

HAWTHORNE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HAWTHORNE, NEW JERSEY
Wednesday, August 24, 2022
Special Meeting – 7:00 P.M.
Board of Education Meeting Room

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Time: 7:02 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.

(Ask for Roll Call)

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

Also Present: Richard A. Spirito, Superintendent of Schools
Cheryl Ambrose, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
And approximately 0 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.

Persons wishing to speak must upon being recognized, rise, state their name, address and subject matter. Comments and questions shall be addressed to the Board President or the presiding officer and shall be limited to five minutes per person. The Board may (or may not) respond to issues raised by members of the public at the time they are raised, but will provide a response if and when appropriate.

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: N/A

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION:

Bruce Reicher, Chairperson

ACTION ITEMS:

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

- CI-1. WHEREAS, the Hawthorne Board of Education (the "Board") desires to award a contract to a vendor to provide applied behavioral analysis paraprofessionals services (paraprofessional services) for the Hawthorne School District ("District"); and

WHEREAS, the Board received proposals for the paraprofessional services on August 16, 2022; and

WHEREAS, a proposal submitted by The Stepping Stones Group, LLC is responsive in all material respects and it is the Board's desire to award the Agreement for the paraprofessional services to The Stepping Stones Group, LLC.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. An Agreement for the paraprofessional services is hereby awarded to The Stepping Stones Group, LLC in the amount of \$35 per hour, which the Board confirms is a reasonable price for such services.
2. This award is expressly conditioned upon The Stepping Stones Group, LLC furnishing the requisite insurance certificate as required in the Request for Proposal (RFP).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Attorney is hereby directed to draft the agreement with the successful vendor consistent with this Resolution and with the terms contained in the RFP approved by the Board for the Services. The Board President and the Board Secretary are hereby authorized to execute such agreements and any other documents necessary to affect the terms of this Resolution.

This initiative to be 50% funded using ARP ESSER funds.

- CI-2. WHEREAS, the Hawthorne Board of Education (the "Board") desires to award a contract to a vendor to provide applied behavioral analysis paraprofessionals services (paraprofessional services) for the Hawthorne School District ("District"); and

WHEREAS, the Board received proposals for the paraprofessional services on August 16, 2022; and

WHEREAS, a proposal submitted by Horizon Staffing Resources is responsive in all material respects and it is the Board's desire to award the Agreement for the paraprofessional services to Horizon Staffing Resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. An Agreement for the paraprofessional services is hereby awarded to Horizon Staffing Resources in the amount of \$35 per hour with a 4-hour minimum per day, which the Board confirms is a reasonable price for such services.
2. This award is expressly conditioned upon Horizon Staffing Resources furnishing the requisite insurance certificate as required in the Request for Proposal (RFP).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Attorney is hereby directed to draft the agreement

with the successful vendor consistent with this Resolution and with the terms contained in the RFP approved by the Board for the Services. The Board President and the Board Secretary are hereby authorized to execute such agreements and any other documents necessary to affect the terms of this Resolution.

This initiative to be 50% funded using ARP ESSER funds.

CI-3. WHEREAS, the Hawthorne Board of Education (the "Board") desires to award a contract to a vendor to provide applied behavioral analysis paraprofessionals services (paraprofessional services) for the Hawthorne School District ("District"); and

WHEREAS, the Board received proposals for the paraprofessional services on August 16, 2022; and

WHEREAS, a proposal submitted by ProCare Therapy is responsive in all material respects and it is the Board's desire to award the Agreement for the paraprofessional services to ProCare Therapy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. An Agreement for the paraprofessional services is hereby awarded to ProCare Therapy in the amount of \$50-55 per hour, which the Board confirms is a reasonable price for such services.
2. This award is expressly conditioned upon ProCare Therapy furnishing the requisite insurance certificate as required in the Request for Proposal (RFP).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Attorney is hereby directed to draft the agreement with the successful vendor consistent with this Resolution and with the terms contained in the RFP approved by the Board for the Services. The Board President and the Board Secretary are hereby authorized to execute such agreements and any other documents necessary to affect the terms of this Resolution.

This initiative to be 50% funded using ARP ESSER funds.

CI-4. WHEREAS, on July 13, 2022, the NJ Department of Education (NJDOE) issued guidance for the Fall 2022 administration of the Start Strong assessment for students in grades 3 through 11; and

WHEREAS, during Spring 2022, the Hawthorne Public School District administered the NJ Student Learning Assessment (NJSLA) to students in grades 3 to 9, and the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment (NJGPA) to 11th grade students; and

WHEREAS, the district has only received NJSLA preliminary results, and the district has yet to receive NJGPA results; and

WHEREAS, administering the Fall 2022 Start Strong assessment should be optional because the assessment, while shorter than the NJSLA, provides results of limited relevance to educators and parents, and it is an additional and unnecessary assessment; and

WHEREAS, the Hawthorne Public School District utilizes Renaissance as a benchmark assessment, which allows administrators and parents to analyze the results of a specific assessment with the purpose of grouping students by skill set (such as determining which students may need intervention or ability grouping), analyzing student performance by item (question), analyzing mastery of standards (such as seeing which students have passed certain standards, which standards the class or school needs the most improvement in, etc.), viewing a student’s historical performance (which tests the student has completed, their proficiency levels for each test, etc.), and more; and

WHEREAS, the Renaissance assessment provides greater specificity to drive curricular and instructional decisions; and

WHEREAS, as a district that values the importance of the socioemotional and mental needs of our students, the district does not wish to over assess students and lose valuable instructional time; and

THEREFORE, we request that the NJDOE reconsider its decision that Start Strong be mandated. Instead, Start Strong should be optional, and allow school districts, like Hawthorne, to demonstrate that it has a systematic and thorough local assessment that inform curriculum and instruction, as well as identify instructional interventions that support students.

CI-1-4 – Moved by Mr. Clavijo, seconded by Mr. Carr

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

PUBLIC BE HEARD:

At this time, members of the public may ask questions or make comments on educational issues or school matters.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

At 7:12 p.m. Mr. Totaro moved the board adjourn, seconded by Mr. Carr

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

Respectfully submitted,



Cheryl Ambrose
Board Secretary