

HAWORTH BOARD OF EDUCATION
HAWORTH, NEW JERSEY 07641
Minutes
October 15, 2025

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 7, 2025 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
Mr. Drew Krasny
Mrs. Deborah Munoz-Maniscalco
Mrs. Courtney Russell
Mrs. Jennifer Samples
Mr. Paul Wolford, Superintendent
Mr. Kevin Lane, Business Administrator/MS Director
Mrs. Kristi Giambona, Board Secretary

VI. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY - 7:31 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.

VII. CLOSE THE PUBLIC PORTION - 7:32 p.m. NO PUBLIC COMMENT

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S/BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORTS

a. **September Student Shout Outs:**

Kindergarten: Albert Antinori, Anna Shim

Grade 1: Mila Bianco, Hope DeGuzman, Amelia Fu, Lucy Giannotti, Jasper Harris, Ella Ngai, Shu Tong Wu, Raia Zheleznyak

Grade 2: Saya Rao, Ben Saperstein

Grade 3: Emilia Gelfand, Oliver Handman, Daniel Lamberta, Eva Samples, Harper Shuldman

Grade 4: Leela Berkelbach, Fiona Brennan, Claire Esposito, Julia Figlio, Katharine McGuirk, Emily Spence

Grade 5: James Beardsley, Kensleigh Erfurt, Max Handman, Mia Lamberta, Christian Lee, Skyler Moluzzo, Evan Son

Staff Shout Out's: Nicole Chamberlain, Alison Homan, Antoinette Sabbagh, Angelica Talamo, Sandra Van Horn

b. **2025-26 National Junior Honor Society Induction Ceremony** - Mr. Kevin Lane

8th grade: Valentina Diaz, Chloe Jun, Joshua Herstik, Allison Park, Greg Yelizarov

c. **2024-2025 NJSLA District Scores Presentation** - Mr. Paul Wolford

PowerPoint presentation is available for public review on the district website and the Business Office.

d. **2025-2026 BOE District Goals Review and Finalization**

DISTRICT GOAL 1: The district will seek to improve Math, ELA, and Science performance in ALL grades through individualized instruction, increased instructional engagement, and the utilization of data to inform instructional programming.

DISTRICT GOAL 2: The district will foster a school environment that prioritizes the mental health and well-being of the school community, thereby enhancing student engagement, academic achievement, social-emotional development, and overall school community performance.

DISTRICT GOAL 3: The district will develop and implement an in-district program to meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of students currently placed out-of-district. The new program will include hiring specialized personnel within the district that will strengthen overall special and general education support to Haworth students.

DISTRICT GOAL 4: The district will work to monitor and modify as needed specific guidance/support for the use of Artificial Intelligence to enrich learning experiences, promote student and staff well-being, and achieve learning goals. This includes periodic school task force meetings (for monitoring and feedback), providing professional development for staff members, and offering learning opportunities for parents and stakeholders.

DISTRICT GOAL 5: The district will monitor all programs to promote practices that align towards our definition of academic rigor and physical wellness.

P. Wolford - clarified that Goal #3 was discussed in the Finance & Facilities committee meeting due to the high costs to send students out of district and the transportation issues that go along with it. We would like to start our own program here for Pre-K-2 and this will allow us to take the money spent sending students out of district and use it to hire specialized staff to keep them in district. We would only bring the students back that would benefit better from the program we can provide. For Goal #1, this is always a goal and will remain a priority. Goal #2, we want to continue with more SEL learning. Goal #4 is training for AI learning for students, teachers and parents. Goal #5 we would like to improve the rigor for the students and also provide more meaningful homework so the students are prepared for high school. We also want to focus on hands-on activities off the computer screen.

D. Maniscalco - asked multiple questions regarding Goal #3. How it will be determined what students will be removed from their out of district placement schools to be enrolled in Haworth School's new autism program? Will all current Haworth School staff receive training on how to serve the Autistic students? Will a full time behaviorist be hired for this new program? Will these new students be provided access to general education for inclusion classes?

K. Porcelli - responded that only certain students will be brought back that are age appropriate and it will also depend on their specific needs. If the student is in an inclusion class then that student will have a trained Special Education teacher in the classroom. If they are in a self-contained class then their will be an appropriately trained staff member in that class.

P. Wolford - said that if this transpires then the district plans to hire a full time Behaviorist as well.

T. Chang - inquired if this is a trend that districts are moving towards? Are their risks to doing this?

K. Porcelli - answered that we are one of the only districts in the Northern Valley that does not have specific disability classes in the building.

D. Maniscalco - asked how many classrooms will be allocated for this program?

P. Wolford - shared that the only way we would make the decision to bring a student back here is if we can provide them a better program than where they are currently. We won't start the program until we are fully equipped to handle it, but there is space that can be allocated if needed.

K. Lane - explained that the administration feels that this will also help the students and their families to be inclusive with their home community, as long as we can fully meet their needs.

C. Crowley - shared that he always found it puzzling that such a high performing district did not have these opportunities for community children with special needs to attend school in their hometown. He is glad to see this is being worked on.

C. Crowley - asked if the physical wellness initiative is being brought back?

K. Lane - yes, nationwide there is a movement towards physical wellness. Here we will continue with the Golden Hawk physical wellness program.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Haworth Board of Education approves Item VII. d.

ROLL CALL VOTE	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Mr. Chang	✓			
Mr. Crowley	✓			
Dr. Egan	✓			
Mr. Krasny	✓			
Mrs. Maniscalco	✓			
Mrs. Russell	✓			
Mrs. Samples	✓			

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

The following resolutions are considered to be routine and non-controversial and will be voted on by one vote. Any Board of Education member wishing to remove any items from the consent agenda and request an individual vote may do so.

- a. **Enrollment Report to Date - 529**
- b. **Emergency & Crisis Situations Drill Record: September**
 Fire Drill: September 17, 2025
 Security Drill: September 4, 2025
 Annual Bus Drill:

Date of Drill	September 16, 2025
Time of day drill was conducted	9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
School Name	Haworth Public School
Location of Drill	205 Valley Road, Haworth in the rear parking lot
Route number	Schoolwide
Name of drill supervisor	Mr. Paul Wolford

Administrator in charge: Mr. Paul Wolford

MINUTES:

- c. Approval of meeting minutes from the September 25, 2025 Regular Business meeting.

SUBMISSIONS AND CERTIFICATIONS:

- d. 2024-2025 School Self Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act.
- e. 2025-2026 NJ Survey Results for Free and Reduced Lunch
- f. 2025-2026 Comprehensive Maintenance Plan
- g. 2025-2026 ESEA Consolidated Report

h. HIB Report for September, 2025:

Reported Cases: 1
 Number of Cases Open: 1
 Number of Cases Closed: 0

D. Egan Moved, D. Krasny Seconded
 Roll Call: 7/0

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Haworth Board of Education approves Items IX. a. through h.

ROLL CALL VOTE	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Mr. Chang	✓			
Mr. Crowley	✓			
Dr. Egan	✓			
Mr. Krasny	✓			
Mrs. Maniscalco	✓			
Mrs. Russell	✓			
Mrs. Samples	✓			

X. CURRICULUM

- a. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Haworth Board of Education approves the following field trips. Transportation costs will apply where applicable.

#	DATE	GRADE/ CLUB	LOCATION	COST PER STUDENT	STAFF IN CHARGE
1.	May 7 & 8, 2026	Gr. 6	Philadelphia, PA	\$422.00	A. Ronberg
2.	October 22, November 17, December 16, 2025, January 12, February 26, March 18, 2026 & April 21, 2026 (<i>back- up date</i>)	Brain Busters	Northvale, Old Tappan, Harrington Park, Demarest and Norwood	\$0	A. Kosakowski

C. Russell Moved, D. Krasny Seconded
Roll Call: 7/0

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Haworth Board of Education approves Item X. a.

ROLL CALL VOTE	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Mr. Chang	✓			
Mr. Crowley	✓			
Dr. Egan	✓			
Mr. Krasny	✓			
Mrs. Maniscalco	✓			
Mrs. Russell	✓			
Mrs. Samples	✓			

XI. PERSONNEL

- a. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Haworth Board of Education approves the attendance and registration costs, if applicable, for the below indicated professional development and/or training workshops or conferences for the following employees. Travel & accommodation expenditures reimbursed pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12.

**HAWORTH BOARD OF EDUCATION
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#	NAME	DATE(S)	CONFERENCE/ WORKSHOP	LOCATION	REGISTRATION COST
1.	Adrienne Huettenmoser	December 8, 2025	NJ AI Literacy Summit	Old Tappan, NJ	\$0
2.	Ali Gjana	November 16, 17 & 18, 2025	BrainStorm Poconos 2025	Pocono Manor, PA	\$395.00
3.	Shari Peykar	October 23, 2025	Supporting Youth & Supporting You	Saddle Brook, NJ	\$0

- b. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Haworth Board of Education accepts the resignation of Jushar Lusha, Custodian, effective immediately.
- c. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Haworth Board of Education approves Froilan Munoz as a Custodian (no black seal), at an annual salary of \$42,500.00, benefit eligible.
- d. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Haworth Board of Education approves the 2025 graduate level courses for the following staff members; reimbursement to be paid at the 2025-26 state college or university graduate level course rate, pursuant to Article VII of the Haworth Teachers Association Collective Bargaining Agreement.

#	NAME	COURSE	COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY
1.	Jessica Henthorn	5590 Learning Life Lessons with Literature 5126 Five Keys to Reading Instruction 5611 Supporting Literacy Skills in the Elementary Classroom	American College of Education
2.	Elizabeth Rocchio	ET 5053 Design of Learning Environments	American College of Education

- e. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Haworth Board of Education approves Gerald Keegan as a substitute Custodian for the 2025-26 school year, pending criminal history review, not benefit eligible.
- f. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Haworth Board of Education approves Jeffrey Tucker as a substitute teacher for the 2025-26 school year, not benefit eligible.
- g. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Haworth Board of Education approves Marilyn Cebe as a substitute teacher for the 2025-26 school year, not benefit eligible.

- h. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Haworth Board of Education approves the following stipend to be split by the following employees for the 2025-2026 school year:

Cristina Martell & Suzanne Paulillo	Yearbook	\$2,017.00
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D. Krasny Moved, D. Egan Seconded
Roll Call: 7/0

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Haworth Board of Education approves Items XI. a. through h.

ROLL CALL VOTE	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Mr. Chang	✓			
Mr. Crowley	✓			
Dr. Egan	✓			
Mr. Krasny	✓			
Mrs. Maniscalco	✓			
Mrs. Russell	✓			
Mrs. Samples	✓			

XII. FINANCE & FACILITIES

- a. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Haworth Board of Education approves the bills for the period of September 1, 2025 to September 30, 2025 which has previously been approved by the various committees and payment made through the Valley National Bank from funds in the appropriate accounts as follows:

<u>Bills Description</u>	<u>Dated</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Payroll - Operating	09/15/2025	\$354,455.76

Board Share - FICA	09/15/2025	\$5,852.39
State Share - FICA	09/15/2025	\$19,550.69
	TOTAL:	\$379,858.84

<u><i>Bills Description</i></u>	<u><i>Dated</i></u>	<u><i>Amount</i></u>
Payroll - Operating	09/30/2025	\$338,509.55
Board Share - FICA	09/30/2025	\$4,632.50
State Share - FICA	09/30/2025	\$19,550.69
	TOTAL:	\$362,692.74

- b. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Haworth Board of Education approves the Bills and Claims for the month of October, 2025.
- c. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Haworth Board of Education approves the Report of the Board Secretary, Report of the Treasurer, and the Report of Monthly Transfers for the month of August, 2025.
- d. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Haworth Board of Education approves the Demarest Pre-School Program tuition contract for the 2025-26 school year (9/2/25-6/30/26) for student ID number 2085740099 at a total cost of \$19,826.00.
- e. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Haworth Board of Education approves the Bergen County Special Services tuition contract for the 2025-26 school year (9/2/25-6/30/26) for student ID number 9550623737 at a cost of \$87,858.00, plus additional fees for therapeutic services as needed.

- f. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Haworth Board of Education approves the Bergen County Special Services tuition contract for the 2025-26 school year (9/2/25-6/30/26) for student ID number 6446349802 at a cost of \$87,858.00, plus additional fees for therapeutic services as needed.
- g. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Haworth Board of Education approves the Bergen County Special Services contract for Sound Solutions Services for the 2025-26 school year (9/2/25-6/30/26) for student ID number 5099466406 at a cost not to exceed \$13,600.00.

C. Russell Moved, D. Egan Seconded

Roll Call: 7/0

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Haworth Board of Education approves Item XII. a. through g.

ROLL CALL VOTE	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Mr. Chang	✓			
Mr. Crowley	✓			
Dr. Egan	✓			
Mr. Krasny	✓			
Mrs. Maniscalco	✓			
Mrs. Russell	✓			
Mrs. Samples	✓			

XIII. NEGOTIATIONS

NO RESOLUTIONS

XIV. POLICY

NO RESOLUTIONS

_____ Moved, _____ Seconded

Roll Call:

XV. EDUCATION

NO RESOLUTIONS

XVI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance & Facilities - *main highlight was the discussion of Goal #3 in addition to facility enhancement projects that took place over the summer.*

Curriculum & Instruction

Negotiations

Public Relations

BCSBA/NJSBA

Haworth Home & School Association

Northern Valley Regional High School & NV Educational Foundation

Legislative Chairperson

Senior Citizens Liaison

Town Council Liaison

Ad-Hoc Committee Reports

XVII. OLD BUSINESS

XVIII. NEW BUSINESS

XIX. Open to the Public on any item – 8:53 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.

Close the Public portion: 8:53 p.m. NO PUBLIC COMMENT

XX. CLOSED SESSION

D. Egan Moved, D. Krasny 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 15, 2025 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 HIB. Action will not be taken in public after the executive session.

Dr. Egan excused herself from the closed session meeting.

XXI. MOTION TO ADJOURN

D. Krasny Moved, C. Russell Seconded
All in favor

ADJOURNMENT: 9:02 p.m.

Charles Crowley, President
Haworth Board of Education

Kristi Giambona
Board Secretary