

**HOPATCONG BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING - MINUTES
July 30, 2018**

A Special meeting of the Board of Education of the Hopatcong Borough School District was held on July 30 2018 in the High School Cafeteria, 2A Windsor Avenue, Hopatcong, New Jersey.

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m.

2. **FLAG SALUTE**

3. Mr. Fasano, Board President, read the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act 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 mail that this Board of Education Special meeting will take place in the Hopatcong Board of Education meeting room, 2 Windsor Avenue, Hopatcong, NJ, at 7:00 p.m. on July 30, 2018. The meeting was moved to the High School cafeteria to accommodate attendees.

4. **MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. Anthony Fasano, President
Mr. Warren Gallagher
Ms. Erin Jacobus
Dr. Sarah Schindelar
Mrs. Candice Smith
Ms. Carol Trumpore

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Scott Francis, Mr. Alex McLean, Vice President,
Mr. Philip DiStefano (did not attend Board meeting after Executive Session).

Also Present: Mr. Paul Saxton, Interim Superintendent, Ms. Carolyn B. Joseph, Board Secretary, David Disler, Esq.

5. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Hopatcong Board of Education entered Executive Session.

6. **RECONVENE**

A motion to return to Public Session was made by Mrs. Smith, seconded by Ms. Trumpore.
The motion carried with all in favor Time: 7:11 p.m.

7. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Community member commented that we would not be struggling for money for the district if we had not wasted money on Operational Efficiency Audit, Architect, etc.; support from members of community for Mr. Pierson; Board should enlist community in search for Superintendent – issue a Superintendent survey; staff member reads letter from Mr. Pierson's family; Support for Mr. Certo and Dee Stauffer, Gina Samara – other staff rified; we should apply for emergency aid; eliminating academic skills teachers is short-sighted; concern regarding one principal for two buildings with no Vice Principals.

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Anthony Fasano responds to questions asked by public:

- Regarding Special Education Audit not being released – it is still under attorney/client privilege.
- In response to Vice Principals and other staff members being terminated – reductions have to be made so that there is lesser impact on Students and least intrusive to delivery of education.
- We do have a plan regarding finding a new Superintendent.
- We have a school surplus as of June 30, 2017 of \$758,000 but using that would be a band aid since we are losing 9 out of 11 million dollars in the next five years.
- At this time, emergency aid has not been offered by the state.

8. FINANCE

Approval of the following Finance item, **8a**, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools and the Finance Committee of the Board:

a. ADOPTION OF THE REVISED 2018-19 BUDGET

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey has decreased our State Aid for the 2018-19 School Year in the amount of \$611,056 and a revised budget must be adopted;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Hopatcong School District's 2018-19 budget is as follows:

<u>REVENUE</u>	
Fund 10 – General Fund	\$36,433,155
Local Tax Levy.....	\$24,147,386
All State Aids (including extraordinary)...	\$10,887,859
Miscellaneous/Rental income	\$ 535,983
Medicare reimbursement.....	\$ 42,749
Fund Balance/Emergency Reserve.....	\$ 819,178
Fund 20 – Special Revenue Fund	\$ 684,935
State and Federal Grants.....	\$ 684,935
TOTAL REVENUE	\$37,118,090

<u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>	
General Fund	\$36,433,155
Fund 10 – Charter School Tuition.....	\$ 303,696
Fund 11 – General Operation Fund.....	\$36,127,845 **
Fund 12 – Capital Outlay/Debt Assess.....	\$ 1,614
Special Revenue	\$ 684,935
Fund 20 – State and Federal Grants.....	\$ 684,935
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	\$37,118,090

** Reduction of the following accounts:

Budget account	Account Description	Amount
11-000-240-103-01	Salary Principal/Vice Principal	\$182,550
11-000-240-105-01	Salary Principal Secretary	\$ 31,227
11-000-218-105-01	Salary Guidance Secretary	\$ 31,490
11-000-261-105-01	Salary Clerical	\$ 31,030
11-000-221-800-19	Professional Development	\$ 19,000
11-130-100-101-02	Substitutes	\$ 30,827
11-000-291-270-01	Medical Benefits	\$168,158
11-230-100-101-01	Basic Skills	\$116,774
Total		\$611,056

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Motion to approve Finance 8a was made by Dr. Schindelar and seconded by Ms. Trumpore:

Discussion: Ms. Jacobus remarks that Security and Safety are No. 1. Felt more comfortable voting for one principal managing two schools when there were going to be Vice Principals in each school. Ms. Trumpore is saddened by comments.

Philip DiStefano LEFT AFTER EXEC SESSION		Scott Francis	ABSENT	Warren Gallagher	Yes
Erin Jacobus	No	Alex McLean	ABSENT	Sarah Schindelar	Yes
Candice Smith	No	Carol Trumpore	Yes	Anthony Fasano	Yes

Motion to approve Finance 8a passed.

9. PERSONNEL

Approval of the following personnel items, **9a – 9g**, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools and the Personnel Committee of the Board:

- a. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education, on the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby approves the change in the location of Dr. Olga Edgerton's office from the District Office to Hopatcong High School.
- b. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education, on the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby approves the change in the location of Mr. Jeffrey Hallenbeck's office from the District Office to Hopatcong Middle School.
- c. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education, on the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby approves the change in the location of Dr. Joanne Mullane's office from the District Office to Hopatcong Middle School.
- d. **WHEREAS**, State law authorizes a board of education to reduce the number of staff members, employed in the district whenever, in the judgment of the board, it is advisable to abolish any such positions for reasons of economy or because of reduction in the number of pupils or of change in the administrative or supervisory organization of the district or for other good cause upon compliance with the provisions of this article.

WHEREAS, for reasons of economy, the Board finds it advisable to implement a reduction in force.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Hopatcong of Education that, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the following positions have been abolished as a result of a reduction in force:

- 1. High School Assistant Principal
- 2. Middle School Assistant Principal
- 3. Curriculum Secretary
- 4. Middle School Assistant Principal Secretary
- 5. Secretary to the Director of Guidance
- 6. Academic Skills Teacher
- 7. Academic Skills Teacher

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes the Board Secretary and/or Superintendent to notify all affected employees of their employment status and to effectuate the terms of this Resolution.

- e. **WHEREAS**, for reasons of economy, the Board is implementing a reduction in force.

WHEREAS, as a result of the reduction in force, the Board must terminate the employment of several employees.

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to thank these employees for their dedication and service to the Hopatcong School District.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Hopatcong of Education that, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the employment of the following employees is hereby terminated as a result of the reduction in force:

1. Employee #80074 (Mark Certo)
2. Employee #80351 (Dave Pierson)
3. Employee #80388 (Melissa Gordon Sant)
4. Employee #81404 (Tara Sant)
5. Employee #81339 (Gina Samara)
6. Employee #81274 (Dorothea Stauffer)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board authorizes the Board Secretary and/or Superintendent to notify all affected employees of their employment status and to effectuate the terms of this Resolution.

- f. Approval of the employment of Employee #80074 as Elementary Teacher at Durban Avenue School, effective September 1, 2018.
- g. Approval of the following **involuntary transfer recommendations** based on staffing needs due to budgetary constraints effective for the 2018-2019 school year:

Name	Transfer From	Transfer To
Brittany Juskus	Curriculum Secretary	Secretary to the High School Principal
Linda Tappen	Secretary to the Middle School Assistant Principal	Secretary to the High School Athletic Director
Donna Annett	Secretary to the High School Principal	Facilities Secretary

Dr. Schindelar made a motion to approve Personnel 9a – 9g, and was seconded by Ms. Trumpore.

Discussion: Ms. Jacobus does not agree with Reduction in Force.

Philip DiStefano	LEFT AFTER EXEC SESSION	Scott Francis	ABSENT	Warren Gallagher	Yes
Erin Jacobus	No	Alex McLean	ABSENT	Sarah Schindelar	Yes
Candice Smith	No	Carol Trumpore	Yes	Anthony Fasano	Yes

Motion to approve Personnel 9a – 9g passed.

