

**HAWORTH BOARD OF EDUCATION
HAWORTH, NEW JERSEY 07641
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
November 24, 2020**

I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:31 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 November 20, 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. During meetings held remotely for some or all participants, a member of the public wishing to provide comments during public comment on agenda items or public comments on all other items, is directed to type his or her name, address, and group affiliation, if any, in the “chat” window at the start of the public comment section where he or she wishes to be recognized. The Board President will recognize each member of the public individually when it is his or her turn to speak and will unmute his or her audio at that time. If a member of the public wants to provide a comment, but cannot access the “chat” he or she can verbally state their name, address, and group affiliation, if any, and the Board President will inform him or her when it is his or her turn to comment. The Board will also read written comments submitted in accordance with the Board’s resolution. All public comments are limited to three minutes, including time for the Board to respond. At all other times, members of the public will be muted. The Board will follow its adopted bylaws, procedures, and resolutions with regard to conduct during the Board meeting, including during public comments.

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 - **ABSENT**
Mrs. Alanna Davis
Dr. Danielle Insalaco-Egan
Mr. Michael Rodino, President
Mr. Robert Rose
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. OLD BUSINESS

WHEREAS, as a result of the public health emergency caused by COVID-19, the Board is desirous of providing COVID-19 testing for faculty and students of the Haworth Public School District; and

WHEREAS, Sovereign Laboratory Services, LLC (“SLS”), is desirous of providing COVID-19 testing for faculty and students of the Haworth Public School District at no direct cost to the Board; and

WHEREAS, the parties are desirous of memorializing the terms and conditions of their agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves the Laboratory Services Agreement (the “Agreement”) with SLS for COVID-19 testing, attached hereto.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board President and the Board Secretary are hereby authorized to execute the Agreement and any other documents necessary to implement the Agreement.

A. Davis Moved, S. Wunsch Seconded

Roll Call: 6/0

VII. Open to the Public on any item - 7:35 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.

K. Bevilacqua - 376 Maple Street: Inquired if the contract that was just approved would be shared with the public, how the testing would look, and if the testing would be paid for through insurance?

M. Rodino: Responded that at the last public meeting of the Board, the testing details were discussed and that today’s meeting was strictly to approve the vendor. He assured the public that Dr. Hughes will send out specific information to the parents.

J. Heit - 369 Wheeler Place: Questioned if there would ever be more in-person time for the middle school students, and if there would be more teacher/student virtual time since the district will now be all virtual after breaks?

J. Firestone - 395 Pine Lane: Asked who the vendor will be and how it would be handled if someone is found positive?

L. DeLuca - 8 Littlefield Court: Asked what is the sensitivity of the saliva test? Asked if the lab would be running the results in house or via a third party? Asked how the results would be kept track of since it is not mandatory for everyone to test?

D. Klain - 350 Whitman Street: Noted that times have changed since the last few BOE meetings in regards to testing and CDC guidelines. Asked if the BOE is willing to discuss the testing dates again to ensure more time in school? She referenced that it was brought up in the past that the middle school move to a four day schedule, yet that has not been addresses thus far.

C. Garcia - 454 St. Nicholas Avenue: Thanked the district for doing an amazing job this year.

A. Walker - 76 Pleasant Street: Inquired if there is more than one day per week remote, could the school day be extended from a half day to a full day?

J. Gladstein - 35 Grant Street: Asked how this testing will make a big difference when kids are still playing sports, etc.? She stated that all the hard work by everyone in the district is very much appreciated.

Close the Public portion: 7:51 p.m.

M. Rodino: Responded that the BOE would like to extend school time, but with the COVID rates increasing, the district will keep the same model for now and continue to reevaluate.

Dr. Hughes: Explained that Bergen County is currently in a high risk category of orange, and if we the county moves to red then all schools will be closed. Testing after breaks prevent positive cases in the schools because then you can contact trace backwards two days when the school was already closed. The company that will be used is Sovereign Labs, and they will use a saliva based PCR test. The turn around time for results is 48 hours, and the school will not reopen until all of the results are back. He explained how the testing procedures would work and that all parents will register their students online in advance. He added that when social distancing is no longer required, then full day in-school classes can resume.

VIII. MOTION TO ADJOURN.

S. Wunsch Moved, R. Rose Seconded
All in favor.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:08 p.m.

Michael Rodino, President
Haworth Board of Education

Kristi Giambona
Board Secretary