

HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, June 4, 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 on Monday evening, May 21, 2007. Present were Trustees Mary Wirth, Eric Sweeting, Gabrielle Lesser, Lindsey Hicks, Caryn Campbell and Eileen Baecher. Trustee Patricia Anne Woods arrived prior to Agenda Item VIII (Committee Reports). 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. Lindsey Hicks moved to adjourn the meeting into Executive Session to discuss specific personnel matters. Eric Sweeting seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees present. Following discussion, Lindsey Hicks moved to reconvene the Regular Meeting. Gabrielle Lesser seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees present.

At 8:15 PM Board President Mary Wirth welcomed all to the Regular Meeting of June 4, 2007.

REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Mr. Shaps noted that on the weekend of May 25, both the Hillside Chorus and the Hillside Small Chorus were awarded "Superior" ratings at the High Note Music Festival at Rye Playland, "superior" being the highest rating. On May 29th, 30 students were inducted into the International Thespian Honor Society by earning 10 points by guidelines set by the Educational Theater Association.

He announced that on May 31st, the HHS Varsity Baseball team defeated Rye Neck to capture their second Section title in a row and advanced to the regional semi-finals with their next game on June 5th.

From the recent fantastic HHS musical performance of "West Side Story", the "Jets" have been nominated for a "Helen Award" in the category of "outstanding performance by an ensemble group." Named after Helen Hayes, the award recognizes outstanding achievement in High School theater. The award ceremony is scheduled for June 11th.

Farragut MS has been recognized by the State Department of Education as a "high performing/gap closing" school for meeting all standards on English and Math tests in 2005-06 and raising the achievement of all students as required under the federal No Child Left Behind Act. Kudos to Principal Gail Kipper and her teaching staff.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

- June 5-6 Grade 8 Social Studies Exams
- June 5 Hillside BLT Meeting – Hillside Café – 3:15 PM
- June 5 HS BLT Meeting- HS Main Office – 3:15 PM
- June 5 District Chamber Music Recital – HS Auditorium – 7:00 PM
- June 6 "A Conversation on Teaching and Learning at Hillside" – Café – 7:00 PM
- June 7 Grade 4 to Grade 5 Transition Meeting – HS Auditorium – 7:30 PM
- June 7 FMS BLT Meeting – MS Conference Room – 3:15 PM
- June 7 Hillside Spring Concert – HS Auditorium – 7:00 PM
- June 7-11 National Academic Championships – Orlando, Florida
- June 8 Hillside Field Day (rain or shine) – 9:00 AM

June 11-13 Grade 4 Visits FMS – 10:30 AM
June 11 Hillside Picnic (rain or shine)
June 11 Last Day of HS Classes
June 12-21 HS Final Exams
June 13 Community Leaders Group (ES/MW/PAW)-Russell Lecture Room – 3:30 PM
June 13 Grade 3 String Recital – HS Auditorium – 7:00 PM
June 14 Grade 5 to Grade 6 Transition Meeting – HS Auditorium – 7:30 PM
June 14 Volunteers' Tea Reception – Farragut Cafeteria – 3:30 PM
June 15 Grade 8 Recognition Night – HS Auditorium – 7:00 PM
June 15 End of 4th Quarter
June 17 Senior Prom at Marina Del Ray, Bronx – 7:00 PM
June 18 Board of Education Meeting – Russell Lecture Room – 8:00 PM

PERSONNEL:

P.1. Eileen Baecher moved to accept the resignation of **Carolann C. Castellano**, effective July 1, 2007. Gabrielle Lesser seconded. Ms. McGivney and Mr. Adipietro spoke of their heavy hearts at losing this valuable member of the Administrative Team. The motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees present.

P.2. Eric Sweeting moved to accept the resignation of **John L. Chow**, effective August 1, 2007. Gabrielle Lesser seconded. Superintendent Shaps spoke of the indelible mark Mr. Chow has left after 6 years of service. He has literally transformed the Business Office and has made the first year of “my superintendency” considerably easier. The motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees in attendance.

P.3. Lindsey Hicks moved to accept the resignation of **Jeanne Newman** for retirement purposes, effective July 1, 2007. Caryn Campbell seconded. HS Principal Dr. Fazio spoke of Ms. Newman’s many contributions, i.e. photography courses, Project SHARE and the Thanksgiving Dinner for the Homeless. The motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees present.

P.4. Eileen Baecher moved to accept the resignation of **Gail Osterman**, effective July 31, 2007. Gabrielle Lesser seconded. Principals Dr. Fazio and Ms. Kipper spoke of Ms. Osterman’s contributions during her 2 year tenure, i.e. a new schedule for Hillside and a new Math program. The motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees in attendance.

P.5. Lindsey Hicks moved to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, on June 4, 2007, it was determined that a vacancy exists for an interim Elementary School Principal for the 2007-08 school year, which will be integral to Hastings-on-Hudson’s operations; and

WHEREAS, the Board has identified **William Huppuch** as a qualified candidate and wishes to appoint him to an interim Elementary School Principal position for the 2007-08 school year, effective July 1, 2007; and

WHEREAS, William Huppuch, 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, William Huppuch 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 William Huppuch on an emergency basis to the position of Elementary School Principal, for the 2007-08 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 William Huppuch 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 William Huppuch’s continued employment by the Board.

Tenure Area n/a
 Salary Placement: MA, Step 2
 Date of Commencement of Probationary Service: n/a
 Date of Expiration of Probationary Service: n/a
 Anticipated Tenure Date: n/a
 Certification Status: SAS

Superintendent Shaps spoke of Mr. Huppuch’s qualifications.

Eric Sweeting seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees in attendance.

P.6. Lindsey Hicks moved to appoint **Gina J. Menendez** to a 1.0 FTE probationary position as a Social Worker for the 2007-08 school year, effective September 1, 2007, as follows:

Tenure Area: School Social Worker
 Salary Placement: MA, Step 2
 Date of Commencement of Probationary Service: September 1, 2007
 Date of Expiration of Probationary Service: June 30, 2010
 Anticipated Tenure Date: September 1, 2010
 Certification Status: Provisional

MS Principal Kipper spoke of Ms. Menendez’s qualifications.

Eric Sweeting seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees present.

P.7. – P. 19. Caryn Campbell moved to approve the following recommendations:

To appoint **Beth Rudd** to a 1.0 FTE leave replacement position as a English teacher for the 2007-08 school year, effective September 1, 2007, as follows:

Tenure Area: n/a
 Salary Placement: BA+60, Step 9
 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 amend the appointment of **Gloria Szeszko** to a .8 FTE probationary position as School Psychologist and a .2 probationary position as the CSE Chairperson for the 2007-08 school year, effective September 1, 2007, as follows:

Tenure Area: School Psychologist
 Salary Placement: DR, Step 14
 Date of Commencement of Probationary Service: September 1, 2007
 Expiration Date of Probationary Service: June 30, 2009
 Anticipated Tenure Date: September 1, 2009*
 Certification Status: Permanent
 *Previously tenured in New York State

AND

To amend the appointment of **Mary L. Trainor** to a 1.0 FTE probationary position as an Art teacher for the 2007-08 school year, effective September 1, 2007, as follows:

Tenure Area: Art
Salary Placement: MA+60, Step 6
Date of Commencement of Probationary Service: September 1, 2007
Date of Expiration of Probationary Service: June 30, 2010
Anticipated Tenure Date: September 1, 2010
Certification Status: Provisional

AND

To approve a salary advancement for **Claudia Alfonso** from BA+30, Step 5 to MA, Step 5, effective June 1, 2007

AND

To approve a salary advancement for **Jesse Merchant** from BA+30, Step 4 to MA, Step 4, effective June 1, 2007

AND

WHEREAS, on June 4, 2007, it was determined that a vacancy exists for a Schedule B Stage Manager 7/8 Grade Play, Schedule B Stage Manager 7/8 Musical and Stage Manager 5/6 Grade Play for the 2006-07 school year, which will be integral to Hastings-on-Hudson's operations; and WHEREAS, the Board has identified **David Epstein** as a qualified candidate and wishes to appoint him to a Schedule B Stage Manager 7/8 Grade Play, Stage Manager 7/8 Grade Musical and Stage Manager 5/6 Grade Play for the 2006-07 school year; and

WHEREAS, David Epstein, 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, David Epstein 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 David Epstein on an emergency basis to the Schedule B position of Stage Manager 7/8 Grade Play, Stage Manager 7/8 Grade Musical and Stage Manager 5/6 Grade Play 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 David Epstein 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 David Epstein's continued employment by the Board.

AND

WHEREAS, on June 4, 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; and

WHEREAS, the Board has identified **Adam Hart** as a qualified candidate and wishes to appoint him to a substitute teacher position for the 2006-07 school year, effective May 22, 2007; and

WHEREAS, Adam Hart, 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, Adam Hart 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 Adam Hart 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 Adam Hart 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 Adam Hart's continued employment by the Board.

AND

WHEREAS, on June 4, 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; and

WHEREAS, the Board has identified **Sabrina Letizia** as a qualified candidate and wishes to appoint her to a substitute teacher position for the 2006-07 school year, effective May 22, 2007; and

WHEREAS, Sabrina Letizia, 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, Sabrina Letizia 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 Sabrina Letizia 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 Sabrina Letizia 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 Sabrina Letizia's continued employment by the Board

AND

WHEREAS, on June 4, 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; and

WHEREAS, the Board has identified **Jennifer Martignetti** as a qualified candidate and wishes to appoint her to a substitute teacher position for the 2006-07 school year, effective May 22, 2007; and

WHEREAS, Jennifer Martignetti, 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, Jennifer Martignetti 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 Jennifer Martignetti 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 Jennifer Martignetti 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 determine what steps, if any, shall be taken with regard to Jennifer Martignetti's continued employment by the Board

AND

To appoint **Ellen Woods** to the probationary 12-month position of Office Assistant-Automated Systems, Column VI, Step 2, effective July 1, 2007. The probationary period for this position will be from July 2, 2007 through June 30, 2008.

AND

To appoint **Mary Ellen Usher** to the position of substitute caller for the 2007-08 school year, effective September 1, 2007, at a stipend of \$6,805

AND

To amend the appointment of **Nidia Ferrara** as a teacher aide for the 2007-08 school year, to a 10-month, Column III, Step 8, 28 hours per week, effective September 1, 2008 through June 30, 2008. Effective September 1, 2008, Ms. Ferrara will continue in this position on a full-time basis.

AND

To grant a parental leave of absence, without pay, to **Suzanne Vaccaro**, for the 2007-08 school year.

Eileen Baecher seconded and items P.7 through P.19 carried by unanimous vote of those trustees in attendance.

P.20. Caryn Campbell moved to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, on June 4, 2007, it was determined that a vacancy exists for a Payroll Clerk-Confidential position, which will be integral to Hastings-on-Hudson's operations; and

WHEREAS, the Board has identified **Filomena Righetti** as a qualified candidate and wishes to appoint her to the probationary position as a payroll clerk, effective June 21, 2007; and

WHEREAS, Filomena Righetti, 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, Filomena Righetti 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 Filomena Righetti on an emergency basis to the probationary position of Payroll Clerk-Confidential, at an annual salary of \$58,250 for the remainder of the 2006-07 school year (pro-rated) and the 2007-08 school year, with a probationary period from June 21, 2007 to June 20, 2008, subject to such limitations as are set forth in Board Policy #6170.
2. Upon receipt of notice from the State Education Department that Filomena Righetti 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 determine what steps, if any, shall be taken with regard to Filomena Righetti’s continued employment by the Board.

John Chow, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Finance, spoke of Ms. Righetti’s qualifications.

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

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION:

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

- Policy #3410-Code of Conduct on School Property
- Policy #5220-District Investments
- Policy #5410-Purchasing
- Policy #8265-Internet Control Filtering

Lindsey Hicks moved to approve these policies. Caryn Campbell seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees in attendance.

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

MINUTES:

Lindsey Hicks moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meetings of May 21, 2007 as amended. Caryn Campbell seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees present.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

C.1. Facilities Committee w/George Foster: The possibility of installing a synthetic turf field at Reynolds was discussed with Mr. Foster quoting some figures and the Board indicating it should be further explored. Also discussed were expanded security techniques, especially at Hillside to discourage vandalism.

BUSINESS:

B.1.–B.2. Lindsey Hicks moved to approve the following Committee on Preschool Special Education recommendations for the 2006-07 school year:

- | | | | | |
|---------|----------|-------|---------|---------|
| #7114 | #6706 | #7036 | #02-004 | #02-003 |
| #02-006 | #02/2005 | | | |

AND

To approve the following Committee on Special Education recommendations for the 2006-07 school year:

- | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| #7114 | #93-002 | #96-008 | #97-002 | #99-012 |
| #95-003 | #93-023 | #95-016 | | |

Caryn Campbell seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

B.3. George Foster presented a review of the School Facility Report Card for Hillside Elementary School and the Farragut Complex noting that the annual visual inspection will take place in the Fall. He added the Health & Safety items missing in the written report.

B.4. Lindsey Hicks moved to approve the 2007-08 Menu Process as recommended by the Nutrition Committee. It was noted that this was the first change in 3 years and that the Cafeteria had run in the black for the past 5 of 6 years.

B.5. Lindsey Hicks moved to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, lawsuits have been commenced to challenge the assessments on the property currently owned by St. Andrews Golf Club and designated and described as Volume 8, Sheet 49B, Block 00000, Lot PB1, Acct. No. 8576350-A on the Tax Maps and Assessment Rolls of the Town of Greenburgh for the assessment years of 2002 through 2006; and

WHEREAS, the Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District, through its attorneys Keane & Beane, P.C., appeared in the pending litigation to protect the interests of the School District; and

WHEREAS, several meetings were held with the attorney for the petitioner, the Deputy Town Attorney for the Town of Greenburgh, special counsel for the Village of Hastings and counsel for the School District and various settlement proposals were discussed at length prior to arriving at a tentative settlement; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that it is in the best interests of the School District to settle this lawsuit with the following reductions in assessed values:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Assessed Value</u>	<u>New Assessed Value</u>	<u>Reduction</u>
2002	\$3,350	\$2,825	\$ 525
2003	\$3,350	\$2,600	\$ 750
2004	\$3,350	\$2,625	\$ 725
2005	\$3,350	\$2,250	\$1,100
2006	\$3,350	\$2,125	\$1,225

Caryn Campbell seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

B.6. Eileen Baecher moved to accept, with thanks, a donation of various electrical supplies for the Science Department from Nancy Reich valued at \$100.00.

Caryn Campbell seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

B.7 & B.8. Patricia Anne Woods moved to approve Betty Erickson, Math Trailblazers Training Consultant, as proposed for June 8, 2007, and to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute the agreement;

AND

To approve Dr. Virginia Rogas, ESL Consultant, as proposed for June 15, 2007, and to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute the agreement.

Gabrielle Lesser seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Old Business – Board of Education:

O.B.1. Revised Policy #4212 - Organizational Chart, previously moved and seconded was approved as further amended by unanimous vote

O.B.2. Revised Policy #7131 – Non-Resident Students, previously moved and seconded was approved by unanimous vote

O.B.3. Revised Policy #7314 – Acceptable Technology Use Policy-students, previously moved and seconded was approved as further amended by unanimous vote.

Old Business – Audience to Board of Education: No statements or questions were raised at this time

New Business – Board of Education:

N.B.1. 2007-08 Board of Education Meeting Dates.

N.B.2. Lindsey Hicks moved to adopt the schedule of 2007-08 Board of Education Meeting Dates. Eric Sweeting seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

N.B.3. Building Codes of Conduct – Introductory Language. This will be re-introduced during the 2007-2008 school year.

N.B.4. Revised Policy #6470-Acceptable Technology Use Policy-personnel (first reading). Eileen Baecher moved to approve with Patricia Anne Woods seconding. Vote will be taken at next meeting.

N.B.5. Meeting Summary – Possible new agenda item as summary of meeting noting accomplishments, follow-ups and effectiveness.

Also discussed was the graduation program and the elimination of symbols following the names. The control of the podium was also discussed.

New Business – Audience to Board of Education: None

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Mary Wirth, Board President, declared the meeting closed at 11:10 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy S. Caruso
District Clerk

