

**HAWORTH BOARD OF EDUCATION
HAWORTH, NEW JERSEY 07641
MINUTES
February 23, 2021**

I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:31 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, President
Mr. Gregory Stott - **ABSENT**
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. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY - 7:33 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.

VII. CLOSE THE PUBLIC PORTION - 7:34 p.m. NO PUBLIC COMMENT

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S/BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORTS

a. 2021 Governor's Educator of the Year Teacher Recognition - Mr. Derick Talty

WHEREAS, Mr. Talty was nominated and selected by his peers and the community for his effective instruction to the children of Haworth and

WHEREAS, Mr. Talty has provided exceptional and dedicated service to the children and community of Haworth and

WHEREAS, over the last 17 years at the Haworth School, Mr. Talty has served as a 5th grade teacher, gifted and talented teacher, middle school social studies teacher and director of educational technology, as well as a member of the School Improvement Panel. He started the 1:1 pilot program and has led professional development at the Northern Valley Curriculum Center. He has served as the student council advisor and Brainbusters coach. Mr. Talty has also represented the Haworth Teachers' Association as their Membership Coordinator and President.

WHEREAS, Mr. Talty has also served the children of Haworth as an active teacher volunteer for community events such as Miles for McGhee, the Haworth 5k, MLK Day of Service, and various student concert performances.

WHEREAS, the Haworth Board of Education is desirous of recognizing him for this milestone in his teaching career and support his representation of the school district, and wishes to express their appreciation and gratitude for his efforts,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this resolution be read into the record of the February 23, 2021 Haworth Board of Education minutes as permanent testimony to the achievement of this award as the 2021 Governor's Educator of the Year Teacher Recognition Honoree for the Haworth Public School.

Mr. Derick Talty issued a thank you letter to the Board of Education after the meeting expressing his appreciation on receiving the Governor's Educator of the Year honor. The letter is on record in the Board office.

b. Kids with Character Award Presentation – criteria for the month of January is “Responsibility”. For January the following students have been awarded:

Kindergarten: Maddie Caulfield, Julia Kaluza, Mia Lamberta, Maddie Mills
Grade 1: Jake Boyev, Chloe Cabbad, Etta Levison
Grade 2: Ava Hudson, Rose McAllister
Grade 3: Kyle Quayle, Ali Ricci, Nicholas Saporito
Grade 4: Olivia Hudson, Sadie Poirot
Grade 5: Ava Bevilacqua, Lauren Szukics
Grade 6: Ari Borek, Charlotte Neher
Grade 7: Harrison Davis, Derrick Fortgang
Grade 8: Leann Speranza, Ronan Topor

The Board attorney addressed the technical difficulties of the virtual meeting only allowing 100 participants to enter. The regulations are promulgated by the Department of Community Affairs, which issued Emergency Remote Meeting Protocol for Local Public Bodies on September 24, 2020. The specific regulation for the number of participants on a remote platform is N.J.A.C. 5:39-1.4(a). It says the following:

(a) If a declared emergency requires a local public body to hold a remote public meeting to conduct public business, a local public body shall use an electronic communications technology that is routinely used in academic, business and professional settings, and can be accessed by the public at no cost. Participant capacity on the selected platform should be consistent with the reasonable expectation of the public body for public meetings of the type being held and shall not be limited to fewer than 50 public participants (beyond those persons required to conduct business at the meeting).

The Board of Education issued a follow-up letter to the public after the meeting via ParentSquare. The letter is on record in the Board office.

c. Presentation on the progress of the Reopening Plan - Dr. Peter Hughes

C. Crowley Moved, A. Davis Seconded
Roll Call: 6/0

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

The following resolutions are considered to be routine and non-controversial and will be voted on by one vote. Any Board of Education member wishing to remove any items from the consent agenda and request an individual vote may do so.

- a. **Enrollment Report to Date - 415**
- b. **Emergency & Crisis Situations Drill Record: December**
 - Fire Drill: per class model held on various days per COVID guidelines
 - Security Drill: per class model held on various days per COVID guidelines
 - Administrator in charge: Mr. Paul Wolford

c. HIB Report for January 2021:

Reported Cases: 0
Number of Cases Open: 0
Number of Cases Closed: 0

MINUTES:

- d. Approval of meeting minutes from the January 19, 2021 Regular Business meeting.
- e. Approval of the meeting minutes from the January 19, 2021 Closed Session meeting.

SUBMISSIONS AND CERTIFICATIONS:

- f. 2020-21 Health & Safety Evaluation of School Buildings Checklist Statement of Assurance

S. Wunsch Moved, I. Borek Seconded
Roll Call: 6/0

X. CURRICULUM

- a. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Haworth Board of Education approves the 2021-2022 12-month staff calendar.

S. Wunsch Moved, C. Crowley Seconded
Roll Call: 6/0

XI. PERSONNEL

- a. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Haworth Board of Education approves the attendance and registration costs, if applicable, for the below indicated professional development and/or training workshops or conferences for the following employees. Travel & accommodation expenditures reimbursed pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12.

| # | NAME | DATE(S) | CONFERENCE/ WORKSHOP | LOCATION | COST (not to exceed) |
|----|----------|--------------------------------------|--|----------|----------------------|
| 1. | A. Homan | 3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22 & 3/29/21 | Multisensory Math: Using Manipulative Objects to Teach Math Concepts | Virtual | \$135.00 |
| 2. | J. Horne | 3/3 & 3/10/21 | Supporting Students with Verbal Memory Limitations | Virtual | \$115.00 |

- b. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Haworth Board of Education approves the fall 2021 graduate level courses for the following staff members; reimbursement to be paid at the 2021-

22 state college or university graduate level course rate for 3 total annual credits, pursuant to Article VII of the Haworth Teachers Association Collective Bargaining Agreement.

| # | NAME | COURSE | COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY |
|----|---------------|---|----------------------------|
| 1. | Ashley Lignos | ECSE 505 Learning & Development in Children With and Without Disabilities | Montclair State University |

- c. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Haworth Board of Education approves the following substitute teachers for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year, not benefit eligible.

| | |
|----|----------------------|
| 1. | Ella Buckley |
| 2. | Taylor Feygin |
| 3. | Dana Fiore |
| 4. | Devon Foudy |
| 5. | Sarka Lorencova |
| 6. | Khristina McLaughlin |

- d. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Haworth Board of Education approves an increase to the per diem rate of substitute teacher pay to \$100.00.

- e. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Haworth Board of Education approves Jordan Grillo as a Leave Replacement Middle School Math Teacher, from February 24, 2021 through May 7, 2021, at a prorated annual salary of \$52,244.00 (BA, Step 1), not benefit eligible.

- f. WHEREAS All Haworth Public School employees have been working in-person despite the risk to themselves and their loved ones in the midst of a pandemic since September 1, 2020 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 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 teacher vaccinations will allow the Haworth School District to increase the number of in-person days provided to students by protecting staff that circulate between classes; 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 Haworth School District Board of Education finds a substantial public purpose exists to request that Governor Murphy gives immediate priority in the statewide administration of the COVID-19 vaccine to all public school district personnel.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the members of the 39th legislative district delegation, Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin, Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, Governor Phil Murphy, and to the New Jersey School Boards Association.

D. Egan Moved, C. Crowley Seconded
Roll Call: 6/0

Dr. Hughes thanked the Board of Education for their support of Item f.

I. Borek: Noted the importance of getting the Governor to prioritize teachers. She also inquired how all of the sub candidates were obtaining their sub certifications?

Dr. Hughes explained that Ms. Giambona in his office will be assisting the candidates with their applications.

XII. FINANCE & FACILITIES

- a. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Haworth Board of Education approves the bills for the period of January 1, 2021 to January 31, 2021 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:

| <u>Bills Description</u> | <u>Dated</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Payroll - Operating | 1/15/2021 | \$264,629.70 |
| Board Share - FICA | 1/15/2021 | \$4,182.71 |
| State Share - FICA | 1/15/2021 | \$15,067.19 |

| | | |
|--|---------------|---------------------|
| | TOTAL: | \$283,879.60 |
|--|---------------|---------------------|

| <i>Bills Description</i> | <i>Dated</i> | <i>Amount</i> |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Payroll - Operating | 1/29/2021 | \$266,267.88 |
| Board Share - FICA | 1/29/2021 | \$4,308.03 |
| State Share - FICA | 1/29/2021 | \$15,067.20 |
| | TOTAL: | \$285,643.11 |

- b. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Haworth Board of Education approves the Bills and Claims for the month of February, 2021.
- c. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and pursuant to BOE policy 5111, the Haworth Board of Education hereby accepts students #7126293032 & #8346106228 as tuition students for the 2020-2021 (Pending execution of a tuition contract).
- d. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Haworth Board of Education approves the 2021 TIP Program tuition contract for student #344001 commencing January 19, 2021 and terminating June 30, 2021, for a cost of \$23,711.96.
- e. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Haworth Board of Education approves the 2021 SLICE Program tuition contract for student #354000 commencing February 1, 2021 and terminating June 30, 2021, for a cost of \$5,228.00.
- f. Be it resolved that the Board, upon recommendation of the School Business Administrator approves the following resolution:

Whereas, NJAC 6A:23A-5.3 provides that a school district may request a waiver of compliance with respect to the district's participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program for the 2021-22 school year, and

Whereas, the Haworth Board of Education desires to apply for this waiver due to the fact that participation in SEMI would not provide a cost benefit to the district based on the projection of the district's available SEMI reimbursement for the 2021-22 budget year.

Now therefore, be it resolved, that the Haworth Board of Education hereby authorizes the Business Administrator to submit to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools in the County of Bergen an appropriate waiver of the requirements of NJAC 6A23A-5.3 for the 2021-22 school year.

g. Be it resolved that the Board, upon the recommendation of the School Business Administrator acknowledges receipt of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020 and the Auditor's Management Report on Administrative Findings Financial Compliance and Performance. The District's Corrective Action Plan (attached) includes methods of implementation to address the following:

- Detailed payroll balance analysis
- Collect entire tax levy before year-end
- Review outstanding checks over 1 year old for cancellation or reissuance
- Wait to request federal grant funds until after expenditure

S. Wunsch Moved, I. Borek Seconded
Roll Call: 6/0

XIII. NEGOTIATIONS

NO RESOLUTIONS

XIV. POLICY

NO RESOLUTIONS

XV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance & Facilities

Curriculum

Policy

Negotiations

Public Relations

BCSBA/NJSBA

Joint Boards

Haworth Home & School Association - *I. Borek announced that the HHSA is currently looking for volunteers, as well as Executive Board volunteer members.*

Northern Valley Regional High School

NV Educational Foundation

Legislative Chairperson

Senior Citizens Liaison

Town Council Liaison

XVI. OLD BUSINESS

XVII. NEW BUSINESS

XVIII. Open to the Public on any item – 8:02 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.

B. Graffeo - 8 Littlefield Court: Read aloud a letter from the community members with over 200 signatures. The letter and list of signees is on record in the Board office.

J. Timochko - 175 Pleasant Street: Asked for clarification on the names of the 200 signees. He wants to be assured that it was only signed by people in the community.

B. Graffeo said that he would include the list of signees with the letter he forwards to be added to the record.

C. Montrose-Dub - 405 Pine Lane: shared slides on ideas to swiftly move to get the students back to school on a full time basis, which can be found using this link: https://www.canva.com/design/DAEW-hNi-d8/HN3FYxrvrxFIDW3J4Py13w/view?utm_content=DAEW-hNi-d8&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=sharebutton

C. Thomas - 135 Owatonna Street: Shared his concern regarding the lack of security on the school issued laptops.

P. Wolford explained that the district used FortNet as the security platform in the beginning of the year. Once they found out that there was not enough security for the students, they switched to Safe Search. This platform was found to be too restrictive. The district has done extensive research and will now be implementing the platform FortGate, which is believed to be a middle ground for everyone.

D. Klain - 350 Whitman Street: Asked if March 29th was the definitive date to resume full time in-person learning or if there would be a possibility of the date being sooner?

Dr. Hughes explained that the March 29th date was chosen collectively by the Pandemic Response Team. He noted that the administration is currently working on the logistics of being able to fit all the students back into the school, while still adhering to the current CDC guidelines.

M. Rodino assured the public that there will be an increase of in-school instructional days for the middle school starting on March 29th, as well as the action plan for addressing student testing, and any learning gaps due to the pandemic. He also gave a brief overview of the plan for moving to full day in-school instruction for all grades.

The following comment was emailed after the meeting to be added to the permanent record:

B. Martin - 292 Crocker Place: It is my position that all staff, administration and professionals within the building be vaccinated (or offered vaccination) prior to the return of the normal school day. It is imperative for the safety of the employee, their family and our children and families.

Close the Public portion: 8:16 p.m.

XIX. CLOSED SESSION

D. Egan Moved, C. Crowley Seconded

Roll Call: 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, February 23, 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 40 minutes for the purpose of discussing negotiations. Action will not be taken in public after the executive session.

XX. MOTION TO ADJOURN

S. Wunsch Moved, D. Egan Seconded

Roll Call: All in favor

ADJOURNMENT - 9:10 p.m.

Michael Rodino, President
Haworth Board of Education

Kristi Giambona
Board Secretary