

**HANOVER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING
MINUTES**

November 28, 2023

I. OPENING

The meeting was called to order by the Board President at 6:31 p.m. in the IMC at Memorial Junior School, 61 Highland Avenue, Whippany, NJ 07981.

The Board Secretary read the following statement:

In accordance with P.L. 1975, Chapter 231, notice of this meeting was provided to the newspaper of record, appropriately posted and sent to the Township Clerk on January 25, 2023.

Please be advised that this meeting is being recorded and will be made available to the public on the District website.

Mrs. Bomengo led the flag salute.

Present: Board Members

Mrs. Gina Maria Winkler
Dr. Lynda Wright
Mr. Jeffrey Basile
Mr. Marc Amoresano (arrived 6:34)
Mrs. Christine Egbert
Mrs. Gina Johnston
Mr. Gregory Skiff
Mrs. Lisa Bomengo

Superintendent
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary

Mr. Michael J. Wasko
Mrs. Vanessa M. Wolsky

Board Attorney

Mr. Matthew Giacobbe

Absent: Board Members

Mrs. Marcella Wilson

II. MOTION TO CONVENE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

Move to adopt the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Hanover Township Board of Education will convene in executive session immediately to undertake discussions concerning personnel and legal matters and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the nature of the discussion is expected to be disclosed to the public when the reasons for nondisclosure no longer exist.

The Board is expected to reconvene at 7:30 p.m.

Motion: Mrs. Bomengo **Second:** Mrs. Johnston **Approved:** Unanimous

Motion to reconvene Public Meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Motion: Mr. Amoresano **Second:** Dr. Wright **Approved:** Unanimous

Motion to conduct a second Flag Salute

Motion: Mrs. Bomengo **Second:** Mr. Amoresano **Approved:** Unanimous

III. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Championship Soccer Team – The MJS Girls Soccer Team was recognized for winning the Greater Morris County Junior School Coaches Association Group III Championship. Members of the championship team included: Adrianna Angelica, Valentina Casini, Olivia Ciottono, Chloe Del Grande, Kim Diaz, Marissa DiCosmo, Sophia Fehir, Sienna Ferrugio, Larissa Ghedina, Reagan Ghedina, Eliana Gold, Camila Gomez, Anna Hendricks, Brielle Ippolito, Sasha Kaltman, Leah Kelly, Danielle Krowiak, Elena Loeuis, Annaliese Monaco, Gabriela Organowski, Sierra Page and Addison Propfe.

2022-2023 Audit Report - Raymond Sarinelli, District Auditor, reviewed the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the 2022-23 school year. He discussed the various components of the report and talked about the audit process which includes a thorough review of central office records and transactions. He reviewed the District’s general fund balance and reserves and focused on Schedule C-1 which most accurately reflects finances throughout the year. There are no recommendations included with this year’s report.

STEM Presentation – Linda Peterson, Eddie Cashen, Michele Pratola, Christine Fox and Marissa Dolch, Computer Science and Technology Teachers, provided the Board and public with an overview of STEM activities that are being incorporated within our K-8 Computer and Technology classes. Memorial Junior School students 8th grader Shreya Sharma, 8th grader Liuie Oka, and 6th grader Gianna DiCiaccio also joined in the presentation to share STEM projects they completed.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Public Meeting **10/26/23**
Executive Session **10/26/23**

Motion: Mrs. Bomengo **Second:** Mr. Basile **Approved:** Unanimous

V. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY’S REPORT

Mrs. Wolsky gave the following report:

Election Day was Tuesday, November 7. In the Board of Education race there were a total of six candidates running for three three year seats. I received the certified results yesterday from the Morris County Clerk's office certifying that William McCabe, Christopher Mattessich and Michelle Stricchiola were duly elected to the office of Member of the Board of Education. I would just like to take a moment to say Congratulations and I look forward to working with you in the coming year.

The cash balance as of October 31, 2023 was \$6,544,806.63. The interest in the General Fund to date is \$206.75 and the interest in the HTSACC Fund is \$24.81.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Wasko gave the following report:

Good evening everyone. Earlier this month, on Wednesday, November 1st, Mr. Wasserman and I, along with several Hanover Rotary Members, spearheaded by fellow Rotarian Chris Lisewski, visited each of our elementary schools to present all of our third grade students with dictionaries. During our presentation, the students learned about Rotary and the role it plays in our local community, the value of participating in service learning activities, as well as the Rotary "Four-Way Test." We also provided the students with an overview on how to navigate and use their new dictionaries to assist them with their studies, especially in the area of spelling. This year, on page 373, the longest word in the English language can be found. It is a tryptophan synthetase "A" protein....and this word contains 1,909 letters and rumor has it that a few of our third grade teachers may have put this word on their weekly spelling tests.

All in All, over 135 dictionaries were distributed to our third grade students and teachers. Again, I would like to thank the Hanover Rotary and those Rotarians who took time at out of their busy schedules to participate in this in great activity that has continues to be a long standing tradition with our 3rd grade students here in the Hanover Township Public School District. Thank you.

Although it's only November, preparations for the start of the 2024-2025 school year are already underway. The administrative team and I have already started the budget process for the new school year, and some general information regarding Kindergarten Registration and the Inclusive Preschool Program for September 2024 will be posted on our district website and sent out to our community via a SwiftK12 email notification sometime next month.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our new elected members of the Board of Education: William McCabe, Christopher Mattessich, and Michelle Stricchiola who were all elected to three year seats on the Board beginning January 2024. Congratulations and welcome to the team.

VII. DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REPORT - None

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Personnel Committee – Mrs. Egbert said the Committee met on 11/20 and individuals present included Mrs. Egbert, Mrs. Bomengo, Mr. Wasko and Mr. Amoresano. Items discussed included enrollment updates, staffing updates that included 1 bus driver retirement, 8 salary approvals, a leave of absence extension, temporary long term substitute approvals, recommendation for hire of an MJS Day custodian, tuition reimbursement approvals, rescinding approval of a substitute and approval of one new HTSACC staff member. Current openings included a part-time Contemporary Art & Design Teacher at MJS, temporary long term substitutes, Lunch/Recess Aides, Day Custodian at MJS and substitute bus drivers. There were 2 student suspensions reported at MJS in October and one HIB investigation at SDS that was not a confirmed act of HIB.

Curriculum, Technology and Student Achievement Committee – Mrs. Johnston said the Committee met on 11/21 and individuals present included Mrs. Johnston, Mrs. Egbert, Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Bomengo, Mr. Wasko, Mr. Wasserman and Mr. Margolis. Items discussed included BOE approvals for fire and safety drills, an amended tuition contract, and the Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Plan. The Committee was updated on special presentations at the BOE meeting including honoring the girls soccer team, the audit presentation and the STEM presentation and was informed that Michele Pratola was selected to present at Caldwell College for K-8 STEM programs. In the area of Professional Development, administrative team is looking at school performance reports in ELA and Math areas and preliminary data shows progress and coaching continues in Math. LLI training occurred on 11/14 and 11/15 and will also be held on 12/14 and 12/15. In the area of ELA 3-5 materials, Mr. Wasserman is hoping to host a meeting in December and options include Journeys (a one year extension has been offered), Inter Reading and Wonders. The District did not receive an allocation of funds in the High Impact Tutoring Grant and is planning to utilize ESSER funds for this and will reapply if another opportunity is available. The Committee also discussed submission of materials required for QSAC and administration will be looking for a January approval of curriculum with a February acceptance.

Finance/Transportation/Physical Plant Committee – Mr. Amoresano said the Committee met on 11/20 and individuals present included Mr. Amoresano, Ms. Basile, Dr. Wright, Mr. Wasko, Mr. Gaveglio and Mrs. Wolsky. QSAC inspections were conducted and the District is compliant, the contractor has been contracted regarding the playground resurfacing change order and notified that the Board would like to negotiate, and Mr. Gaveglio has looked into “panic buttons” and the Committee discussed having them placed in areas frequented by students but not by teachers and having them not dial 911 and notify administration and the class III officer. Other options for the MTV playground surface were discussed including recycled rubber tiles and poured rubber as was utilizing supplemental assistance with snow removal, as needed. Ray Sarinelli was in attendance to present the annual audit which is done by testing samples of various items and he noted that the long term planning and financial department in general are excellent. All standard reports will be included with the meeting package and on the agenda for approval, the tentative budget calendar was discussed, enrollment projections

were reviewed and they are within expected parameters and the teacher survey for input for budgeting purposes was reviewed.

Public Relations Committee – Mrs. Bomengo said the Committee met on 11/21 and individuals present included Mrs. Bomengo, Mrs. Egbert, Mr. Wasko and Mr. Schwab. Special presentations at the November BOE meeting including Ray Sarinelli’s presentation of the 2022-2023 District Audit Report, the STEM presentation to provide an overview of district STEM activities and projects and highlight the programs and initiatives, and recognition of the MJS Girls Soccer Team. There will be an approval for the generous donation of dictionaries by the Hanover Rotary and Mike Schwab provided an update on progress with the new district website. Mobile app set up, single sign on for staff and data migration have been completed and we are now fixing any issues and testing for issues. The 2024/2025 draft District Calendar was discussed and consideration is being given whether to close for Election Day 2024. The Social Media Assembly for students with an evening parent informational program was discussed and may be held as early as February. The Committee wants to ensure the program will include instruction to empower parents on how to use parental controls and explain where the vulnerabilities might be on phones/electronic devices. The Committee also looked at some old District newsletters and discussed what it might look like and how it might be distributed going forward. Mrs. Bomengo also talked about the partnership with Whippany Park and plans for the Interact Club to volunteer during homework club hours at MJS to help mentor/tutor students, the Barclays Digital Eagles Coding Playground at the elementary schools, the donation of Shop Rite gift cards by the Essex County Regional McKinney Vento Program to eligible families, upcoming school holiday concerts and addressing areas of focus in QSAC.

Policy Committee – Mr. Amoresano said the Committee met on November 20 and individuals present included Mr. Amoresano, Mrs. Bomengo, Mrs. Johnston and Mr. Wasko. The Committee was presented with all policies updated by Strauss Esmay and has begun to review these policies and hope to put forth several at the December meeting for first reading.

Negotiations Committee – None

Travel/Delegate Report – None

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT – Agenda Items - None

X. BOARD ACTIONS

A. PERSONNEL

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, move to:

1. Accept, with regret, the resignation of Eugene Frazier, Bus Driver, effective 12/1/23, for the purpose of retirement.

Motion: Mrs. Egbert **Second:** Mrs. Johnston **Roll Call:** 8 yes, 0 no

2. Extend the leave of absence for Employee ID# 4369, *currently effective 9/12/23 to 10/27/23*, to 11/16/23.

Motion: Mrs. Egbert **Second:** Mrs. Johnston **Roll Call:** 8 yes, 0 no

3. Appoint William Padavano to the position of full time (1.0 FTE) Maintenance Mechanic “B”, at a salary of Step 3, \$58,025, effective 7/1/23 to 6/30/24, in accordance with the Agreement between the Board and the HTEA.

Motion: Mrs. Egbert **Second:** Mrs. Johnston **Roll Call:** 8 yes, 0 no

4. Approve movement on guide for the following staff members, effective 9/1/23.

<u>Staff Member</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Deja Desai	MA Step 7 \$68,255	MA+15 Step 7 \$70,455
Marissa Dolch	BA+15 Step 4 \$64,405	MA Step 4 \$67,305
Emily Galow	BA Step 2 \$60,605	BA+15 Step 2 \$63,005
Elizabeth Guiheen	MA+15 Step 20 \$102,450	MA+30 Step 20 \$103,808
Mark Juliano	MA Step 4 \$67,305	MA+15 Step 4 \$69,505
Michaela Maloney	MA+15 Step 4 \$69,505	MA+45 Step 4 \$72,305
Lauren Mastropierro	MA+15 Step 5 \$69,505	MA+45 Step 5 \$72,305
Jonathan Nakonechy	BA+15 Step 7 \$65,355	MA Step 7 \$68,255
Lori Prout	MA Step 12 \$76,570	MA+15 Step 12 \$78,770
Jessica Sainato	BA+15 Step 11 \$71,670	MA+15 Step 11 \$76,770
Patricia Sussman (.60 FTE)	BA Step 7 \$37,773	BA+15 Step 7 \$39,213
Caitlin Vassoler	BA Step 12 \$71,270	BA+15 Step 12 \$73,670
Kristin Wagner	BA+15 Step 10 \$69,770	MA Step 10 \$72,670
Amanda Young	MA Step 9 \$70,870	MA+15 Step 9 \$73,070

Motion: Mrs. Egbert **Second:** Mrs. Johnston **Roll Call:** 8 yes, 0 no

5. Approve the salaries of tenured teaching staff members for the 2023-2024 school year, in accordance with the Board/HTEA Agreement, as per **Attachment “A”**.

Motion: Mrs. Egbert **Second:** Mrs. Johnston **Roll Call:** 8 yes, 0 no

6. Approve the salaries of non-tenured teaching staff members for the 2023-2024 school year, in accordance with the Board/HTEA Agreement, as per **Attachment “B”**.

Motion: Mrs. Egbert **Second:** Mrs. Johnston **Roll Call:** 8 yes, 0 no

7. Approve the salaries of support staff members for the 2023-2024 school year, in accordance with the Board/HTEA Agreement, as per **Attachment “C”**.

Motion: Mrs. Egbert **Second:** Mrs. Johnston **Roll Call:** 8 yes, 0 no

8. Approve the salaries of central office exempt confidential support staff members for the 2023-2024 school year, as per **Attachment “D”**.

Motion: Mrs. Egbert **Second:** Mrs. Johnston **Roll Call:** 8 yes, 0 no

9. Approve the salaries of staff members who resigned/retired after 7/1/23 for the 2023-2024 school year, in accordance with the Board/HTEA Agreement, as per **Attachment “E”**.

Motion: Mrs. Egbert **Second:** Mrs. Johnston **Roll Call:** 8 yes, 0 no

10. Approve the salaries of certificated long term substitute replacement staff members for the 2023-2024 school year, as per **Attachment “F”**.

Motion: Mrs. Egbert **Second:** Mrs. Johnston **Roll Call:** 8 yes, 0 no

11. Authorize the following graduate course tuition reimbursement applications for the **2023-2024** school year, in accordance with the Agreement between the Board and the HTEA.

<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Credits</u>
Kim Gibbs	6
Sandra Lillo	3

Motion: Mrs. Egbert **Second:** Mrs. Johnston **Roll Call:** 8 yes, 0 no

12. Approve the following **2023-2024** student teaching assignment(s):

<u>Student/College</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Co-op Teacher</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Toni Lisi/ Western Governors University	Student Teaching	Cori Padavano/ BMS	11/13/23-2/15/24

Motion: Mrs. Egbert **Second:** Mrs. Johnston **Roll Call:** 8 yes, 0 no

13. Please approve the following people for positions in the Hanover Township School Age Child Care Program, **contingent on enrollment**, effective November 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. Final staff appointments will be pending ratio needs based on enrollment of children in the program.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Hourly Wage</u>
Emma Cobane	Assistant	\$15.00

Motion: Mrs. Egbert **Second:** Mrs. Johnston **Roll Call:** 8 yes, 0 no

14. Rescind the approval of Seyed Alireza Pourmanouchehri to the substitute list for the 2023-2024 school year.

Motion: Mrs. Egbert **Second:** Mrs. Johnston **Roll Call:** 8 yes, 0 no

15. Acknowledge the student suspensions as reported by the school principals for the month of October 2023, **Attachment “G”**.

Motion: Mrs. Egbert **Second:** Mrs. Johnston **Roll Call:** 8 yes, 0 no

16. Accept the Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying report and affirm the Superintendent’s decisions for the period ending November 22, 2023, **Attachments “H”**.

Motion: Mrs. Egbert **Second:** Mrs. Johnston **Roll Call:** 8 yes, 0 no

17. Amend the leave of absence for Employee ID# 3550, *previously approved effective 9/26/23 to 1/26/24*, to be **effective 9/26/23 to 1/8/24**.

Motion: Mrs. Egbert **Second:** Mrs. Johnston **Roll Call:** 8 yes, 0 no

18. Approve following teachers not to exceed ten curriculum hours each for purposes of curriculum revisions.

Kristin Wagner
Melissa Myron
Jessica Venner
Caitlin Vassoler
Diane Brozyna
Jessica Sainato
Dan Diaz
Shana Tracy
Jessica Barna
Kristen DeMarco
Maria Ricupero

Motion: Mrs. Egbert **Second:** Mrs. Johnston **Roll Call:** 8 yes, 0 no

19. Authorize the following graduate course tuition reimbursement applications for the **2023-2024** school year, in accordance with the Agreement between the Board and the HTEA.

<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Credits</u>
Amanda Young	6

Motion: Mrs. Egbert **Second:** Mrs. Johnston **Roll Call:** 8 yes, 0 no

20. Approve the following **2023-2024** student teaching assignment(s):

<u>Student/College</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Co-op Teacher</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Toni Lisi/ Western Governors University	Student Teaching	Michele Hingos/ MJS	11/13/23-2/15/24

Motion: Mrs. Egbert **Second:** Mrs. Johnston **Roll Call:** 8 yes, 0 no

21. Approve the following people for positions in the Hanover Township School Age Child Care Program, **contingent on enrollment**, effective November 29, 2023 through June 30, 2024. Final staff appointments will be pending ratio needs based on enrollment of children in the program.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Hourly Wage</u>
Ella Monaco	Aide/Sub	\$14.13
Shannon Clarke	Aide/Sub	\$14.13
Lorraina Ventura	Aide/Sub	\$14.13
Antonia Giordano	Aide/Sub	\$15.00

Motion: Mrs. Egbert **Second:** Mrs. Johnston **Roll Call:** 8 yes, 0 no

B. CURRICULUM, TECHNOLOGY & STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, move to:

1. Acknowledge the following fire drills, as reported by the school principals, for the month of October 2023:

<u>School</u>	<u>Date</u>
Bee Meadow School	10/27/23
Mountview Road School	10/5/23
Salem Drive School	10/27/23
Memorial Junior School	10/26/23

Motion: Mrs. Johnston **Second:** Mr. Amoresano **Roll Call:** 8 yes, 0 no

2. Acknowledge that crisis management drills were conducted at the following schools, as reported by the school principals, for the month of October 2023:

<u>School</u>
Bee Meadow School
Mountview Road School
Salem Drive School
Memorial Junior School

Motion: Mrs. Johnston **Second:** Mr. Amoresano **Roll Call:** 8 yes, 0 no

3. Approve the Director of Special Education’s recommendation to amend the tuition contract for Student CST #10638 at Shepard school, to include a 1:1 aide for an additional \$21,680 for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year.

Motion: Mrs. Johnston

Second: Mr. Amoresano

Roll Call: 8 yes, 0 no

C. FINANCE, TRANSPORTATION, PHYSICAL PLANT

I. FINANCE

Upon recommendation of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, move to:

1. Accept the certification of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary that as of 10/31/23, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c)3, no budgetary line item has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(a).

Motion: Mr. Amoresano

Second: Mr. Basile

Roll Call: 8 yes, 0 no

2. Accept the reports of the Secretary A-148, and the reconciliation report A-149, for the month ended 10/31/23.

Motion: Mr. Amoresano

Second: Mr. Basile

Roll Call: 8 yes, 0 no

3. Certify that as of 10/31/23, after reviewing the Business Administrator/Board Secretary's financial report, to the best of our knowledge no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(b) and sufficient funds are available to meet the District's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Motion: Mr. Amoresano

Second: Mr. Basile

Roll Call: 8 yes, 0 no

4. Approve line item transfers for the 2023-2024 Budget, **Attachment "I"**.

Motion: Mr. Amoresano

Second: Mr. Basile

Roll Call: 8 yes, 0 no

5. Authorize the following payments:

<u>Bills List Dated</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Payroll 10/30/23	\$ 910,433.40
Payroll 11/15/23	\$ 963,112.83
Bills & Voids 10/27/23 to 11/28/23	\$1,199,194.65

Motion: Mr. Amoresano

Second: Mr. Basile

Roll Call: 8 yes, 0 no

6. Approve the attendance of staff members and board members at workshops and travel expenses that are in accordance with the allowable room rate and meal reimbursement rate as outlined in the NJ OMB Circular 602B and mileage **at the state approved rate**, as per **Attachment(s) "J", "K", and "L"**.

Motion: Mr. Amoresano

Second: Mr. Basile

Roll Call: 8 yes, 0 no

7. Accept the Revised Funding Notice for Nonpublic Security Notice from \$23,575.00 to \$23,370.00.

Motion: Mr. Amoresano **Second:** Mr. Basile **Roll Call:** 8 yes, 0 no

8. Approve contracting with Jeffery Oster, Private Investigator, to conduct Residency Investigations at a rate of \$48.00 per hour.

Motion: Mr. Amoresano **Second:** Mr. Basile **Roll Call:** 8 yes, 0 no

9. Accept the 2022-2023 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

Motion: Mr. Amoresano **Second:** Mr. Basile **Roll Call:** 8 yes, 0 no

II. TRANSPORTATION

Upon recommendation of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, move to:

1. Acknowledge that Bus Evacuation Drills were performed on 11/6/23, 11/7/23, 11/8/23, 11/13/23 and 11/15/23 for all grades at Memorial Junior, Salem Drive, Bee Meadow, and Mountview Road schools within the Hanover Township School District.

Motion: Mr. Amoresano **Second:** Mr. Basile **Roll Call:** 8 yes, 0 no

III. PHYSICAL PLANT

No Items for Board Consideration

D. PUBLIC RELATIONS

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, move to:

1. Accept with appreciation the donation of 135 dictionaries to all third graders and their teachers, valued at approximately \$700, from the Hanover Rotary.

Motion: Mr. Skiff **Second:** Mr. Amoresano **Roll Call:** 8 yes, 0 no

E. POLICY

No Items for Board Consideration

XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Karin Mascolo, Whippany, requested clarification on parts of Policy 8463 and questioned if it was still needed now that Policy 5756 was repealed.

November 28, 2023

Paul Szesko, Whippany, stated his support for 8463 and the newly elected candidates and thanked the Board for their efforts.

XII. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION –

Mr. Giacobbe stated that the Board is unable to repeal 8463 due to the lawsuit and reiterated that the District's insurance carrier is covering the cost of the lawsuit. Mr. Skiff also noted that under the policy, notification is based on a triggering event that is distinct from a protected classification.

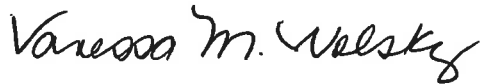
XIII. ADJOURNMENT – 9:24 p.m.

Motion: Mr. Basile

Second: Mrs. Johnston

Approved: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,



Vanessa M. Wolsky
Business Administrator/Board Secretary