

**HAWORTH BOARD OF EDUCATION
HAWORTH, NEW JERSEY 07641
WORK SESSION MINUTES
March 11, 2020**

I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:34 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 and February 21, 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 - **ABSENT**
Mrs. Alanna Davis
Mrs. Mary Anne Doran
Mrs. Karen Leddy
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. Team Building Activity - Hughes** everyone found a picture on their phone that makes them happy and shared it with the rest of the Board.
- b. Creating a Board Candidate Profile** - Mr. Rodino will send out a list of questions to the Board in advance that will be used.

The members worked collectively on the traits they feel are important for a new BOE member:

- Understands role as a BOE member related to the school
- Team Player
- Fair and objective
- Effective communicator

- Connected with the community
- Independent thinker
- Time commitment
- Integrity & Honesty
- Bonus:
- Finance
- Prior Board experience
- School connection
- Experience in conflict resolution
- Humility
- Education background
- Negotiations

Candidates will be asked to step out of the room during each interview, but they are not required to leave if they do not want to.

c. Update on Student Government Assembly

The speaker that the student government requested to have will be coming to speak to us and to Harrington Park, so the cost will be split between Haworth School, HHSA and Harrington Park School.

d. District Goal Update (ELA Research Paper, K-4 Standards Based Report Cards Progress, Link-It Progress)

P. Voigt - gave an overview on the K-4 Standards Based Report Cards. She explained that she met with the K-4 staff during the last professional development day and they came up with behavior standards and standards for each content area and what will be assessed. She also noted that the teachers have met as grade level teams to come up with how the report card will look and what data will be given to the parents.

P. Hughes - Explained that the ELA/Social Studies middle school research paper took one month to complete. He noted that the document based questions will be integrated. A sample of the research paper criteria was handed out. Dr. Hughes stated that there will be an increase in formalized writing in preparation for high school.

Link-it data was given to the BOE. Dr. Hughes explained that the data should be used as a baseline and that it will become more aligned as the year progresses.

Mr. Wolford explained that as far as math improvement, the teacher training, online resources and data analysis from the math team is putting us on the right track for significant improvement with middle school math. He noted that the special education team analyzed all of the students within their realm to help target each students' individual skills.

e. Communication Survey Results Discussion

Dr. Hughes stated that a survey was given to parents regarding ParentSquare and its value. It also asked if parents thought there was too much or not enough communication from the school. Dr. Hughes went over the results of the survey with the Board.

Mrs. Voigt had the idea of doing a “Week in Review” of all events instead of sending out each event or notification individually.

The Board was receptive to that idea.

f. Wellness Room (Purpose, Use, Tracking, and Process)

A hand-out was given regarding the use of the Wellness Room. Dr. Hughes explained the use of the room, how the usage is tracked, and what other uses the room is good for.

Dr. Hughes noted that HIB cases are down in the district.

A handout was given out regarding how to address mental health in school.

g. Office of Civil Rights Complaint (S. Cherry, P. Hughes) topic will be moved to closed session.

Dr. Hughes justified the placement data for the incoming 9th grade. The data included appeals and the outcomes. He emphasized that parents were met with and a mutual agreement was made.

K. Leddy asked to look at the recommendations, without names, from the last 2 years to see how many students were placed in special education math.

h. Review of Draft Agenda for 3/17/20

P. Wolford reviewed the Stop the Bleed training that he and Nurse Polifroni went to that was given by the NJDOE for school personnel.

The Board discussed plans regarding canceling events due to COVID-19. Haworth will have a one session day on March 16, 2020 to train staff on virtual learning. A decision on field trips will be made with the rest of the Northern Valley districts.

VII. Open to the Public on any item – 8:54 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.

Close the Public portion: 8:54 p.m. NO PUBLIC COMMENT

VIII. CLOSED SESSION 8:55 p.m.

S. Wunsch Moved, A. Davis 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 Work Session Meeting of the Borough of Haworth Board of Education on this day Wednesday, March 11, 2020 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 90 minutes for the purpose of discussing personnel and litigation. Action will be taken in public after the executive session.

10:45 p.m. reconvene to open session.

The Board reconvened into public session to discuss the plan for a possible school closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Plans for virtual learning were explained and the options for public BOE meetings.

Mr. Rodino suggested that we have a timely response to the correspondence received by the Board from HEPAC.

IX. MOTION TO ADJOURN.

S. Wunsch Moved, A. Davis Seconded
All in favor.

ADJOURNMENT: 10:53 p.m.

Michael Rodino, President
Haworth Board of Education

Kristi Giambona
Board Secretary