hicks moved to approve the following recommendations:

To adopt the 2008-2009 Cafeteria budget in the amount of \$415,000.00.

AND

To establish the mileage rate in the amount of 58.5 cents-per-mile for the 2008-2009 school year. Jodie Meyer seconded and Items B.11-B.12 carried by a unanimous vote.

B.13 Lindsey Hicks moved to approve the following recommendation:

To accept the Revenue & Expenditure Report for June, 2008 and July, 2008.

Gabrielle Lesser seconded and Item B.13 carried by a unanimous vote.

B.14 Gabrielle Lesser moved to approve the following recommendation:

To accept the Treasurer's Report for July 2008.

Caryn Campbell seconded and Item B.14 carried by a unanimous vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

Old Business – Board of Education

O.B.1 Gabrielle Lesser moved to approve the following recommendation:

To adopt Policy #4212: Organizational Chart – Administration (second reading and adoption).

Donna Laing seconded and Item O.B.1 carried by a unanimous vote.

O.B.2 Board Retreat – Board members discussed the proposed agenda and suggested reading materials for the retreat on 9/14/08 in the Central Office.

Old Business – Audience to Board of Education

No comments were made at this time.

New Business – Board of Education

N.B.1 Board Meeting Topics – The Board discussed possible meeting topics for the 08-09 school year. Mr. Sweeting and Mr. Shaps agreed to meet and sketch out topics for the Board's consideration at the next meeting.

N.B.2 Board of Education Committee Assignments – Since the overall function and structure of Board Committees will be a topic at the 9/14 retreat no official action on this item was taken.

However, the Board did reach consensus on Committee memberships and Liaison assignments so meetings can be scheduled.

Finance Committee: E. Baecher, D. Laing, G. Lesser

Audit Committee: E. Sweeting, E. baecher

Facilities Committee: E. Baecher, G. Lesser, C. Campbell

Student/Board Liaison Committee: D. Laing, J. Meyer, C. Campbell

Policy Committee: D. Laing, L. Hicks, E. Sweeting

Joint BoE/Village: E. Sweeting, C. Campbell

Community Leaders Group: J. Meyer, E. Baecher, C. Campbell

DSEL Committee: J. Meyer, E. Baecher, C. Campbell

Board Operations: J. Meyer

N.B.3 Westchester-Putnam School Boards Association's ("WPSBA's) 2008 New York State School Boards Association's ("NYSSBA's) Proposed Resolutions – The Board is to review the proposed resolutions in anticipation official action required for the NYSSBA's Annual Business Meeting scheduled for October 16-19.

N.B.4 NYSSBA Annual Business Meeting – Gabrielle Lesser stated that she plans to attend the NYSSBA-sponsored Education Law Seminar on 10/16 and asked if any Board Members would like to join her.

New Business – Audience to Board of Education

No comments were made at this time.

MEETING SUMMARY

It was suggested to move the Public Hearing portion of the Agenda earlier, perhaps after Personnel Items and before Curriculum & Instruction Items, as a courtesy to any audience members that wish to address the Board without having to first sit through potentially lengthy presentations.

It was also agreed upon to schedule the September 22, 2008 Board of Education Meeting as follows:

Monday, September 22, 2008

6:15pm – Call To Order at Hillside Elementary School

- Start Facilities Tour

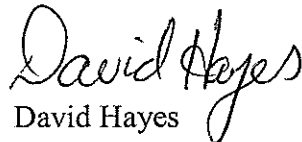
8:00pm – Regular Meeting in the Russell Lecture Room

After Regular Meeting – Adjourn to Executive Session

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Eric Sweeting, Board President, declared the meeting closed at 10:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


David Hayes