

**HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**Monday, January 8, 2007**

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, January 8, 2007. 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 6:05 PM. Eileen Baecher moved to adjourn the meeting into Executive Session to discuss the employment history of a particular employee. Gabrielle Lesser seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote. Attorney Ron Longo attended the Executive Session. Following discussion, Caryn Campbell moved to reconvene the Regular Meeting. Eileen Baecher seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

Trustee Lindsey Hicks left the meeting at this point.

At 8:15 PM Board President Mary Wirth welcomed all to the Regular Meeting of January 8, 2007.

**CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION:**

C&I.1. Discussion: Guidance Department: Superintendent Shaps opened the program saying the purpose was to strengthen the guidance program. The staff, including Principals Fazio and Kipper, discussed several "essential questions" (see enclosure) and indicated improving the resource would benefit the entire community, students, parents and staff.

Resident Joan Meyer noted a lot of changes in personnel and programs saying all appeared very solid now; parents should be informed of short and long term decisions.

C&I.2. Discussion: Superintendent's Entry Plan: Superintendent Shaps presented an extensive report describing his investigation into assuming his leadership position and his findings. He went on to indicate to the Board his plans and recommendations for going forward.

**COMING EVENTS:**

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

January 11 Grade 11 Parents' Meeting – HHS Auditorium – 7:00 PM

January 12&13 HHS Play: "The Laramie Project"- HHS Auditorium – 7:30 PM

January 15 Schools Closed – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 16 Superintendent's Arts Advisory Committee Meeting – 3:30 PM

January 17 Board of Education Policy Committee Meeting – 8:00 PM

January 18 Student/Bd. of Ed. Liaison Committee Meeting – Lloyd Library – 7:30 AM

January 19 Bd. of Ed. Facilities Committee Mtg. – District. Conference Room – 7:45 AM

January 20 Board of Education Meeting – Russell Lecture Room - 8:00 PM

**PERSONNEL:**

**P.1. through P.7.** Eileen Baecher moved to approve the following recommendations:

To appoint **Eszter Fejer-Kui** to a 1.0 FTE probationary position as an Elementary Teacher, effective January 9, 2007 as follows:

Tenure Area: Elementary K-6

Salary Placement: MA+40, Step 5

Date of Commencement of Probationary Service: September 1, 2006  
Date of Expiration of Probationary Service: June 30, 2009  
Anticipated Tenure Date: September 1, 2009\*  
Certification Status: Provisional  
\*Leave Replacement service since September 1, 2006 applied toward tenure

AND

WHEREAS, on January 8, 2007 it was determined that a vacancy exists for a leave replacement Elementary School Special Education teacher, during the 2006-07 school year, effective December 21, 2006 through February 16, 2007, which will be integral to Hastings-on-Hudson’s operations in the 2006-07 school year; and

WHEREAS, the Board has identified **Jeanette E. Moore** as a qualified candidate and wishes to appoint her to a 1.0 FTE leave replacement position as an Elementary School Special Education teacher, effective December 21, 2006 through February 16, 2007; and

WHEREAS, Jeanette E. Moore, 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, Jeanette E. Moore 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 Jeanette E. Moore on an emergency basis to the 1.0 FTE leave replacement position of Elementary School Special Education teacher 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 Jeanette E. Moore 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 Jeanette E. Moore’s continued employment by the Board.

Tenure Area: n/a  
Salary Placement: BA+30, 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: Provisional

AND

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

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>STEP</u>	<u>STIPEND</u>
Marc Zelmanowicz	Dance Team	1	\$1,489

AND

To appoint **Alexis E. Malaszuk** as a permanent substitute teacher for the 2006-07 school year, effective January 9, 2007

AND

WHEREAS, on January 8, 2007, 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

WHEREAS, the Board has identified **Ross Polansky** as a qualified candidate and wishes to appoint him to a substitute teacher position for the 2006-07 school year, effective January 9, 2007; and

WHEREAS, Ross Polansky, 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, Ross Polansky 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 Ross Polansky on an emergency basis to the position of substitute teacher 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 Ross Polansky 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 Ross Polansky’s continued employment by the Board.

AND

To amend the probationary position of **Travis Thornton** as a Teacher Aide, to 10-month, Column III, Step 2, from 27.5 to 30.5 hours per week, effective January 8, 2007.

AND

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 Educational Department, whichever occurs sooner; and

WHEREAS, the emergency appointment period is said 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 February 6, 2007::

<b>Rosinna Aviles</b>	<b>Majid Benarafa</b>	<b>Tanya Bobson</b>	<b>Janice Bochicchio</b>
<b>Kelly Clark</b>	<b>Eileen Cruz</b>	<b>Matthew Dachik</b>	<b>Victoria DiSalvo</b>
<b>Lauren Dwyer</b>	<b>Eszter Fejer-Kui</b>	<b>John Feinstein</b>	<b>John Feinstein</b>
<b>David Freedman</b>	<b>Gina Gerdes</b>	<b>Lesley Gold</b>	<b>Michael Ingram</b>
<b>Bernard Keating</b>	<b>Kristine Kesselman</b>	<b>Jeanette Kocur</b>	<b>Krista Lifrieri</b>
<b>Nicole LaVista</b>	<b>Jody Lyn</b>	<b>Brendan Mannion</b>	<b>Charles Marion</b>
<b>Robert Matos</b>	<b>Stephanie Mayer</b>	<b>Gina Menedez</b>	<b>Elana Militzok</b>
<b>Kristen Morgan</b>	<b>Vicki Moss</b>	<b>Barbara Prisament</b>	<b>Sandra Ruscitto</b>
<b>Randy Shaw</b>	<b>Holly Silvestri</b>	<b>Merle Sternberg</b>	<b>Travis Thornton</b>
<b>Juan Villamar</b>	<b>Eryn Wagner</b>	<b>Laurie Walton</b>	

Eric Sweeting seconded and Items P.1 through P.7 carried by unanimous vote of those trustees present.

**BUSINESS:**

**B.1. & B.2.** Eric Sweeting moved to approve the following Committee on Preschool Special Education recommendations for the 2006-07 school year. #7115 #7116 #6599 #02-006

AND

To approve the following Committee on Special Education recommendations for the 2006-07 school year: #99-020 #7068 #6717 #99-007 #97-023 #5400 #6818 #96-031 #92-034 #5910 #00-020

Cary Campbell seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustee present..

**B.3.** Caryn Campbell moved to approve programs and fees for visiting artists as proposed by the Committee on Cultural Arts for the 2006-07 school year.

Eileen Baecher seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees present.

**B.4.** Patricia Anne Woods moved to write off two outstanding receivables:

- 1) Special Aid Fund - \$9,732 reimbursement for summer program for handicapped pupils from 2001-02 as recommended by the auditor in the management letter, and
- 2) General Fund - \$4,873.58 for a portion of a student's tuition for the period of 2005-06 when he did not attend school.

Gabrielle Lesser seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees present.

**B.5. & B.6.** Caryn Campbell moved to approve the following resolutions:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District hereby consents to the merger of the Hastings Girls Swimming Team with the Girls Swimming Team of the Ardsley School District for the 2007-08 school year; and be it further RESOLVED, that the President of the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools are hereby authorized to execute the Letter of Intent of such merger.

AND

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District hereby consents to the merger of the Hastings Boys Swimming Team with the Boys Swimming Team of the Ardsley School District for the 2007-08 school year; and be it further RESOLVED, that the President of the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools are hereby authorized to execute the Letter of Intent of such merger.

Patricia Anne Woods seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees present.

**B.7.** Patricia Anne Woods moved to accept the Treasurer's Report for November 2006. Gabrielle Lesser seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees present.

**B.8.** Patricia Anne Woods moved to accept a donation of \$1,000.00 from Joel Dean Jr. to fund the annual \$500.00 Professor Joel Dean Prize. Gabrielle Lesser seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees present.

**B.9.** Patricia Anne Woods moved to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that on its behalf, the Board of Education of the Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District authorizes its Superintendent of Schools, Robert Shaps, to negotiate a settlement agreement regarding Student No. 90-037 which the Board reviewed in Executive Session on January 8, 2007.

Gabrielle Lesser seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees present.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** No comments were made at this time

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

O.B.1. Discussion re: the possibility of a Joint Village Board/School Board Committee and its charge will be discussed at a future meeting.

O.B.2. The Calendar will be approved at the next meeting. .

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, Board President Mary Wirth declared the meeting closed at 10:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy S. Caruso, District Clerk