

**HAWORTH BOARD OF EDUCATION
HAWORTH, NEW JERSEY 07641
WORK SESSION MINUTES
December 7, 2022**

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 5, 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:

Mrs. Ilisha Borek
Mr. Charles Crowley
Mrs. Alanna Davis
Dr. Danielle Insalaco-Egan
Mr. Michael Rodino
Mr. Robert Rose
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. STEAM Curriculum Update

Dr. Hughes explained that there is one 6th grade class that did not get tested for Start Strong Science and that the state has been notified. He is awaiting guidance on the course of action to be taken.

Dr. Hughes updated the BOE on the roll out of the Standard Based Report Cards in Middle School.

Dr. Hughes reviewed the various Social & Emotional Learning supports being offered in the district and the progress of the Student Bill of Rights. He explained that there will be an "opt-out" option for parents for certain programs that may trigger sensitive reactions from students.

Mrs. Davis asked why the test for Start Strong Science in grade 6 was overlooked.

Dr. Hughes explained that it was not evaluated in previous years so the system did not automatically generate the tickets.

Mrs. Davis expressed that an "opt-out" should be offered for either for all of the programs or for none of them, not only for specific topics.

Mr. Rose feels that parents should be made aware of the upcoming topics and that if parents feel very strongly about their child not participating, they will then reach out to the school and that an "opt-out" option shouldn't just be offered out.

The BOE members all agreed that an opt-out should not be offered proactively.

Dr. Hughes played a video about the new Chat GPT technology being released soon. He explained how this technology will be significantly changing the course of the future.

Ms. Vanessa Vaglio, STEAM Teacher walked the BOE through the STEAM curriculum being rolled out in the district for all grades. She explained that she is working with Northern Valley Demarest to align the curriculum with the programs being offered at the high school to help guide her through the middle school curriculum.

She told the BOE that the K-5 STEAM curriculum should be ready to be rolled out in January.

b. Review of December 14, 2022 BOE Meeting Agenda Draft

Mr. Crowley inquired about the Honor Roll status.

Mr. Rodino suggested that the topic be tabled until the new BOE members begin in January.

VII. PERSONNEL

- a. **WHEREAS**, on or about November 28, 2022, the Haworth Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the "Board"), received Dr. Peter Hughes (hereinafter referred to as "Hughes") resignation from his position as Superintendent of Schools;

WHEREAS, Hughes requests to resign effective at the close of business on December 31, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Board accepts, with regret, the resignation of Dr. Hughes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board shall accept Dr. Hughes's resignation effective the close of business on December 31, 2022.

S. Wunsch Moved, D. Egan Seconded

Roll Call: 7/0

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Haworth Board of Education approves Items VII. a.

ROLL CALL VOTE	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Mrs. Borek	✓			
Mr. Crowley	✓			

Mrs. Davis	✓			
Dr. Egan	✓			
Mr. Rodino	✓			
Mr. Rose	✓			
Mrs. Wunsch	✓			

b. **WHEREAS**, the Superintendent of Schools (hereinafter referred to as the "Superintendent") has resigned effective January 1, 2023; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to appoint an Acting Superintendent to perform the duties of Superintendent while the Haworth Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the "Board") initiates the procedures for posting, advertising and interviewing candidates to fill the vacancy on a permanent basis; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Paul Wolford (hereinafter referred to as the "Wolford") is desirous of performing the duties of Acting Superintendent of Schools on an interim basis until the Board of Education hires a candidate to fill the vacancy;

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the Haworth School District to appoint Wolford to the position of Acting Superintendent of Schools, beginning January 1, 2023 and expiring in accordance with the terms of the Employment Agreement between the Board and Wolford on or about March 31, 2023, subject to approval of the appointment by the Acting Commissioner of Education in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A-9B-13.1 and approval of the Employment Agreement by the Interim Executive County Superintendent.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby appoints Wolford as the Acting Superintendent of Schools from January 1, 2023 through March 31, 2023, pending the approval of the Acting Commissioner of Education and the Interim Executive County Superintendent.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the request to appoint Wolford shall be submitted to the Acting Commissioner for approval in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A-9B-13.1.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Employment Agreement shall be submitted to the Interim Executive County Superintendent for review and approval, according to standards adopted by the Acting Commissioner of Education, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7-8(j).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board approves the Employment Agreement with Wolford for the position of Acting Superintendent of Schools for the foregoing period of

appointment, conditional upon the approval of the Employment Agreements between the Board and Wolford by the Interim Executive County Superintendent, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7-8(j).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby authorizes the Board President and the Board Secretary to execute, on behalf of the Board, the Employment Agreement by and between the Board and Wolford following receipt of the approval by the Acting Commissioner of Education and the Interim Executive County Superintendent.

R. Rose Moved, A. Davis Seconded
 Roll Call: 7/0

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Haworth Board of Education approves Items VII. b.

ROLL CALL VOTE	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Mrs. Borek	✓			
Mr. Crowley	✓			
Mrs. Davis	✓			
Dr. Egan	✓			
Mr. Rodino	✓			
Mr. Rose	✓			
Mrs. Wunsch	✓			

Mr. Rodino thanked both Dr. Hughes and Mr. Wolford for all of their efforts and work for the district on behalf of the entire Board. He wished Dr. Hughes much success in his new position.

Dr. Hughes shared that he will miss the students and the community of Haworth a great deal, and that he is only a town away and will support the district through the mid-year transition in any way needed.

Mrs. Wunsch thanked Dr. Hughes for all he has done for the district, especially his guidance during the pandemic. She thanked Mr. Wolford for always being there for the Board and for agreeing to help the district through this transition.

VIII. Open to the Public on any item - 8:13 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.

J. Buckner, 232 Valley Road: She inquired about the Standards Based Report Cards grading. She explained that her children, in particular, are feeling deflated by the new grading system. She would like an explanation on how this new report card system is benefiting the children. She also shared that it seems to be time during the school day for students to complete their homework, therefore they are coming home with no homework to do. She feels that this type of practice will not be beneficial for preparing them for high school success and learning time management.

K. Bevilacqua, 376 Maple Street: Said that she would like to understand the process on finding a new Superintendent for the district since Mr. Wolford is only being appointed through March 31, 2023. She also shared her dissatisfaction with the new report card system and how the student will truly understand where they stand. She explained that the Standards Based Report Card model seems beneficial for the K-5 students, but not the middle school students.

Close the Public portion: 8:20 p.m.

Mr. Rodino addressed the Superintendent search question and he explained that an acting Superintendent is only allowed by law for 3 months. An extension can be done after that if needed.

Mr. Rodino also explained that the goal of the Standards Based Report Cards was for the students to master the content within each course and to get more specifics on how the student is grasping each topic area. A parent should be able to see the specific areas their child is mastering and those they are not.

Dr. Hughes explained that a 4 should be strived for as it is considered above a traditional A grade. The comments section should be giving the parents and students much more information than they are used to getting with traditional report cards. He believes that Standards Based Report Cards are a better measurement vehicle than traditional report cards.

Dr. Hughes said he will have to look into why time is being allotted for homework to be done during school hours. He noted that there are three specific built-in “no homework nights” to allow families quality time with each other.

IX. MOTION TO ADJOURN.

A. Davis Moved, R. Rose Seconded
All in favor

ADJOURNMENT: 8:27 p.m.

Michael Rodino, President
Haworth Board of Education

Kristi Giambona
Board Secretary