

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
HELD ON APRIL 1, 2014  
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 5:39 p.m. in the Michael H. Duberson Memorial Library at the William Davies Middle School by Dr. Anne Erickson. **Call To Order**

Dr. Anne 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, Mrs. Stephanie Buchanan, Mrs. Peggy Capone, Mrs. Amelia Francis, Mrs. Kim Melton, Mr. John Sacchinelli and Dr. Anne Erickson. Quorum present. **Roll Call**

Members Absent: None

Also present were: Dr. Michelle Cappelluti: Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Daniel Smith: Board Secretary  
Mr. Eric Goldstein: Solicitor

**BOARD WORKSHOP**

Charlene Zoerb from the New Jersey School Board Association was present to conduct a Board Member Workshop on working as a team and working with the Superintendent.

- Ms. Zoerb noted that the Board has to work out its kinks before it can work as a team.
- Ms. Zoerb reviewed statements submitted by Board members from the last workshop noting what the Board likes, what the Board wants to leave behind and what the Board can do to move forward.
  - The Board then discussed ways to move forward; such as toning it down, refrain from personal attacks, and being team players.

Mr. Cassidy arrived at 6:00 p.m.

- Ms. Zoerb discussed Board members feeling like they are “stuck in the middle.”
  - She noted that Board members are committed, but cannot reach a consensus.
  - Ms. Zoerb discussed the board needing to be able to compromise and reach a consensus.

Mr. Ciambrone arrived at 6:12 p.m.

Ms. Zoerb continued the workshop and discussed the following topics:

- Not sharing information from executive sessions;
- Role of the Board in budget preparation;
- Communication of Board members with the Board President and Superintendent;
- Ways for the Board to move forward;
  1. Working on consensus
  2. Respecting each other
  3. Knowing roles and not overstepping
- What would help the board to move forward
  1. Retreat or team building exercise
  2. Going to NJSBA meetings and workshops together

Ms. Zoerb ended the workshop by noting the Board needs to reach a consensus on the budget.

The Board took a short recess at 6:55 p.m.

The Board reconvened the regular meeting at 7:08 p.m.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion by Mr. Sacchinelli, seconded by Mr. Aiken, to enter into Executive session.

Resolved that pursuant to Sections 7 and 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, the public shall be excluded from that portion of the meeting involving discussion of:

- 2014-2015 Budget – potential elimination of existing positions and personnel

Further resolved that the discussion of such subject matter in executive session can be disclosed to the public when formal action is taken on such subject matter or at any other appropriate time. Further resolved the Board may take action on items discussed in executive session. The Board may be in executive session for

approximately 30 minutes.

Roll Call Vote: All in favor: Mr. Aiken, Mrs. Buchanan, Mrs. Capone, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Ciambrone, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. Melton, Mr. Sacchinelli, and Dr. Erickson. (9-0-0)

The Board entered into executive session at 7:10 p.m.

The Board reconvened the regular meeting at 8:09 p.m.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Regular and Executive session minutes of the meeting of February 18, 2014, as per attachment Minutes-1.

Regular and Executive session minutes of the meeting of March 4, 2014, as per attachment Minutes-2

Regular and Executive session minutes of the meeting of March 18, 2014, as per attachment Minutes-3.

Motion by Mrs. Capone, seconded by Mrs. Francis to table the discussion of the minutes of February 18, 2014, March 4, 2014, and March 18, 2014.

Mrs. Capone stated that she would like the School Business Administrator to review the minutes and make changes regarding some of the points made during the meetings.

Roll Call Vote: Seven in favor: Mrs. Buchanan, Mrs. Capone, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Ciambrone, Mrs. Francis, Mr. Sacchinelli, and Dr. Erickson. Nay: Mr. Aiken. Abstained: Mrs. Melton. (7-1-1)

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Dr. Erickson read a letter from New Jersey School Board Association congratulating the Hamilton Township Board of Education for receiving sufficient credits to earn Board certification for the Board Member Academy.

### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Dr. Erickson thanked the Board members who were able to attend the Shaner School to read to the students. Members of the community and the Board are invited each year for this event.

Dr. Erickson noted that two of the Board members will be attending the Cape May County School Boards meeting for training. Dr. Erickson will attend the National School Boards

Conference next week in New Orleans.

Dr. Erickson also noted the opportunity for Board members to attend the STEM workshop on April 25, 2014 at the NASA Space Center in Maryland.

Dr. Erickson gave an update on the issue for the position of Vice President. The two candidates have been asked to provide additional information to the Commissioner and the Board is still waiting on a decision.

Dr. Erickson also spoke regarding the National Honor Society induction at Oakcrest. She noted that most of the students have attended the schools in the Hamilton Township School District.

Mr. Aiken asked if the Board had discussion on the Board member comments portion of the meeting. Dr. Erickson stated that any announcements would be made through her as the President and the board members can make comments under new or unfinished business. Dr. Erickson noted she is following the decorum outlined in Roberts Rules of Order.

Mr. Goldstein stated that everyone has the right to speak, and it is a question of when that occurs. He noted Board members will speak; it is a matter of keeping the meeting moving.

Mr. Aiken feels that the President is taking away the opportunity for Board members to make comments. He also noted that the board members should make their own comments about an event or something they took part in.

Mrs. Melton asked if the Board members were supposed to make comments during the unfinished business portion of the meeting. Dr. Erickson noted that it depends on what type of comments they are; it would fall under unfinished or new.

Dr. Erickson noted that the object of the meeting is to get work done; which is the agenda. She also stated that the meetings give the public a chance to speak.

Mr. Ciambone asked when board members can make comments. Dr. Erickson stated that board members can make comments at the end of the meeting. She also noted this is a way to show one voice from the Board, similar to Dr. Cappelluti giving a Superintendent's report on behalf of the district.

Mr. Ciambone noted that he disagreed with Dr. Erickson's comments. He feels it is important for the Board members to make their own comments from their own perspective. Mr. Ciambone thought this was going to be discussed further before a decision was made.

Dr. Erickson asked about board members who may not be able to attend events because of a work schedule. Mr. Ciambone noted that he cannot attend every event and does not slight other board members for being able to attend.

Mrs. Francis stated that she did not feel Dr. Erickson was taking away the voice of the Board

members; but placing them in another part of the meeting. Dr. Erickson noted that this was correct.

Mr. Ciambrone would like to discuss this further to allow the entire Board to come to a decision. Dr. Erickson stated she would discuss this further with the Superintendent.

## **SUPERINTENDENT/STAFF REPORTS**

### **(A) Information Items**

#### **1. Dates to Remember**

- a. **April 1, 2014** – Board Workshop – Davies School – 5:30 p.m.
- b. **April 1, 2014** – Board of Education Meeting – Davies School – 7:00 p.m.
- c. **April 2, 2014** – Policy Committee Meeting – Board Office – 4:30 p.m.
- d. **April 7, 2014** – Curriculum Committee Meeting – Board Office – 3:00 p.m.
- e. **April 9, 2014** – Personnel Committee Meeting – Board Office – 4:15 p.m.
- f. **April 11, 2014** – Facilities Committee Meeting – Davies School – 7:30 a.m.
- g. **April 15, 2014** – Board of Education Meeting – Davies School – 7:00 p.m.
- h. **April 16, 2014** – National Junior Honor Society Induction Ceremony – Davies School – Davies School – 7:00 p.m.
- i. **April 24, 2014** – Finance Committee Meeting – Board Office – 4:00 p.m.

### **(B) Round-Up Registration/Pre-School and Kindergarten**

#### Joseph C. Shaner School

- May 20, 2014 - 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m./1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.
- May 21, 2014 – 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m./1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
- May 22, 2014 – 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m./1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

### **(C) Upcoming Spring Concert Dates for Hess and Davies**

- ♪ April 8, 2014 – Davies Band at Rowan University for the NJ State Band Festival
- ♪ April 9, 2014 – Davies Choir at Rowan University for the NJ State Choral Festival
- ♪ May 1, 2014 – Hess Spring Concert – Davies School – 7:00 p.m.
- ♪ May 3, 2014 – Davies Band at Absegami High School for the Elementary Honors Band Festival
- ♪ May 8, 2014 – 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Davies Spring Concert – Hess School

Dr. Cappelluti noted that the Atlantic County Freeholders conducted an art contest and one of our students, Marlon Hargis was awarded second place for the month of March.

Dr. Cappelluti wanted to thank Jessica Tobin for the great job done for the Ladies Tea held recently.

Dr. Cappelluti also recognized the students who participated in the recent Math Bowl in Egg Harbor Township. Out of 26 teams participating, one of our fifth grade teams placed third. Dr. Cappelluti congratulated those who took part in this event.

Dr. Cappelluti spoke about how well the PARCC testing has been going.

Dr. Cappelluti commented on the 2014-2015 Budget which will be presented at May 6, 2014 board meeting. The Board has unanimously agreed to a 1% increase with little to no job eliminations in the entire district.

Mrs. Capone asked if the students who placed in the Math Bowl were announced in the schools. Dr. Cappelluti said she would speak to the Principal regarding this. A teacher from the audience stated that the students were recognized. Mrs. Capone also noted that the students who did well on the hockey team were never recognized in the school.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

George Hassa stated that he has heard a lot about the proposed budget, however he has not heard much about how much of the budget has been allocated to enhance the education of the children. He would like to know how curriculum is being impacted. He would like the superintendent to clarify what is in the budget to enhance the education of the students.

A woman in the audience stated that she would rather hear from the Board member who attended the event, rather than have the comments go through the Board President.

Gail Harris was happy to hear that there will not be job eliminations in the budget. She also noted that she would rather hear from the Board member who attended an event, rather than have the comments made through the Board President. Ms. Harris also made comments about Read Across America held in the school district stating how nice it was. She stated how wonderful the students were who performed during the Davies Performing Arts night. Ms. Harris encouraged everyone to attend this performance in the future.

Karen Petrolongo wanted to thank the Board for allowing her son and nine other children to attend the Math Bowl held in Egg Harbor Township. She feels it was a great experience for the students.

Dr. Erickson wanted to clarify Dr. Cappelluti's comments regarding the budget. She noted that Dr. Cappelluti stated "little to no" layoffs. She wanted the audience to understand this.

(D)

*Presentation:* School Performance Report

*Given by:* Lisa Dagit, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

## **COMMITTEES AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

None

### **CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – Mrs. Melton**

Motion by Mrs. Melton, seconded by Dr. Erickson, to approve the following motions as presented:

1. To approve the revised 2013-2014 District Calendar, as per attachment Curriculum-1. **2013-2014 District Calendar**

Roll Call Vote: All in favor: Mr. Aiken, Mrs. Buchanan, Mrs. Capone, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Ciambrone, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. Melton, Mr. Sacchinelli, and Dr. Erickson. (9-0-0)

2. Approve staff members to be compensated who provided professional development during the March 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Professional Development Day (not to exceed 8 hours each) at the hourly rate of (\$26.00 certificated staff and \$15.00 non-certificated staff) as provided in the 2012-2015 Agreement between the Hamilton Township Board of Education and the Hamilton Township Education Association. This is funded through Local Funds, as per attachment Curriculum-2. **Compensation for professional development**

Mrs. Francis asked what close reading was. Dr. Erickson noted that the students pay close attention to all of the words and look at the reading in more detail.

Mrs. Capone asked if the list changed because of the contract. Dr. Cappelluti noted she will double check the list.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE – Mrs. Capone**

- |                                 |   |  |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
|                                 | 1. Report of Receipts and Expenditures in accordance with 18A:17-8 and 18A:17-9 for the month of February, 2014. The Report of Receipts and Expenditures and the Secretary's Report are in agreement for the month of February, 2014, as per attachment Finance-1.  | <b>Report of Receipts and Expenditures</b> |
|                                 | 2. To approve the Board Secretary's Report for the period ending February 28, 2014. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c)4, the Hamilton Township Board of Education certifies that as of December 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, as per attachment Finance-2. | <b>Board Secretary's Report</b>            |
| <b>Interest Income</b>          | 3. Interest Income for the month of February, 2014, as per attachment Finance-3.  |  |
| <b>Receipts</b>                 | 4. Receipts for the month of February, 2014, as per attachment Finance-4.   |  |
| <b>Refunds</b>                  | 5. Refunds for the month of February, 2014, as per attachment Finance-5.  |  |
| <b>Capital Reserve Interest</b> | 6. Capital Reserve Interest for the month of February, 2014, as per attachment Finance-6.   |  |
| <b>Rental Income</b>            | 7. Rental Income for the month of February, 2014, as per attachment Finance-7.  |  |
| <b>Miscellaneous Revenue</b>    | 8. Miscellaneous Revenue for the month of February, 2014, as per attachment Finance-8.  |  |



**Budget  
Summary  
Report**

9. The monthly Budget Summary Report for the month of February, 2014, has been filed by the Board Secretary with the Hamilton Township Board of Education, as per attachment Finance-9.

Mrs. Capone asked whether or not the legal services invoice included charges related to the vice president issue. Mr. Goldstein stated that it did.

Mrs. Capone noted that the Board was previously aware of information being leaked from executive session and she was told that a board member cannot direct the solicitor.

Mrs. Capone noted that Mr. Aiken could not authorize the solicitor to do the research for the vice president issue. Mr. Goldstein noted that Mr. Aiken wanted him to look into the legality of the vote.

Mrs. Capone disagreed that the Board should pay for these fees. She feels the Board did not authorize these services. Mr. Goldstein noted that the issue had to be resolved and it affected both board members.

Mr. Goldstein noted that other board members asked about the vice president issue. He also stated that Dr. Erickson had questions as well.

Dr. Erickson noted that a discussion should be had in the future regarding legal invoices stemming from an incorrect legal opinion. Mr. Goldstein noted that Dr. Erickson sent emails and incorrect statements about Roberts Rules. Mr. Goldstein also noted that he had to address the issues raised by Dr. Erickson.

**Budget  
transfers**

10. Budget transfers in the amount of \$635,375.00, as per attachment Finance-10.

**Superintendent's  
and Board**

11. Superintendent's and Board Secretary's

**Secretary's  
certification**

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.

12. Purchase orders issued for the services, supplies and equipment in the amount of \$217,433.67, as per attachment Finance-12. **Purchase orders**

13. Bills and payroll in the total amount of \$7,544,140.39, as per attachment Finance-13. **Bills and payroll**

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
10	General Fund/Payroll	\$492,681.37
11	Current Expense	1,425,952.92
11	Current Expense/Payroll	5,288,894.53
12	Capital Outlay	7,775.00
20	Special Revenue	54,607.16
20	Special Revenue/Payroll	95,860.98
50	Cafeteria	152,441.25
50	Kid's Corner	20,291.79
50	Community Education	5,635.39

14. Staff attendance at seminars, workshops and conferences, including costs related to applicable reimbursable expenses, during the 2013-2014 school year, as per attachment Finance-14. **Staff attendance at seminars, workshops and conferences**

15. Resolution #78 approving free meals for students at Pineland Learning Center, Inc. for the 214-2015 school year, as per attachment Finance-15. **Resolution #78**

**PERSONNEL /NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE – Mr. Aiken**

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

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

1. To approve a Personal Leave of Absence for Lila Williams, without pay, in accordance with **Personal Leave of Absence for Lila**

the H.T.E.A. 2012-2015 Contract Article 10, Section D, Personal leave. This will be on an intermittent basis beginning March 25, 2014, as per attachment Personnel-1.

**Williams**

**Homebound instruction**

2. To approve homebound instruction for the 2013-2014 school year, as per attachment Personnel-2.

**Last day for Melanie Piskun**

3. To approve March 21, 2014 as the last day of employment for Melanie Piskun, Shaner School part-time Paraprofessional.

Ms. Piskun's resignation letter was previously approved on March 18, 2014.

Roll Call Vote: All in favor #1 & #2: Mr. Aiken, Mrs. Buchanan, Mrs. Capone, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Ciambrone, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. Melton, Mr. Sacchinelli, and Dr. Erickson. (9-0-0)

Eight in favor #3: Mr. Aiken, Mrs. Capone, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Ciambrone, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. Melton, Mr. Sacchinelli, and Dr. Erickson. Nay: Mrs. Buchanan. (8-1-0)

Motion by Dr. Erickson, seconded by Mrs. Melton, to approve the following motion, as presented:

**Retirement of Lorraine Fitting**

4. To accept a retirement notice from Lorraine Fitting, Davies School Administrative Secretary effective August 31, 2014, as per attachment Personnel – 4.

Roll Call Vote: Seven in favor: Mr. Aiken, Mrs. Buchanan, Mrs. Capone, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Ciambrone, Mrs. Melton, and Mr. Sacchinelli. Nay: Mrs. Francis and Dr. Erickson. (7-2-0)

Motion by Mr. Aiken, seconded by Mr. Sacchinelli, to approve the following motion, as presented:

**Retirement of Mary Curcione**

5. To accept a retirement notice from Mary Curcione, Davies School teacher effective

June 30, 2014, as per attachment  
Personnel-5.

Roll Call Vote: All in favor: Mr. Aiken, Mrs.  
Buchanan, Mrs. Capone, Mr. Cassidy, Mr.  
Ciambrone, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. Melton, Mr.  
Sacchinelli, and Dr. Erickson. (9-0-0)

Motion by Mr. Aiken, seconded by Mr. Sacchinelli, to approve the following motion, as  
presented:

6. To accept a retirement notice from Rebecca Garofalo, Davies School teacher effective June 30, 2014, as per attachment Personnel-6. **Retirement of Rebecca Garofalo**

Mrs. Capone commented that she is sorry to see Mrs. Garofalo retire. She is an outstanding language arts teacher.

Six in favor: Mr. Aiken, Mrs. Buchanan, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Ciambrone, Mrs. Melton, and Mr. Sacchinelli. Nay: Mrs. Capone, Mrs. Francis, and Dr. Erickson. (6-3-0)

Motion by Mr. Aiken, seconded by Mr. Sacchinelli, to approve the following motion, as  
presented:

7. To accept a retirement notice from Dorothy Torres, Davies School teacher effective June 30, 2014, as per attachment Personnel-7. **Retirement of Dorothy Torres**

Roll Call Vote: All in favor: Mr. Aiken, Mrs. Buchanan, Mrs. Capone, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Ciambrone, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. Melton, Mr. Sacchinelli, and Dr. Erickson. (9-0-0)

Motion by Mr. Aiken, seconded by Mr. Sacchinelli, to approve the following motion, as  
presented:

8. To accept a retirement notice from Patricia Fleming, Davies School teacher effective June 30, 2014, as per attachment Personnel-8. **Retirement of Patricia Fleming**

Roll Call Vote: All in favor: Mr. Aiken, Mrs.

Buchanan, Mrs. Capone, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Ciambrone, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. Melton, Mr. Sacchinelli, and Dr. Erickson. (9-0-0)

Motion by Mr. Aiken, seconded by Mr. Sacchinelli, to approve the following motion, as presented:

- Retirement of Miguel Rodriguez**      9. To accept a retirement notice from Miguel Rodriguez, Hess School Custodian effective July 31, 2014, as per attachment Personnel-9.

Roll Call Vote: All in favor: Mr. Aiken, Mrs. Buchanan, Mrs. Capone, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Ciambrone, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. Melton, Mr. Sacchinelli, and Dr. Erickson. (9-0-0)

Motion by Mr. Aiken, seconded by Mr. Sacchinelli, to approve the following motions, as presented:

- Maternity leave for Jessica Hanley**      10. To approve a maternity leave of absence for Jessica Hanley, Hess School teacher. Mrs. Hanley is requesting to use her accumulated sick days from June 9, 2014 to the end of the school year with a return to work date of September 1, 2014, as per attachment Personnel-10.

- Maternity leave for Lisa Rotkowitz**      11. To approve a maternity leave of absence for Lisa Rotkowitz, Hess School teacher. Mrs. Rotkowitz is requesting to use her accumulated sick time from May 29, 2014 to the end of the school year and NJ Family Leave from September 2, 2014 through October 17, 2014, with a return to work date of October 20, 2014, as per attachment Personnel – 11.

Roll Call Vote: Eight in favor #10: Mr. Aiken, Mrs. Buchanan, Mrs. Capone, Mr. Cassidy, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. Melton, Mr. Sacchinelli, and Dr. Erickson. Abstained: Mr. Ciambrone (8-0-1)

Roll Call Vote: All in favor #11: Mr. Aiken, Mrs. Buchanan, Mrs. Capone, Mr. Cassidy,

Mr. Ciambrone, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. Melton,  
Mr. Sacchinelli, and Dr. Erickson. (9-0-0)

**POLICY COMMITTEE – Mrs. Buchanan**

None

**TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE – Mr. Ciambrone**

Mr. Smith explained the plan discussed with Greater Egg Harbor Regional High School District regarding the agreement with them to help with the transportation department.

Dr. Cappelluti thanked Greater Egg Harbor Regional High School District for helping with this. It is a large job to do.

Dr. Erickson discussed how important a well-trained bus staff is in keeping the children disciplined on the buses. Mr. Smith explained that this was discussed during the meeting as well. Mr. Sheppard has indicated he will hold some type of training for the drivers.

Dr. Erickson also asked if the start times for Shaner and Hess were discussed. Dr. Cappelluti informed her that Shaner and Hess have not been discussed, but the start time for Davies was. It will be discussed further.

Motion by Mr. Ciambrone, seconded by Mrs. Capone, to approve the following motions as presented:

1. To approve club/activity trips for the 2013-2014 school year, as per attachment Transportation-1. **Club/activity trips**
2. To approve a Letter Agreement between the Hamilton Township Board of Education and the Greater Egg Harbor Regional High School District Board of Education to provide transportation services for the 2014-2015 school year, as per attachment Transportation-2. **Letter Agreement with GEHRHSD**

Mrs. Capone thought the agreed amount was \$10,000, not \$15,000. This was discussed in the Finance Committee meeting. Dr. Cappelluti explained that the original charge was between \$10,000 and \$15,000.

Mr. Ciambrone noted what an excellent job Michelle Corvino-Hackney is doing for transportation.

Roll Call Vote: All in favor: Mr. Aiken, Mrs. Buchanan, Mrs. Capone, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Ciambrone, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. Melton, Mr. Sacchinelli, and Dr. Erickson. (9-0-0)

## **RESOLUTIONS**

Motion by Mr. Aiken, seconded by Mr. Cassidy, to approve the following motion, as presented:

- Resolution #79** 1. To approve Resolution #79 Urging the State Board of Education to Develop an Endorsement for Teachers of Students with Dyslexia, as per attachment Resolutions-1.

Roll Call Vote: All in favor: Mr. Aiken, Mrs. Buchanan, Mrs. Capone, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Ciambrone, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. Melton, Mr. Sacchinelli, and Dr. Erickson. (9-0-0)

## **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Goldstein noted the case which was sent to each Board member via e-mail last week regarding the decision which allows the school district to pursue the bully if one of the students is injured. He indicated that it is groundbreaking information and can be discussed further. Liability can now be placed on the bully's parents and not the school if the school is found to have followed all proper procedures and policies. He will keep the Board advised of any further information.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Dr. Erickson noted a meeting being held next week to follow up on the dedication of the Hess Pool.

Mrs. Capone wanted to note how important it is to understand that Board member comments are not being eliminated. She feels we should be following Robert's Rules and putting the comments in another place.

Mr. Ciambrone thinks it is important to note some things at the time it is being discussed and not to have to wait until the end of the meeting.

Dr. Erickson noted that this is an effort to make it a more professional meeting.

Mr. Aiken noted that Dr. Erickson has asked Board members to give comments to her to be made. Dr. Erickson noted that it is only if the Board member wished to do this. They can also make comments in unfinished business.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Motion by Mr. Ciambrone, seconded by Mr. Aiken, to approve the following motion, as presented:

To keep the comments on the Board meeting agenda as Board Member Comments and not make the change to Board President Comments.

Roll Call Vote: Five in favor: Mr. Aiken, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Ciambrone, Mrs. Melton, and Mr. Sacchinelli. Nay: Mrs. Buchanan, Mrs. Capone, Mrs. Francis, and Dr. Erickson.  
(5-4-0)

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Denise Brasher wanted to comment that the budget does not indicate what will be done to help the students. She feels money should be allocated to the special education program. She feels that the Hess School is not scoring high enough due to staff turnover. She would like to see the retired teachers replaced with the best teachers to educate our children.

Theresa Albani noted the achievements of the students and would like to see more in the newspapers. She was happy to hear that the Board was looking at changing the start and end times of the school day. Mrs. Albani also had a few questions regarding the budget. Her questions were clarified by Dr. Erickson.

Mrs. Albani asked about the Dyslexia program. Dr. Erickson noted that the Department of Education has not delivered the programs yet. The districts need to wait to hear from the State. Teachers will need to be more educated in this field. She also wanted to know if the bullying percentage is noted on the website. Dr. Cappelluti will look into this further. This information can be found on the State website.

Shannon Branca is happy to hear that the Board comment issue has



been resolved. She does not understand why some of the snow days were replaced with abbreviated days. Dr. Cappelluti stated that the abbreviated days were added as half days because the district also needed to add professional development days.

Mrs. Branca wanted to clarify that there were no sports eliminated from the budget. She also asked why parents were not invited as guest readers for the guest reader event. Dr. Cappelluti stated she would follow up with the administrators.

Margaret Erickson wanted to thank the Board for passing the dyslexia resolution on behalf of students with dyslexia. She feels it is a great stepping stone.

Eileen Shankle has not been called in as a substitute since being on vacation. She wanted to find out why since she heard that the district is not using as many substitutes. Dr. Cappelluti stated that the substitutes are being called in as needed; however cuts may be made in the future.

Jeff Gildiner wanted to thank the Board for the adjustments being made to the budget and for the limited number of job eliminations. He also wanted to thank the Board for motioning each retirement individually.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Mr. Sacchinelli, seconded by Mr. Aiken, to adjourn the meeting.

Voice vote: All in favor: (9-0-0) Motion carried.

The Hamilton Township Board of Education meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

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Daniel Smith  
Board Secretary