

**HAWORTH BOARD OF EDUCATION
HAWORTH, NEW JERSEY 07641
WORK SESSION MINUTES
January 4, 2023**

I. CALL TO ORDER – 8:03 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 September 7, 2022 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:

Mr. Tae Chang
Mr. Charles Crowley
Dr. Danielle Insalaco-Egan
Mrs. Deborah Munoz-Maniscalco
Mr. Michael Rodino
Mr. Robert Rose
Mrs. Stacey Wunsch - **ABSENT**
Mr. Paul Wolford, Business Administrator/Acting Superintendent
Mrs. Kristi Giambona, Board Secretary

VI. WORK SESSION TOPICS

- a. 2021-22 Audit Presentation & Approval - Mr. John Mooney, CAP, RMA, PSA, and Partner at Nisivoccia, LLP - *2022 Audit Books on file in the Board Offices and the New Jersey State website.*
- b. Upon the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent, the Haworth Board of Education approves Dr. Jamie Lee, Psychologist and Elizabeth Harriman, Speech Language Pathologist of Supreme Consultants for special education evaluations at a rate of \$850.00 per evaluation.
- c. Review of January 18, 2023 BOE Meeting Agenda Draft

R. Rose Moved, C. Crowley Seconded
 Roll Call: 6/0

Be it resolved that the Haworth Board of Education approves Items VI. a. through c.

| ROLL CALL VOTE | YES | NO | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|-----------------|-----|----|---------|--------|
| Mr. Chang | ✓ | | | |
| Mr. Crowley | ✓ | | | |
| Dr. Egan | ✓ | | | |
| Mrs. Maniscalco | ✓ | | | |
| Mr. Rodino | ✓ | | | |
| Mr. Rose | ✓ | | | |
| Mrs. Wunsch | | | | ✓ |

VII. Open to the Public on any item - 8:10 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, address and group affiliation (if any) before you begin.

C. Czerny, 392 Schraalenburgh Road: asked why the school calendar is not directly aligned with the high school calendar and the other Northern Valley districts.

C. Erfurt, 137 Pine Street: asked why we had January 2nd off if the high school did not. Stated that the original calendar showed us going back on January 2nd and then it was changed to have that day off. Wanted to know who exactly creates the school calendar.

J. Kim, 285 Harrison Street: inquired if the calendar is discussed in public to get their input?

M. Rodino replied that the calendar is reviewed by the Superintendent's of the 7 Northern Valley districts, as well as the high school Superintendent. It is reviewed in public by the Board of Education at a public meeting, where input can be given during the public comment section of the meeting, and it is also reviewed by the Teacher's Association. We try to align with the high school and the other districts, but there are times when there can be differences. As for the change of January 2nd, the wrong calendar was originally sent out via ParentSquare and once it came to the attention of the

school that the wrong calendar was inadvertently sent out to parents, a new announcement went out with the correct version. That could be where you saw the differences.

J. Samples, 560 Sylvan Place: just to clarify, the academic calendar is established in January or February, and then any changes can be made anytime thereafter?

M. Rodino: Yes, that is correct.

P. Wolford: explained that each district has different teacher contracts, which can result in certain inconsistencies with each other.

G. Wang, 138 Beacon Street: how is it decided how many school days are in the calendar.

S. Cherry: a certain amount of days is required by the state, and the teacher contracts also have specific days allotted for professional development, etc..

J. Harris, 226 Ivy Avenue: asked if there was any project update on the referendum? Has the budget changed since the time it has passed. He also inquired about the plan moving forward with the departure of the Superintendent and soon the Principal.

P. Wolford: addressed the referendum question and explained that there have been three design meetings to date with the architects and the plans will be submitted to the state for final approval on the specs. Once all is approved, then we go out to bid. As far as the budget, we were able to sell our bonds before interest rates went up. Also, costs for materials and supplies have gone down since the referendum passed. There is also a 10-15% contingency built into the total cost of the project. We are foreseeing the ground breaking to begin at the end of June. There are four phases to the project to have the least disruption to classroom learning.

J. Samples, 560 Sylvan Place: part of the referendum includes the opening of a pre-school. Is that still slated for 2024?

P. Wolford: yes, for 2024 and earlier if it is possible.

M. Rodino: Addressed the second part of Mr. Harris' question regarding the plan moving forward for the replacement of the Superintendent and the Principal. The plan for the next three months is to have Mr. Wolford as the Acting Superintendent. We will apply to the state for an additional three month term after that, as that is how the state mandates it is done. We will be discussing our options regarding a short-term and long-term plan for Principal in closed session after this meeting, as it will be challenging to fill mid-year. Mrs. Voigt is moving to a position outside of administration within a different district and we thank her for all she has done and wish her the best in all her future endeavors.

J. Harris, 226 Ivy Avenue: asked if there was a scenario for a combined Superintendent /Principal role on the table? What is the timeline on announcing the interim solution.

M. Rodino: responded that it has been done in the district before, but he does not feel it is the most effective solution from previous experience, but it is an option and it will be discussed. There are also shared-services options that will be looked at. The interim solution for Superintendent is Mr. Wolford and the interim solution for the Principal, we are hoping to have by the end of the month.

J. Samples, 560 Sylvan Place: there were talks in September or October about a shared-service with the Superintendent position. What was the outcome of that?

M. Rodino: none of the other districts that we reached out to were receptive to that idea.

C. Czerny, 292 Schraalenburgh Road: during the construction, is there a plan in place for where the students will have recess? Would like to keep the younger kids separated from the older kids.

M. Rodino: we will do our best to have an outdoor space for all of the students, but they will not be able to use any areas where construction equipment is being stored.

C. Czerny, 292 Schraalenburgh Road: who can I reach out to regarding the Gifted & Talented program. I would like to inquire about a program for grades K-3.

P. Wolford: Dr. Porcelli can answer any questions that you may have. You can email her.

Close the Public portion: 8:24 p.m.

VIII. CLOSED SESSION 8:24 p.m.

R. Rose Moved, D. Egan 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 Meeting of the Borough of Haworth Board of Education on this day Wednesday, January 4, 2023 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 litigation. Action will not be taken in public after the executive session.,

X. MOTION TO ADJOURN.

M. Rodino Moved, R. Rose Seconded
All in favor

ADJOURNMENT: 9:30 p.m.

Michael Rodino, President
Haworth Board of Education

Kristi Giambona
Board Secretary