

**HAWORTH BOARD OF EDUCATION  
HAWORTH, NEW JERSEY 07641  
WORK SESSION MINUTES  
September 9, 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, February 21, 2020, and August 19, 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  
Mr. Charles Crowley  
Mrs. Alanna Davis  
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. New Board of Education Member Oath of Office:

- Dr. Danielle Insalaco-Egan - Term expiration December, 2022
- Mr. Robert Rose - Term expiration December, 2020

*The Oath of Allegiance was administered by the Board Secretary and read aloud by each candidate. The Haworth Board of Education welcomed both new members.*

b. First Week Recap

*Dr. Hughes presented a slide show and first week in review entitled “The Anywhere School”. The presentation provided the public with information on staff COVID-19 training, and explanations of how*

*the building was reorganized to provide for the current social distancing requirements. Dr. Hughes was proud to announce that the Haworth School District had 100% staff attendance for the start of the school year.*

- **Staff PD Day**

*Dr. Hughes explained that the staff has already completed 2 full days of Professional Development, guided by the Administration.*

- Reopening Plan Checklist NJDOE approved on 9/1/2020
- Unfinished business in planning 2020 Fall Semester (stipends and budget update, technology backorders)

*Dr. Hughes gave a brief budget update. He also informed the Board that the district currently has Swivels for 11 classrooms so far. Classroom simulcasting is being done by one teacher per grade level, and by one team in middle school.*

c. **Review and Finalization of Goals (Documents forthcoming)**

*Dr. Hughes presented the 2020-21 District Goals, and the Board made suggestions for minor adjustments. Dr. Hughes will make the adjustments and the finalized goals will be on the Agenda for BOE approval on 9/15/20.*

d. **Review of Draft Agenda for 9/15/20**

*Dr. Hughes explained the proposed changes to the 2020-21 district calendar. The state is mandating that districts close for Election Day on 11/3/20.*

*The Board President suggested voting on the addition of an Ad-Hoc Governance Committee at the 9/15/20 meeting.*

## **VII. Open to the Public on any item - 8:47 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.*

*K. Bevilacqua, 376 Maple Street: Stated that she is glad to hear that academics will take priority in the Middle School, and that the administration is recognizing that improvements need to be made. She explained that she suggests 100% simulcasting should be available, otherwise the kids are not doing what they are supposed to be doing.*

*J. Heit, 369 Wheeler Place: Thanked all of the HPS staff. Explained that she is noticing a disparity between the middle school and the elementary students, and the virtual and in-person students. Explained that she believes it is important to have classes simulcasted to hold the students accountable.*

*A. Walker, 76 Pleasant Street: Asked is there would be an internet bandwidth issue if all classes were simulcasted?*

*Dr. Hughes explained that 100% simulcasting may not be ideal for the district, but that the district will be working towards it. He shared that the hybrid plan has just begun, and it needs some time to become streamlined.*

**Close the Public portion: 9:00 p.m.**

**IX. CLOSED SESSION**

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, September 9, 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 30 minutes for the purpose of discussing personnel. Action will not be taken in public after the executive session.

**The Board returned to the public meeting at 9:26 p.m.**

*The Board discussed the need for all of the current teacher stipends. The Board agreed to only currently focus on the stipends that are needed, ie. Yearbook, Student Council, 8th Grade Advisor, etc. Dr. Hughes offered to put a list of necessary stipends together for the Board to review. The Board agreed to revisit this topic on an as needed basis throughout the year depending on the state of the pandemic.*

**X. MOTION TO ADJOURN - 9:33 p.m.**

A. Davis Moved, S. Wunsch Seconded  
All in favor.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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Michael Rodino, President  
Haworth Board of Education

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Kristi Giambona  
Board Secretary