

**MINUTES OF THE HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2009**

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 held in the John J. Russell Lecture Room at the Farragut Complex on Monday, June 1, 2009. Present were Trustees Eric Sweeting, Gabrielle Lesser, Eileen Baecher, Caryn Campbell, Lindsey Hicks, Donna Laing and Jodie Meyer. Also present were Superintendent of Schools Robert I. Shaps, Treasurer Maureen Caraballo, Student Liaison representative Lena Street, administrators, and guests.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Board of Education President Eric Sweeting called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Gabrielle Lesser moved to adjourn the meeting into Executive Session to discuss specific personnel matters. Caryn Campbell seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote. Following discussion, Lindsey Hicks moved to reconvene the Regular Meeting. Donna Laing seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

At 8:15 p.m., Board President Eric Sweeting welcomed all to the Regular Meeting of Monday, June 1, 2009, noting that given that this is the last month of school and there are a number of items listed under announcements and turned the meeting over to Mr. Shaps, Superintendent of Schools, for his report.

II. REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

- On May 19th, the 2009-10 School Budget passed by a vote of 848 to 363. The 70% ‘yes’ vote will allow the District to offer exceptional educational programs in a nurturing environment for all students. Mr. Shaps thanked the work of the Finance Committee as well on the entire Board for their work in passing the budget. He congratulated Board of Education Trustee incumbents Lindsey Hicks, Eileen Baecher and Donna Laing on their reelection and he welcomed newly elected Wendy Naidich. Mr. Shaps offered thanks to the community for its continued support of the schools.
- On April 30th, twenty members of Hastings high School’s Environmental Club participated in the Hudson Valley Regional Envirothon. HHS placed fifth overall out of 42 teams from 22 high schools from Westchester, Putnam, Columbia, Ulster, Delaware, Greene, Sullivan, and Dutchess counties. The theme of this year’s even was biodiversity and our students scored highest in the “Current Issues” and “Problem Solving” categories. Mr. Shaps offered congratulations to the club.
- Mr. Shaps offered congratulations to Hillside Elementary School art teacher Nate Morgan and 4th grade teacher Jeff Rosof, winners of the Pioneer Award. This initiative, in its 16th year, is sponsored by the Lower Hudson Regional Information Center. Mr. Morgan and Mr. Rosof were chosen for their collaboration with the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City on a three-part webinar course titled “Connecting Portraits: Colonial to Contemporary.” Technology was successfully integrated into the curriculum as students had the opportunity to use live chat, video, audio, whiteboard tools, and PowerPoint slides as part of this innovative distance-learning course.
- Mr. Shaps announced three spring sports teams were recognized as a “Scholar Athlete Team” by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association. The teams were: Girls Lacrosse, Softball, and

Girls Track and Field. In all, 58 students qualified for this prestigious award, which is given to a team that has a composite academic grade average of 90 or above.

- Mr. Shaps reported that at a ceremony on May 21st, nineteen Hastings High School students were inducted into the National Honor Society. They were Joanna Barnett, Emily Bernstein, Dana Borelli, Esther Brot, Stafford Enck, Alden Freed, Molly Greathead, Jacqueline Guhanick, Nora Howe, Jessica Katz, Noah Koch, Adam Laing, Kari McWalters, Sara Minsley, Min Gi Park, Reah Siegel, Nina Wineburgh, Emily Wisseman . . . And our very own Lena Street. Students in 11th and 12th grade are eligible to apply for membership and selected by a faculty committee. Applicants must have an academic average of 88 or above, and meet other criteria including character, service and leadership.
- On Friday, May 22nd, Farragut Middle School held the Grade 8 Arts Extravaganza. This annual event enables the District to expose students to, and increase their appreciation for, the arts. Mr. Shaps commented that we are fortunate to be part of a community where local artisans are willing to volunteer their time and expertise to facilitate student workshops. In the morning, students selected three out of the nine workshops including circus arts, bobble head doll making, costume design and knitting. In the afternoon they attended a concert featuring some of the middle school's most talented students.
- Mr. Shaps reported that on Friday, May 22nd at 3:30 p.m., the Lower Burke baseball field was officially renamed the "Dr. Thomas J. Fazio Memorial Field" in memory of Dr. Fazio's 20 years of dedicated service as principal of Hastings High School. Highlights of the ceremony included chorus members singing the National Anthem and "Take Me Out to the Ball Game", and Gregory Dudick, Tom's ten-year old grandson, hurling the first pitch ever thrown on the newly named field. A memorial plaque has been installed on the sidelines where Tom would stand for every home game.
- On May 29 and 30th, 7th- and 8th-graders took to the stage in this year's musical production of "Godspell," a modern day retelling of the New Testament parables from The Gospel According to Matthew. A talented group of performers dazzled audiences with their commitment to the material, and how well they captured the essence of Stephen Schwartz's joyous music.
- The Fifth Annual Hastings High School Student Film Festival was held on Thursday, May 28th. The films were created by students from Dr. Mahony's Film Class, members of the Film Club, and students who have an interest in filmmaking. The films were submitted in the genres of narratives, portraits, and documentaries.
- As a conclusion to his report, Mr. Shaps played one of the Film Festival entries titled, "Sugar Rush" created by Lauren Berke and starring Rachel Kelly.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

May 29-30	Grades 7 & 8 Musical: <i>Godspell</i> – Hastings High School Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
May 31	PTSA ' <i>Popcorn & Puppet Festival</i> ' – MacEachron Waterfront Park	3-5:00 p.m.
June 1	Hillside Liaison Meeting – Hillside Cafe	6:45 p.m.
June 1	Board of Education Meeting – John J. Russell Lecture Room	
	Executive Session: 6:30 p.m. Regular Meeting: 8:00 p.m.	
June 2	Hillside Spring Concert – Hastings High School Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
June 3	New Peer Leaders Inductions Night	7:00 p.m.
June 4	Grade 4 to 5 Transition Breakfast Meeting – HHS Auditorium	7:30 a.m.
June 4	Grades 7/8 Spring Concert	7:00 p.m.
June 5	Student/Board of Education Liaison Committee Meeting – Lloyd Library	7:30 a.m.

June 5	Grade 6 Grecian Festival	
June 5	Grades. 5/6 Karaoke Party – Farragut Complex Cafeteria	3:00 p.m.
June 5	Superintendent’s Arts Advisory Committee Meeting – District Conference Room	3:30 p.m.
June 6	SAT I & II at Hastings	
June 7	Hastings High School Jazz Picnic – HHS Courtyard	3:00 p.m.
June 8	Spring Sports Awards – Hastings High School Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
June 9	District Chamber Music Recital – Hastings High School Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
June 10	Community Leaders Group Meeting – John J. Russell Lecture Room	3:30 p.m.
June 10	Broadway Revue – Hastings High School Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
June 11	Grades 5 to 6 Transition Breakfast – Hastings High School Auditorium	7:30 a.m.
June 11	Grade 3 String Recital – Hastings High School Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
June 13	ACT Exam at Hastings	
June 15	Last Day of Hastings High School Classes	
June 15	Hillside BLT Meeting – Hillside Café	3:20 p.m.
June 15	Board of Education Meeting – John J. Russell Lecture Room	
	Executive Session: 7:00 p.m.	Regular Meeting: 8:00 p.m.

IV. PERSONNEL

P.1. District Clerk, Mary A. Wirth, administered the Oath of Office **Donna M. Laing**, Board of Education Trustee. *Trustee Laing had filled a vacant seat on the Board for a one-year term to run from May 18, 2008 until the next election on May 19, 2009; this oath covers the period from May 19, 2009 until the Reorganization Meeting of the Board to be held on July 7, 2009, when Ms. Laing will be sworn in for a full 3-year term.*

P.2–P.11. Jodie Meyer moved to accept the following recommendations as consent agenda:

- Recommendation to accept the resignation of **Joseph Benke** for retirement purposes, effective June 30, 2009.
- Recommendation to accept the resignation of **Deborah Rosenberg** effective May 19, 2009.
- Recommendation to rescind the appointment of **Jeanette Kocur**, additional duties specific to the High School Assistant Principal position at an hourly rate of \$63.33 per hour, effective January 27, 2009.
- Recommendation to appoint **Jeanette Kocur**, additional duties specific to the High School Assistant Principal position, Master Scheduling, at an hourly rate of \$63.33 per hour, not to exceed 50 hours, effective January 27, 2009.
- Recommendation to appoint **Erin Saunders** to a substitute teacher position for the 2008-2009 school year, effective June 1, 2009.
- Recommendation to appoint **Christine F. Smith** to a substitute teacher position for the 2008-2009 school year, effective June 1, 2009.
- Recommendation to appoint **Marilyn E. Shemonoski** as a clerical substitute effective June 1, 2009, at the hourly rate of \$33.71.
- Recommendation to appoint **Joseph Benke** as a custodial substitute effective July 1, 2009, at the hourly rate of \$29.57.

- Recommendation to appoint the following individual to Schedule B positions for the 2008-2009 school year:

NAME	POSITION	STEP	STIPEND
Alison Sheehy	Choreographer	1	\$989.00

- Recommendation to appoint the Schedule B positions for the 2009-2010 school year as listed on the attached list.

Eileen Baecher seconded and items P.2–P.11 were carried by unanimous vote.

V. PUBLIC HEARING

Peter Meyers of 45 Clunie Avenue and **Ben Rasulo** of 113 Farragut Avenue, both juniors at Hastings High School, addressed the Board saying that they had collected 276 signatures on a petition in support of the appointment of Louis Adipietro for the position of Principal of Hastings High School. Mr. Adipietro is currently the Assistant Principal. The petition states that: “Mr. Adipietro is the best candidate for the position of Principal of Hastings High School . . . he has performed his duties of principal with the highest standards. . . he has made a connection with students that no one can match . . . he has earned the respect of students because of the fairness and respect that he shows to us daily . . .” The students submitted the petition to the Board.

Mollie Morgenstern of 233 Farragut Avenue, a junior at Hastings High School, addressed the Board on behalf of the junior class, stating that the students had “experienced a great deal of loss in recent years, the loss of Dr. Fazio was shocking and difficult . . . it would be hard to lose another principal if Mr. Adipietro does not return next year . . . it is a special quality to be so strict and follow such strong rules and yet have such a popularity among students . . . her senior class would like to graduate with someone that they have known during all their years in high school . . . can’t think of anyone better to carry on in Dr. Fazio’s position.

Nora Howe of 9 Amherst Drive, addressed the Board stating that “Mr. A manages to connect with everyone . . . in spite of his strictness and adhering to the Code of Conduct, he also so personable and knows everything about you . . . he’ll know if someone had a basketball game and ask how it went or if someone was upset the day before, he asks you if you are feeling better . . . to keep track of all the students and know them on a personal level . . . there is no competition, he is by far the best candidate for principal.”

Mr. Sweeting thanked the speakers for voicing their opinions, stating that the Board considers them along with all the other information that is received. Before moving on to the curriculum portion of the meeting, he invited everyone to stay for the rest of the meeting, but if they chose to leave they could do so at this point.

VI. CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

C&I.1. Policy Review: Board of Education

Policy #3410: “Code of Conduct on School Property”

Policy #5220: “District Investments”

Policy #5410: “Purchasing”

Policy #8265: “Internet Control Filtering”

The Board needed further clarification on these policies; some redundant sections; the policy committee will review these again; these policies were tabled and no action was taken.

C&I.2. Eileen Baecher moved to accept the Code of Conduct (Building Level) as written.

Mr. Shaps explained that there were some changes made last year, but not this year. He had conversations with High School faculty Ross Abrams, Jeff Conwiser and Assistant Principal Lou Adipietro about using the summer to look at Social Justice and different ways of thinking about discipline. There was input from principals and assistant principals from each of the schools:

At the High School: There is a loose interpretation of the code; they look for alternative consequences for inappropriate student behavior.

At the Middle School: It serves as a loose guide; would not want any more restrictive language; they also look for alternative consequences for inappropriate student behavior; to avoid suspensions and help students understand their actions and how it affects others.

At Hillside School: The code was discussed in all building committees: BLT, Diversity committee, team coordinators and Liaison committee. They worked on streamlining it to a simple document. They created a "Peace Pact" that children will discuss with parents and caregivers and be signed by all.

Mr. Sweeting added that the code is reviewed ever year; a question to ask: "is the consequence changing the behavior" if it's not then perhaps that consequence is not effective. He added that: "*discipline* is derived from *disciple* . . . it's more about teaching rather than punishment."

Ms. Meyer asked about the acronym S.A.V.E. The Code of Conduct is a State-mandated policy: **Schools Against Violence in Education**. There was additional discussion regarding alternatives, teachable moments and flexibility with regard to the code in our District.

Jodie Meyer seconded and item C&I.2 was carried by unanimous vote.

VII. MINUTES

M.1. Eileen Baecher moved accept the minutes of the April 14, 2009 Special Board of Education meeting, as amended. Jodie Meyer seconded and item M.1 was carried by unanimous vote.

M.2. Caryn Campbell moved to accept the minutes of the April 20, 2009 Regular Board of Education meeting, as amended. Jodie Meyer seconded and item M.2 was carried by unanimous vote.

M.3. Caryn Campbell moved to accept the minutes of the April 28, 2009 Special Board of Education meeting, as amended. Eileen Baecher seconded and item M.3 was carried by unanimous vote.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

C.1. Facilities Committee:

Gabrielle Lesser reported that the committee met with the landscape architect to discuss changes to the front of the Farragut Complex; widening walkways, changing planting to deer resistant shrubs and taking great precautions with respect to protecting the healthy trees. There was also discussion about the restoration of the settee; the paint colors for the restored iron plates on the building and short fencing. These projects are all funded by the grant from Senator Brodsky. Eileen Baecher added that they plan to have a meeting with the Village Recreation Department and application process for use of District facilities. Mr. Shaps mentioned the ongoing preservation and repair of District fields under the guidance of Mr. Osborne an fields consultant.

C.2. Technology Committee:

Eileen Baecher reported that the committee had met earlier in the afternoon. Mr. Harrington gave an update on the Hastings Education Foundation grant to upgrade labs B & C. The existing computers in those labs can be repurposed to maximize the level of computers in the 5th grade. They piloted “fiddlehead” that acts as a pod and can turn 1 cpu into 5.

Video conferencing will be installed in the John J. Russell lecture room in July. Faculty members who have some experience with “distance learning” will be first in line to work with this technology. It will provide expanded opportunities for learning experiences.

E-chalk, a software program for websites, will greatly improve the District Website and expand the capabilities. It is designed to be easy to use. All teachers will have a web-page for individual postings, class work, etc. There are also many different applications that will allow for sharing information. For example, podcasts created by classes could be accessed by parents through the website. In short, it will create a website that is be a better equipped to support the work of the District.

IX. BUSINESS

B.1. Eileen Baecher moved to certify the official results of the May 19, 2009 Annual Budget Vote and Election of School Board Trustees, and enter them formally into the record:

Budget Vote Results: Yes: 848 No: 363

School Trustee Vote Results: Lindsey Hicks: 914 Eileen Baecher: 927 Donna Laing: 898

Write-in votes: Wendy Naidich: 107 Eric Sweeting: 1 Leonard Peltier: 1

Donna Laing seconded and item B.1 was carried by unanimous vote.

B.2. Gabrielle Lesser moved to approve the school tax warrant for the collection of taxes for the 2009-2010 school year in the amount of \$35,139,795, beginning July 1, 2009 and ending June 30, 2010 as stated in the Superintendent’s letter to the Town Comptroller dated May 29, 2009; and to authorize the Superintendent and School Board members to sign the letter. Donna Laing seconded and item B.2 was carried by unanimous vote.

B.3–B.4. Caryn Campbell moved to accept the following recommendations as consent agenda:

- Recommendation to approve the following Committee on Special Education recommendations for the 2008-2009 school year:

# 92-036	# 7493	# 6946
# 90-028	# 94-037	# 94-017

- Recommendation to approve the following Committee on Special Education recommendations for the 2009-2010 school year:

# 96-039	# 95-031	# 7531	# 97-014	# 92-046	# 94-017
# 700103	# 7528	# 94-015	# 91-027	# 92-025	# 6844
# 90-041	# 96-021	# 729101	# 93-003	# 700301	
# 91-011	# 6091	# 703508	# 96-037	# 93-013	
# 96-041	# 7114	# 718105	# 420807	# 91-008	
# 6717	# 4057	# 713209	# 4967	# 93-006	
# 1681	# 98-021	# 711111	# 93-027	# 96-022	
# 6707	# 7116	# 93-055	# 7493	# 6143	
# 7141	# 7115	# 98-009	# 92-048	# 95-049	

Jodie Meyer seconded and items B.3–B.4 were carried by unanimous vote.

B.5. Gabrielle Lesser moved to authorize and empower the President of the Board to execute a Grant Disbursement Agreement with the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York for the restoration of

the Farragut Middle/High School. *A sign will be posted in front of the Farragut Complex announcing the Brodsky Grant.* Caryn Campbell seconded and item B.5 was carried by unanimous vote.

B.6. Gabrielle Lesser moved to accept the following Claims Auditor Warrant Reports:

Warrant #21	Fund F	Computer Checks for 5/01/09-5/31/09
<i>It was noted that a page was missing from Warrant #21 (page 1 of 3 missing)</i>		
Warrant #15	Fund C	Computer Checks for 5/01/09-5/31/09
Warrant #14	Fund C	Computer Checks for 4/01/09-4/30/09
Warrant #16	Fund TE	Computer Checks for 5/01/09-5/31/09
Warrant #17	Fund TE	Computer Checks for 5/01/09-5/31/09
Warrant #29	Fund A	Computer Checks for 5/12/09-5/22/09
Warrant #28	Fund A	Computer Checks for 5/01/09-5/11/09

Donna Laing seconded and item B.6 was carried by unanimous vote.

B.7. Eileen Baecher moved to accept the Revenue & Expenditure Report for April, 2009. Jodie Meyer seconded and item B.7 was carried by unanimous vote.

B.8. Jodie Myer moved to accept the Treasurer’s Report for March, 2009. Gabrielle Lesser seconded and item B.8 was carried by unanimous vote.

B.9. Gabrielle Lesser moved to approve ninety (90) days of Flexible Spending Account claims processing by APA Partners, Inc., not to exceed \$500. Eileen Baecher seconded and item B.9 was carried by unanimous vote.

B.10. Caryn Campbell moved to approve a contract for the Bokandeye African-American Dance Theater to perform at Hillside Elementary School, in the amount of \$1000. *This program was funded by a grant from the Hastings Education Foundation; it was reported that the children really enjoyed the performance.* Gabrielle Lesser seconded and item B. 10 was carried by unanimous vote.

B.11. Eileen Baecher moved to award the Hastings-on-Hudson portion of the Educational Data Services, Inc. Cooperative Bid to the following vendors under the categories as listed:

CATEGORY	VENDOR	AMOUNT
Athletic Supplies	Aluminum Athletic Equipment	396.45
	Flaghouse, Inc	78.97
	Levy’s, Inc	1,038.84
	Massapequa Soccer Shop	260.25
	Passon’s Sports/Sports Supply	239.63
	Jish Inc./Bill Pearson Sports	279.75
	Pyramid School Products	518.94
	R&R Trophy & Sporting Goods	1,956.54
	Longstreth Sporting Goods	727.25
	Anaconda Sports Inc	1,106.32
	ARC Sports	3,956.20
	GL Sports, Inc	110.00
	TOTAL	\$ 10,669.14
	General Classroom Supplies	Cascade School Supplies
TOTAL		\$ 21,404.53
Audio Visual Supplies	Troxel Communications Inc	222.50
	Valiant IMC	1,011.13
	B&H Photo-Video, Inc	243.50
	Scott Electric Co	642.00
	TOTAL	\$ 2,118.63

Copy Duplicator Supplies	W.B. Mason Co., Inc	9,498.50
	TOTAL	\$ 9,498.50
Fine Art Supplies	Dick Blick Company	2,409.45
	Sax Arts & Crafts	16,050.05
	Nasco	379.88
	Sheffield Pottery, Inc.	1,096.50
	TOTAL	\$ 19,935.88
Health and Trainer Supplies	Henry Schein Inc	140.70
	School Health Corp	1,365.30
	TOTAL	\$ 1,506.00
Office/Computer Supplies	Corporate Express	319.45
	TOTAL	\$ 319.45
Photography Supplies	B&H Photo-Video, Inc.	524.95
	Freestyle Sales Co., Inc	262.69
	Valley Litho Supply Co	179.05
	TOTAL	\$ 966.69
Science Supplies	RNJ Electronics Inc	28.00
	Nasco	75.86
	Fisher Science Education Inc	30.05
	Frey Scientific Co.	11.25
	Sargent-Welch / VWR	32.52
	Science Kit, LLC	37.92
	Ward's Natural Science	11.38
TOTAL	\$ 226.98	

Bids are awarded annually and the District receives better pricing by bidding cooperatively.
Donna Laing seconded and item B.11 was carried by unanimous vote.

B.12. Gabrielle Lesser moved to authorize the issuance of serial bonds to finance the payment of real property tax refunds pursuant to tax certiorari proceedings in the amount of \$943,402.75. Donna Laing seconded and item B.12 was carried by unanimous vote.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

Old Business – Board of Education

O.B.1. Jodie Meyer moved to adopt Students Policy #7617: Declassification of Students with Disabilities, as amended. Caryn Campbell seconded and item O.B.1 was carried by unanimous vote.

O.B.2. Jodie Myer moved to adopt Students Policy #7620: Students with Disabilities Participating in School District Programs. Donna Laing seconded and item O.B.2 was carried by unanimous vote.

O.B.3. Gabrielle Lesser moved to adopt Students Policy #7631: Students with Disabilities – Training of Qualified Personnel. Caryn Campbell seconded and item O.B.3 was carried by unanimous vote.

Old Business – Audience to Board of Education

There were no items brought forward.

New Business – Board of Education

N.B.1. Eileen Baecher moved to adopt the 2009-2010 Board of Education Meeting Dates as listed. Jodie Meyer seconded and item N.B.1 was carried by unanimous vote.

The enclosure for N.B.1 included the 2009-2010 School Year Calendar. Ms. Laing noted that early dismissal days should have some sort of cross-hatching on the Monthly calendars, so that on a glance, they are more clearly visible. The early dismissals are listed, but not indicated on the actual calendars.

N.B.2. Eileen Baecher moved to accept the Westchester School Boards Association slate of candidates and support their proposed budget. Donna Laing seconded and item N.B.2 was carried by unanimous vote.

N.B.3. Summer Board Retreat. The Board discussed possible dates and times for the retreat; the main topic would be setting goals for the next school year; date and time would be discussed at the next meeting on June 15th. No action was taken.

There was a short discussion regarding the Superintendent's evaluation and the need to move on that at the conclusion of New Business.

New Business – Audience to Board of Education

There were no items brought forward.

X. MEETING SUMMARY

Mr. Sweeting commented that the meeting went longer than expected. There was clarification that an Executive Session of the Board would take place on Monday, June 8th at 4:30 p.m. in the District Conference room.

ADJOURNMENT (10:00 p.m.)

Respectfully submitted,



Mary A. Wirth
DISTRICT CLERK