

**HAWORTH BOARD OF EDUCATION
HAWORTH, NEW JERSEY 07641
WORK SESSION MINUTES
April 21, 2020**

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 8, 2020 and February 21, 2020 advance written notice was emailed to **The Record and The Ridgewood News**, 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. Ilisha Borek
Mrs. Alanna Davis
Mrs. Mary Anne Doran
Mrs. Karen Leddy
Mr. Michael Rodino, President
Mrs. Stacey Wunsch, Vice President
Mr. Paul Wolford, Business Administrator
Dr. Peter Hughes, Superintendent
Mrs. Stacey Cherry, Esq., Fogarty & Hara
Mrs. Kristi Giambona, Board Secretary

VI. WORK SESSION TOPICS

a. Review of Educational Focus for Distance Learning

PowerPoint presentation was shown on the district Distance Learning Plan.

Dr. Hughes commended Mr. Talty & Mr. Cordero on their work with the district technology.

The Board and Dr. Hughes discussed the different parts of the plan and Dr. Hughes answered any questions of the Board.

b. Frost Valley Trip

Board consensus is to cancel the trip. An eblast will go out to the 7th grade parents.

c. Graduation Contingency Plans

Mrs. Kosakowski is working on ideas with the administration. Once more information is received about how long school will be closed, options will be discussed. Dr. Hughes is open to all discussion and ideas.

VII. Open to the Public on any item – 8:25 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.

J. Schluter, 30 Westview Terrace: expressed concern about the programming and extra-curricular vs. academics during the virtual learning day. Stated that a longer academic day is needed.

Dr. Hughes: responded that the administration is still trying to refine the virtual day to make it suitable for each type of child.

J. Heit, 266 Maple Street: stated that there is not enough uniformity. The virtual day needs greater structure and a formal outline. Would like the younger students to see the teachers, and not just complete See-Saw assignments.

Dr. Hughes: explained that as of last week, synchronous learning was being used for the K-2 classes.

M. Doran: explained the importance of classmates being able to see each other.

K. Bevilacqua, 376 Maple Street: expressed concern with virtual learning, that the core 4 subjects are not getting enough attention. Has gone down from five days of core 4 learning to four days of core 4 learning. The children are supposed to be getting 3 hours per day and it is taking them about an hour and a half to complete the work. She feels it will not be enough for the year.

Dr. Hughes: understands that online learning is not as effective as personal learning. Have to allow for a learning curve for the teachers to become more effective and efficient. Also, that some students may take longer to complete assignments and that depends on the individual student.

K. Leddy: stated that teachers deal with students at different levels everyday.

K. Bevilacqua: suggested that different grade levels should be treated differently.

N. Brennan, 126 Schraalenburgh Road: stated that although she understands the concerns of some of the parents, she feels the staff is doing a fantastic job overall.

D. Marchisio, 23 Houston Place: stated she would like to see more academics covered throughout the day.

J. Schluter: would like to see more of a regular school day format.

S. Wunsch: said that she has no complaints with how virtual learning is going thus far.

Close the Public portion: 9:06 p.m.

VIII. CLOSED SESSION 9:10 p.m.

M. Doran Moved, I. Borek 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 Work Session Meeting of the Borough of Haworth Board of Education on this day Tuesday, April 21, 2020 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 90 minutes for the purpose of discussing personnel. Action will not be taken in public after the executive session.

IX. MOTION TO ADJOURN.

S. Wunsch Moved, I. Borek Seconded
All in favor.

ADJOURNMENT 12:27 p.m.

Michael Rodino, President
Haworth Board of Education

Kristi Giambona
Board Secretary