

**HAWORTH BOARD OF EDUCATION
HAWORTH, NEW JERSEY 07641
WORK SESSION MINUTES
October 12, 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. Kristi Giambona, Board Secretary

VI. WORK SESSION TOPICS

- a. Standards Based Report Cards Update and Discussion - Dr. Peter Hughes
Dr. Hughes updated the BOE on the progress of the SBRC roll-out with a PowerPoint presentation that is on file in the board offices. A recommendation was made regarding the current 8th grade having a transition period for this year with an overall percentage only on their subjects with 1-4 for standards instead of 1-4 for the overall grades. This type of grading is supposed to give more rigor in each subject as opposed to just memorizing facts for a test or quiz. Percentages that correlate to a letter grade can be created from these standards if they are needed for entry into certain private schools that request it that way. Discussion ensued

about the benefits of Standard Based Report Cards for both the students and the teachers.

Motion to Move into Public Comment earlier in the meeting

A. Davis Moved, I. Borek Seconded

Roll Call: 7/0

Open to the Public on any item - 8:08 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.

D. Klain, 350 Whitman Street - asked Dr. Hughes to consider keeping the traditional grading system for all of middle school grade levels in addition to the standards based grades. She stated that the grading system sounds very subjective and inconsistent....especially since the high school, private high schools and colleges still all use a traditional letter grade system.

D. Munoz, 110 Schraalenburgh Road - inquired about the CRT tests, since it is weighed so heavily in the high school, how come the parents are not privy to their child's scores?

G. Miskovitz, 331 Harrison Street - voiced her concerns on the roll out of the Standard Based Report Cards. Stated that she is struggling with the context for what the 1 through 4 scale means. She said that it seems that the teachers are still working through this and that there are changes that not everyone is on board with. She asked how the honors courses will be recommended at the high school level. She said that if a hybrid model with percentages is chosen, that it needs to be meaningful.

A. Walker, 76 Pleasant Street - noted that this system was put in place because too many students were making honor roll, but now there is no honor roll at all and that doesn't seem right.

J. Samples, 516 Sylvan Place - Stated that the perspective on grading does not seem to be a realistic expectation.

Close the Public portion: 8:16 p.m.

M. Rodino - acknowledged that the BOE is in favor of the plan to transition the current 8th grade class to Standard Based Report Cards for this year and having a hybrid model for this year would be beneficial.

Dr. Hughes - explained that the CRT is a high school test that is run by the high school staff and is a double check for the high school that the students meet the requirements for classes where they are placed. Those test scores are used by the high school only and are reviewed during the placement meetings in February with the student and their parent. Haworth only receives a report with the average of how the Haworth students fare against the other sending districts. The high school uses these scores, as well as teacher recommendations for placement.

Dr. Hughes explained the context of the 1 through 4 grades. 4 exceeding expectations above grade level, 3 meeting high expectations at grade level, 2 approaching expectations, 1 not meeting expectations.

Dr. Hughes shared that the question of Honor Roll at this point is what it will look like under this new grading system. This is something that is being worked on.

A. Davis suggested that the teachers be given uniform organizing of grades. All should choose the same options for the 4 grading factors. Grades should be either all percentages or be all scale.

I. Borek requested that the G&T criteria be aligned with this new grading system and to confirm the standards for G&T.

Dr. Hughes shared that Harrington Park is also using Standards Based Report Cards and explained that it is not a new way of grading. Many other districts are using this as well due to it being a more progressive way to measure student achievement.

- b. 2021-22 NJSLA District Scores Presentation & Data Walk with BOE - Dr. Peter Hughes
The BOE participated in a “data walk” to review the scores. They were able to ask questions or make comments on paper regarding each grade level subject scores. Mr. Crowley inquired about the Blue Ribbon School criteria and process, and if we should apply as a district. Dr. Hughes will look into this.
- c. 2021-22 School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Presentation - Dr. Peter Hughes
Dr. Hughes explained the scores for compliance. The district scored 100% on the self Assessment and has submitted the report to the state.
- d. Discussion to raise daily substitute teacher rate
Dr. Hughes explained the issue the district is having obtaining substitute teachers. Discussion ensued about raising the rate for the daily substitute rate. The BOE suggested a daily rate of \$125 be approved at the 10/19/22 Agenda.
- e. Review of October 19, 2022 BOE Meeting Agenda Draft

Mr. Rodino inquired with the BOE members about the possibility of discussing Superintendent and/or other administrative positions be shared services with any of the smaller surrounding districts. The Board members agreed that this is something beneficial of discussing.

I. Borek would like to have a committee discussion regarding the Middle School. AdHoc Committee for this would be A. Davis, I. Borek and D. Egan as the chairperson. A meeting will be scheduled for next week.

VII. CLOSED SESSION

S. Wunsch Moved, R. Rose 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, October 12, 2022 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 15 minutes for the purpose of discussing litigation. Action will not be taken in public after the executive session.

VIII. MOTION TO ADJOURN.

S. Wunsch Moved, D. Egan Seconded
All in favor

ADJOURNMENT: 10:06 p.m.

Michael Rodino, President
Haworth Board of Education

Kristi Giambona
Board Secretary