

HOPATCONG BOARD OF EDUCATION

WORK SESSION MINUTES

October 23, 2023

6:00 pm. Open the Meeting and enter Executive Session in the Administration Building: Room 21

Public Portion will begin at 7:00 p.m in the Boardroom

2 Windsor Avenue, Hopatcong, NJ 07843

CALL TO ORDER

Time: 6pm

1. FLAG SALUTE

2. OPENING STATEMENT

In accordance with Section 5 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, this public body, the Hopatcong Board of Education hereby announces that The New Jersey Herald and the Daily Record have been notified by email that this Board of Education Regular Meeting will take place at 7:00 p.m following the Executive Session (in room 21) which starts at 6:00 p.m. on October 23, 2023 at the Hopatcong Board of Education, Board meeting room in the Administration Building.

3. ROLL CALL

| | | | | | |
|---------|-------------------------|---------|------------------------|---------|---------------------|
| Present | Scott Francis | Present | Nicole Falconi-Shubert | Present | Philip DiStefano |
| Present | Joseph Falconi | Present | Jayson Cittrich | Absent | Jayna Gulan |
| Present | Jennifer Johnson (6:05) | Present | Jackie Turkington | Present | Jennifer Polowchena |

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion will be made that the Hopatcong Board of Education will enter Executive Session in room 21 to discuss personnel and attorney/client privilege, which are exempt from public participation pursuant to New Jersey Public Law 1975, Chapter 231, Open Public Meetings Act. Any discussions held by the Board which need not remain confidential will be made public when appropriate. Minutes of the Executive Session will not be disclosed until the need for confidentiality no longer exists. The Board will reconvene in public session at 7:00 p.m. following the executive session.

Motion to enter executive session:

(ACTION) Motion by Polowchena. seconded by DiStefano

| | | | | | |
|--------|------------------|-----|------------------------|--------|---------------------|
| Yes | Scott Francis | Yes | Nicole Falconi-Shubert | Yes | Philip DiStefano |
| Yes | Joseph Falconi | Yes | Jayson Cittrich | Absent | Jayna Gulan |
| Absent | Jennifer Johnson | Yes | Jackie Turkington | Yes | Jennifer Polowchena |

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5. **RECONVENE**

Motion to Reconvene

(ACTION) Motion by Polowchena seconded by Falconi-Schubert

| | | | | | |
|-----|------------------|-----|------------------------|--------|---------------------|
| Yes | Scott Francis | Yes | Nicole Falconi-Shubert | Absent | Philip DiStefano |
| Yes | Joseph Falconi | Yes | Jayson Cittrich | Yes | Jayna Gulan |
| Yes | Jennifer Johnson | Yes | Jackie Turkington | Yes | Jennifer Polowchena |

6. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND HIB REPORT**

a. Superintendent's Report – **Mr. Arthur DiBenedetto, Interim Superintendent of Schools**

1. Review of Agenda
2. Homeless student challenges
3. Waiver for bathrooms at Durban
4. Grant application and update

b. HIB - These will be reported at the Oct. 30, 2023 meeting..

Motion to approve 6a – 6b:

((ACTION) Motion by Choose Item. Seconded by Choose Item

| | | | | | |
|-----|------------------|-----|------------------------|--------|---------------------|
| Yes | Scott Francis | Yes | Nicole Falconi-Shubert | Yes | Philip DiStefano |
| Yes | Joseph Falconi | Yes | Jayson Cittrich | Absent | Jayna Gulan |
| Yes | Jennifer Johnson | Yes | Jackie Turkington | Yes | Jennifer Polowchena |

7. **RESOLUTION**

a. WHEREAS, the District has experienced a reduction in state aid, and

WHEREAS, the District confronts a structural budgetary imbalance resulting from an unanticipated increase in health benefit premiums, and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Education has provided opportunities to financially support school districts experiencing these difficulties through funding provided under P.L. 2019, Chapter 67,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, it is recommended by the Superintendent that the Board of Education approve the 2023-2024 stabilization aid application for the amount of \$892,501.13.

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- b. It is recommended by the Superintendent that the board approve application for waivers for Pre-School class bathrooms at Durban Avenue, Rooms 10, 11, 12, 13, 14.

Motion to approve: 7a-7b

(ACTION) Motion by Turkington. seconded by Johnson

| | | | | | |
|-----|------------------|-----|------------------------|--------|---------------------|
| Yes | Scott Francis | Yes | Nicole Falconi-Shubert | Yes | Philip DiStefano |
| Yes | Joseph Falconi | Yes | Jayson Cittrich | Absent | Jayna Gulan |
| Yes | Jennifer Johnson | Yes | Jackie Turkington | Yes | Jennifer Polowchena |

8 **PARENT/TEACHER ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES**

None present

9. **PUBLIC COMMENT – GENERAL DISCUSSION**

None

10. **BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mrs. Turkington reported on the excellent results of HHS musicians who made the All Sussex County Band.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn:

(ACTION) Motion by J. Johnson. seconded by N. Falconi Schubert

All in favor all. Time: 7:18pm

Respectfully submitted,

Art DiBenedetto, Interim Superintendent