

HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, November 5, 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, November 5, 2007. Present were Trustees Eric Sweeting, Gabrielle Lesser, Mary Wirth, Caryn Campbell, Lindsey Hicks, Eileen Baecher and Eva Neubauer Alligood. Also present were Robert I. Shaps, Superintendent of Schools, Rebecca Gourevitch, Student Liaison, Nancy S. Caruso, District Clerk, and guests.

CALL TO ORDER:

Board of Education President Eric Sweeting called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM. Mary Wirth moved to adjourn the meeting into Executive Session to discuss specific personnel matters. Gabrielle Lesser seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote. Following discussion, Caryn Campbell moved to reconvene the Regular Meeting. Eileen Baecher seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

At 8:15 PM Board President Eric Sweeting welcomed all to the Regular Meeting of November 5, 2007.

REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Mr. Shaps announced that four AP Studio Art students will have their work displayed at the 14th Annual High School Women Artists Exhibition that will run through November 11th at the College of New Rochelle. He said he was pleased to learn that 21 students had signed up to participate in some upcoming theater tech workshops, products of the Superintendent's Arts Advisory Committee and the PTSA. Students will learn what goes on behind the curtain, offstage and up in the booth thanks to parent professionals who have volunteered to offer these services.

Mr. Shaps spoke of Newberry Medal-winning author Lois Lowry who has begun an original story outline about a peculiar substitute teacher and asks students across the nation to write a paragraph to add to the story. Each week a favorite paragraph is chosen and he congratulated a FMS student for being one of the few to be selected.

The annual Halloween Parade was a huge success with many original costumes on display and a large crowd gathered in support of the students' efforts.

Congratulations to the winners of the second annual Quiz Bowl held on October 25th. \$1,500 was raised for the trip to the National Championships in June 2008.

The Boys' Varsity Soccer Team has won the Section 1 Class B Title and will compete in the Regional Qualifying Round on November 7th at the National Soccer Hall of Fame in Oneonta, NY. The Girls' Varsity Swim Team competed in the Sectional Preliminaries at Felix Festa Middle School with sectional relays and sectional finals upcoming. We wish them luck.

On Wednesday, November 7th at 2:00 PM, Orysia Dmytrenko, the Deputy Secretary's Regional Representative of the U.S. Department of Education, will be here to congratulate Farragut Middle School on receiving the 2007 Blue Ribbon Award. The ceremony will take place in the High School Auditorium.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

November 6 Superintendent Conference Day – No school for students

November 6 Parent/Teacher Conferences AM; Staff Development PM

November 7 FMS Assembly-Deputy Secretary Regional Representative Orysia Dmytrenko,
U.S. Department of Education Visit – HHS Auditorium – 1:30 PM

- November 7 Community Leaders Group Meeting – Russell Lecture Room - 3:30 PM
- November 7 Peer Leadership Parents’ Night – HHS Auditorium – 7:00 PM
- November 8 Meet & Greet Deborah Augarten, Director of Special Education Services- Hillside Café-7:30 PM
- November 9 End of 1st Quarter
- November 12 Veteran’s Day – Schools and Offices Closed
- November 13 National Honor Society Induction – Russell Lecture Room – 7:00 PM
- November 14-15 Grade 5 NYS Social Studies Assessment
- November 14 College Financial Aid Meeting – HHS Auditorium – 7:00 PM
- November 15 Hillside/FMS/HHS Parent Teacher Conferences – 7:00 PM
- November 16 Half Day for Students-Dismissals: Hillside 11:45; FMS & HHS 11:52
- November 16 Afternoon: Parent/Teacher Conferences
- November 17 International Buffet Dinner – Farragut Complex Cafeteria – 5:30 PM
- November 17 Harvest Moon Ball – Farragut Complex Cafeteria – 7:00 PM
- November 19 Parents’ Visiting Day – Hillside
- November 19 Hillside Liaison Meeting – Hillside – 6:45 PM
- November 19 Board of Education Meeting – Russell Lecture Room – 8:00 PM

PERSONNEL:

P.1. Caryn Campbell moved to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, on November 5, 2007, it was determined that a vacancy exists for 1.0 FTE probationary position as a School Media Specialist for the 2007-08 school year, which will be integral to Hastings-on-Hudson’s operations; and

WHEREAS, the Board has identified **Dona Ratterree** as a qualified candidate and wishes to appoint her to the position of School Media Specialist for the 2007-08 school year, effective December 5, 2007; and

WHEREAS, Dona Ratterree, 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, Dona Ratterree 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 Dona Ratterree on an emergency basis to the probationary position of School Media Specialist, 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 Dona Ratterree 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 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 Dona Ratterree’s continued employment by the Board.

Tenure Area: School Media Specialist (Library)

Salary Placement: MA+30, Step 12

Date of Commencement of Probationary Services: December 5, 2007

Date of Expiration of Probationary Services: December 4, 2009

Anticipated Tenure Date: December 5, 2009*

Certification Status: Permanent

*Previously awarded tenure in New York State

Hillside Principal, William Huppuch, spoke of Ms. Ratterree’s qualifications. Lindsey Hicks seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

P.2.-P.10. Mary Wirth moved to approve the following recommendations:

To grant a 12 week FMLA leave of absence to **Teodor Steciuk**, effective September 24, 2007 through December 14, 2007. The period of October 29, 2007 through December 14, 2007 will be without pay.

AND

To approve instructional salary adjustments for extra credits in accordance with article 12 of the 2006-09 agreement between the Board of Education and the Hastings Teacher Association per the attached list (Board enclosure).

AND

To rescind the Schedule B appointment of **Stephanie Stroud** as Assistant Varsity Winter Track Coach for the 2007-08 school year

AND

To appoint the following individual to a Schedule B position for the 2007-08 school year:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>STEP</u>	<u>STIPEND</u>
Majid Benarafa	Asst. Varsity Winter Track Coach	1	\$3,251

AND

WHEREAS, on November 5, 2007, it was determined that a vacancy exists for substitute teacher for the 2007-08 school year, which will be integral to Hastings-on-Hudson’s operations in the 2007-08 school year; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board has identified **Gary Fey** as a qualified candidate and wishes to appoint him to the position of substitute teacher for the 2007-08 school year, effective October 22, 2007

AND

WHEREAS, on November 5, 2007, it was determined that a vacancy exists for a substitute clerk for the 2007-08 school year, which will be integral to Hastings-on-Hudson’s operations in the 2007-08 school year; and

WHEREAS, the Board has identified **Kellie Carlson** as a qualified candidate and wishes to appoint her to a substitute clerk position for the 2007-08 school year; and

WHEREAS, Kellie Carlson, 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, Kellie Carlson 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 Kellie Carlson on a emergency basis to the position of substitute clerk 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 Kellie Carlson 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 Kellie Carlson’s continued employment by the Board.

AND

To amend the appointment of **Ifigenia Manos-Fell** as a teacher aide, 10 month, Column III, Step 1, from 6 hours per day to 5.5 hours per day for the 2007-08 school year, effective September 4, 2007

AND

To appoint **Robert Duffy** to the position of Night Watchperson, 10 month, 4 hours per day at an hourly rate of \$12 for the 2007-08 school year, effective October 29, 2007

AND

To appoint **Patricia Varcasia** to the position of substitute clerk, at an hourly rate of \$18 for the 2007-08 school year.

Lindsey Hicks seconded and Items P.2 through P.10 carried by unanimous vote.

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION:

C&I.1. K-12 Mathematics: Superintendent Shaps, Rhonda Cohen, Director of Curriculum, and Greg Stephens, MS Math teacher, presented the Board with a discussion of developments in Mathematics curriculum. They discussed a planned transition from Math A and B to Algebra, Geometry and Algebra 2/Trigonometry along with materials needed. They also examined the pros and cons of the present courses at the K-4 and 5th grade levels. They assured the Board that assessment was ongoing and the Board would be kept apprised.

C&I.2. Strategic Plans: Superintendent Shaps indicated that 11 of 16 of the first year strategies had been accomplished. He went on to say that perhaps revisiting the plan to prioritize might be beneficial and a group might be charged to oversee implementation to keep activities focused. He expressed some concern over whether resources (money, personnel, facilities, training) were adequate and whether goals and objectives were still realistic. Of special emphasis in the report were learner-centered curriculum and enhanced technology. Operational goals were identified and the next steps were outlined.

The Board suggested that this might appear on the agenda for the next retreat.

PUBLIC HEARING: Mr. Jeremy Watts of 353 Saw Mill River Road spoke of possible bus transportation for his 11 year old daughter citing the dangers of walking in the area and the fact that his younger daughter is bussed. Board President, Eric Sweeting, while agreeing that it was a unique problem, explained the District’s bussing policies in denying Mr. Watts’ request.

MINUTES:

M.1. Caryn Campbell moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of October 15, 2007 as amended. Mary Wirth seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

BUSINESS:

B.1. & B.2. Mary Wirth moved to approve the following Committee on Preschool Special Education recommendations for the 2007-08 school year:

- #7233 #7404 #7398

AND

To approve the following recommendations of the Committee on Special Education for the 2007-08 school year:

- #5844 #6942 #93-020 #01-022 #5645 #6968 #93-013 #7388 #6872

Caryn Campbell seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

B.3. Eileen Baecher moved to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Hastings Union Free School District designates Robert Shaps-Superintendent of Schools, Deborah Augarten-Director of Special Education Services, Thomas Fazio-Principal of Hastings High School, Gail Kipper-Principal of Farragut Middle School and William Huppuch-Principal of Hillside Elementary School as the District's representatives with the authority to initiate referrals to the Committee on Special Education pursuant to NYS Education Law 4401-a(1). All other professional staff shall be authorized to request a referral to the aforementioned designees, which shall be made on the form approved by the aforementioned designees.

Mary Wirth seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

B.4. Mary Wirth moved to approve Sally Unruh as a Parent Member of the Committee on Special Education for the 2007-08 school year.

Eva Neubauer Alligood seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Old Business – Board of Education:

O.B.1 Gabrielle Lesser moved to approve the Board of Education Committee/Liaison Assignments. Eileen Baecher seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

Old Business – Audience to Board: No comments were made at this time

New Business – Board of Education:

N.B.1. Gabrielle Lesser reported on the NYSSBA Annual Business Meeting.

New Business – Audience to Board of Education: No comments were made at this time

MEETING SUMMARY:

- It was remarked that the Mathematics report was very informative and helpful. The Strategic Plan report encompassed so much and needed further discussion.
- The Board reminded all that Nov. 21 was "Senior Friends" Day at Hillside. Gabrielle Lesser indicated she would attend while Eric Sweeting and Mary Wirth said they would try to attend.
- It was noted that on Nov. 13th the Village will discuss the Transportation Plan priorities and Mary Wirth and Eva Neubauer Alligood said they would attend. Is it possible to get a document ahead of time? Should George Foster attend?
- On Nov. 27th, the Village will hold a Waterfront discussion.
- It was mentioned that the Village is having a FREE energy building audit to implement "going green." Should the District investigate?

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Eric Sweeting, Board President, declared the meeting closed at 10:55 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy S. Caruso
District Clerk