

HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, August 20, 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, August 20, 2007. Present were Trustees Eric Sweeting, Gabrielle Lesser, Mary Wirth, Caryn Campbell and Eileen Baecher. Trustees Lindsey Hicks and Eva Alligood were absent. Also present were Robert I. Shaps, Superintendent of Schools, Ronnie Stowell, Interim Business Official, Nancy S. Caruso, District Clerk, and guests.

CALL TO ORDER:

Board of Education President Eric Sweeting called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. Caryn Campbell moved to adjourn the meeting into Executive Session to discuss specific personnel matters. Mary Wirth seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees present. Following discussion, Mary Wirth 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 Eric Sweeting welcomed all to the Regular Meeting of August 20, 2007.

REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Mr. Shaps noted that the summer cleaning of the facilities was on target for school opening. He went on to introduce William Huppuch, Interim Principal of Hillside School and Ronnie Stowell, Interim Business Official.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Sweeting reminded all that the following announcements appear on the website and on WHOH.

- August 21 Joint Board /Village Board Subcommittee Mtg. – Russell Lecture Room – 8:00 AM
- August 29 New Staff Breakfast & Orientation – Farragut Cafeteria – 8:00 AM
- August 30 Kindergarten Bus Run – Hillside – 9:00 AM
- September 3 Labor Day – Schools & Offices Closed
- September 4 Superintendent’s Conference Day – no school for students
- September 4 Freshman Orientation – HHS Auditorium – 12:00 PM
- September 5 PTSA First Day of School Breakfast – Hillside Library – 8:00 AM
- September 5&6 ½ Day for Students – PM: Staff Development – 8:00 AM
- September 6 “Habits of Mind” Mtg. For FMS Parents – HHS Auditorium – 7:00 PM
- September 7 First full day of classes (Kindergarten dismisses at noon)
- September 10 FMS Parent Liaison Mtg. – Lloyd Library – 6:45 PM
- September 10 Board of Education Meeting – Russell Lecture Room – 8:00 PM
- September 13-14 Rosh Hashanah – Schools & Offices Closed

PERSONNEL:

P.1. Mary Wirth moved to accept the resignation of **Dr. Heidi McCarthy**, effective September 7, 2007. Eileen Baecher seconded. Mr. Shaps expressed his regret saying Dr. McCarthy has worked extremely hard as advocate for the district and for children. The Board expressed its great respect for Dr. McCarthy and wished her the best of luck. Dr. Tom Fazio speaking for the Administrative Association said Dr. McCarthy’s department was in great need of strong organization when she accepted the challenge four years ago. It is now operating smoothly. He went on to read the Irish Blessing to indicate their good wishes.

Dr. McCarthy thanked everyone for their kind words and said it was very hard to leave. She said this was a phenomenal community of teachers, staff and parents and it had been a privilege to serve here.

The motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees present.

P.2.& P.4. Mary Wirth moved to rescind the appointment of **Kristen Morgan**, as a 1.0 FTE leave replacement Special Education teacher for the 2007-08 school year

AND

To appoint **Kristen Morgan** to a 1.0 FTE probationary position as an Elementary School teacher for the 2007-08 school year, effective September 1, 2007, as follows:

- Tenure Area: Elementary K-6
- 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: Initial

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

P.3. & P.5. Eileen Baecher moved to rescind the appointment of **Ryan Dobson** as a permanent substitute teacher for the 2007-08 school year

AND

WHEREAS, on August 20, 2007, it was determined that a vacancy exists for a .8 FTE Special Education teacher for the 2007-08 school year, which will be integral to Hastings-on-Hudson’s operations; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board has identified **Sara Avidan** as a qualified candidate and wishes to appoint her to a .8 FTE Special Education teacher position for the 2007-08 school year, effective September 1, 2007, as follows:

- Tenure Area: n/a
- Salary Placement: MA+40, Step 6
- Date of Commencement of Probationary Service: n/a
- Date of Expiration of Probationary Service: n/a
- Anticipated Tenure Date: n/a
- Certification Status: Permanent

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

P.6. Gabrielle Lesser moved to amend **Mitchell Samet’s** appointment as a school psychologist to include additional hours, at a rate of \$46 per hour, not to exceed \$2,600, for the 2007-08 school year, effective July 1, 2007. Mary Wirth seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees in attendance.

P.7.-P.18.Eileen Baecher moved to approve the following recommendations:

To rescind the Schedule B appointment of **Jon Feinstein** as Varsity Girls Soccer Coach for the 2007-08 school year

AND

To appoint the following individuals to Schedule B positions for the 2007-08 school year:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>STEP</u>	<u>STIPEND</u>
John Buchanan	Gay Straight Alliance CoAdvisor	1	\$ 362
Debora DiFronzo	Gay Straight Alliance CoAdvisor	1	\$ 362
Maryanne Heckhaus	HS AM Detention Supervisor	n/a	\$3,008

Robert Peeples	MS Lunch Supervisor	n/a	\$3,008
Michael Rubino	MS Jazz Band Director	8	\$1,762
Andrew Wendol	2007-08 Athletic Director	n/a	\$9,038
Stephen Yurek	MS Chess Club	7	\$1,542
Stephen Yurek	MS Detention Supervisor	n/a	\$46/hour

AND

WHEREAS, on August 20, 2007, it was determined that a vacancy exists for a Schedule B Girls' Varsity Soccer Coach for the 2007-08 school year, which will be integral to Hastings-on-Hudson's operations; and

WHEREAS, the Board has identified **Albana Krasniqi** as a qualified candidate and wishes to appoint her to a Schedule B position as a Girls' Varsity Soccer Coach, Step 1, for the 2007-08 school year, effective August 21, 2007; and

WHEREAS, Albana Krasniqi, 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, Albana Krasniqi 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 Albana Krasniqi on an emergency basis to the Schedule B position of Girls' Varsity Soccer Coach 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 Albana Krasniqi 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 Albana Krasniqi's continued employment by the Board.

AND

WHEREAS, on August 20, 2007, it was determined that a vacancy exists for a permanent substitute teacher, for the 2007-08 school year, which will be integral to Hastings-on-Hudson's operations; and

WHEREAS, the Board has identified **James Cassie** as a qualified candidate and wishes to appoint him to an annual substitute teacher position for the 2007-08 school year, effective September 1, 2007; and

WHEREAS, James Cassie, 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 that James Cassie 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 James Cassie on an emergency basis to the position of annual substitute teacher, 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 James Cassie 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 James Cassie's continued employment by the Board.

AND

WHEREAS, on August 20, 2007, it was determined that a vacancy exists for a teacher aide, for the 2007-08 school year, which will be integral to Hastings-on-Hudson's operations; and NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, The Board has identified **Chaz J. Busuttil** as a qualified candidate and wishes to appoint him to the position of teacher aide, 10-month, Column III, Step 4, 6.5 hours per day for the 2007-08 school year, effective September 4, 2007. The probationary position for this period will be September 4, 2007 through September 3, 2008.

AND

To appoint **Kevin Berry** to a .5 FTE position as a Cleaner, 12-month, Column I, Step IA, effective September 4, 2007. The probationary period for this position will be September 4, 2007 through September 3, 2008.

AND

WHEREAS, on August 20, 2007, it was determined that a vacancy exists for a teacher aide, for the 2007-08 school year, which will be integral to Hastings-on-Hudson's operations; and WHEREAS, the Board has identified **Haxhere Sherry Veseli** as a qualified candidate and wishes to appoint her to the position of teacher aide for the 2007-08 school year, effective September 4, 2007; and

WHEREAS, Haxhere Sherry Veseli, 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, Haxhere Sherry Veseli 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 Haxhere Sherry Veseli on an emergency basis to the position of Teacher Aide, 10-month, Column III, Step 1, 5 hours per day, for the 2007-08 school year, subject to such limitations as are set forth in Board Policy #6170. The probationary period for this position will be from September 4, 2007 through September 3, 2008.
2. Upon receipt of notice from the State Education Department that Haxhere Sherry Veseli 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 Haxhere Sherry Veseli's continued appointment.

AND

WHEREAS, on August 20, 2007, it was determined that a vacancy exists for a teacher aide, for the 2007-08 school year, which will be integral to Hastings-on-Hudson's operations; and WHEREAS, the Board has identified **Melissa Vigada** as a qualified candidate and wishes to appoint her to the position of teacher aide for the 2007-08 school year, effective September 4, 2007; and

WHEREAS, Melissa Vigada, 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, Melissa Vigada 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 Melissa Vigada on an emergency basis to the position of Teacher Aide, 10-month, Column III, Step 1, 5 hours per day, 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 Melissa Vigada 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 Melissa Vigada's continued employment by the Board.

AND

To appoint **Arlene Celli** as a clerical substitute for the 2007-08 school year, at the per diem rate of \$35.59 per hour, effective July 1, 2007.

AND

WHEREAS, on August 20, 2007, it was determined that a vacancy exists for a teacher aide for the 2007-08 school year, which will be integral to Hastings-on-Hudson's operations; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Board has identified **Ifigenia Manos-Fell** as a qualified candidate and wishes to appoint her to the position of Teacher Aide, 10-month, Column III, Step 1, 6 hours per day for the 2007-08 school year, effective September 4, 2007. The probationary period for this position will be September 4, 2007 through September 3, 2008.

AND

To accept the resignation of **Travis Thornton**, teacher aide, effective September 1, 2007.

AND

WHEREAS, on August 20, 2007, it was determined that a vacancy exists for a teacher aide for the 2007-08 school year, which will be integral to Hastings-on-Hudson's operations; and

WHEREAS, the Board has identified **Kyle Falvey** as a qualified candidate and wishes to appoint her to the position of teacher aide, effective September 4, 2007; and

WHEREAS, Kyle Falvey, 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, Kyle Falvey 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 Kyle Falvey on an emergency basis to the position of Teacher Aide, 10-month, Column III, Step 1, 7 hours per day for the 2007-08 school year, subject to such limitations as are set forth in Board Policy #6170. The probationary period for this position will be from September 4, 2007 through September 3, 2008.
2. Upon receipt of notice from the State Education Department that Kyle Falvey 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 Kyle Falvey's continued employment by the Board.

Mary Wirth seconded and items P.7 through P.18 were carried by unanimous vote of those trustees present.

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

MINUTES:

Mary Wirth moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meetings of June 21, 2007 and July 2, 2007 and for the Reorganization Meeting of July 2, 2007 and the Special Meeting of July 19, 2007. Caryn Campbell seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees present.

BUSINESS:

B.1.& B.2. Mary Wirth moved to approve the following resolutions:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District has previously appointed Mr. Robert Shaps as Superintendent of Schools; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education seeks to amend the Employment Contract of Mr. Shaps by means of an Amendment thereto;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District approves an Amendment to the Employment Agreement between Mr. Robert Shaps and the Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District dated August 20, 2007 and hereby authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute said Amendment.

AND

RESOLVED, that the annual salary for Mr. Robert Shaps, Superintendent of Schools, for the period August 21, 2007 until August 20, 2008 shall be \$214,000.00.

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

B.3-B.6. Mary Wirth moved to approve the following recommendations:

To approve the following Committee on Preschool Special Education recommendation for the 2006-07 school year: #7187

AND

To approve the following Committee on Special Education recommendations for the 2006-07 school year: #5862 #6964 #01-016 #92-019

AND

To approve the following Committee on Preschool Special Education recommendations for the 2007-08 school year: #6533 #7232 #7289 #7262

AND

To approve the following Committee on Special Education recommendations for the 2007-08 school year: (see attached)

Caryn Campbell seconded and items B.3.-B.6.carried by unanimous vote of those trustees in attendance.

B.7. Gabrielle Lesser moved to authorize Eric Sweeting to attend the New York State School Boards Association's 2007 Board Officers Academy. Caryn Campbell seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees present.

B.8. Mary Wirth moved to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute the proposal submitted by EduChange, Inc. for K-12 Science and Foreign Language Curriculum Assessments for the district, for the 2007-08 school year. Gabrielle Lesser seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees present.

B.9.-B.11. Mary Wirth moved to approve the following recommendations:

To approve the school staffing agreement with the HTA of New York, Inc. for the 2007-08 school year and to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute the agreement

AND

To approve the school staffing agreement with OT Kids Plus of NY, P.C. for the 2007-08 school year and to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute the agreement.

AND

To authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute the proposal submitted by JSS Vision Consulting, for orientation and mobility services for an individual student as per his/her IEP, not to exceed \$2,000 for the 2007-08 school year.

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

B.12. Mary Wirth moved to adopt the 2007-08 School Lunch Budget in the amount of \$390,828. Gabrielle Lesser seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees present.

B.13. Mary Wirth moved to amend the terms to retain the firm of Girvin & Ferlazzo, P.C. for legal services in special education matters at the following rate schedule in connection with services specified in its proposal:

1. the hourly rate of \$170.00 per hour for administrative hearings, appeals and litigation;
2. the hourly rate of \$150.00 per hour for non-litigation matters;
3. an annual retainer fee of \$12,000 for the 2007-08 school year.

Caryn Campbell seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees present.

B.14. Caryn Campbell moved to authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute all necessary appropriate documents to renew the food service management contract with Aramark Educational Services, Inc. for the 2007-08 school year. Mary Wirth seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees in attendance.

B.15. Caryn Campbell moved to accept the Treasurer's Report for April, May and June 2007. Mary Wirth seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees present.

B.16. Mary Wirth moved to accept the Revenue & Expenditure Reports for June 2007. Gabrielle Lesser seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees in attendance.

B.17. Mary Wirth moved to accept the Extraclassroom Activity Funds Report for the quarter ended June 30, 2007. Caryn Campbell seconded. It was noted that dormant accounts are moved into General Fund after two years. The motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees present.

B.18. Mary Wirth moved to approve budget transfers for the 2006-07 school year. Gabrielle Lesser seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees in attendance.

B.19. Caryn Campbell moved to increase the reserve for Tax Certiorari by \$470,194. Gabrielle Lesser seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote of those trustees present.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Old Business – Board of Education:

Mary Wirth presented a Traffic and Safe Routes to School report from the Facilities Committee for the meeting with the Village Board tomorrow morning.

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 Topics were discussed.

N.B.2. Board of Education Committee Assignments were discussed and decided.

N.B.3. Westchester-Putnam School Boards Association (WPSBA) Legislative Committee assignment was decided.

N.B.4. The Fall Board Retreat will be held on September 9 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The Trustees were reminded to bring their calendars. The Board will have the opportunity to discuss procedures for addressing scenarios that might present themselves.

New Business – Audience to Board of Education: None

MEETING SUMMARY: Considerable business was accomplished; the topics and assignments took time but were decided.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Eric Sweeting, Board President, declared the meeting closed at 10:35 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy S. Caruso
District Clerk