

HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, February 26, 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, February 26, 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 7:15 PM. Caryn Campbell moved to adjourn the meeting into Executive Session to discuss specific personnel matters. Eileen Baecher seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote. Following discussion, Patricia Anne Woods moved to reconvene the Regular Meeting. Lindsey Hicks seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

At 8:10 PM Board President Mary Wirth welcomed all to the Regular Meeting of February 26, 2007.

REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Mr. Shaps announced the beginning of March Reading Month saying the PTSA is collecting books for their 8th Annual Book Fair. They can be dropped off at the main office of any school. Additionally, the Hillside SEPTA will hold a general meeting at Hillside on March 7th at 7PM.

Congratulations were expressed to The HHS Boys Varsity Basketball team for advancing to the first round of Sectionals and to the HHS Girls Varsity Basketball team for advancing to the second round.

Kudos as well to Ken Jernigan, music teacher, who guest conducted the Nassau County Music Educators' Intermediate Festival Orchestra. He will also guest conduct the Westchester County Music Educators' Intermediate Orchestra at Purchase College on March 18th.

Congratulations to Don Contrastano, Varsity Wrestler, for winning his sectional match at Pace University and who will represent Hastings in the State Wrestling Meet in Albany on March 2&3.

Finally, Mr. Shaps listed some colleges who have accepted members of the Class of 2007.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

February 27 "Broadway Revue" HHS Auditorium – 7:00 PM

March 1 Hillside March is Reading Month Kickoff Assembly-All-Purpose Room–9:00 AM

March 1 Staff Development PM – Half day for students

March 1 Student/Board of Ed Liaison Committee Meeting – Lloyd Library – 7:30 AM

March 5 Board Policy Committee Meeting – 8:00 AM

March 5-7 Grade 4 Math Tests

March 6-7 Grade 5 Math Tests

March 7 Board Operations Committee Meeting – 8:00 AM

March 8-9 Grade 3 Math Tests

March 12 Internet Safety Presentation for MS Parents-HHS Auditorium – 8:00 PM

March 12 Board of Education Meeting – Russell Lecture Room – 8:00 PM

PERSONNEL:

P.1. Patricia Anne Woods moved to establish the administrative position of Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Personnel and provide similar benefits as indicated in the Administrative Association Agreement. Lindsey Hicks seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

P.2. Patricia Anne Woods moved the following resolution:

WHEREAS, on February 26, 2007, it was determined that a vacancy exists for the Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Personnel, which will be integral to Hastings-on-Hudson's operations; and

WHEREAS, the Board has identified **Rhonda B. Cohen** as a qualified candidate and wishes to appoint her to the Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Personnel position, effective no sooner than March 8, 2007 and no later than April 1, 2007; and

WHEREAS, Rhonda B. Cohen, 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, Rhonda B. Cohen has not yet obtained such clearance but has attested to the fact that she has never been convicted of a crime.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Board hereby resolves to conditionally appoint Rhonda B. Cohen on an emergency basis to the position of Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Personnel, subject to such limitations as are set forth in Board Policy #6170.
2. Upon receipt of notice from the State Education Department that Rhonda B. Cohen 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 Rhonda B. Cohen's continued employment by the Board.

Tenure Area: Director, Curriculum, Instruction and Personnel

Salary Placement: Director Step 11

Date of Commencement of Probationary Service: *March 8-April 1, 2007

Date of Expiration of Probationary Service: *March 7-March 31, 2010

Anticipated Tenure Date: **March 8-April 1, 2010

Certification: Pending

*on or before 4/1/07

**on or before 4/1/10

Superintendent Shaps spoke of Ms. Cohen's background and qualifications.

Eric Sweeting seconded the motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

Board President Mary Wirth said this was a long awaited moment and this position will be instrumental in moving the strategic plan goals forward.

P.3 through P.8. Patricia Anne Woods moved to approve the following agenda items:

To grant a parental leave of absence, without pay, to **Eszter Fejer-Kui** beginning on or about May 21, 2007

AND

To appoint **Charles Marion** as a 1.0 FTE leave replacement Mathematics teacher for the 2006-07 school year, effective March 26, 2007, as follows:

- Tenure Area: n/a
- Salary Placement: MA+60, Step 16
- Date of Commencement of Probationary Service: n/a
- Date of Expiration of Probationary Service: n/a
- Anticipated Tenure Date: n/a
- Certification Status : Permanent

AND

To amend **Gloria Szeszko's** appointment as a School Psychologist to include additional hours, at a rate of \$79.35 per hour, not to exceed \$7,618 for the 2006-07 school year, effective March 1, 2007

AND

To rescind the Schedule B appointment of **Stephanie Denison** as Hillside Bookstore co-Manager for the 2006-07 school year

AND

To rescind the Schedule B appointment of **Rachel Pilla** as Hillside Bookstore co-Manager for the 2006-07 school year

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 March 26, 2007::

Rosinna Aviles	Majid Benarafa	Janice Bochicchio	Kelly Clark
Eileen Cruz	Matthew Dachik	Amy Del Savio	Victoria DiSalvo
Lauren Dwyer	Eszter Fejer-Kui	John Feinstein	David Freedman
Gina Gerdes	Lesley Gold	Michael Ingram	Bernard Keating
Kristine Kesselman	Jeanette Kocur	Krista Lifrieri	Nicole LaVista
Jody Lyn	Alexis Malaszuk	Brendan Mannion	Robert Matos
Stephanie Mayer	Gina Menedez	Elana Militzok	Jeanette Moore
Kristen Morgan	Vicki Moss	Ross Polansky	Barbara Prisament
Sandra Ruscitto	Adina L. Ruskin	Randy Shaw	Holly Silvestri
Merle Sternberg	Binny Tercek	Travis Thornton	Juan Villamar
Eryn Wagner	Laurie Walton		

Lindsey Hicks seconded and Items P.3.–P.8.carried by unanimous vote.

A brief break was taken here to welcome the new Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Personnel with coffee and cake.

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION:

C&I.1: Tax Certiorari: John Burkhardt, Esq. of Keane & Beane, P.C. explained to the Board its tax certiorari obligations and their impact on the budget.

C&I.2: Superintendent's Proposed 2007-08 School Budget: Mr. Shaps presented his budget figures going over each briefly as later discussions will delve more deeply into each segment.

PUBLIC HEARING: No questions or statements were made at this time.

MINUTES: Lindsey Hicks moved to accept the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 22, 2007 as amended. Caryn Campbell seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee: Gabrielle Lesser reported saying they had reviewed the proposed budget and the tax certiorari claims.

BUSINESS:

B.1. Lindsey Hicks moved to approve the following recommendation of the Committee on Preschool Special Education for the 2006-07 school year. #7220
Eric Sweeting seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

B.2. Patricia Anne Woods moved to eliminate petty cash funds from the following two locations:
High School Office: \$100.00
High School Guidance Office: \$100.00
Eileen Baecher seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Old Business – Board of Education:

Date for the Board's Spring Retreat?

Old Business – Audience to Board of Education

New Business – Board of Education:

Patricia Anne Woods announced her decision not to run for School Board Trustee in the next election in May. She also said the booklet for prospective trustee would be ready soon.

New Business – Audience to Board of Education

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Mary Wirth, Board President, declared the Meeting closed at 10:05 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy S. Caruso
District Clerk