

**HAWORTH BOARD OF EDUCATION  
HAWORTH, NEW JERSEY 07641  
WORK SESSION MINUTES  
February 10, 2021**

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**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  
Mr. Gregory Stott - **ABSENT**  
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. 2019-20 Audit Presentation - Mr. John Mooney, CPA, RMA, PSA, and Partner at Nisivoccia, LLP

*Mr. Mooney confirmed that the district had a successful audit for the 2019-20 school year. A resolution to approve the audit will be added to the February 23, 2021 BOE Agenda.*

*At 7:47 p.m. a motion to open to the public for questions on the audit only was made by D. Egan, and seconded by S. Wunsch with a vote of all in favor.*

*The was no public comment on the audit presentation therefore the open floor was closed at 7:49 p.m.*

- b. LinkIt results update (form B) - Power Point Presentation on file

*I. Borek inquired about how the students that are falling below par be addressed?*

*Dr. Hughes responded that the students falling below par will be identified through the testing and the teachers will develop a personalized plan for them or refer them to I&RS if needed.*

*S. Wunsch confirmed that the Board of Education will back the district in whatever is needed to support the students the best way they can.*

- c. Finalize criteria for middle school 4 days/week

*M. Rodino expressed that he would like the district to get to this point as soon as possible, and that a definitive date should be worked on by the administration.*

- d. Afternoon instruction

*D. Egan questioned the quality of instruction in the special areas remotely in the afternoon. She explained that she is sympathetic to the challenges of these classes being conducted virtually to provide quality and creative instruction. She would like to discuss ideas to keep the students engaged in learning in the afternoons.*

*Dr. Hughes suggested discussing the possibility of enrichment opportunities for the afternoons, for grades K-5 and then different offerings for grades 6-8. He will form a committee to share ideas for this initiative.*

- e. Review of February 23, 2021 BOE Meeting Agenda Draft

## VII. Open to the Public on any item - 9:02 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.*

*L. DeLuca - 8 Littlefield Court: Questioned the benchmarks for the vaccine. She stated that the vaccine should not be the reason to keep the school closed. She explained that there are other vectors to mitigate the spread of the disease and also updated guidelines to follow.*

*F. Hedayathia - 27 Hill Street: Asked if the middle school could be its own bubble so the kids could return to school full time. She feels that if the kids can go to school for 4 hours, then why not for the full day? She believes that is possible using universal precautions against the virus. She is worried the kids are not being challenged, and that they will not be prepared for high school. As a blue ribbon school, she expects better.*

*Dana Stott - 328 Hennessy Street: Thanked the BOE and the administration for all of their hard work. She feels frustrated that the action plan is still in phase 1 after a full year. Asked that since there is no mandate over who needs to receive the vaccine, what do we do if some teachers decide not to get vaccinated? Will that mean that the students cannot return to full time in March?*

*J. Gladstein - 35 Grant Street: Stated that after seeing the LinkIt presentation tonight, she believes that the district needs to try harder.*

*J. Heit - 369 Wheeler Place: Is advocating for more time in school. She feels that the social/emotional impact is profound. Would like to move forward from the schedule that has been in place since September.*

*K. McAllister - 444 Contant Avenue: Is advocating for more time in school for the middle school students, and more time for the arts for the younger students.*

*C. Bacci - 392 Schraalenburgh Road: Would like the PowerPoint presentation given tonight shared with the parents via ParentSquare. Questioned how the special areas would be graded and asked if those classes could be live instead of assignments in See-Saw.*

*E. Hereghty - 70 Chestnut Street: Asked for the criteria for whether or not school is open during inclement weather.*

*A. Walker - 76 Pleasant Street: Would like to know the policy for middle school students to have their cameras on during remote learning. Would like information on the math teacher leave replacement search.*

**Close the Public portion: 9:40 p.m.**

*Dr. Hughes responded to the items brought to the floor by during public comment:*

*He explained that our instruction does not cater to the CRT scores, but more the NJSLs.*

*The virtual day on February 9th was a decision by all of the Northern Valley Superintendent's due to the weather forecast. These decisions are made with safety in mind. We will have all virtual days once our 3 day allotment of snow days are finished.*

*He explained that the middle school teachers have to move around to different classes/sections, and that would expose them to 90 students per day. He stated that he would prefer that the teachers are vaccinated and protected before returning to school full time. It would also be a challenge to keep all the students social distanced appropriately, since the DOE and DOH still require 6 feet of separation if it can be done.*

*He is confident that our students are prepared for the high school, per his conversations with the high school staff, as well as our former students.*

*Mr. Wolford also explained that Haworth is the only school in the Valley that tracks math and allow grade 7 to move directly into Algebra in grade 8. He noted that Haworth does follow the Northern Valley Curriculum guides, but that we change the sequence. We utilize the CRT data, but we also use other data points to prepare the students for honors and geometry.*

**VIII. CLOSED SESSION - 10:00 p.m.**

S. Wunsch Moved, C. Crowley 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 Wednesday, February 10, 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 and personnel. Action will not be taken in public after the executive session.

**IX. MOTION TO ADJOURN.**

I.. Borek Moved, D. Egan Seconded  
Roll Call: All in favor.

**ADJOURNMENT: 10:34 p.m.**

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Michael Rodino, President  
Haworth Board of Education

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Kristi Giambona  
Board Secretary