

HAWTHORNE PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
HAWTHORNE, NEW JERSEY  
Tuesday, February 9, 2021  
Regular Meeting – 7:00 P.M.  
Meeting Being Held Virtually  
This Meeting is Being Recorded

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

**Time: 7:00 P.M.**

**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.

ROLL CALL:	PRESENT	ABSENT	Time of arrival after meeting has been called to order.
Joseph Carr	X		
Abigail Goff	X		
Alma Morel	X		
Anthony Puluse	X		
Bruce Reicher	X		
Marco Totaro	X		
Louis B. Turco	X		
Alex Clavijo	X		

Also Present: Richard A. Spirito, Superintendent of Schools  
Trude Engle, Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
And approximately 12 members of the public virtually

**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). 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:** No one wished to speak

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

January 5, 2021 – Reorganization Meeting

January 19, 2021 – Regular Meeting – Public & Private

**Approval of Minutes moved by Mr. Puluse, seconded by Ms. Goff**

- Ayes - Mr. Carr, Mr. Totaro, Ms. Goff, Mr. Clavijo  
Mr. Reicher, Mr. Turco, Mr. Puluse, Dr. Morel**
- Nays - None**
- Abstain - None**
- Absent - None**

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

**REPORTS:**

- A. Student Council Representative's Report – Alison Perini – See attached report
- B. Superintendent’s Report - Richard A. Spirito

Mr. Spirito reported on the following items:

- Thanked Mr. Chamberlin, custodial and maintenance staff for their hard work during recent snow storms.
- Kindergarten registration is open
- Update on Diversity Alliance Committee
- Black History Month
- Read Across American
- Congratulations to Rebecca Reilly, recipient of sports award for 2021 school year
- Winter Athletics
- YouTube page – all activities including sports are posted on website
- Referendum page – Pictures of wall graphics are posted.

**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:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hawthorne Board of Education approve the following student out of district placements based upon NJ Department of Education Maximum:

	School	SY Tuition	Additional Services	ESY Tuition	Student #	Dates of Term	Discussion
CI-1.	Haledon Elementary School	\$74.28 per diem	N/A	N/A	Student (file #020121)	1/1/21-6/30/21	20-21 SY

- CI-2. Approval of Homebound Instruction Agreement with Silvergate Prep for Hawthorne resident student (file #020221) at a rate of \$50 per hour for a total of 10 hours of instruction per week commencing January 21, 2021.
- CI-3. Approval of agreement with Preferred Home Health Care & Nursing Services, Inc., for substitute nursing services for the 2020-2021 school year at an hourly rate of \$65.00. These services would need to be provided in the event that the district cannot find a regular sub through the calling service.
- CI-4. Approval of contract for online SEL services with Mindful Practices for the period January 2021 through June 2022 in the amount of \$22,040.00 funded through Title IV funds.

**CI-1-4 - moved by Ms. Goff, seconded by Mr. Totaro**

- Ayes - Mr. Carr, Mr. Totaro, Ms. Goff, Mr. Clavijo  
Mr. Reicher, Mr. Turco, Mr. Puluse, Dr. Morel
- Nays - None
- Abstain - None
- Absent - None

**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 Ending Date	Reason/ Account
P-5.	Angelo Guarnieri	Volunteer	Volunteer Wrestling Coach	n/a	n/a	HHS	2020-2021 Season	End of Season	Volunteer Wrestling
P-6.	Hayley Hyams	Hire	Part Time Paras Not to Exceed 5.75 Hours Per Day	n/a	\$16.52 per hour not to exceed 5.75 hours per day No Benefits	District	2/10/21	6/18/21	Part Time Para Appointment
P-7.	Teresa Magna Davenport	Extra Duty	Chaperone	n/a	\$33.66 per hour	HHS	2/2021	6/2021	Chaperone for student (file #020321) for High School Band Practice
P-8.	Julie Schmidberger	Extra Duty	Chaperone	n/a	\$33.66 per hour	HHS	1/2021	6/2021	Chaperone for students (file #020421 and file #020521) for High School Track

*\* 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.*

- P-9. Acceptance of the following student(s) to complete his/her/their student field experience(s) in education in the Hawthorne Public School District during the 2020-2021 school year. This/these placement(s) is/are subject to the satisfactory completion of the

criminal history records check required by law. In the event the criminal history checks(s) is/are not completed this/these placement(s) is/are subject to the approval of the County Superintendent for emergent hiring procedures. Per this resolution this/these student(s) is/are also approved as (a) substitute teacher(s) in the Hawthorne Public School District contingent upon obtaining a county substitute certificate.

Student	College	Type	Subject Area	Coop. Teacher	Loc
Arias, Lorena	PCCC	Intern	Technology	Mr. Brislin	District
Rose Velli	MSU	Summer Intern	Guidance	Christine Zakk	HHS

**P-5-9 - moved by Ms. Goff, seconded by Mr. Carr**

- Ayes - Mr. Carr, Mr. Totaro, Ms. Goff, Mr. Clavijo  
Mr. Reicher, Mr. Turco, Mr. Puluse, Dr. Morel**
- Nays - None**
- Abstain - Mr. Puluse on P-7 only**
- Absent - None**

**FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION:**

**Louis B. Turco, 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 January 2021 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 January 1, 2021 through January 31, 2021, for the budget year 2020-2021 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.
- F-12. Approval of travel to events for Board members and employees subject to conformance with the travel policy. A list of these events has been submitted under separate cover and shall be made an integral part of this resolution.
- A-13. WHEREAS, the Hawthorne Board of Education recognizes that the United States, the State of New Jersey and local health authorities, as well as the World Health Organization, have declared a public health emergency regarding the Coronavirus or COVID-19 pandemic; and  
 WHEREAS, the federal and state authorities have put in place guidance detailing the precautionary measures schools must implement to stop its spread of this disease; and  
 WHEREAS, public schools have a profound impact on millions of students, families and staff and are charged with the care, education, nourishment of their students and are an integral part of the health and safety of our communities; and  
 WHEREAS, our district has responded to the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, providing students and staff members with the technology and resources necessary to ensure the efficient delivery of instruction, virtually and in-person; and  
 WHEREAS, the board has a substantial public interest in protecting the health and safety of its students, staff, and community and ensuring that the district can provide staff and students with a safe and effective educational environment that supports student achievement; and

WHEREAS, the board recognizes that this health emergency made it necessary to close schools and reinvent the educational programs in a virtual setting and that this may have an adverse impact on student achievement and the emotional and social wellbeing of students; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 Vaccination Plan published by the State of New Jersey Department of Health (December 15, 2020, pgs. 36-37) prioritizes the availability of vaccines to “essential workers” in Phase 1B of the vaccine protocol; and

WHEREAS, school district staff at all levels are essential to the day-to-day operations of this district, responsible for the thorough and efficient education of all students and their social and emotional wellbeing, are critical for virtual and in-class instruction and are “essential workers;”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Hawthorne Board of Education finds a substantial public purpose exists to request that Governor Murphy give appropriate priority in the statewide administration of the COVID-19 vaccine to all public school district personnel.

COVID-19 Vaccination Plan published by the State of New Jersey Department of Health, see: <https://nj.gov/health/legal/covid19/NJ%20Interim%20COVID-19%20Vaccination%20Plan%20-%20Revised%2012-15-20.pdf>

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin, Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, Governor Phil Murphy, and to the New Jersey School Boards Association.

**F-10-12, A-13 - moved by Mr. Turco, seconded by Ms. Goff**

**Ayes - Mr. Carr, Mr. Totaro, Ms. Goff, Mr. Clavijo  
Mr. Reicher, Mr. Turco, Mr. Puluse, Dr. Morel**

**Nays - None**

**Abstain - None**

**Absent - None**

**CLAIMS:**

**Louis B. Turco**

*In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2:11(b), (c) 3, and (c) 4;*

CL-14. Approval of the February 2021 Bill List.

It is recommended that the Board approve the bill list for the month of February 2021.

**CL-14 - moved by Mr. Turco, seconded by Mr. Totaro**

**Ayes - Mr. Carr, Mr. Totaro, Ms. Goff, Mr. Clavijo  
Mr. Reicher, Mr. Turco, Mr. Puluse, Dr. Morel**

**Nays - None**

**Abstain - None**

**Absent - None**

**BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS:**

**Marco Totaro, Chairperson**

**ACTION ITEMS:**

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

- BG-15. Approval of change order 1-4 for roof work at Roosevelt and Jefferson Elementary Schools awarded to Safeway Contracting. Approval of these change orders in the net amount

of \$2,540.00.

**BG-15 - moved by Mr. Totaro, seconded by Mr. Puluse**

- Ayes - Mr. Carr, Mr. Totaro, Ms. Goff, Mr. Clavijo  
Mr. Reicher, Mr. Turco, Mr. Puluse, Dr. Morel**
- Nays - None**
- Abstain - None**
- Absent - None**

**POLICY:**

**Marco Totaro, Chairperson**

**ACTION ITEMS:**

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

- PO-16. Move the Board of Education suspend Bylaw 0131 that requires two readings to adopt a Bylaw or Policy and adopt Bylaw 0164.6 with one reading to be in compliance with the new emergency regulations regarding remote meetings held during a Governor-declared emergency, N.J.A.C. 5:39-1.1 through 1.7, promulgated by Department of Community Affairs.

- PO-17. First Reading and Adoption of the following Policy:

Policy	Title
P 0164.6	- Remote Public Board Meetings During A Declared Emergency

- PO-18. First Reading of the following Policies and Regulations:

Policy/Regs.	Title
P 0145	- Board Member Resignation and Removal
R 1642	- Earned Sick Leave Law
P & R 7430	- School Safety (Abolished)
P 2415.05	- Student Surveys, Analysis, and/or Evaluations
P 4125	- Employment of Support Staff Members
P 6360	- Political Contributions
P 8330	- Student Records

**PO-16-18 - moved by Mr. Totaro, seconded by Mr. Turco**

- Ayes - Mr. Carr, Mr. Totaro, Ms. Goff, Mr. Clavijo  
Mr. Reicher, Mr. Turco, Mr. Puluse, Dr. Morel**
- Nays - None**
- Abstain - None**
- Absent - None**

**COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS:**

**COMMITTEE**

**CHAIRPERSON**

Legislative ..... Joseph Carr

Mr. Carr reported on the following legislative updates:

- S-854/S-237 Laura Wooten’s Law -
- S-2831 Reciprocity for Out of State Teaching Certificates

- S-2832 Easing Substitute Teacher Requirements
- S-1018 School Discipline Task Force
- S-1020 Reporting Discipline Data
- S-550 - Suicide Prevention/Student ID Cards

PCSBA ..... Alex Clavijo  
 Mr. Clavijo reported that the next meeting will be held on March 15, 2021.

NJSBA..... Abigail Goff  
 Ms. Goff encouraged everyone to read all emails from NJSBA and visit their website.

Curriculum & Instruction ..... Abigail Goff  
 Ms. Goff reported on the following items:

- Study skills courses for HHS and LMS
- SEL on demand
- Tier 3 after school program K-5
- Teacher On Call
- Renaissance STAR 360 professional development
- LMS curricular updates
- HHS curricular updates

HEF/SEPAC/PTOs..... Anthony Puluse  
 Mr. Puluse reported on the following items:

- SEPAC – Next meeting is February 24; Color Run proposed for May
- HHS PTO – Class of 2020 can purchase a self-cut out
- LMS PTO – Tastee Pizza night is February 15; LMS will receive 15% of sales
- Roosevelt PTO – ShopRite gift cards
- HEF/PTO – Wheel of Education going strong

Negotiations..... Anthony Puluse  
 Mr. Puluse reported that HTA negotiations will begin the end of February

Buildings & Grounds..... Marco Totaro  
 Mr. Totaro reported on the following items:

- Rooftop heating units at LMS and Roosevelt must be replaced
- Wall graphics have been printed and installation has begun
- Change orders will be issued pertaining to boiler work at Roosevelt and Lincoln and Culinary/Stem at HHS
- Overall all current and completed referendum projects are under budget

Council Liaison ..... Marco Totaro  
 No Report

Policy..... Marco Totaro  
 Mr. Totaro reported on the following policy updates:

- P0145 – Board Member Resignation and Removal
- P0164.6 Remote Public Board Meetings During a Declared Emergency

- P1642 Earned Sick Leave Law
- P&R 7430 School Safety
- P2415.05 Student Surveys, Analysis and/or Evaluations
- P4125, 6360 and P8330

Finance & Administration..... Louis B. Turco

Mr. Turco reported on the following items:

- Reviewed 2021-2022 Budget
- Bank cap available for us to use
- PCTI enrollment increased
- State aid figures not available yet

**PUBLIC BE HEARD:** No one wished to speak

- *As a reminder: When submitting questions or comments via email please be sure to include your first and last name, address, and your question. Thank you.*

**GENERAL COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE BOARD RELATED TO SCHOOL DISTRICT:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Mr. Turco suggested the District conduct a re-registration of students

Mr. Clavijo stated there are five candidates for the current board vacancy

Mr. Totaro asked if “Read Across America” could be done virtually

Ms. Goff stated she was happy to see an agenda resolution for school staff vaccines

Mr. Clavijo thanked board members for all their hard work.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:**

**At 8:03 p.m. Ms. Goff moved the board adjourn, seconded by Mr. Turco**

<b>Ayes</b>	-	<b>Mr. Totaro, Mr. Clavijo, Mr. Carr, Mr. Goff</b>
		<b>Mr. Reicher, Mr. Puluse, Mr. Turco, Dr. Morel</b>
<b>Nays</b>	-	<b>None</b>
<b>Abstain</b>	-	<b>None</b>
<b>Absent</b>	-	<b>None</b>

Respectfully submitted,

Trude Engle,  
Board Secretary