#### MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION HELD ON MAY 21, 2013

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Mays Landing, New Jersey
William Davies Middle School Library

The Regular Meeting of the Hamilton Township Board of Education was called to order at 7:03 p.m. in the Michael H. Duberson Memorial Library at the William Davies Middle School by Dr. David May.

Call To Order

Dr. Erickson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pledge of Allegiance

#### **ANNUAL NOTICE OF MEETING**

This meeting is being held in compliance with the Sunshine Law, having been advertised in the Press of Atlantic City and the Atlantic County Record and its affiliates and a notice posted with the Township Clerk on the Bulletin Board at the following locations: Mizpah Social Services Center, Mizpah Post Office, Mays Landing Post Office, Atlantic County Library as well as all the schools of the district. A mechanical device is being used to both audio-tape and video-tape this meeting.

The following members answered roll call: Mr. Eric Aiken, Mr. Carl Anderson, Mrs. Peggy Capone, Mrs. Amelia Francis, Mrs. Barbara Kupp, Mrs. Kimberly Melton, Mr. John Sacchinelli, and Dr. Anne Erickson. Quorum present.

Members Absent: None

Also present Mrs. Michelle Cappelluti, Superintendent of Schools

were: Mr. Daniel Smith, Board Secretary

Louis Greco, Esquire

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motioned by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Sacchinelli, to approve the Regular and Executive session minutes of the meeting of April 9, 2013, as per attachment Minutes-1.

Roll Call Vote: All in favor: Mr. Aiken, Mr. Anderson, Mrs. Capone, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. Kupp, Mrs. Melton, Mr. Sacchinelli, and Dr. Erickson. (8-0-0)

Motion by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Aiken, to approve the Regular session minutes of the Special meeting of April 18, 2013.

Roll Call Vote: All in favor: Mr. Aiken, Mr. Anderson, Mrs. Capone, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. Kupp, Mrs. Melton, Mr. Sacchinelli, and Dr. Erickson. (8-0-0)

Motioned by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Sacchinelli, to approve the Regular and two Executive session minutes of the meeting of April 23, 2013, as per attachment Minutes-3.

Roll Call Vote: All in favor: Mr. Aiken, Mr. Anderson, Mrs. Capone, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. Kupp, Mrs. Melton, Mr. Sacchinelli, and Dr. Erickson. (8-0-0)

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Dr. Cappelluti read a letter from Mr. & Mrs. Mcavaddy thanking the staff for their support during the recent blood drive in memory of their son.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

#### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Dr. Erickson asked for a moment of silence to remember the people of Moore, Oklahoma who lost their homes and schools during the recent tornado. She also commented on the commitment shown by staff to the students of the school affected by this.

Mrs. Kupp congratulated Mr. Santilli and his staff for the great job done on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Davies School. The Walk for Water was also a great event attend by people of the community.

Mrs. Kupp also mentioned that the Education Foundation is holding a skating party on June 8, 2013. She stated that, because of activities such as this, they were able to offer two grants this year. They are also looking into offering more grants in the fall and spring of next year.

She also cited an editorial from the Atlantic City Press entitled "Yesterday's Skilled." It was about students and cursive writing and how this skill is being taken away. However she felt that the most important point stated in the article is that too much emphasis might now be placed on standards and not enough on exceeding the standards.

Dr. Erickson noted that she was in Trenton for the NJSBA Delegate Assembly over the weekend and, one of the topics discussed was Superintendent's salaries.

Mr. Aiken noted that the events at Davies over the weekend were wonderful and the staff did a good job.

Mrs. Capone cited an article from the Current about a science teacher at Oakcrest, Mr. Youngblood. She wanted to compliment him on winning the Quest Award and noted that he is dedicated to the students and is very deserving of the recognition.

Mrs. Capone also noted that Oakcrest Crew Team recently won three gold medals at the county championships. She wanted to note that the team is comprised of girls who have come through the school district. She feels the girls have the educational focus that was learned in the district and continued to high school. The girls are the result of the work that Hamilton Township staff started.

Mrs. Francis noted that Connie Capone won the Press of Atlantic City Award given to two student athletes. Ms. Capone attended the Hamilton Township School District and attends Oakcrest High School. She is the first student from Oakcrest to win the award. Mrs. Capone spoke about an essay that her daughter wrote while she attended the Hamilton Township School District, and noted that she learned to write at the Hess School. Ms. Capone also learned not to be ashamed of her ideas and to know right from wrong. Mrs. Capone noted that the teachers in the district helped her daughter become the person she is, and she thanked them for that.

#### **SUPERINTENDENT/STAFF REPORTS**

- (A) Information Items
  - Dates to Remember
    - a. May 21, 2013 Board of Education Meeting Board Office 7:00 p.m.
    - b. May 27, 2013 Memorial Day Schools Closed
    - c. **June 4, 2013** Academic Excellent Luncheon Clarion Convention Center Egg Harbor Township 11:00 a.m.
    - d. **June 4, 2013** Curriculum Committee Meeting Davies School 6:00 p.m.
    - e. **June 4, 2013** Board of Education Meeting Davies School 7:00 p.m.
    - f. June 18, 2013 Davies School Graduation (Rain Date June 19, 2013)
    - g. **June 25, 2013** Board of Education Meeting Davies School 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Cappelluti noted the Proclamations on display this evening which were presented to the District. The first was presented to the Davies School by the Township in honor of their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. The Food Service Department was also given a Proclamation by the Township for the Eat Right, Move More Program.

(A) Round-Up Registration/Pre-School and Kindergarten:

#### Joseph C. Shaner School:

- May 21, 2013 9:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m./1:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m.
- May 22, 2013 9:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m./1.00 p.m. 5:00 p.m.

- May 23, 2013 9:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m./1:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m.
- (B) Superintendent's/Principal's List for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marking Period, as per attachment IX-B.
- (C) Enrollment for April, 2013, as per attachment X-C.
- (D) Registration/Transfer Statistics for the Month of April, 2013, as per attachment IX-D.
- (E) Student Discipline Reports for the month of April, 2013, as per attachment X-E.
- (F) Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Incident Log, as per attachment IX-F.
- (G) New Homes and Certificates of Occupancy for the month of April, 2013, as per attachment IX-G.
- (H) <u>Presentation</u>: In Recognition of the 2013 Hamilton Township District Retirees

#### Employees:

Carol Bennett 25 Years of Service Kathleen Magee 36 Years of Service Glenn Martins 13 Years of Service Maureen Maxwell 36 Years of Service Lisa McLeod 25 Years of Service Rosalie Petrunis-Gaughan 31 Years of Service Rose Rhine 25 Years of Service 25 Years of Service Lee Ann Ryder

(I) <u>Presentation</u>: In Recognition of the 2013 Teachers of the Year

Tara Sutton Shaner School
Traci Schubert Hess School
Donna Franks Davies School

(J) Presentation: In Recognition of the 2013 Paraprofessionals of the Year

Annamarie Barrett Shaner School
Susan Wolfe Hess School
Lois Townsend Davies School

#### **COMMITTEES AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **BUILDING/FACILITIES COMMITTEE – Mr. Sacchinelli**

Mr. Sacchinelli reported that extra dumpsters will be provided by the ACUA for recycling and the teachers and staff will be updated on procedures to follow for more efficient recycling

throughout the school.

Motioned by Mr. Sacchinelli, seconded by Mr. Anderson, to approve the following Motion as presented:

To approve Resolution #57 for the following project:

Selective Skylight Removal at the William Davies Middle School FVHD#4424 State DOE Plan #1940-120-13-3000

Roll Call Vote: All in favor: Mr. Aiken, Mr. Anderson, Mrs. Capone, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. Kupp, Mrs. Melton, Mr. Sacchinelli, and Dr. Erickson. (8-0-0)

Motioned by Mr. Sacchinelli, seconded by Mr. Anderson, to approve the following Motion as presented:

2. To authorize Asphalt Paving Systems \$36,000.00 for a micro surfacing pavement system at the Hess School for Sections 1, 4 and 5 as noted, in accordance with State Contract #A81757. The Board is permitted to waive the bid requirement pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-10, as per attachment Facilities-2.

Asphalt Paving Systems

Roll Call Vote: All in favor: Mr. Aiken, Mr. Anderson, Mrs. Capone, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. Kupp, Mrs. Melton, Mr. Sacchinelli, and Dr. Erickson. (8-0-0)

#### CURRICULUM COMMITTEE - Mrs. Kupp

Motioned by Mrs. Kupp, seconded by Mr. Aiken, to approve the following Motion as presented:

 To approve Dr. Michelle M. Cappelluti as Chief School Administrator for the Title I program in the Hamilton Township School District for the FY 2013-2014. No Title I funding is expended for this administrative cost. Chief School Administrator Roll Call Vote: All in favor: Mr. Aiken, Mr. Anderson, Mrs. Capone, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. Kupp, Mrs. Melton, Mr. Sacchinelli, and Dr. Erickson. (8-0-0)

Motioned by Mrs. Kupp, seconded by Mr. Aiken, to approve the following Motion as presented:

#### Project Director

 To approve Mrs. Lisa Dagit as Project Director for the Title I program in the Hamilton Township School District for the FY 2013-2014.

Roll Call Vote: All in favor: Mr. Aiken, Mr. Anderson, Mrs. Capone, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. Kupp, Mrs. Melton, Mr. Sacchinelli, and Dr. Erickson. (8-0-0)

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE - Mrs. Melton

Motioned by Mrs. Melton, seconded by Mr. Anderson, to approve the following Motions as presented:

## Report of Receipts

 To approve the Report of Receipts and Expenditures in accordance with 18A:17-8 and 18A:17-9 for the month of March, 2013. The Report of Receipts and Expenditures and the Secretary's Report are in agreement for the month of March, 2013.

#### Board Secretary's Report

2. To approve the Board Secretary's Report for the period ending March 31, 2013. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c)4, the Hamilton Township Board of Education certifies that as of March 31, 2013, and after review of the Secretary's Monthly Financial appropriations section as presented and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of the Board's knowledge, no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(b) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Roll Call Vote: All in favor: Mr. Aiken, Mr. Anderson, Mrs. Capone, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. Kupp, Mrs. Melton, Mr. Sacchinelli, and Dr. Erickson. (8-0-0)

The following items have been included as informational items:

3.	Interest Income for the month of March, 2013.	Interest Income
4.	Receipts for the month of March, 2013.	Receipts
5.	Refunds for the month of March, 2013.	Refunds
6.	Capital Reserve Interest for the month of March, 2013.	Capital Reserve Interest
7.	Rental Income for the month of March, 2013.	Rental Income
8.	Miscellaneous Revenue for the month of March, 2013.	Miscellaneous Revenue
9.	The monthly Budget Summary Report for March, 2013, has been filed by the Board Secretary with the Hamilton Township Board of Education.	Budget Summary Report

Motion by Mrs. Melton, seconded by Mr. Anderson, to approve the following Motion as presented:

10. To approve the Superintendent's and Board Secretary's certification that they have reviewed all bills and purchase orders which are listed on the bill list, and hereby certify to the Board of Education that all purchase orders are sufficiently encumbered to cover the submitted bills, and further that all goods and services have been previously received.

Superintendent's and Board Secretary's certification

Roll Call Vote: All in favor: Mr. Aiken, Mr. Anderson, Mrs. Capone, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. Kupp, Mrs. Melton, Mr. Sacchinelli, and Dr. Erickson. (8-0-0)

The following item is included as an informational item.

## Purchase orders

11. Purchase orders issued for services, supplies and equipment in the amount of \$874,033.25.

Motion by Mrs. Melton, seconded by Mr. Anderson, to approve the following Motions as presented:

12. To approve bills and payroll in the total amount of \$4,090,734.46:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
10	General Fund	\$6,707.00
10	General Fund/Payroll	195,995.79
11	Current Expense	1,604,736.91
11	Current Expense/Payroll	2,012,526.40
12	Capital Outlay	20,116.00
20	Special Revenue	28,788.48
20	Special Revenue/Payroll	51,988.18
50	Cafeteria	137,152.52
50	Kids' Corner	19,733.40
50	Community Education	2,989.78
50	Camp Blue Star	10,000.00

## Staff attendance

 To approve staff attendance at seminars, workshops and conferences, including costs related to applicable reimbursable expenses, during the 2012-2013 school year.

## Budget transfers

14. To approve budget transfers in the amount of \$60,322.25.

# Agreement with TSA Consulting Group, Inc.

15. To approve a renewal Agreement with TSA Consulting Group, Inc. through August 31, 2013 to provide compliance administration services to the District under Sections 403(b) and 457(b) of the Internal Revenue Code. There will be no cost to the District.

Roll Call Vote: All in favor: Mr. Aiken, Mr. Anderson, Mrs. Capone, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. Kupp, Mrs. Melton, Mr. Sacchinelli, and Dr. Erickson. (8-0-0)

#### PERSONNEL/NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE - Mr. Aiken

All personnel actions are being taken by the recommendation of the Superintendent in accordance with 18A.

Motioned by Mr. Aiken, seconded by Mr. Anderson, to approve the following Motions as presented:

1. To approve district substitutes for the 2012-**District substitutes** 2013 school year. 2. To approve homebound instruction for the Homebound 2012-2013 school year. instruction 3. To approve Fieldwork Placements for the 2012-2013 Spring Semester and the 2013-2014 Fall Semester. To approve a maternity leave of absence of **Maternity leave for** 4. Paula Marrero, Davies School part-time Paula Marrero Food Service worker. Ms. Marrero has requested to use her accumulated sick time for the period April 8, 2013 through April 16, 2013 (half-day), then be placed on a Federal Family Medical Leave of Absence (FMLA) from April 16, 2013 (half-day) to the end of the school year with a return to work date of September 1, 2013. 5. To accept a retirement notice from Carol **Retirement of Carol** Bennett. Hess School Teacher effective Bennett June 30, 2013. To accept a resignation notice from Wendi 6. **Resignation from** Barber, Hess School Paraprofessional Wendi Barber effective April 8, 2013 with her last day of employment to be April 26, 2013. 7. To approve a leave of absence for Margaret Leave of absence Siscone, Davies School part-time for Margaret Paraprofessional. Ms. Siscone is Siscone requesting an intermittent NJ Family Leave of Absence beginning on April 3, 2013 to take care of her Father. No return to work date has been determined 8. To approve a medical leave of absence for **Medical leave for** Robert Parsons, part-time Hess School Robert Parsons

Food Service worker. Mr. Parsons has requested an intermittent Federal Family Medical Leave of Absence (FMLA)

beginning on March 19, 2013.

(Mr. Parsons' FMLA was previously

approved on December 18, 2012 but for specific dates only.)

Roll Call Vote: All in favor: Mr. Aiken, Mr. Anderson, Mrs. Capone, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. Kupp, Mrs. Melton, Mr. Sacchinelli, and Dr. Erickson. (8-0-0)

Motioned by Mr. Aiken, seconded by Mr. Anderson, to approve the following Motions as presented:

#### Maternity leave for Kristina Morey

9.

To approve a maternity leave of absence for Kristina Morey, Davies School Secretary. Mrs. Morey has requested to use some of her accumulated sick, personal and vacation days from June 30, 2013 through August 7, 2013. Mrs. Morey has also requested to use a Federal Family Leave of Absence (FMLA) for the period August 8, 2013 through September 20, 2013 and be placed on a New Jersey Family Leave of Absence (NJFMLA) for the period September 21, 2013 through December 31, 2013 with a return to work date of January 2, 2014.

Note: Vacation and FMLA run concurrently.

## Extended School Year Staff

10. To approve the Extended School Year Program Staff.

#### NJFLA for Stacie Becker

11. To approve dates for a New Jersey Family Leave of Absence (NJFLA) for Stacie Becker, Davies School teacher for the period September 1, 2013 through October 18, 2013 with a return to work date of October 21, 2013.

Mrs. Becker's Leave of Absence was previously approved on February 5, 2013 but no dates were specified because the 2013-2014 District Calendar was not available at the time of the request.

12. To approve dates for a New Jersey Family Leave of Absence (NJFLA) for Lauren Kreifus, Davies School teacher for the period September 1, 2013 through December 7, 2013 then placed on a Child Rearing Leave of Absence for the period December 3, 2013 to the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> marking period, returning to work at the beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> marking period.

NJFLA for Lauren Kreifus

Mrs. Kreifus' Leave of Absence was previously approved on January 22, 2013, but no dates were specified because the 2013-2014 District Calendar was not available at the time of the request.

Roll Call Vote: All in favor: Mr. Aiken, Mr. Anderson, Mrs. Capone, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. Kupp, Mrs. Melton, Mr. Sacchinelli, and Dr. Erickson. (8-0-0)

The following item is included as an informational item.

13. Motion to approve Hess School Summer School Staff.

Hess School Summer School Staff

Motioned by Mr. Aiken, seconded by Mr. Anderson, to approve the following Motions as presented:

14. To accept a resignation notice from Louis Dalbora, Hess School Paraprofessional, effective April 22, 2013 with her last date of employment to be June 30, 2013.

Resignation from Louis Dalbora

15. To accept a retirement notice from Rosemarie Rhine, Hess School Child Study Team, effective June 30, 2013.

Retirement of Rosemarie Rhine

16. To accept a retirement notice from Rosalie Petrunis-Gaughan, Hess School Teacher, effective June 30, 2013.

Retirement from Rosalie Petrunis-Gaughan

 To approve a medical leave of absence for Charlotte Hopkins, Davies School teacher.
 Ms. Hopkins will be using her accumulated

Medical leave for Charlotte Hopkins sick time from April 10, 2013 through May 6, 2013 and is requesting to be placed on a Federal Family Leave of Absence (FMLA) for the period May 7, 2013 through May 15, 2013 with a return to work date of May 16, 2013.

## Certificated staff

18. To approve Certificated staff for the 2013-2014 school year.

Tenured Non-Tenured

## Administrative 19. staff

19. To approve Administrative staff for the 2013-2014 school year.

#### Supervisors

20. To approve district Supervisors for the 2013-2014 school year.

Roll Call Vote: All in favor: Mr. Aiken, Mr. Anderson, Mrs. Capone, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. Kupp, Mrs. Melton, Mr. Sacchinelli, and Dr. Erickson. (8-0-0)

Motioned by Mr. Aiken, seconded by Mr. Anderson, to approve the following Motions as presented:

#### Noncertificated staff

21. To approve non-certificated staff for the 2013-2014 school year.

Paraprofessionals

Technology Maintenance Custodial Food Service

Hess School Nurse

Secretaries

## Board office staff

22. To approve Board office staff for the 2013-2014 school year.

### Staff acquiring tenure

23. To approve staff members acquiring tenure for the 2013-2014 school year.

Mrs. Capone brought to the attention of the

Board an issue which she felt needed to be addressed at the Shaner School. A notice was sent to the staff stating that no parents or guardians were allowed in the school unless they have a child in the school. Mrs. Capone feels that parental involvement is important. She also noted that some teachers at the school did not have any parent volunteers. Mrs. Capone noted that she did not want to award tenure to a principal who has cut off school access to specific people.

Roll Call Vote: All in favor #21 and #22: Mr. Aiken, Mr. Anderson, Mrs. Capone, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. Kupp, Mrs. Melton, Mr. Sacchinelli, and Dr. Erickson. (8-0-0)

Seven in favor #23: Mr. Aiken, Mr. Anderson, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. Kupp, Mrs. Melton, Mr. Sacchinelli, and Dr. Erickson. Nay: Mrs. Capone (7-1-0)

The following item was removed from the agenda:

24. Replacement for Aleng Phommathep, District Data Specialist, who has resigned.

**Data Specialist** 

Motioned by Mr. Aiken, seconded by Mr. Anderson, to approve the following Motions as presented:

25. To approve longevity for Kimberly Mancella, Curriculum Secretary in the amount of \$400.00/10 years of service, effective August 6, 2013.

Longevity for Kimberly Mancella

26. To approve the Shaner Summer Reading and Writing Program staff.

Summer Reading and Writing Program

27. To approve the following revised and/or new Job Descriptions:

**Job Descriptions** 

- School Resource/Attendance Office (SRAO)
- 2. Enrichment/Gifted and Talented

#### Teacher

3. Speech Language Specialist

#### Community Education Summer staff

28. To approve the 2013 Community Education summer staff:

- Dana Quidachay \$11.00/Hour Lifeguard
- 2. Tyler Boney \$10.00/Hour Sub Lifeguard
- 3. Shannon Wallace \$10.00/Hour Sub Lifeguard

Roll Call Vote: All in favor: Mr. Aiken, Mr. Anderson, Mrs. Capone, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. Kupp, Mrs. Melton, Mr. Sacchinelli, and Dr. Erickson. (8-0-0)

Motioned by Mr. Aiken, seconded by Mr. Anderson, to approve the following Motions as presented:

## Summer Band 29. staff

- 29. To approve the 2013 Summer Band staff:
  - 1. Fred Rushmore \$40.00/Hour
  - 2. Andrea Dixon \$30.00/Hour
  - 3. David Rothkopf \$30.00/Hour

#### Kindergarten Autistic Class

30. To approve the creation of a Kindergarten Autistic Class at the Shaner School.

## Non-renewal of employee

31. To approve the non-renewal of Employee #2285, Davies School teacher effective June 30, 2013.

## Start dates for SRAO's

32. To approve start dates for the School Resource Officers (SRAOs) as follows:

Arthur Faden – May 13, 2013 Judyth Dunleavy – May 28, 2013

Roll Call Vote: All in favor: Mr. Aiken, Mr. Anderson, Mrs. Capone, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. Kupp, Mrs. Melton, Mr. Sacchinelli, and Dr. Erickson. (8-0-0)

#### **POLICY COMMITTEE - Mrs. Capone**

None

#### TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE - Mr. Anderson

Motioned by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Aiken, to approve the following Motion as presented:

To approve club/activity trips for the 2012-2013 school year.

Club/activity trips

Roll Call Vote: All in favor: Mr. Aiken, Mr. Anderson, Mrs. Capone, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. Kupp, Mrs. Melton, Mr. Sacchinelli, and

Dr. Erickson. (8-0-0)

#### **RESOLUTIONS**

None

#### SOLICITOR'S REPORT

None

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Mrs. Capone wanted to clarify the amount spent for Dr. Marzano since she has been told the district paid \$75,000. Dr. Cappelluti responded that just under \$7,000 was spent on books and materials and \$10,000 for the professional development day. She also noted that total amount was paid for with grant funds from Race to the Top.

Mrs. Capone also wanted an update on the Energy Audit. Mr. Sacchinelli responded that they are still waiting for a report from Stockton College.

Dr. Erickson noted that she was awaiting an update on the Kids Corner Fees, and is also waiting on information on the Strengthening Families Program.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Dr. Erickson noted that there are six applicants for the open position on the Board. They will be setting up a meeting to meet with each candidate to make a decision. The Board will also set up a time to meet with the

candidate for the position of Hess School Principal. Dr. Erickson reviewed the process of filling the vacant Board seat, and asked the Board members to email their availability to Mr. Smith.

Mrs. Capone asked for an explanation of the lockdown which occurred on May 20, 2013. Dr. Cappelluti responded that the District was contacted by the police that the Davies School and Hess School needed to go into lockdown. We went by the direction of the police chief. Some administrators and staff had questions about this type of lockdown and Dr. Cappelluti noted that she will meet with administrators next week to review the process.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Cindy Fulton spoke as a resident, a taxpayer and a paraprofessional in the District. She noted that she has various certifications that are not required for her position. She noted that a few years ago, the hours of the paraprofessionals were reduced and benefits were taken away. Eventually seven of the paraprofessionals were brought back to full time status with benefits. Ms. Fulton feels that the hundreds of thousands of dollars spent on legal fees could have been used to reinstate the paraprofessionals. She is asking the Board to settle a fair contract.

Janet Yunghans, the librarian at Hess School shared events that have happened at the Hess School. Hess was recognized in the state and nationally. She wants the Board to know that the teachers are working hard, even without a contract. She spoke about salaries and freezing steps. She believes that the paraprofessionals are being paid below the poverty level. Ms. Yunghans stated that working in our district requires motivation and dedication. She wants the association members to be recognized on the same level as their peers.

Jane Barrett who is a school nurse at the Hess School asked the Board to value their knowledge and experience. She feels that healthy children are better learners. They help sick children on a daily basis and some of them have major illnesses. The nurses log in over 39,000 student visits per year. She feels they should be treated with respect and would like to see a fair contract settled.

Barbara Graf, the school nurse at the Shaner School read a letter from Debbie Mayer, a parent of a Hess School student. The parent noted the good care given by the nurses of the school. Mrs. Mayer would like to see the nurses treated fairly in settling a contract.

Barbara Bayconich, a school nurse at the Hess School spoke about supporting the district budget for many years. She feels it is now time for the Board to support the staff and settle a fair contract.

A parent of four children who are presently and were students of the district. Two of her children have had the opportunity to take part in advanced academic activities. She also has a son who has autism and feels that the teachers have never treated him any different. The staff has always supported him and is always willing to help him in any way. This parent has also worked in the district as a substitute school nurse and has seen first-hand what dedication is given. She feels the school nurses do a tremendous job and never stop working. She is asking the Board to recognize the credentials of the staff in the district.

Mrs. Stein who is a parent of three children in the district spoke on behalf of all parents; she is enraged with what is happening with the teachers' salaries. She is asking the teachers to not stop fighting because they are fighting for the students as well. She would like the Board to think of the students when they are negotiating the teachers' contract.

Stephanie Sonnak who is a Read 180 teacher for grades 7 and 8 noted that the students who come to her are 3 to 4 levels below what they should be. She gave information on the NJASK scores of 14 to 17 8<sup>th</sup> grade students over the past three years. She noted the progress made by these students because of the teachers. She has worked in the district for 11 years and has taught many different students. After going through four contract negotiations, she feels she is still not being paid what she is worth. She is still on step 6 and only making \$1,030 more than a first year teacher.

Jennifer Polo who is a teacher in the district for 9 years spoke about a conversation she had with her father regarding his goddaughter who has recently graduated from the College of New Jersey and will be hired as a first year teacher making \$56,000 a year. She is asking the Board to consider making changes to their salaries.

Tara Sutton, a 12<sup>th</sup> year teacher in the district wanted to let the Board know how nice it was to hear the comments made by the parent this evening who noted how much the teachers are appreciated. She noted that she left the Pleasantville School District because her mentor told her that she would not want to spend her career in that district. She does not know what she would tell a new teacher about spending their time in Hamilton Township. She would appreciate the Board settling a fair contract.

Jeff Gildiner noted that the staff should be celebrating this week because of the teachers of the year, retirements, and the Davies 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. However, they are still asking for a settlement. He noted that it is time to fix the salary guides and show the staff they are appreciated. He wants the Board to fix the inequity and to realize that the staff does not want to

leave. It is time to settle this contract. Mr. Gildiner also noted he is longer the median; the median is even lower now.

Mrs. Slocumb spoke. She noted many of the teachers in the room have taught her son; who has learning disabilities. She complimented the teachers and staff who have helped her son throughout his education. She encouraged them to keep fighting for a fair contract settlement.

Kristina Carr who is a resident of Hamilton Township has a son who is in a preschool disabled classroom. She feels the money is in the district to pay the teachers. She encouraged the Board to do what needs to be done to find a solution. She noted that communication is important and should be kept open. She is asking if the parents could be kept informed about negotiations.

Steve Santilli thanked everyone who took part in the Davies 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. He also thanked those who took part in the Walk for Water. He thanked the sponsors and the HTEA for their support. The Education Foundation wanted to congratulate Fred Rushmore and Lori Derringer for their receipt of this year's grants. Mr. Santilli also noted the Education Foundation skating party taking place on June 8, 2013.

Motioned by Mrs. Kupp, seconded by Mr. Sacchinelli, to adjourn the meeting.

Voice Vote: All in favor: (8-0-0) Motion carried.

The Hamilton Township Board of Education meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

 Daniel Smith
<b>Board Secretary</b>