

**HAWORTH BOARD OF EDUCATION
HAWORTH, NEW JERSEY 07641
WORK SESSION MINUTES
April 21, 2021**

I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:34 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 11, 2021, 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. During meetings held remotely for some or all participants, a member of the public wishing to provide comments during public comment on agenda items or public comments on all other items, is directed to type his or her name, address, and group affiliation, if any, in the “chat” window at the start of the public comment section where he or she wishes to be recognized. The Board President will recognize each member of the public individually when it is his or her turn to speak and will unmute his or her audio at that time. If a member of the public wants to provide a comment, but cannot access the “chat” he or she can verbally state their name, address, and group affiliation, if any, and the Board President will inform him or her when it is his or her turn to comment. The Board will also read written comments submitted in accordance with the Board’s resolution. All public comments are limited to three minutes, including time for the Board to respond. At all other times, members of the public will be muted. The Board will follow its adopted bylaws, procedures, and resolutions with regard to conduct during the Board meeting, including during public comments.

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
Mr. Charles Crowley
Mrs. Alanna Davis
Dr. Danielle Insalaco-Egan
Mr. Michael Rodino
Mr. Robert Rose
Mrs. Stacey Wunsch
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. Welcome to Mr. Robert Rose by the Board of Education President, Mr. Rodino
 - Mr. Rose was appointed by the Board of Education on March 23, 2021
 - Mr. Rose was administered the BOE Oath of Allegiance by the Board Secretary on April 5, 2021

Mr. Rodino welcomed Mr. Rose back on behalf of the entire BOE.

Mr. Rose stated that he is glad to be back and is looking forward to working with the BOE again.

- b. Facilities Discussion

Mr. Wolford thanked the custodial staff for keeping the building shiny clean.

With the increased schedule, the MPR will hold no more than 3 cohorts at once to eat, and it will only be used when there is inclement weather. Otherwise, the students will eat outside. Most of the classes will be able to maintain 6 ft. of social distance.

Mr. Rodino suggested that the BOE review the pre-COVID materials for renovations.

Mr. Wolford stated that the architects recommend the whole property be surveyed. The trajectory for increased enrollment for next year and the need for building expansion will continue to be discussed.

I. Borek asked if there would be enough space to start the school year in the fall based on the current enrollment being increased by 10%?

Dr. Hughes explained that space would not be an issue if the 6 ft. of social distance is no longer needed. He also mentioned that he would still like to explore the possibility of an integrated Pre-K program.

- c. Budget Items to Discuss - Plans for Learning Acceleration and Resources

Dr. Hughes explained that HPS would be offering a more in depth summer programs for ELA, Math and Science. Additional instructors will be advertised for. Will be using ESSER II funds (COVID relief funds) to assist with the cost for this.

Dr. Hughes suggested hiring a BSI Instructor for the 2021-22 school year. He would also like to increase social and emotional supports for both the students and the teachers.

- d. Anticipated Schedule for Next Year

HPS will have 6 lunch periods to spread the students out.

- e. COVID Testing availability next year
 - i. Testing options for consideration - can we have recommendations from the DOH on random / ongoing testing? Should we consider changes in regards to breaks next year? Overall testing strategy discussion.

Testing can not be a requirement, it has to be optional. With more people getting vaccinated, the testing could go away.

- f. **HIB Report for March 2021:**
 - Reported Cases: 0
 - Number of Cases Open: 2
 - Number of Cases Closed: 0

- g. Review of April 27, 2021 BOE Meeting Agenda Draft

VII. Open to the Public on any item - 8:04 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. Levison - 70 Delaware Avenue: Asked if there was any risk with having the specials teachers teaching over all of the grade levels, as far as COVID exposure is concerned?

Dr. Hughes stated that the HPS staff has a 90% vaccination rate. Fully vaccinated staff has a high percentage of efficacy. Music classes that included instrument playing and singing will be conducted outside whenever possible. If the teacher tests positive, we will get advisement from the Department of Health at that point.

Close the Public portion: 8:10 p.m.

VIII. CLOSED SESSION

D. Egan Moved, I. Borek Seconded
Roll Call: 6/0

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 Wednesday, April 21, 2021 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 1 hour for the purpose of discussing personnel and HIB. Action will not be taken in public after the executive session.

IX. MOTION TO ADJOURN.

R. Rose Moved, S. Wunsch Seconded
All in favor.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:34 p.m.

Michael Rodino, President
Haworth Board of Education

Kristi Giambona
Board Secretary