

**HAWORTH BOARD OF EDUCATION  
HAWORTH, NEW JERSEY 07641  
WORK SESSION MINUTES  
July 15, 2020**

**I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:33 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 June 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  
Mrs. Mary Anne Doran - **ABSENT**  
Mrs. Karen Leddy - **ABSENT**  
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. Discussion of 12-month employee salary agreements

*S. Wunsch stated that since there was not a unanimous vote in June to freeze the salaries of the 12-month employees and Aides for the 2020-21 school year, she would like to see the original Superintendent recommendations added to the July Agenda for another vote. The other members of the Board were all in favor of this request.*

- b. Leadership/Staffing Challenge - Casting a wide net

*Hughes explained that with the news of Dr. O'Reilly's resignation, he has decided to cast a wide net for applicant's and has advertised for both a Supervisor of Special Education, as well as a*

*Supervisor of Curriculum & Instruction. The administration will interview applicants from both pools to find the one person who is the best fit for their team and the district.*

c. Discussion regarding Jump Start Math and ELA programs

*Dr. Hughes asked the Board if they would like to offer virtual Jump Start programs for both math and ELA for middle school students during the last week of August. All of the members of the Board were all in favor of this request. Some Board members asked if Dr. Hughes could survey parents to gauge interest for the programs for the lower grades, and if there is significant interest then would consider offering for those students as well.*

d. Study of Student Safety Vs. Return to Normalcy

e. Overall Recommendations/Requirements (Bubbling, European Model for Middle School, Social Distancing or Facial Coverings, Staggered Start and End Times, Accommodations for at-home Learning)

f. Pending Purchases to Prepare for September

*Dr. Hughes presented a PowerPoint regarding the September reopening plans for the district and the survey results from the parent/guardian and staff surveys. Copy will be attached to permanent records.*

g. Review of Draft Agenda for 7/21/20

**V. Open to the Public on any item - 8:41 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 - asked what medical advice was sought to guide in the decision of the reopening plans.*

*Dr. Hughes - explained that he included community members that are in the medical field on the reopening committee, as well as the school nurse. He also stated that the plan is in line with the guidelines from the state.*

*L. DeLuca, 8 Littlefield Court - expressed her favor of a 100% in person start of school, or half days every day so the core subjects are taught in person.*

*Dr. H. Cohen, 440 Lake Shore Drive - explained that the prevalence of COVID-19 is very low in the Haworth community at this time, and with the small class sizes that the school provides she feels the students should go back to school in person. (Dr. Cohen serves on the reopening committee).*

*A. Porcaro, 375 Hennessy Street - explained that she felt the presentation was not in favor of returning to the school building, and asked that the Superintendent seek additional medical expertise.*

*J. Gladstein, 35 Grant Street - stated that since Haworth is such a small district, more effort needs to be put into returning the students back to the building.*

*J. Kornblatt, 94 Hendrickson Street - commented that the district needs to trust the local experts, and would like to see the student body get back on track and back into the building to learn.*

*L. Placona, 147 Garfield Street - asked if the students can go back to school part-time safely, why can't they go full-time safely?*

*A. Walker, 76 Pleasant Street - asked why a committee was put into place if the district is not going to take the advice of the experts on the committee?*

*Dr. Hughes - responded that the committee is working together to figure out how to bring the students back in the safest way possible.*

*C. Bacci, 392 Schraalenburgh Road - asked if an alternate schedule is created, can the parents request to be on the same schedule as another family that could possibly assist in child care?*

*Dr. Hughes - explained that priority will be given to siblings being on the same schedule.*

*L. Lebel, 122 Madison Avenue - commented that she is a nurse and the proper training and use of PPE's is the most important aspect for a return to school.*

*J. Heit, 369 Wheeler Place - stated that with the use of masks and desk shields, school should be able to continue in person while keeping both the students and teachers safe. She felt the virtual learning environment was not beneficial for the students.*

*D. Stott, 122 Hennessey Street - feels it is not a realistic assumption to keep the students home, and that they miss their school and their friends.*

*R. Saxena, 232 Schraalenburgh Road - explained that both she and her husband work in a hospital emergency room and stated that if PPE is used correctly and proper safety precautions are met, that the students can go back to school. She believes that the district should take advantage of the low COVID numbers in the community.*

*B. Adler, 233 Whitman Street - suggested the consideration of having dual grade teachers, one who teaches in the building and one who teaches virtually.*

*M. Griffin, 292 Myrtle Street - believes that families with more than one child will be subject to comingling with different "family bubbles", therefore the district should listen to local doctors advice and open school.*

*R. Porcaro, 375 Hennessey Street - exclaimed that although the staff did an excellent job with the virtual learning, it will never be as effective as person to person learning. He asked if there was any possibility for the Board to reconsider the plan?*

*Dr. Hughes - explained that the presented plan is a first proposal and there is time to make adjustments to it if needed.*

*C. Piro, address not stated - asked if tech enablements should be considered if virtual learning is planned to be used again.*

*Dr. Hughes - shared that he has done some research on programs such as Swivel and The Owl.*

*A. Dub, 405 Pine Lane - asked what the difference was between planning to go from slow phases to progressively getting more aggressive, then starting out aggressive and then seeing if there is a need to pull back?*

*K. Kolkebeck, 53 Osmers Way - is in favor of the students going back to school in person.*

*J. Egan, 100 Terrace Street - explained that he is a teacher by profession and asked that the administration and the Board keep the safety of the teachers and staff in mind, as well as any extended family that may live with students attending school again.*

*D. Klain, 350 Whitman Street - asked if spaces such as the gym and MPR have been considered to be used for classrooms as well. Suggested that a new survey be sent out that is more specific in order to interpret people's opinions.*

*D. Saperstein, 120 Whitman Street - asked if mask wearing, 100% of the time by 100% of the people in the building being considered?*

*C. Garcia, 454 St. Nicholas - expresses that the school now has a choice whether to return or not, therefore a push should be made to return. His main concern is the social/emotional aspect of virtual learning.*

*J. Firestone, 395 Pine Lane - explained that she is also a teacher and does not believe that the students are getting everything they need from a virtual environment.*

*J. Rozenblit, 96 Whitman Street - expressed her concern about the health risks to her children.*

*A. Weiss, 56 Pleasant Street - explained that although her child did not do well with the virtual learning, the health of her child is the most important thing, and that there are too many factors and the risk is too great.*

*J. Schluter, 30 Westview Terrace - asked if the students are seated at their desks, will they be allowed to remove their masks? She also asked if flexible learning will be an option; if a child is sick will they be able to attend the class virtually?*

*B. Martin, 292 Crawford Place - expressed concern regarding a 2 week quarantine for any of the students who have travelled out of state, gone to camp, or the shopping malls. How will the school handle a student who tests positive for COVID?*

*Dr. H. Cohen, 440 Lakeshore Drive - emphasized that her support to go back to school is based on the assumption that the prevalence of COVID remains low in the community, and any outbreak would shut the schools down. She explained that quarantining for the contacts of contacts is not recommended by the Department of Health.*

*H. Wasser, 64 Summit Place - is not in favor of asynchronous learning, and feels it is essential for children of these age levels to be in school.*

*Mr. Rodino thanked all of the members of the public for their comments and suggestions. He asked that Dr. Hughes create a more detailed survey in order to get specific data on the parents' opinions for the reopening of school in the fall.*

**Close the Public portion: 10:38 p.m.**

**VI. MOTION TO ADJOURN.**

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

**ADJOURNMENT: 10:40 p.m.**

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Michael Rodino, President  
Haworth Board of Education

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Kristi Giambona  
Board Secretary