

**MINUTES OF THE HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 7, 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 Tuesday, July 7, 2009. Present were Trustees Gabrielle Lesser, Eileen Baecher, Caryn Campbell, Lindsey Hicks, Donna Laing, Jodie Meyer and Wendy Naidich. Also present were Superintendent of Schools Robert I. Shaps and Treasurer Maureen Caraballo.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Immediately following the adjournment of the Reorganization Meeting at 7:02 p.m., Board President Gabrielle Lesser called the Regular meeting to order.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

August 17 Board of Education Meeting – John J. Russell Lecture Room

Executive Session 7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting 8:00 p.m.

September 2-3 Superintendent’s Conference Days / No school for students

September 4-7 Labor Day Weekend (No School on Friday and Monday)

September 8 SCHOOLS OPEN

September 8 Board of Education Meeting – John J. Russell Lecture Room

Executive Session 7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting 8:00 p.m.

September 21 Board of Education Meeting – John J. Russell Lecture Room

Executive Session 7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting 8:00 p.m.

III. PERSONNEL

P.1.–P.4. Caryn Campbell moved to accept the following recommendations as a consent agenda:

- To terminate the probationary appointment of **Nicole Medina**, 7-12 Science Teacher, effective July 7, 2009.
- To amend Resolution P.1 from the Board’s regular meeting of June 15, 2009 to read that the Board of Education determined that the position of Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Personnel is integral to the operation of the District and wished to appoint **Rhonda B. Cohen** to that position effective July 1, 2009.
- To accept the employment letter of **George Foster**, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds effective July 1, 2009 through September 30, 2009.
- To establish salaries for non-represented staff members:
 - Franziska Goodman**, Secretary to the Superintendent of Schools
 - Nicholas Macri**, Deputy School District Treasurer
 - Filomena Righetti**, Payroll Secretary
 - David Hayes**, Public Relations Assistant
 - Camilla Relucio**, Database Manager

Lindsey Hicks seconded and items P.1–P.4 were carried by unanimous vote.

P.5. Caryn Campbell moved to appoint **Jeffrey Rosof** to a 1.0 FTE position as Instructional Technology Specialist for the 2009-2010 school year effective September 1, 2009. Donna Laing seconded and item P.5 was carried by unanimous vote.

P.6. Eileen Baecher moved to appoint **Erica Williams** to a 1.0 FTE leave replacement position as an English teacher for the 2009-2010 effective September 1, 2009. Lindsey Hicks seconded and item P.6 was carried by unanimous vote.

P.7. Wendy Naidich moved to appoint **Christopher Lembo** to a 1.0 FTE leave replacement position as a Mathematics teacher for the period of September 2, 2009 through January 29, 2010. Lindsey Hicks seconded and item P.7 was carried by unanimous vote.

P.8.–P.23. Lindsey Hicks moved to accept the following recommendations as a consent agenda:

- To appoint **Sara Avidan** to a substitute teacher position for the 2009-2010 school year effective September 1, 2009.
- To appoint **Cory Merchant** to a substitute teacher position for the 2009-2010 school year effective September 1, 2009.
- To appoint **Katie Jo Passero** to a substitute teacher position for the 2009-2010 school year effective September 1, 2009.
- To amend the effective date of **Susan Day's** appointment to the position of Secretary to School Principal to Monday, June 15, 2009
- To amend the effective date of **Joseph Benke's** retirement to June 29, 2009.
- To approve a leave of absence, for promotional purposes, to **Maureen Caraballo**, Junior Accountant, effective July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.
- To appoint **Gary Smith** to the provisional position of Junior Accountant, effective July 8, 2009.
- To appoint **Lisa Royce** to the permanent position of Senior Office Assistant-Automated Systems, effective April 14, 2009.
- To appoint the following as substitute teacher aides, for the Hillside Elementary Summer Program, at their contractual rates: **Maureen Bassman, Suzanne Sudam, Lisa Adipietro Phyllis Montalvo.**
- To approve twelve (12) days of summer work for **Jesse Merchant**, Director of Athletics, in the amount of \$4390.08.
- To approve seven (7) days of summer work for **Jeff Rosof**, Technology Integration Specialist, in the amount of \$4,001.41.
- To appoint **George Giannone** to the probationary position of Custodian, Column 2, Step 8, effective August 3, 2009
- To amend the Schedule B appointment of **Laurie Walton** as High School Musical Director for the 2009-2010 school year from Step 4 to Step 5.
- To amend the Schedule B appointment of **Laurie Walton** as High School Play Director, Drama for the 2009-2010 school year from Step 2 to Step 3.
- To amend the Schedule B appointment of **Laurie Walton** as Grade 7/8 Musical Director for the 2009-2010 school year from Step 4 to Step 5.
- To appoint the following individual to Schedule B positions for the 2009-2010 school year:

NAME	POSITION	STEP	STIPEND
Jocelyn Perez	JV Golf Coach	5	\$2933

Donna Laing seconded and items P.8–P.23 were carried by unanimous vote.

IV. PUBLIC HEARING

David Skolnick of 47 Hillside addressed the Board stating that he had about 6 or 7 items to bring up and he would try to keep his comments to 3 minutes. He said he was speaking for himself and not representing any group. He said he understood (to some extent) the position that the Board has taken [with regard to the appointment of an Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Personnel], but he feels that the range of issues brought up at the June 29th meeting have not been adequately addressed. He expressed hope that the Board would remain receptive to the dialogue that will probably continue.

Mr. Skolnick also commented on the lag time for approval of meeting minutes and asked that the process for approving and posting minutes be speeded up. He also claimed that there wasn't proper notification for this evening's meeting and he asked that the Board do a better job of communicating to the public. He further commented that the video production quality of meetings "is lacking" and he hopes for improvement, especially in the area of sound quality.

Regarding the District's Strategic Plan, Mr. Skolnick asked if the document could be made available to the public. Board President Gab Lesser pointed out that it is currently available on the District's website. Dr. Shaps further commented that the District will be rolling out a new website in the fall that will be more "user friendly" and allow for easier navigation to critical documents. Lindsey Hicks added that the Strategic Plan had been adopted by the Board about 5 years ago.

V. MINUTES

M.1. Lindsey Hicks moved to accept the minutes of the May 5, 2009 Regular Board of Education meeting. Caryn Campbell seconded and item M. 1 (with forthcoming minor edits*) was carried by unanimous vote.

M.2. Eileen Baecher moved to accept the minutes of the May 18, 2009 Regular Board of Education meeting. Lindsey Hicks seconded and item M. 2 (with forthcoming minor edits*) was carried by unanimous vote.

**Gabrielle Lesser commented that she would forward her edits for Board minutes to the District Clerk. She said that none of her edits were changes to content, but rather typographical errors.*

VI. BUSINESS

B.1–B.4. Jodie Meyer moved to accept the following recommendations as a consent agenda:

- To approve the following Committee on Preschool Special Education recommendations for the 2008-2009 school year:

# 7219	# 7246	# 7319	# 7222
# 7993	# 7664	# 7413	# 7412
# 7451	# 7262	# 7414	# 7712

- To approve the following Committee on Preschool Special Education recommendations for the 2009-2010 school year:

# 7484	# 6834	# 7617	# 7881	# 7288
# 7663	# 6835	# 7664	# 7408	# 7660
# 7221	# 7687	# 6957	# 7665	# 7885
# 7450	# 7783	# 7645	# 7490	

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

# 5834	# 5872	# 7889	# 7463	# 6130
# 5286	# 7742	# 7259	# 95-041	# 7404
# 6782	# 95-026	# 7356	# 6939	# 93-007

- To approve the following Committee on Special Education recommendations for the 2009-2010 school year

# 7652	# 4297	# 7889	# 7463	# 96-005
# 5834	# 6782	# 93-003	# 7888	# 6978
# 7492	# 7286	# 91-044	# 6130	
# 1681	# 6706	# 7157	# 93-001	

Eileen Baecher seconded and items B.1–P.4 were carried by unanimous vote.

B.5.–B.15. Lindsey moved to accept the following recommendations as a consent agenda:

- To approve a contract with Joanne McMahon to provide Autism Consultant Services for the 2009-2010 school year and to authorize the President of the Board to execute the contract.
- To approve a contract with HTA of New York, Inc. for special educational and related services and to authorize the President of the Board to execute the contract.
- To approve a contract with Donna Klein & Associates, Inc. for special educational and related services and to authorize the President of the Board to execute the contract.
- To engage the services of Lawrence Forcella to provide an “art and insects” program for the third grade in the amount of \$1,000.
- To engage the services of Pepe Coronado to provide a program for the fourth grade Spanish classes in the amount of \$600.
- To approve the Gigabit Fiber Optic Wide-Area Network Agreement, for the 2009-2010 school year and to authorize the President of the Board to execute the agreement.
- To approve a contract with Peter J. Landi Inc. for the Handicap Ramp EXCEL Project in the amount of \$85,000.
- To approve a contract with Metal Man Restoration in the amount of \$15,500 and to authorize the President of the Board to execute the contract. *(part of the Brodsky Grant project)*
- To approve a contract with Scarsdale Security Inc. for the 2009-2010 school year and to authorize the President of the Board to execute the contract. *Maureen Caraballo commented that entering into this contract would result in a \$3,000 savings for the District.*
- To accept the Customer Agreement from File Bank, Inc. and to authorize the President of the Board to execute the agreement.
- To approve the OMNI Financial Group Inc. Service Agreement for the 2009-2010 school year and to authorize the President of the Board to execute the contract.

Lindsey Hicks commented that when business decisions recommended and adopted by the Board result in savings to the District, it should be noted and reported so that the public is aware that economy in spending is an ongoing process and a priority of the District.

Donna Laing seconded and items B.5–B.15 were carried by unanimous vote.

B.16. Lindsey Hicks moved to award Construction Labor Bids to the lowest responsible bidders at the hourly rates as listed for the 2009-2010 school year:

ELECTRICIAN		
T & A Electric	Foreman	\$75
	Journeyman	\$70
	Apprentice	\$56
	Materials Markup	10%

GENERAL CONSTRUCTION

Mohican Park Construction	Foreman	\$75
	Journeyman	\$65
	Apprentice	\$35
	Laborer	\$50
	Materials Markup	10%

HVAC SERVICE

Atlantic Westchester Inc.	Mechanic	
	Straight Time	\$125
	Premium Time	
	<i>After 8 hrs. and Saturday</i>	\$187
	Premium Time	
	<i>Sundays/Holidays)</i>	\$250

TREE SERVICE

Community Tree Service	Laborer	\$ 60
	Climber	\$ 70
	Tractor and Operator	\$100
	Stump Machine and Operator	\$100
	Log Truck and Operator	\$110
	Bucket Truck	\$ 60
	Chipper	\$ 35
	30 Yard Dumpster Fee	\$550 per use

It was noted that there were no bids for plumbing work.

Caryn Campbell seconded and items B.16 was carried by unanimous vote.

B.17. Lindsey Hicks moved to accept the Treasurer's Reports for April and May 2009. Eileen Baecher seconded and item B.17 was carried by unanimous vote.

B.18. Eileen Baecher moved to accept the Revenue and Expenditure Reports for May 2009. Jodie Meyer seconded and item B.18 was carried by unanimous vote.

B.19. Caryn Campbell moved to accept the following Claims Auditor Warrant Reports:

- Warrant #16, Fund C, Computer Checks for 5/1/09-5/31/09
- Warrant #22, Fund F, Computer Checks for 5/1/09-5/31/09
- Warrant #23, Fund F, Computer Checks for 5/1/09-5/31/09
- Warrant #18, Fund TE, Computer Checks for 5/1/09-5/31/09
- Warrant #24, Fund F, Computer Checks for 5/1/09-5/31/09
- Warrant #29, Fund A, Computer Checks for 5/12/09-5/22/09
- Warrant #15, Fund H, Computer Checks for 6/1/09-6/30/09
- Warrant #19, Fund TE, Computer Checks for 6/1/09-6/30/09
- Warrant #25, Fund F, Computer Checks for 6/1/09-6/30/09
- Warrant #18, Fund C, Computer Checks for 6/1/09-6/30/09
- Warrant #19, Fund C, Computer Checks for 6/1/09-6/30/09
- Warrant #21, Fund TE, Computer Checks for 6/1/09-6/30/09
- Warrant #27, Fund F, Computer Checks for 6/1/09-6/30/09
- Warrant #28, Fund F, Computer Checks for 6/1/09-6/30/09
- Warrant #16, Fund H, Computer Checks for 6/2/09-6/30/09
- Warrant #17, Fund H, Computer Checks for 6/1/09-6/30/09
- Warrant #18, Fund H, Computer Checks for 6/1/09-6/30/09
- Warrant #20, Fund C, Computer Checks for 6/1/09-6/30/09
- Warrant #33, Fund A, Computer Checks for 6/1/09-6/30/09
- Warrant #23, Fund TE, Computer Checks for 6/1/09-6/30/09
- Warrant #22, Fund TE, Computer Checks for 6/1/09-6/30/09
- Warrant #17, Fund C, Computer Checks for 6/1/09-6/30/09
- Warrant #20, Fund TE, Computer Checks for 6/1/09-6/30/09
- Warrant #26, Fund F, Computer Checks for 6/1/09-6/30/09

Warrant #21, Fund C, Computer Checks for 6/1/09-6/30/09
Warrant #32, Fund A, Computer Checks for 6/4/09-6/26/09
Warrant #30, Fund A, Computer Checks for 6/2/09-6/12/09
Warrant #31, Fund A, Computer Checks for 6/16/09-6/24/09

Jodie Meyer seconded and items B.19 was carried by unanimous vote.

B.20. Lindsey Hicks moved to approve budget transfers for the 2008-2009 school year. Caryn Campbell seconded and item B.20 was carried by unanimous vote.

B.21. Eileen Baecher moved to approve a budget transfer for the 2009-2010 school year in the amount of \$95,000. *State-mandate that school districts must cover a portion of pre-school special education; this will be a new line in the next year's budget.* Caryn Campbell seconded and item B.21 was carried by unanimous vote.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Old Business – Board of Education

O.B.1. Board of Education Summer Retreat. The Board discussed possible dates for a summer retreat. They may consider a joint Board / Administrators retreat.

Old Business – Audience to Board of Education

New Business – Board of Education

N.B.1. Recommendation to adopt Policy 4212: Organizational Chart. It was noted that the policy committee would review job descriptions. This was a first reading of the chart and no action was taken by the board.

N.B.2. Board of Education Committee Assignments. There was a discussion about how to proceed with choosing committees. Word documents of the list will be sent via email for Board members to fill out and return. It was decided that every category must be filled-out with High/Medium/Low level of interest. Information for how often and when committees meet would be sent along with the blank lists and finalizing committees would take place at the August Board meeting.

New Business – Audience to Board of Education

David Skolnick of 47 Hillside Avenue addressed the Board asking what was the difference between “Public Comment” and “New Business Audience to Board”. He wanted to know when the organizational chart would be in its final form. *It was explained that as with all District policies, this is a first reading; the item will appear on a future agenda for a second reading and adoption.* He also asked about the position “Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds” and how the District would fill that vacancy. *It was explained that the title will be changed to “Director of Facilities” and the responsibilities of the job will remain unchanged.*

VIII. MEETING SUMMARY

Gabrielle Lesser commented that we will have a busy summer and she asked that Board members give serious thought to the board retreat and its agenda as well as the addition of a curriculum committee to the list of Board and District committees.

ADJOURNMENT 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted



Mary A. Wirth DISTRICT CLERK