



HAWTHORNE PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
HAWTHORNE, NEW JERSEY



Thursday, April 16, 2020  
Regular Meeting – 7:00 P.M.  
Meeting Being Held Virtually  
This Meeting is Being Recorded

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Michael Doyle, President  
Alex Clavijo, Vice President

Abigail Goff  
Anthony Puluse  
Bruce Reicher  
Tania Sanford  
Marco Totaro  
Louis B. Turco

Richard A. Spirito, Superintendent of Schools  
Trude Engle, Business Administrator/Board Secretary



Next Meeting  
Virtual Budget Presentation  
April 28, 2020 at 7:00 P.M.



**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

**Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING BEGINS:**

The New Jersey Open Public Meeting Law was enacted to ensure the rights of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon.

In accordance with the provisions of this act, the Business Administrator/Board Secretary has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time, and place thereof posted on the bulletin board of the municipal building, communicated to The Herald News, The Record, and filed with the Clerk of the Borough of Hawthorne.

(Ask for Roll Call)

ROLL CALL:	PRESENT	ABSENT	Time of arrival after meeting has been called to order.
Alex Clavijo			
Abigail Goff			
Anthony Puluse			
Bruce Reicher			
Tania Sanford			
Marco Totaro			
Louis B. Turco			
Michael Doyle			

Also Present: Richard A. Spirito, Superintendent of Schools  
 Trude Engle, Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
 And approximately \_\_\_\_\_ members of the public.

**FLAG SALUTE:**

**MEETING REGULATIONS:**

During each regular meeting, two opportunities are provided for citizens to ask questions and to make comments. During the first opportunity, early on the agenda, the meeting is open to the public for the purpose of addressing items listed for approval on this agenda only. The second opportunity occurs just prior to adjournment, when citizens may address any subject matter that is pertinent to and/or directly related to the operation of the school district.

If you wish to make a comment or ask a question during the public portion of the meeting, you may submit the question by accessing the “Q&A” feature on the bottom of the Zoom screen or you may submit a question via our Board of Education email address at [HawthorneBOE@hawthorne.k12.nj.us](mailto:HawthorneBOE@hawthorne.k12.nj.us) which is available on our district website. When submitting questions via zoom or email please be sure to include your **first and last name, address, and email address followed by your question**. We will do our best to answer all questions in the order in which they are received. If for some reason we are unable to answer your question, someone from the district will respond using the email address you’ve provided.

The Board asks that members of the public be courteous and mindful of the rights of other individuals when speaking. Please note that the Board will not respond to comments regarding students or board employees in light of the privacy rights held by those individuals. Moreover, the Board discourages comments about such individuals, and will not be responsible for such comments. Members of the public who choose to speak during this public session should carefully consider their comments, since they could be held personally liable for any statements they make.

Finally, please note that in accordance with District Policy the Board will not officially comment or respond to any matter mentioned unless it can confirm that the matter has first been brought to the attention of the appropriate school personnel in an attempt to resolve the issue.

**PUBLIC BE HEARD - AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

March 3, 2020 – Work Session/Special Meeting  
 March 10, 2020 – Regular Meeting – Public & Private

***Board of Education Roll Call Vote***

	Mr. Clavijo	Mrs. Goff	Mr. Puluse	Mr. Reicher	Mrs. Sanford	Mr. Totaro	Mr. Turco	Mr. Doyle
Motion								
Aye								
Nay								
Abstain								
Absent								

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**REPORTS:**

- A. Student Council Representative's Report – Ava Tower
- B. Superintendent’s Report - Richard A. Spirito
  - NJSLA-Science Scores – Dr. Trabona

**CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION:**

**Abigail Goff, Chairperson**

**ACTION ITEMS:**

Pursuant to the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Committee on Curriculum and Instruction recommends the following resolutions:

- CI-1. Approval of contractual agreement with Bergen County Special Services School District, Educational Enterprises Division for Teacher of the Deaf services for Hawthorne resident student (file#040120) requiring this service during the 2019-2020 school year at a rate not to exceed \$1,485.00.
- CI-2. Approval of contract with Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care to provide bedside instruction for Hawthorne resident student (file #040220) at a rate of \$65.00 per hour for 10 hours of instruction per week commencing March 30, 2020.

***Board of Education Roll Call Vote***

	Mrs. Goff	Mr. Puluse	Mr. Reicher	Mrs. Sanford	Mr. Totaro	Mr. Turco	Mr. Clavijo	Mr. Doyle
Motion								
Aye								
Nay								
Abstain								
Absent								

**PERSONNEL:**

**Abigail Goff**

The following resolutions are pursuant to the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**Appointments, Retirements, Terminations, Resignations, Rescissions:**

Item #	Name	Action	Position	Degree /Step	Salary	School	Effective Date	Notice Date or Term. Date	Reason/ Account
P-4.	Steven Johnson	Retire	Math Teacher	n/a	n/a	HHS	7/1/20	6/30/20	Retirement
P-5.	Rita Pinelli	Retire	Paraprofessional	n/a	n/a	RS	7/1/20	6/30/20	Retirement
P-6.	Sarah Tode	Leave	Speech Language Specialist	n/a	n/a	RS	5/1/20	8/31/20	Extension of Child Rearing Leave
P-7.	Kendra Evans; Zhane Robinson; Daysi Sanchez	Decline	Part Time Paraprofessionals	n/a	n/a	District	n/a	n/a	Never signed contract. Never started in district. Never on payroll.
P-8.	Tricia Aupperlee	Rescind	0.6 F.T.E. BSI Math Teacher	B+15/9	\$37,212	LMS	n/a	6/30/20	Approval to Rescind Resolution P-8. from 3/10/20 Board Meeting
P-9.	Kimberly Brancato	Rescind	0.5 F.T.E. Teacher of the Handicapped	MA/10	Pro-rated on the basis of an annual salary of \$32,835	HS	n/a	6/30/20	Approval to Rescind Resolution P-37. from 3/10/20 Board Meeting

\* All appointments are subject to the satisfactory completion of the criminal history records check required by law and subject to verification of job qualifications and prior experience if necessary. In the event the criminal history checks are not completed, these applications are subject to the approval of the County Superintendent for emergent hiring procedures.

***Board of Education Roll Call Vote***

	Mr. Puluse	Mr. Reicher	Mrs. Sanford	Mr. Totaro	Mr. Turco	Mr. Clavijo	Mrs. Goff	Mr. Doyle
Motion								
Aye								
Nay								
Abstain								
Absent								

**FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION:**

**Alex Clavijo, Chairperson**

**ACTION ITEMS:**

Pursuant to the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Committee on Finance and Administration recommends the following resolutions:

- F-10. Acceptance of the Secretary’s and Treasurer’s Report for March 2020 and the Board Secretary certifies that no budgetary line item account has been over-expended and that sufficient funds are available to meet the District’s financial obligation.
- F-11. Approval to make the necessary transfers for the period March 1, 2020 through March 31, 2020, for the budget year 2019-2020 in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:232.11. A list of these transfers is submitted under separate cover and shall be made an integral part of this resolution.
- A-12. Be it resolved that the Board of Education affirms the Superintendent's decision on HIB #2019-2020: LMS-3 and authorizes the Superintendent to notify the parents of the Board’s decision.

A-13. Be it resolved that the Board of Education affirms the Superintendent's decision on HIB #2019-2020: WS-2 and authorizes the Superintendent to notify the parents of the Board's decision.

A-14. WHEREAS, formal disciplinary proceedings were initiated against a student whose name is on file (hereinafter referred to as the "Student") with the Hawthorne Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the "Board"), regarding allegations that, on or about October 17, 2019, Student emailed a teacher a swastika symbol that caused the teacher serious emotional distress, possessed inappropriate images and communications on the Hawthorne School District's server and attempted to email vulgar, threatening and obscene images to several of his teachers that were captured by the District's content filter, in violation of Board Policy Nos. 5610 (Suspension), 5600 (Pupil Discipline/Code of Conduct), 5751 (Sexual Harassment), 2361 (Acceptable Use of Computer Networks/Computers and Resources), 8465 (Hate Crimes and Bias Related Acts) and N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2 (Causes for Suspension or Expulsion of Pupils).

WHEREAS, on or about November 13, 2019, Student's parents were provided with notice of a disciplinary hearing to be held before the Board on November 19, 2019 and of their right to be represented by counsel, to present evidence and witnesses on behalf of the Student, to cross-examine any and all witnesses presented by the Board, and to have a translator present at the Board's expense; and

WHEREAS, on or about November 15, 2019, the attorney representing the Student and the Student's parents contacted the attorney representing the Board to discuss the charges and the November 19, 2019 disciplinary hearing; and

WHEREAS, the Student and the Student's parents do not contest the charges against the Student, have waived their right to appear before the Board, and have agreed to accept disciplinary action; and

WHEREAS, the Student and the Student's parents have acknowledged and do not challenge the Child Study Team's findings in the Manifestation Determination; and

WHEREAS, the Board has considered all of the evidence, the Student's academic, attendance, and disciplinary records, the Manifestation Determination Report, Board Policy and Regulation Nos. 5610 (Suspension), 5600 (Pupil Discipline/Code of Conduct), 5751 (Sexual Harassment), 2361 (Acceptable Use of Computer Networks/Computers and Resources), 8465 (Hate Crimes and Bias Related Acts) and N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2 (Causes for Suspension or Expulsion of Pupils).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Board hereby determines that, based upon a preponderance of the competent and credible evidence, on or about October 17, 2019, Student emailed a teacher a swastika symbol that caused the teacher serious emotional distress, possessed inappropriate images and communications on the Hawthorne School District's server and attempted to email vulgar, threatening and obscene images to several of his teachers that were captured by the District's content filter and that such conduct is grounds for discipline.
2. In light of the serious nature of the conduct, the Board imposes a long term suspension, which shall be reviewed at each subsequent Board of Education meeting for the purpose of determining the status of the Student's suspension; the appropriateness of the Student's current educational program and whether the Student's current alternative placement should continue or whether the Student should return to Hawthorne High School.
3. The Student shall not be present on any of the Board's school campuses outside of or during the regularly scheduled school day during the period of suspension, unless authorized by the Superintendent.
4. The Student shall not be permitted to participate in any athletic, co-curricular and/or extra-curricular activities sponsored by the Board and shall not be present for or attend any Board-sponsored activities either on campus or in any school district where the



**BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS:**

**Anthony Puluse, Chairperson**

**ACTION ITEMS:**

Pursuant to the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Committee on Buildings and Grounds recommends the following resolutions:

- BG-16. Award of a transportation contract to the Northern Region Educational Services Commission, 45 Reinhardt Road, Wayne, NJ, for transportation of Hawthorne students to and from the school indicated in the amount and date listed on the contract:

ROUTE #	School	Contractor	# of Students	Cost + Surcharge	Dates
HAWCHAN20	Chancellor Academy	Sami Peadia, Inc.	1	\$5,408.00 + \$216.32	2/24/20-3/31/20

- BG-17. WHEREAS, the Hawthorne Board of Education (the “Board”) advertised for bids for the STEM/Physics/Life Skills Renovations at Hawthorne High School Project (“the Project”); and

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2020, the Board received bids for the Project; and

WHEREAS, Howard C. Storer, LLC (“Storer”) submitted the lowest bid for the Project with a base bid in the amount of \$798,000 together with Alternate 2 in the amount of \$66,000 for a total contract sum for both schools of \$864,000; and

WHEREAS, the bid submitted by Storer is responsive in all material respects and the Board is desirous of awarding the contract for the Project to Storer; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby awards the bid for the Project to Storer, in the total contract sum of \$864,000.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this award is expressly conditioned upon the contractor furnishing the requisite insurance certificate and labor and materials/performance bond as required in the project specifications, together with an AA201-Project Manning Report, an executed contracts, as prepared by the Board Attorney, within ten (10) days of the date hereof.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board Attorney is hereby directed to draft an agreement with the successful bidder consistent with this Resolution and with the terms contained in the bid documents approved by the Board for this project. The Board President and the Board Secretary are hereby authorized to execute such agreement and any other documents necessary to effectuate the terms of this Resolution.

- BG-18. WHEREAS, the Hawthorne Board of Education (the “Board”) advertised for bids for the Boiler Replacement at Lincoln Middle School and Roosevelt Elementary School Project (“the Project”); and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, the Board received bids for the Project; and

WHEREAS, DeSesa Eng. Co., Inc. (“DeSesa”) submitted the lowest bid for the Project with a base bid in the amount of \$2,141,000 for the Lincoln Middle School and Roosevelt Elementary School (“Contract C”), together with the deduction of Alternates L1 in the amount of 75,000, Alternate L2 in the amount of \$85,000 and Alternate L3 in the amount of \$10,000, for a total contract sum of \$1,971,000; and

WHEREAS, the bid submitted by DeSesa is responsive in all material respects and the Board is desirous of awarding the contract for the Project to DeSesa; and





**POLICY:**

**Abigail Goff, Chairperson**

**ACTION ITEMS:**

Pursuant to the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Committee on Policy recommends the following resolutions:

PO-20. First Reading of the following Policies and Regulations:

Policy/Reg #		Title
P 1581	-	Domestic Violence (M) (Revised)
R 1581	-	Domestic Violence (M) (New)
P 2422	-	Health and Physical Education (M) (Revised)
P 5330	-	Administration of Medication (M) (Revised)
R 5330		Administration of Medication (M) (Revised)
P 7243	-	Supervision of Construction (M) (Revised)
P 8220	-	School Day (M) (Revised)
P 8462	-	Reporting Potentially Missing or Abused Children (M) (Revised)

***Board of Education Roll Call Vote***

	Mr. Totaro	Mr. Turco	Mr. Clavijo	Mrs. Goff	Mr. Puluse	Mr. Reicher	Mrs. Sanford	Mr. Doyle
Motion								
Aye								
Nay								
Abstain								
Absent								

**COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS:**

**COMMITTEE**

**CHAIRPERSON**

Finance & Administration .....	Alex Clavijo
NJSBA.....	Alex Clavijo
Referendum .....	Michael Doyle
Curriculum & Instruction .....	Abigail Goff
Policy.....	Abigail Goff
HEF/SEPAC/PTOs.....	Anthony Puluse
Buildings & Grounds.....	Anthony Puluse
Legislative .....	Tania Sanford
Council Liaison .....	Marco Totaro
PCSBA .....	Louis B. Turco

**PUBLIC BE HEARD:**

- *As a reminder: When submitting questions via zoom or email please be sure to include your **first and last name, address, and email address followed by your question.** Thank you.*
- *Questions will be answered in the order in which they are received.*

**GENERAL COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE BOARD RELATED TO SCHOOL DISTRICT:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**PRIVATE SESSION:**

Be it resolved that the Hawthorne Board of Education convenes an Executive Session to discuss exempt matters pertaining to:

- 1) A matter rendered confidential by federal or state law
- 2) A matter in which release of information would impair the right to receive government funds
- 3) Material the disclosure of which constitutes an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy
- 4) A collective bargaining agreement and/or negotiations related to it
- 5) A matter involving the purchase, lease or acquisition of real property with public funds
- 6) Protection of public safety and property and/or investigations of possible violations or violations of law
- 7) Pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation and/or matters of attorney-client privilege
- 8) Specific prospective or current employees unless all who could be adversely affected request an open session
- 9) Deliberation after a public hearing that could result in a civil penalty or other loss

Be it further resolved that it is anticipated that executive session will be for 45 minutes in duration and that public action may/may not be taken:

Be it further resolved that the minutes of the Executive Session will be made available upon a determination by the Board that the disclosure of the minutes will not detrimentally affect any right or interest of the Board and the need for confidentiality no longer exists

**MOTION TO GO INTO PRIVATE SESSION:**

***Board of Education Roll Call Vote***

	Mr. Turco	Mr. Clavijo	Mrs. Goff	Mr. Puluse	Mr. Reicher	Mrs. Sanford	Mr. Totaro	Mr. Doyle
Motion								
Aye								
Nay								
Abstain								
Absent								

**MOTION TO EXIT FROM PRIVATE SESSION:**

***Board of Education Roll Call Vote***

	Mr. Clavijo	Mrs. Goff	Mr. Puluse	Mr. Reicher	Mrs. Sanford	Mr. Totaro	Mr. Turco	Mr. Doyle
Motion								
Aye								
Nay								
Abstain								
Absent								

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:**

***Board of Education Roll Call Vote***

	Mrs. Goff	Mr. Puluse	Mr. Reicher	Mrs. Sanford	Mr. Totaro	Mr. Turco	Mr. Clavijo	Mr. Doyle
Motion								
Aye								
Nay								
Abstain								
Absent								

**ADDENDUM:**

**BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS:**

**Anthony Puluse, Chairperson**

**ACTION ITEMS:**

Pursuant to the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Committee on Buildings and Grounds recommends the following resolutions:

BG-21. WHEREAS, the Hawthorne Board of Education (the “Board”) advertised for bids for the Roof Replacements at Thomas Jefferson Elementary School and Roosevelt Elementary School (“the Project”); and

WHEREAS, on April 14, 2020, the Board received bids for the Project; and

WHEREAS, Safeway Contracting, Inc. (“Safeway”) submitted the lowest bid for the Project with a base bid in the amount of \$994,000, together with Alternate No. 1 in the amount of \$10,000 for a total contract sum for both schools of \$1,004,000; and

WHEREAS, the bid submitted by Safeway is responsive in all material respects and the Board is desirous of awarding the contract for the Project to Safeway; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby awards the bid for the Project to Safeway, in the total contract sum of \$1,004,000.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this award is expressly conditioned upon the contractor furnishing the requisite insurance certificate and labor and materials/performance bond as required in the project specifications, together with an AA201-Project Manning Report, an executed contracts, as prepared by the Board Attorney, within ten (10) days of the date hereof.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board Attorney is hereby directed to draft an agreement with the successful bidder consistent with this Resolution and with the terms contained in the bid documents approved by the Board for this project. The Board President and the Board Secretary are hereby authorized to execute such agreement and any other documents necessary to effectuate the terms of this Resolution.

**FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION:**

**Alex Clavijo, Chairperson**

**ACTION ITEMS:**

Pursuant to the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Committee on Finance and Administration recommends the following resolutions:

A-22. Approval of Emergency Procurement and Contract Modification with Pomptonian Inc., Fairfield, NJ, due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) effective March 16, 2020. The duration of contract remains in effect until school reopens or June 30, 2020.