HAWTHORNE PUBLIC SCHOOLS HAWTHORNE, NEW JERSEY

Tuesday, December 12, 2023 Regular Meeting – 7:00 P.M. Board of Education Meeting Room

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Time: 7:02 p.m.

PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING BEGINS:

The New Jersey Open Public Meeting Law was enacted to ensure the rights of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon.

In accordance with the provisions of this act, the Business Administrator/Board Secretary has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time, and place thereof posted on the bulletin board of the municipal building, communicated to The Herald News, The Record, and filed with the Clerk of the Borough of Hawthorne.

(Ask for Roll Call)

DOLL CALL	PRECENT	A DOCTOR	
ROLL CALL:	PRESENT	ABSENT	Time of arrival after meeting has been called to order.
Joseph Carr	X		
Alex Clavijo	X		
Michael Doyle	X		
Jennifer Ehrentraut	X		
Alma Morel	X		
Anthony Puluse	X		**************************************
Jay Shortway	X		- 194 turned to 2004
Marco Totaro	X		
Abigail Goff	X		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,

Also Present:

Richard A. Spirito, Superintendent of Schools

Jenine Murray, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

And approximately 3 members of the public.

FLAG SALUTE:

MEETING REGULATIONS:

During each regular meeting, two opportunities are provided for citizens to ask questions and to make comments. During the first opportunity, early on the agenda, the meeting is open to the public for the purpose of addressing items listed for approval on this agenda only. The second opportunity occurs just prior to adjournment, when citizens may address any subject matter that is pertinent to and/or directly related to the operation of the school district.

Persons wishing to speak must upon being recognized, rise, state their name, address and subject matter. Comments and questions shall be addressed to the Board President or the presiding officer and shall be limited to five minutes per person. The Board may (or may not) respond to issues raised by members of the public at the time they are raised, but will provide a response if and when appropriate.

The Board asks that members of the public be courteous and mindful of the rights of other individuals when speaking. Please note that the Board will not respond to comments regarding students or board employees in light of the privacy rights held by those individuals. Moreover, the Board discourages comments about such individuals, and will not be responsible for such comments. Members of the public who choose to speak during this public session should carefully consider their comments, since they could be held personally liable for any statements they make.

Finally, please note that in accordance with District Policy the Board will not officially comment or respond to any matter mentioned unless it can confirm that the matter has first been brought to the attention of the appropriate school personnel in an attempt to resolve the issue.

PUBLIC BE HEARD - AGENDA ITEMS ONLY: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

November 7, 2023 – Special Meeting

November 14, 2023 – Regular Meeting - Public & Private

Minutes - Moved by Mr. Carr, seconded by Mr. Clavijo

Ayes - Mr. Carr, Mr. Clavijo, Mr. Doyle, Ms. Ehrentraut,

Dr. Morel, Mr. Puluse, Mr. Shortway, Mr. Totaro, Mr. Goff

Nays - None Abstain - None Absent - None

CORRESPONDENCE:

REPORTS:

- A. Student Council Representative's Report Brianna Counsellor was not present, Dr. Spirito provided her report.
- B. Superintendent's Report Dr. Richard A. Spirito
 - Governor Educator of the Year
 - Patriots Pen Contest
 - Events happening
 - o Fall Production
 - o Winter Concerts
 - o TREPs Program
 - New Website
 - o New web address
 - Thank Dr. Morel for her service to the Board and best wishes
 - Wished everyone Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year
- C. Ms. Goff received a thank you letter for the participation in the Santa Parade.
- D. Thank you email from James Nemitoff for participation with Eagle Scout project.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION:

Alma Morel, Chairperson

ACTION ITEMS:

Pursuant to the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Committee on Curriculum and Instruction recommends the following resolutions:

CI-1. Approval of Field Trips

Be it resolved, that the Hawthorne Board of Education approve the following in accordance with Policy 2340:

School	Group	Destination	Transportation	Cost Per Student	Outside Funding
HHS	ARCH Program	Bergen Town Center	HPS	\$0.00	\$0.00
HHS	Performing Arts Club	Senior Center Totowa	HPS	\$0.00	\$0.00

School	Group	Destination	Transportation	Cost Per Student	Outside Funding
LMS	Enrichment	Jefferson School	HPS	\$0.00	\$0.00
					PTO
RS	Grade 5	The Funplex	HPS	\$0.00	Funded
*LMS	LMS Student Council	Jefferson School	HPS	\$0.00	\$0.00

- CI-2. The Hawthorne Board of Education approves the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum District Performance Review (NJQSAC DPR) for the 2023-2024 state monitoring.
- CI-3. Approval of an agreement with Guzman Educational Consultants, LLC for Sheltered English Instruction: Content and Language Learning Professional Development for six (6) sessions for a total of \$6,000.00.
- CI-4. Approval of an agreement with Language Learning Network to provide 2 onsite instructional teachers at a rate of \$122,100.00.
- CI-5. Approval of the attached Educational Rate Sheet for 2023-2024 school year for Delta-T Group.
- CI-6. Approval of an agreement with Shore O&M for orientation and mobility services and evaluations, as needed, at a rate per the attached fee sheet.
- CI-7. Approval of an agreement with Bergen County Special Services School District for a Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing for two (2) monthly sessions from November 2023 through June 2024 at a rate not to exceed \$2,475.00 for Student (file# 120123).
- CI-8. Approval of an agreement with Bergen County Special Services School District for Occupational Therapy Evaluation for the 2023–2024 school year at a rate not to exceed \$790.00 for Student (file# 120223).
- CI-9. Approval of an agreement with Learn Well for 10 hours of educational services per week for one resident student beginning December 4, 2023 at a rate of \$57.75 per hour for Student (file# 120323).
- CI-10. Approval of an agreement with Above and Beyond Learning Group for BCBA Services from February 1, 2024 through June 18, 2024 for 13.25 hours per week, at a rate of \$130.00 per hour.
- CI-11. Approval of an agreement with Central Reach for the 2023–2024 school year at a rate of \$17,250.00.
- CI-12. Approval of home instruction for Hawthorne resident pupil as follows:
 - a. Student (file #12042023) Instruction starting date: 12/6/23 Home Instructor(s) Educere and Teachers TBD
- CI-13. Approval of alternative school for Hawthorne resident pupil as follows:
 - a. Student (file #12052023) Instruction starting date: TBD Home Instructor(s) Educere

b. Student (file #12062023) – Instruction starting date: TBD Home Instructor(s) – Educere

CI-1-13 - Moved by Dr. Morel, seconded by Mr. Shortway

Ayes - Mr. Clavijo, Mr. Doyle, Ms. Ehrentraut, Dr. Morel,

Mr. Puluse, Mr. Shortway, Mr. Totaro, Mr. Carr, Ms. Goff

Nays - None Abstain - None Absent - None

PERSONNEL:

Jennifer Ehrentraut, Chairperson

The following resolutions are pursuant to the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools.

ACTION ITEMS:

Appointments, Retirements, Terminations, Resignations, Rescissions:

Item #	Name	Action	Position	Degree /Step	Salary	School	Effective Date	Notice Date or Ending Date	Reason/ Account
P-1.	Keshia Golding- Cooper	Resign	Director of Guidance	n/a	n/a	HHS	1/13/24	Last Day on Payroll 1/12/24	Resignation
P-2.	John Codomo	Retire	Guidance Counselor	n/a	n/a	HHS	3/1/24	Last Day on Payroll 2/29/24 Last Day	Retirement
P-3.	Lucia Dolin	Retire	ESL Teacher	n/a	n/a	HHS/ LMS	2/1/24	on Payroll 1/31/24	Retirement Approval of
P-4.	Mary Vargas	Leave	Teacher of Students with Disabilities	n/a	n/a	RS	2/12/24	6/30/24	Maternity Leave and Federal/State Family Leave of Absence in accordance with the Federal/State Family Leave Act followed by Child Rearing Leave
P-5.	Amy D'Ovidio	Hire	Teacher of Art	BA/15	Pro-rated on the basis of an annual salary of \$83,270	JS/WS	1/2/24 pending criminal history review	6/30/24	To Fill a Vacancy Created by the Retirement of Joey Carradori
P-6.	Alexander Davis	Resign	Part Time Para	n/a	n/a	HHS	12/31/23	Last Day on Payroll 12/31/23	Resignation
P-7.	Georgia Margariti	Resign	Part Time Para	n/a	n/a	RS	11/18/23	Last Day on Payroll 11/17/23	Resignation
P-8.	Deborah Kirschner	Extra Duty Extra	Speech Language Specialist Choral	n/a	\$58.88 per hour Stipend of	RS	2023- 2024 SY 2023-	n/a	Make up Sessions Extra Duty
P-9.	Steven Franklin	Duty	Director	n/a	\$1,946	HHS	2023- 2024 SY	n/a	Assignment

		4							
Item#	Name	Action	Position	Degree /Step	Salary	School	Effective Date	Notice Date or Ending Date	Reason/ Account
		Extra	LMS LEGO		Stipend of		2023-		Extra Duty
P-10.	Jonelle Genberg	Duty	Club Advisor	n/a	\$1,338	LMS	2024 SY	n/a	Assignment
P-11.	Rita Klein Poma	Extra Duty	Assistance with LMS Drama Production		\$33.66/hr. not to exceed 20 hours	LMS	2023- 2024 SY	2023- 2024 SY	Assistance with the LMS Drama Production
P-12.	Teresa Magna Davenport	Extra Duty	Chaperone	n/a	\$33.66 per hour	HHS	12/7/23 12/20/23	n/a	Chaperone for Students (file # 120723 and # 120823) for the Winter Dance and Winter Concert
					industries de la constitución de				Chaperone for
		Extra			\$33.66 per				Student (file # 120923) for
P-13.	Philip Schneider	Duty	Chaperone	n/a	hour	HHS	12/7/23	n/a	the Winter Dance
P-14.	Faiza Jatkar	Extra Duty	Chaperone	n/a	\$33.66 per hour	HHS	2023- 2024 SY	n/a	Chaperone for Student (file # 120923) for the Art Club
P-15.	Julie Schmidberger	Extra Duty	Chaperone	n/a	\$33.66 per hour	HHS	12/7/23	n/a	Chaperone for Student (file # 121023) for the Winter Dance
P-16.	Alexander Davis	Extra Duty	Chaperone	n/a	\$20.00 per hour	HHS	12/20/23	n/a	Chaperone for Student (file # 121023) for the Winter Concert
P-17.	Kristine Blau	Extra Duty	Chaperone	n/a	\$33.66 per hour	LMS	12/14/23	11/a	Chaperone for Students (file # 121123, #121223, and #121323) for the Winter Concert
P-18.	Diane Maher	Extra Duty	Chaperone	n/a	\$33.66 per	HHS	12/7/23	n/a	Chaperone for Student (file # 121423) for the Winter Dance
P-19.	Kimberly Bednar; Kristine Blau; Barbara Mulvey	Extra Duty	Chaperones	n/a	\$33.66 per hour	LMS	2023- 2024 Season	End of Season	Chaperones for Student (file # 121523) for Wrestling Practices and Matches
			Volunteer				2023-		
P-20.	Francis Riley	Volunteer	Wrestling	n/o	n/o	HHS/	2024	End of	Volunteer
	pointments are subje		Coach	n/a	n/a	LMS	Season	Season	Wrestling Coach

^{*} All appointments are subject to the satisfactory completion of the criminal history records check required by law and subject to verification of job qualifications and prior experience if necessary. In the event the criminal history checks are not completed, these applications are subject to the approval of the County Superintendent for emergent hiring procedures.

P-21. Approval of the following person(s) to serve as (a) substitute teacher(s) in the Hawthorne Public School District for the 2023-2024 school year, subject to satisfactory completion of the criminal history records check required by law and subject to verification of job qualifications and prior experience if necessary, with the provision that he/she/they remain on call to serve as (a) daily substitute teacher(s) as the need may arise for which he/she/they will be compensated \$105.00 per full day, no benefits. Substitutes working a

half day schedule shall receive \$52.50, no benefits. In the event the criminal history check(s) is/are not completed, this/these application(s) is/are subject to the approval of the County Superintendent for emergent hiring procedures. The employment of this/these individual(s) is/are subject to the determination of the administration as to when he/she/they is/are needed.

Stephen E. Brown	Thomas Jefferson	Ryan Munson
Nicholas Forsythe	Kayla Matos	

Appointments, Retirements, Terminations, Resignations, Rescissions:

Item#	Name	Action	Position	Degree /Step	Salary	School	Effective Date	Notice Date or Ending Date	Reason/ Account
*P-22.	Jessica Tomarchio	Transfer	Guidance Counselor	n/a	n/a	HHS	3/1/24	6/30/24	Transfer from Elementary to High School To Fill a Vacancy Created by the Retirement of John Codomo
*P-23.	Debora Pfeifer	Hire	Director of Guidance	n/a	Pro-rated on the basis of an annual salary of \$115,000	HHS	Upon release of current district, Pending Criminal History Review	6/30/24	To Fill a Vacancy Created by the Resignation of Keshia Golding- Cooper
*P-24.	Peppi Gardner	Resign	Part Time Para	n/a	n/a	JS	12/22/23	12/22/23	Resignation

P-1-24 - Moved by Ms. Ehrentraut, seconded by Mr. Totaro

Ayes -

Mr. Doyle, Ms. Ehrentraut, Dr. Morel, Mr. Puluse,

Mr. Shortway, Mr. Totaro, Mr. Carr, Mr. Clavijo, Ms. Goff

Nays

None

Abstain -

None

Absent -

None

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION:

Alex Clavijo, Chairperson

ACTION ITEMS:

Pursuant to the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Committee on Finance and Administration recommends the following resolutions:

- F-1. Acceptance of the Secretary's and Treasurer's Report for August, 2023 and the Board Secretary certifies that no budgetary line item account has been over expended and that sufficient funds are available to meet the District's financial obligation.
- F-2. Approval to make the necessary transfers for the period August 1 through August 31, 2023, for the budget year 2023-2024 in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:232.11. A list of these transfers is submitted under separate cover and shall be made an integral part of this resolution.
- F-3. Approval of travel to events for Board members and employees in compliance with the travel policy. A list of these events has been submitted under separate cover and shall be made an integral part of this resolution.

- F-4. Resolved, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Hawthorne Board of Education approves Signal Electric Corp. Payment Application #17, in the amount of \$66,787.00 for districtwide fire alarm project.
- F-5. Resolved, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Hawthorne Board of Education approves Apex Enterprises of Union, Inc. Payment Application #9, in the amount of \$48,391.42 for Hawthorne High School Science and Media Center Renovations.
- F-6. Resolved, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Hawthorne Board of Education approves Post & Kelly Electric Co., Inc. Payment Application #14, in the amount of \$48,510.00 for districtwide generator project.
- A-1. Be it resolved that the Board of Education affirms the Superintendent's decision on HIB #2023-2024: LMS 252498 and authorizes the Superintendent to notify the parents of the Board's decision.
- A-2. Be it resolved that the Board of Education affirms the Superintendent's decision on HIB #2023-2024: LMS 251733 and authorizes the Superintendent to notify the parents of the Board's decision.
- *A-3. Approval of an agreement with School Office Solutions, LLC from January 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024 at a rate of \$5,420.00 per month.

F-1-6, A-1-3 – Moved by Mr. Clavijo, seconded by Dr. Morel

Ayes - Ms. Ehrentraut, Dr. Morel, Mr. Puluse, Mr. Shortway,

Mr. Totaro, Mr. Carr, Mr. Clavijo, Mr. Doyle, Ms. Goff

Nays - None Abstain - None Absent - None

CLAIMS: Anthony Puluse

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2:11(b), (c) 3, and (c) 4;

CL-1. Approval of the December 2023 Bill List.

It is recommended that the Board approve the bill list for the month of December 2023.

CL-1 – Moved by Mr. Puluse, seconded by Mr. Clavijo

Ayes - Dr. Morel, Mr. Puluse, Mr. Shortway, Mr. Totaro,

Mr. Carr, Mr. Clavijo, Mr. Doyle, Ms. Ehrentraut, Ms. Goff

Nays - None Abstain - None

Absent - Dr. Morel, Mr. Carr, Ms. Goff

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS:

Marco Totaro, Chairperson

ACTION ITEMS:

Pursuant to the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Committee on Buildings and Grounds recommends the following resolutions:

BG-1. Approval of applications for use of school property, subject to non-interference with school activities and the execution of the appropriate releases, including receipt of a Certificate of Insurance.

HAWTHORNE HIGH SCHOOL:

Facilities	Date and Times	Applicant
Gym, Locker	Wednesday, December 27, 2023	Hawthorne Athletics Booster Club
Rooms,	Thursday, December 28, 2023	Basketball Tournament
Bathrooms,	8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	
Cafeteria	_	
Gym, Locker	Saturday, February 3, 2024	Hawthorne Athletics Booster Club
Rooms,	6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Passaic County JV Wrestling Tournament
Bathrooms,	-	·
Cafeteria		
Auditorium	Monday – Friday	Willie Wilson's Theatre Arts Group
	7/29/24 — 8/2/24	Children's Musical Theatre Production
	9:00a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Mon. & Tues.	
	9:00a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.	
	to 10:00 p.m. Wed.	
	4:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Thu. & Fri.	

BG-1 - Moved by Mr. Totaro, seconded by Ms. Ehrentraut

Ayes - Mr. Puluse, Mr. Shortway, Mr. Totaro, Mr. Carr,

Mr. Clavijo, Mr. Doyle, Ms. Ehrentraut, Dr. Morel, Ms. Goff

Nays - None Abstain - None Absent - None

Volunteer RR hosting Santa at Station

Fire Department Santa Run

COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS:

COMMITTEE Legislative	
Finance & Administration	
PCSBA	
Council Liaison	

Policy......Alma Morel

None

HEF/SEPAC/PTOs......Anthony Puluse

Looking for volunteers – Washington School PTO, the link is on their Facebook page Roosevelt school Fundraiser – Bang Cookie Fundraiser 40% goes to the school

Lincoln Middle School -10% at 5Below from 12/13/23 - 12/19/23

SEPAC

McDonald House pull tabs

First workshop 1/24/24 at 7pm via zoom – Exec function ADHD

Color Run will be May 5, 2024.

HEF

Thank you everyone that participated in the basket raffle.

SHARE is having a fundraiser, raffle for scratch offs for 6 year old resident Natalie who has cancer. Tickets are \$20.00 each,

District applied for grant with Montclair for a 5 week training for inclusion practices for pre-school. PD for ELL

Biased Related Acts

QSAC

QSAC inspections took place yesterday and we passed with flying colors.

Baseball field obtaining quotes for sprinkler expansion.

Obtaining quotes for tarps for entire football field.

Researching vape sensor monitoring system at LMS.

Referendum - fire alarm is 99% complete. Roosevelt should be tomorrow.

We are waiting on the final generators to arrive.

The punch list for the Science and Media Center project is just about complete.

The bricks at the high school are 100% complete.

PUBLIC BE HEARD:

At this time, members of the public may ask questions or make comments on educational issues or school matters.

Ms. Mulkey attending PCSBA-Clifton. Did an amazing presentation on security.

Spoke about window stickers to identify special needs students (incognito). Sensory bag for emergencies and drills.

Asked about Bear Cave openings – students or staff?

Asked about PBIS at schools.

Asked about website and noted some items missing - aware of the upgrades taking place

Thank you to Dr. Morel.

GENERAL COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE BOARD RELATED TO SCHOOL DISTRICT:

Ms. Ehrentraut welcomed new staff members to the team and is sorry to see Ms. Caradori go but is glad that we found a new art teacher.

Mr. Clavijo wished Mr. Codomo well in his retirement.

Dr. Morel commented how everyone received an at a glance booklet. She encouraged everyone to try and get to NJSBA workshop. She discussed some workshops she attended. She also thanked everyone in appreciation of her time on the Board.

Mr. Carr congratulated his nephew, Nemicoff and Erika Mulkey-Koltzan.

Mr. Shortway congratulated the teachers recognized. Gave condolences to Mayor Goldberg's family. Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays and good luck to Dr. Morel.

Dr. Morel said it has been a pleasure, it was a great year and best of luck in the new year. She thanked everyone that participated in the HEF raffle and wished everyone a Happy Holidays.

Mr. Clavijo was glad to see Ms. Mulkey-Koltzan at PCSBA. Clarified Bear Cave opening for students. Thanked Dr. Morel for her time and encouraged everyone to visit the TREPS program. Wished everyone a Happy Holidays.

Mr. Totaro echoed statement about TREPS. Gave his condolences to the Goldberg family. Congratulated Mr. Clavijo on being a certified board member. Congratulation to all the Governor of Education Award winners. Thanked Dr. Morel and wished her continued success. Wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Ms. Ehrentraut commented on the Alumni group on Facebook doing a fundraiser for Natalie. Thanked Dr. Morel and wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Mr. Puluse gave his condolences to the Goldberg family. Thanked everyone involved in QSAC. He also mentioned a form police had about special needs people in homes for emergency. He mentioned how Dr. Morel said build it and they will come. We implemented mandated programs and we do the best we can and it costs us. It was a great play. Thanked Dr. Morel and wished her well. He also wished everyone Happy Holidays.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Goff asked about the high school auditorium. Since it is now air conditioned is there more interest in renting? A community member reached out regarding a possible presentation. Ms. Goff and Dr. Spirito met with Ms. Mulkey-Koltzan to give board training. She wished everyone a Happy Hanukah and Merry Christmas. She addressed Dr. Morel about her impact on the board and wished her well.

OLD BUSINESS:

Dr. Morel asked for an update on the hockey rink. Dr. Spirito answered.

Ms. Goff elaborated about committees.

Mr. Doyle commented on the hockey rink.

PRIVATE SESSION:

Be it resolved that the Hawthorne Board of Education convenes an Executive Session to discuss exempt matters pertaining to:

- 1. A matter rendered confidential by federal or state law
- 2. A matter in which release of information would impair the right to receive government funds
- 3. Material the disclosure of which constitutes an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy
- 4. A collective bargaining agreement and/or negotiation related to it
- 5. A matter involving the purchase, lease or acquisition of real property with public funds
- 6. Protection of public safety and property and/or investigations of possible violations or violations of law
- 7. Pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation and/or matters of attorney-client privilege
- 8. Specific prospective or current employees unless all who could be adversely affected request an open session
- 9. Deliberation after a public hearing that could result in a civil penalty or other loss

Be it further resolved that it is anticipated that executive session will be for 45 minutes in duration and that public action may/may not be taken:

Be it further resolved that the minutes of the Executive Session will be made available upon a determination by the Board that the disclosure of the minutes will not detrimentally affect any right or interest of the Board and the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

At 8:12 p.m. Mr. Shortway moved the board adjourn, seconded by Dr. Morel

Ayes - Mr. Carr, Mr. Clavijo, Mr. Doyle, Ms. Ehrentraut,

Dr. Morel, Mr. Puluse, Mr. Shortway, Mr. Totaro, Ms. Goff

Nays - None

Abstain - None Absent - None

Respectfully submitted,

Jenine Murray

Board Secretary