

**HAWTHORNE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**HAWTHORNE, NEW JERSEY**  
 Monday, March 6, 2023  
 Work Session– 7:00 P.M.  
 Board of Education Meeting Room

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

**Time:** 7:00 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)

| 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       |        |   |
| Marco Totaro        | X       |        |   |
| Abigail Goff        | X       |        |   |

Also Present: Richard A. Spirito, Superintendent of Schools  
 Cheryl Ambrose, Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
 And approximately 0 members of the public, 5 on YouTube.

**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

**2023-2024 BUDGET DISCUSSION** – Mr. Clavijo, chairperson for the Finance & Administration committee, made an opening statement and reviewed the current cost increases faced by the district as well as the limitations of the 2% cap.

Ms. Ambrose presented historical cost comparisons of several key categories including tuitions, transportation, security, and School Employees Health Benefit Program. The budget proposes to take advantage of the allowable \$736,655 healthcare adjustment. Additionally, this proposed budget utilizes approximately \$500,000 of ARP ESSER funds, which expire by September 2024.

The Board reviewed and discussed the 2023-2024 projected revenues and appropriations in detail.

**FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION:** Alex Clavijo, Chairperson

**ACTION ITEMS:**

F-1. Be it resolved that the Board of Education affirms proceeding to finalize the development of the preliminary 2023-2024 budget as outlined, using the allowable Healthcare Adjustment in the amount \$736,655 which raises the overall proposed tax levy to 3.81%.

**F-1 – Moved by Mr. Totaro, seconded by Mr. Clavijo**

- 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**

**PUBLIC BE HEARD:** None

**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 GO INTO PRIVATE SESSION:** N/A

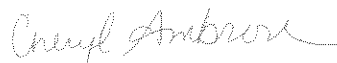
**MOTION TO EXIT FROM PRIVATE SESSION: N/A**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:**

**At 8:11 p.m. Dr. Morel moved the board adjourn, seconded by Mr. Carr**

|                |          |  |
|----------------|----------|--|
| <b>Ayes</b>    | <b>-</b> | <b>Mr. Doyle, Ms. Ehrentraut, Dr. Morel, Mr. Puluse, Mr. Shortway,<br/>Mr. Totaro, Mr. Carr, Mr. Clavijo, Ms. Goff</b> |
| <b>Nays</b>    | <b>-</b> | <b>None</b>  |
| <b>Abstain</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>None</b>  |
| <b>Absent</b>  | <b>-</b> | <b>None</b>  |

Respectfully submitted,



Cheryl Ambrose  
Board Secretary