

**HAWORTH BOARD OF EDUCATION
HAWORTH, NEW JERSEY 07641
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 7, 2017**

I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:30 p.m.

II. FLAG SALUTE

III. SUNSHINE LAW STATEMENT

All requirements of the Open Public Business Meetings Law have been met for this meeting of the Board of Education of the Borough of Haworth. On January 5, 2017 advance written notice was emailed to **The Suburbanite and The Record**, filed with the Borough Clerk, posted on the school website and forwarded to the Presidents of the Home and School Association and Teachers Association, and all persons requesting such notice.

IV. MISSION STATEMENT

The Haworth Public School District, a safe and nurturing small school environment, in partnership with our community, is dedicated to providing every student with educational excellence through a comprehensive, innovative and rigorous curriculum that fosters productive and responsible life-long learners in a global society. Adopted—May 28, 2013.

V. ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Mary Anne Doran
Mrs. Judy Eig
Mrs. Karen Leddy
Mr. Warren Sutnick
Mrs. Stacey Wunsch
Mr. Jeff Ashkenase, Vice President - **ABSENT**
Mrs. Nicole Brennan, President
Mr. Paul Wolford, Business Administrator
Ms. Jennifer Montesano, Superintendent/Board Secretary

VI. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

The Board is interested in hearing your comments. In order to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to speak, we are asking that you speak once and limit your comments to three minutes. We further ask that all comments be directed to the Board. We recognize that everyone has the freedom to speak but advise you that anything said in public may have legal ramifications. There is no protection regarding statements made by the public. Please state your name before you begin.

VII. CLOSE THE PUBLIC PORTION - 7:31

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S/BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORTS

- Enrollment Report to date
- HIB/Incident Report to date
- Kids with Character Award Presentation – criteria for the month of February is Fairness. For February the following children have been chosen:

Kindergarten: Sebastian Fontanez and Aiden Lim
Grade 1: Evan Newsom and Sooa Tani
Grade 2: Brooke Marchisio and Joanne Shen
Grade 3: Zachary Storch and Lily Cammalleri
Grade 4: Noah Chang and Ivan Timochko
Grade 5: Kiera Lau and Teddy Gatanas
Grade 6: Paris Escobar and Ohan Ambartsoumian
Grade 7: Joseph De Croce and Caitlyn Eby
Grade 8: Steven Abe and Julietta Ambartsoumian

- Negotiation's Update

N. Brennan: As of Friday the board received a counter offer from the HTA regarding the board's offer. The board has since made a counter offer to that counter offer. We are currently waiting on the HTA to respond to that counter. I do not think it makes sense to go into all of the details of this because it really only matters about what happens from here. I am happy to note that we are making progress. This progress is outside the process of mediation. The mediator is scheduled to come again on March 30, although nobody wants to wait that long but we will if we have to. One of the main concerns of the board is a change in the school day schedule, to move to a block schedule. A block schedule will allow us to create blocked periods of time which will allow for increased instruction. Ms. Montesano is going to give a brief explanation to you all on the meaning of a block schedule and a generalization of how it works.

J. Montesano: Presentation on the definition of a block schedule to the public and explanation of how this type of schedule will allow us to enhance what we currently offer to our students.

N. Brennan: Thank you to Ms. Montesano. Typically we wait until the end of the meeting to hear public comment, but I would like to open up the floor now to the public for any questions regarding the block schedule.

Michael Winik: Is this block schedule subject to collective bargaining? Is this part of the negotiations?

N. Brennan: This presentation is a general presentation on what a block schedule can offer the district. There are many things being negotiated.

M. Winik: Maybe the other side should give a presentation on why a block schedule is not beneficial.

Dayana Marchisio: How would increasing the number of periods in a week effect the teachers?

J. Montesano: These type of questions are what we are in discussions with about the teachers.

Christina Chang: Just a question for clarification for parents in the room who do not have children in the upper grades. Will this change increase the time for electives?

J. Montesano: Yes, for example our 6th grade currently does not have any electives.

D. Marchisio: So currently we have 7 periods in a day?

J. Montesano: We currently have 7 periods and a lunch period. It would be 8 shorter periods with a lunch period as opposed to 7 longer periods. So, only ELA and math would be longer blocks and music and art for example, would be on rotating blocks.

J. Montesano: This is more of a middle school thing as the K-5 schedule would look the same as it does now.

Jason Timochko: Does the block schedule effect staffing and would there be a need for additional teachers?

J. Montesano: It would depend on how many classes each teacher would teach every week and how long the periods are.

Mike Radino: Who will be teaching the long list of electives?

J. Montesano: We would pull from the professionals that we already have. We would also provide professional development to any teacher that may need it.

Tom Martin: It sounds like you are making some progress. In the larger sense the professionals that we have here, are very good and they preserve the values of our homes. A good job description for all the professionals in the Northern Valley is that they are helping to raise good Americans and offer a concrete foundation to our children. I appreciate you trying to make an effort to reach an agreement very soon.

J. Timochko: If the schedule does not change prep time, contact and duty time, is the schedule still negotiated?

N. Brennan: It still has to be negotiated.

S. Wunsch Moved, M. Doran Seconded
Roll Call: 6/0

IX. MINUTES

- a. Approval of meeting minutes from the January 4, 2017 regular business meeting.
- b. Approval of meeting minutes from the January 4, 2017 reorganization meeting.
- c. Approval of meeting minutes from the January 26, 2017 special meeting.

S. Wunsch Moved, M. Doran Seconded

Items IX. a & b
Roll Call: 6/0

Item IX. c.

Roll Call: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Abstentions

X. PROGRAM AND PERSONNEL

- a. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Haworth Board of Education approves Laura Scanlan to attend the Innovative, Functional & Transition Practices in Special Education workshop at the Bergen County Special Services office in Paramus, NJ on March 17, 2017. No cost to the district.
- b. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Haworth Board of Education approves the 2017-2018 district school calendar. (Attachment)
- c. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Haworth Board of Education approves the maternity leave resolution for Erin Burns to commence on or about May 5, 2017. (Attachment)
- d. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Haworth Board of Education approves Carrieann Malanga-DeVito to attend the New Jersey Dyslexia Conference – Matching Intervention to Reading Difficulties at The Westwood in Garwood, NJ on March 24, 2017 at a cost of \$205.00, plus travel expenses.
- e. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Haworth Board of Education approves the summer school program from July 10, 2017 through July 27, 2017 (4 days per week for 3 weeks total), from 9:00 a.m. to 12:10 p.m., for the 2017 session, at a stipend of \$2,500.00 per teacher.
- f. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Haworth Board of Education approves Nancy Polifroni as summer school nurse for 12 days of the Summer School 2017 session at a rate of \$2,500.00.
- g. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Haworth Board of Education approves Kevin Lane to attend the Portable Magic: Developing Powerful Small Group Instruction & Conferences at Teachers College, Columbia University in Manhattan, NY on April 25, 2017. No registration cost, plus travel expenses.
- h. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Haworth Board of Education approves the 5th and 6th grade Battle of the Books winners (10 students maximum) field trip to the Harrington Park School for Battle of the Books on June 14, 2017, no cost for students, plus bus fee. Jennifer Eisberg trip coordinator.
- i. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Haworth Board of Education approves the Grade 8 walking trip to the Haworth Swim Club on June 16, 2017 (raindate: June 19, 2017) for the annual Graduation Swim Club Party at no cost to students. Trip Coordinators: Alicia Kosakowski, Karen Foglio, Caitlin Sobota.

- j. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Haworth Board of Education approves Lisa Quinn as a Substitute Teacher for the 2016-2017 school year, not benefit eligible.
- k. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Haworth Board of Education approves the Kindergarten field trip to the Bergen Performing Arts Center in Englewood, NJ on May 18, 2017 at an approximate cost of \$10 per student, plus cost of bus. Trip coordinator: Jennifer Montesano.
- l. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Haworth Board of Education approves Jennifer Montesano and Carrieann Malanga to attend the Discovering Digital Citizenship Seminar at Eduscape in Montvale, NJ on March 10, 2017. No registration cost, plus travel expenses.

M. Doran Moved, K. Leddy Seconded
 Roll Call: 6/0

XI. FINANCE

- a. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Haworth Board of Education approves the bills for the period of January 1, 2017 to January 31, 2017 which has previously been approved by the various committees and payment made through the Valley National Bank from funds in the appropriate accounts as follows:

Bills Description	Dated	Amount
Payroll – Operating Account	01/15/17	\$147,120.83
State Share – FICA	01/15/17	\$13,821.93
Board Share – FICA	01/15/17	\$4,352.18
	TOTAL:	\$165,294.94

Bills Description	Dated	Amount
Payroll – Operating Accounting	01/31/17	\$134,477.16
State Share – FICA	01/31/17	\$13,830.40
Board Share – FICA	01/31/17	\$3,206.61
	TOTAL:	\$151,514.17

- c. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Haworth Board of Education approves the Bills and Claims for the month of December, 2016.
- d. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Haworth Board of Education approves the Bills and Claims for the month of January, 2017.

K. Leddy Moved, J. Eig Seconded
Roll Call: 6/0

XII. FACILITY

- a. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Haworth Board of Education approves the building use for the Haworth Summer Recreation Camp from June 27, 2017 through August 4, 2017.
- b. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Haworth Board of Education approves the purchase of a new security system from Red Hawk Fire & Security at a total cost of \$12,410.00 (includes installation).
- c. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Haworth Board of Education approves the purchase of services from Agra Environmental and Laboratory Services to perform the state mandated analytical testing of all water outlets at a total cost of \$850. (\$45.00 per unit)

S. Wunsch: We had a committee meeting the other day and we went over the security system that we are going to move forward with. We have several different systems and we are looking to get one that cross functions to cover our needs. As far as the lead testing we are waiting on the final recommendation from the state regarding what the testing report has to include. Once the state establishes and releases the proper protocol, we will go ahead and complete the required testing.

W. Sutnick: We did lab testing on the lead last year didn't we?

P. Wolford: We did do our own testing for peace of mind. We now need to follow the state mandated lead testing procedures and guidelines, which includes using a state approved lab.

S. Wunsch Moved, M. Doran Seconded
Roll Call: 6/0

XIII. POLICY

XIV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance
Facilities
Policy
Program/Personnel
BCSBA/NJSB
Joint Boards
Public Relations

Haworth Home & School Association
Northern Valley Regional HS/
NV Educational Foundation
Legislative Chairperson
Senior Citizens Liaison
Town Council Liaison
Negotiations

XV. Open to the Public on any item – 8:01 p.m.

The Board is interested in hearing your comments. In order to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to speak, we are asking that you speak once and limit your comments to three minutes. We further ask that all comments be directed to the Board. We recognize that everyone has the freedom to speak but advise you that anything said in public may have legal ramifications. There is no protection regarding statements made by the public. Please state your name before you begin.

M. Winik: I have children in 2nd grade and 3rd grade. I was here 2 months ago and I would like to bring up the subject of class size. At this point I think that number of 25 to 27 students per class is embarrassing and comparable to New York City public schools and not in line with the surrounding towns in our area. When my older children were in this school previously there was a smaller building and 3 classrooms per grade.

N. Brennan: I disagree with that number. It is not as simple as it sounds.

J. Montesano: We did split up the math class in the 3rd grade. We are in the midst of our budget season and we are looking into what we can do for next year. I can tell you each grade level is 50 students or under. At this point in the year it is not beneficial to the students to change their teacher to add additional sections. I do hear your concerns and we are planning for the future.

P. Wolford: There are many support services in each grade. For many periods in the day you will find 2 certified teachers in the class which will drop your student to teacher ratio number. Many periods during the day students are pulled out of the classroom for additional support.

N. Brennan: We are all parents in this district, if it was easy to make additional classes for our children we would do it. We discuss it all the time but there are additional concerns we have to adhere to.

M. Winik: Why was it like that years ago?

N. Brennan: There was a higher enrollment in the past. There also was not a 2% cap on the budget.

Dana Stott: I have statistics of class size from surrounding towns. We keep hearing excuses about space. What about the space in the basement?

N. Brennan: There is a woodshop down in the basement and no bathroom.

D. Marchisio: I want to know when the near future is for these changes?

J. Montesano: We are in the middle of planning for the budget which has a 2% cap. I cannot tell you what our exact enrollment numbers will be in September. I can't promise anything right now due to those reasons.

M. Griffin: As far as facilities management and planning. Can we get an extra bathroom done in the basement? Are there things that can be done?

P. Wolford: We recently hired a new architect during our re-organization meeting who is going to give us a comprehensive plan.

D. Stott: Having aides in the lower grades is not the same as a teacher.

Jamie Hiatt: Big issue for me is class size and the physical limitations in the classroom. I have never seen classroom situations like I have at this school. The classrooms are small and the kids are crowded. K-4 are the years where the students need their teachers.

Nancy Polifroni: I think it is important to know that it is not as easy as it looks. I am the school nurse here and I am also a parent here. We have kids that transfer in mid-year and accommodations need to be made for these students. Just this January we had 4 children transfer in.

N. Brennan: We appreciate you taking the time to voice your concerns and we do take your concerns very seriously.

Jeff Poirot: This has been a problem since my student was in kindergarten and now she is in the 5th grade. Seems like a lot of talk and no action since it is now 5 years later.

Mary Flannery: If we have been talking about this for 5 years, what has the Board of Education been doing about this? I have to send my kids to tutoring, not because of the teachers though, I think it is because of the class sizes.

N. Brennan: Regarding class size....teacher certifications and what they are able to teach, budget, there are many factors. We could go out to referendum, we can go out and ask to make our school bigger and hire more teachers.

D. Stott: When is the budget done for next year?

P. Wolford: Our budget presentation will be in May.

Daniel Lewis: What can we as the public do to put weight on the town to make this happen? How can we help you to make this school a better place?

N. Brennan: Feel free to go to a council meeting.

Melissa Rosenberg: 70% of the towns taxes goes to the school. When they made the 3rd and 4th wing why didn't they go up a level?

P. Wolford: The 3 & 4 wing will be inspected to see if it can sustain a second floor when the new architect comes.

G. Lambert from NJEA: Didn't you budget under the 2% cap last year?

P. Wolford: It was 1.99%. You are talking about \$1,800.

G. Lambert: I think you should budget up to the cap of 2%. You should not leave any money on the table.

Close the Public portion: 8:29

XVI. OLD BUSINESS

XVII. NEW BUSINESS

Whereas, the Board of Education of the Haworth School District has been elected by the residents of Haworth, NJ to determine policy and approve programming for the students of the district, within the confines of both federal and state statutes governing education, and

Whereas, the Haworth Board of Education envisions the inauguration of Donald Trump as the President of the United States, on January 20, 2017, as an opportunity for a renewal of public education in the United States of America in a way which creates opportunities for all students to learn and thrive, and

Whereas, the Haworth Board of Education works to foster an educational environment where all of our students, regardless of ability, background, race, religious affiliation or gender, feel secure, focusing on the academic, physical, social, emotional, cognitive, and relational growth of our students, and

Whereas, President Trump has called for the nomination of Betsy DeVos as Secretary of Education of the United States, a candidate apparently lacking any credentials as an educator, experience in the administration and management of public schools, demonstrating a pre-disposition toward and long-history of support for charter schools and school voucher programs, which by their very nature compromise free and appropriate public education for many economic, social and racial groups, and

Whereas, Ms. DeVos has been at the forefront of the establishment of the Detroit charter school initiative that by many accounts hurt students and enriched the coffers of private companies, therefore be it

Resolved, that the Haworth Board of Education hereby, based on this record, opposes the confirmation of Betsy DeVos as Secretary of Education and calls upon the incoming United States Senate to stand firm by opposing this nominee, and be it further

Resolved, that the Haworth Board of Education invites President Trump, the nominee for secretary of education or any representative of the incoming education team to meet to conduct a

forthright and meaningful discussion about the future of public education and their strategies to enhance education for all students rather than a privileged few.

M. Doran Moved, S. Wunsch Seconded
Roll Call: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Abstention

XVIII. CLOSED SESSION 8:30 p.m.

J. Eig Moved, S. Wunsch Seconded
All in favor.

WHEREAS the following subject is not appropriate to be discussed in a public meeting and is within the exemptions which may be discussed and acted upon and,

WHEREAS only the following subject shall be discussed in private recess by the Board and the minutes made available to the public as soon as the reason for exemption no longer exists, it is therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED at the Public Meeting of the Borough of Haworth Board of Education on this day Tuesday, February 7, 2017 pursuant to Sections 7 & 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, the following subject shall be discussed in a session of the Board closed to the public:
Please be advised that the Board will be going into executive session for approximately 20 minutes hour to discuss negotiations. Action will not be taken in public after the executive session.

XIX. MOTION TO ADJOURN.

M. Doran Moved, S. Wunsch Seconded
All in favor.

ADJOURNMENT 9:32 p.m.

Nicole Brennan, President
Haworth Board of Education

Jennifer Montesano
Superintendent/Board Secretary