

MINUTES OF THE HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 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, September 21, 2009. Present were Trustees Eileen Baecher, Caryn Campbell, Lindsey Hicks, Donna Laing, Gabrielle Lesser, Jodie Meyer and Wendy Naidich. Also present were Superintendent of Schools Robert I. Shaps, Treasurer Maureen Caraballo, Student Liaison representative Lena Street, administrators and guests. Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Personnel Rhonda Cohen was absent.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Board of Education President Gabrielle Lesser called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Donna Laing moved to adjourn the meeting into Executive Session to discuss specific personnel matters. Wendy Naidich seconded and the motion was carried by unanimous vote. Following discussion, Eileen Baecher moved to reconvene the regular meeting. Donna Laing seconded and the motion was carried by unanimous vote.

At 8:17 p.m. Board President Gab Lesser began the Regular Meeting of Monday, September 21, 2009. The Internet was down, which delayed the start of the meeting. The meeting was turned over to the Superintendent for his report.

II. REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT (8:20 p.m.)

Dr. Shaps reported on events that took place at all three schools:

- On Saturday, September 12th, The Maria Fareri Children's Hospital unveiled a community-wide art mosaic commissioned for the hospital's fifth birthday. More than 100 artists participated, including 12 National Art Honor Society members from Hastings High School.
- On Wednesday, September 16th there was a District-wide faculty meeting, facilitated by Dr. Susan Izeman Director of the Abilis Autism Program. Dr. Izeman will serve as a consultant for the District and will be available to meet with staff on a weekly basis throughout the school year.
- 39 Hastings High School students have been named AP Scholars based on May of 2009 test results; of those, 13 students qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing three or more AP Examinations, with grades of 3 and above; 14 students qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 and above on four or more of these exams; and 12 students qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 and above on five or more of these exams.
- Hillside and Farragut Middle School Art teacher Nate Morgan has been 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. He is one of nine finalists for the 2010 New York State Art Educator of the Year Award, to be named at the annual conference on November 20th.
- Hastings High School Art teacher Alysha Polite has been named Region 7's "2009 Most Promising Art Teacher of The Year" by the New York Art Teacher's Association. This award is given to an art teacher who has been teaching 3 years or less, and makes contributions to their district's art program while promoting art education throughout Region 7.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

September	21	Building Leadership Team (BLT) Meetings HHS BLT – Hastings High School Conference Room FMS BLT – Farragut Middle School Conference Room Hillside BLT – Library Conference Room		3:45 p.m.
September	21	Hastings High School Liaison Meeting – Room 225		6:45 p.m.
September	21	Board of Education Meeting – John J. Russell Lecture Room	Executive Session Regular Meeting	7:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
September	22	Grades 10 & 11 Parent Breakfast		7:30 a.m.
September	23	SAT Late Registration Deadline for October exam		
September	24	Grades K, 1 & 2 Back-to-School Night		7:00 p.m.
September	25	Student-Board of Education Liaison Meeting – Lloyd Library		7:30 a.m.
September	28	Yom Kippur – Schools Closed		
September	29	First full day of Kindergarten – Dismissal at 2:00 p.m.		
September	30	Freshman Peer Leadership Retreat		
September	30	Community Leaders Group – John J. Russell Lecture Room		3:30 p.m.
October	1	SAT Registration Deadline for November Exam		
October	1	Hastings High School Back –to-School Night – HHS Auditorium		7:00 p.m.
October	2	ACT Late Registration Deadline		
October	5	Hillside Liaison Meeting – Hillside Café		6:45 p.m.
October	5	Board of Education Meeting – John J. Russell Lecture Room	Executive Session Regular Meeting	7:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
October	7	Hillside Class Pictures		
October	10	SAT I & Subject Tests – Hastings High School Lobby for Classroom Assignments		7:45 a.m.
October	12	Columbus Day – Schools Closed		
October	14	Farragut Middle School Class Pictures		
October	15	SAT Late Registration Deadline for November Exam		
October	15	Farragut Middle School Back-to-School Night		7:00 p.m.
October	17	PSAT Exam – Hastings High School Lobby for Classroom Assignments		7:45 a.m.
October	17	HOMEcomings – Football Game vs. Haldane HS – Reynolds Field – Dance – Cochran Gym		1:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
October	19	Farragut Middle School Liaison Meeting – Lloyd Library		6:45 p.m.
October	19	Board of Education Meeting – John J. Russell Lecture Room	Executive Session Regular Meeting	7:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
October	21	Early Release Day		
October	23	Hastings High School Academic Field Day		
October	24	ACT Exam – at students’ schools of choice		
October	24	PTSA Fundraiser – The Harlem Wizards vs. Hastings Hotshots – Cochran Gym		7:00 p.m.

IV. PUBLIC HEARING

Board President Gab Lesser invited members of the audience to come forward, reminding them to state their name and address. There were no speakers.

The order of the agenda was changed at this point and IX. Curriculum, Instruction and/or Special Departments was taken next.

IX. CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND/OR SPECIAL DEPARTMENTS (8:22-9:23 p.m.)

C&I.1. Board Communications Plan

The Board had a discussion regarding improving communications. A number of items were suggested, including having another community forum to enable community input, beginning the process with CBAC (Citizens Budget Advisory Committee) earlier in the year, creating a survey to elicit community questions and suggestions. It was suggested that one of the next regular board meetings be a work session to plan for a community forum.

C&I.2. District Web Site (Mary Lynn Collins-Callanan)

This item was tabled for a future meeting as the Internet was not accessible.

C&I.3. District Report Card

Dr. Shaps presented the New York State School Report Card for 2008-2009 to the Board. Areas reported and discussed were: teacher qualifications; average class sizes; demographic profile from 2005 through 2008; student performance on state assessments in grades 3–8, Regents exams, Advanced Placement exams and SAT & ACT exams.

Following the presentation, a member of the audience who had not come forward during Public Hearing asked if she could address the Board.

Ada Rohlehr-Thigpen of 8 Washington Avenue addressed the Board with concerns regarding lack of monitors on the buses. She was particularly concerned for the younger students in Kindergarten. She will have a conversation with the Principal and Assistant Principal of Hillside to discuss these concerns.

The regular order of the agenda was resumed.

V. MINUTES

M.1. These minutes appeared on the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of September 8, 2009. Lindsey Hicks had moved to accept the minutes of the August 17, 2009 Regular Board of Education Meeting and Caryn Campbell had seconded; the vote was tabled at that meeting. Corrections were noted on the minutes and item M.1 was carried, as amended, by unanimous vote.

M.2. Jodie Meyer moved to accept the minutes of the September 8, 2009 Regular Board of Education Meeting. Donna Laing seconded and item M.2 was carried by unanimous vote.

VI. BUSINESS

B.1–B.3. Lindsey Hicks moved to accept the following recommendations as a consent agenda:

- To approve the following Committee on Preschool Special Education recommendation for the 2009-2010 school year: # 7703 (a revised enclosure was supplied at the meeting)
- To approve a contract with The Learning Shop, Inc. to provide homebound instruction services for the 2009-2010 school year and to authorize the Superintendent to execute the contract.

- To accept the bid from Landi Contracting Inc. for repairs to the concrete settee at the Farragut Complex in the amount of \$27,000 and to authorize the President of the Board to execute the contract.

Wendy Naidich seconded and items B.1–B.3 were carried by unanimous vote.

B.4. Lindsey Hicks moved to accept the amended contract with Metal Man Restoration from \$15,500 to \$19,500, due to the addition of a third exterior cast iron façade. (Original contract included two facades.) Jodie Meyer seconded and item B.4 was carried by unanimous vote.

B.5. Eileen Baecher moved to accept the proposal from HMH Site & Sports Design for architectural and engineering services for the athletic fields in the amount of \$9,500. Caryn Campbell seconded. *There was some discussion about including the lower area of Reynolds Field and the basketball courts, also District property; at this time, that area is not under consideration.* Following discussion, item B.5 was carried by unanimous vote.

B.6. Jody Meyer moved to accept the Revenue and Expenditure Reports for July 2009. Donna Laing seconded. *It was noted that the Revenue Report had an incorrect heading.* Following a short discussion, item B.6 was carried by unanimous vote.

B.7. Lindsey Hicks moved to accept the Treasurer’s Reports for June and July 2009. Eileen Baecher seconded and item B.7 was carried by unanimous vote.

B.8. Lindsey Hicks moved to approve budget transfers for the 2009-2010 school year. Jodie Meyer seconded. *It was noted that these transfers were actually for the 2008-2009 school year.* Item B.8 was carried, as amended, by unanimous vote.

B.9. Eileen Baecher moved to accept a donation of textbooks from Jane Turkel to the school district and to bestow our gratitude upon the donor. Jodie Meyer seconded and item B.9 was carried by unanimous vote.

B.10. Lindsey Hicks moved to accept the following Claims Auditor Warrant Reports:

Warrant #24	Fund TE	Computer Checks for 6/1/09-6/30/09
Warrant #29	Fund F	Computer Checks for 6/1/09-6/30/09
Warrant #30	Fund F	Computer Checks for 6/1/09-6/30/09
Warrant #1	Fund TE	Computer Checks for 6/1/09-6/30/09
Warrant #19	Fund H	Void Checks for 6/1/09-6/30/09
Warrant #34	Fund A	Computer Checks for 6/25/09-6/30/09 <i>There was some clarification needed here</i>
Warrant# 1	Fund A	Computer Checks for 7/1/09-7/31/09
Warrant #1	Fund TE	Computer Checks for 7/1/09-7/31/09
Warrant #1	Fund F	Computer Checks for 8/1/09-8/31/09
Warrant #1	Fund H	Computer Checks for 8/1/09-8/31/09
Warrant #2	Fund A	Computer Checks for 8/1/09-8/31/09
Warrant #1	Fund C	Computer Checks for 8/1/09-8/31/09
Warrant #2	Fund F	Computer Checks for 8/1/09-8/31/09
Warrant #2	Fund H	Computer Checks for 8/1/09-8/31/09
Warrant #2	Fund TE	Computer Checks for 8/1/09-8/31/09
Warrant #3	Fund TE	Computer Checks for 8/1/09-8/31/09
Warrant #4	Fund TE	Computer Checks for 8/1/09-8/31/09
Warrant #3	Fund A	Computer Checks for 8/10/09-8/18/09

Wendy Naidich seconded and item B.10 was carried, as amended by unanimous vote.

VII. PERSONNEL

P.1–P.12. Donna Laing moved to accept the following recommendations as a consent agenda:

- To accept the resignation of **Ruth M. Lee**, effective September 4, 2009.
- To appoint **Beth C. Weiss** to a substitute teacher position for the 2009-2010 school year effective September 22, 2009.
- To appoint **Daniel J. Krieger** to a substitute teacher position for the 2009-2010 school year effective September 22, 2009.
- To appoint **William Indik** to a substitute teacher position for the 2009-2010 school year effective September 22, 2009.
- To appoint **Jennifer Kraus** to a substitute teacher position for the 2009-2010 school year effective September 22, 2009.
- To appoint **Thomas J. Lyons** to a substitute teacher position for the 2009-2010 school year effective September 22, 2009.
- To appoint **Tamara Dilworth** to a substitute teacher position for the 2009-2010 school year effective September 22, 2009.
- To appoint **James C. Salvatore** to a substitute teacher position for the 2009-2010 school year effective September 22, 2009.
- To appoint **Sabrina Bondi** to a substitute teacher position for the 2009-2010 school year effective September 22, 2009.
- To appoint **Mary Beth Carlson** as follows:

Civil Service Area: Office Assistant, Automated Systems
Salary Placement: Column VI, Step I
Date of Commencement of Probationary Service: September 1, 2009
Date of Expiration of Probationary Service: August 31, 2010

- To appoint **Kevin McCarthy** as follows:

Civil Service Area: Cleaner
Salary Placement: Column I, Step IA
Date of Commencement of Probationary Service: September 8, 2009
Date of Expiration of Probationary Service: September 7, 2010

- To appoint the following individuals to Schedule B positions for the 2009-2010 school year:

NAME	POSITION	STEP	STIPEND
Scott Shapiro	Grade 7 Team Coordinator	n/a	\$4000
Jeff Rosof	Instructional Technology Specialist	n/a	\$6000
Michael Rubino	Arts in Education Coordinator	n/a	\$2269
Gregory Stephens	Girls Modified Soccer Coach	1	\$2353
Marc Rosner	Technology Group Advisor	1	\$1202

Caryn Campbell seconded and items P.1-P.12 were carried by unanimous vote.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no reports given at this meeting.

X. OTHER BUSINESS (10:10 p.m.)

Old Business – Board of Education

O.B.1. Board Meeting Topics. The Board discussed and suggested additional topics for the list. Eileen Baecher moved to accept the list as amended. Wendy Naidich seconded and item O.B.1 was carried by unanimous vote.

O.B.2. Board of Education Committee / Liaison Assignments. The Board discussed changes and additions to the list. Caryn Campbell moved to accept the list as amended. Donna Laing seconded and item O.B.2 was carried by unanimous vote.

O.B.3. New York State School Boards Association (“NYSSBA”) – 2009 Annual Business Meeting. The Board discussed the resolutions recommended for adoption and agreed to support NYSSBA on all but resolutions 12 & 13. Attendance at the meeting was discussed; it was not determined conclusively whether anyone would be able to attend.

Old Business – Audience to Board of Education (10:45 p.m.)

New Business – Board of Education

Dr. Shaps reported on a preview of the Cambridge Program.

New Business – Audience to Board of Education

XI. MEETING SUMMARY

The Board had some follow-up discussion on a number of items:

- Board of Education Meeting Minutes:
In the future, edits to Minutes should be emailed to the District Clerk.
- School Report Card:
The presentation was interesting. It didn't report on a cohort and given that it is a year behind it can be misleading.
- School Busing:
Jodie Meyer commented that she appreciated the feedback regarding busing; Dr. Shaps is checking in with Principal Sullivan and Assistant Principal Harrington about the progress in safety procedures; concerns need to be brought to their attention so they can better evaluate how things are going. Bus drivers are appreciative of being part of the conversation and bus ridership is up.

ADJOURNMENT (10:50 p.m.)

Respectfully submitted,



Mary A. Wirth
DISTRICT CLERK