

## HARDING TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

34 Lee's Hill Road, New Vernon, NJ 07976

Monday, May 22, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

Regular Session Minutes

### Mission Statement

The Harding Township School provides a strong educational foundation which inspires students to achieve academic excellence. Our dedicated faculty stimulates intellectual growth using a challenging curriculum within a supportive learning environment. We encourage students to become self-directed, lifelong learners who are well prepared for the academic and social challenges of the future.

The 2022-2023 Harding Township School District goals are inspired by and connected to the 2019-2024 Strategic Plan that was developed by key stakeholders.

**District Goal 1: Strategic Plan Goal Area: Identify Needs/Personalized Learning**

To identify learning gaps and measure the academic progress of our students through the administration of pre- and post-grade-level assessments in Reading, Math, and Writing that correlate with the NJSL standards and Reader's/Writer's Workshop.

**District Goal 2: Strategic Plan Goal Areas: Future-Ready Instruction and Curriculum and Well-Rounded Student**

Continue to expand student exploration opportunities, such as (examples) the Performing Arts, Husky TV, debate, a student newsletter, and other feasible collaborative projects that empower students to become active participants in their learning.

**District Goal 3: Strategic Plan Goal Areas: Facilities and Safety**

Work with the appropriate local, county, and state authorities to assess the safety/security of the district's buildings/grounds, protocols/guidelines/practices, and continue to foster a safe learning environment.

**District Goal 4: Strategic Plan Goal Area: Identify Needs/Personalized Learning**

To articulate student learning differentiation strategies currently utilized, and to further challenge and enhance learning for each student based on their individual needs, strengths, and interests.

- I. **Call to Order** – The regular session of the Harding Board of Education is called to order by Mr. Gjivoje at 6:01 p.m. in the Library of the Harding Township Middle School, 34 Lee's Hill Road, New Vernon, NJ 07976.
- II. **Presiding Officers Statement/Sunshine Statement:**  
In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, *N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.*, adequate notification of this meeting has been provided to the Daily Record, Observer Tribune and posted on the bulletin boards of the New Vernon Post Office, Green Village Post Office, Harding Township Municipal Building, Harding Township Elementary School and Harding Township Middle School on January 12, 2023.
- III. **Pledge of Allegiance**
- IV. **ROLL CALL**  
**AYES:** Mr. Davor Gjivoje, Dr. Alex Anastasiou, Mr. Richard Bruno, Mrs. Melissa Krikos  
**Also Present:** Superintendent, Dr. Matthew Spelker; Board Secretary, Mr. John Jennings  
**ABSENT:** Mr. Abi Singh
- V. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**  
**MOTION** presented by Mr. Bruno and seconded by Mrs. Krikos, unanimously approved, to enter Executive Session at 6:03 p.m.  
  
**Be It Resolved**, that the Harding Township Board of Education will convene into Executive Session in

full compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, *N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.*; and the minutes of the discussion of any of these items will be available to the public when such minutes have been approved by the Board pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1.1*.

**Topics: Personnel - action may be taken.**

**MOTION** to close executive session presented by Mr. Bruno and seconded by Mrs. Krikos, unanimously approved at 7:10 p.m.

## VI. PRESENTATION

**Day of Service, Mrs. Baldassari/Mrs. McDonough** – Mrs. Baldassari and Mrs. McDonough discussed the Day of Service projects by grade level with the Board. Kaleb Chou, HTS student read his essay reflecting on the Day of Service and what he liked and learned from the activities. Dr. Anastasiou thanked Mrs. Baldassari and Mrs. McDonough for their efforts on the Day of Service. Dr. Spelker noted that the Day of Service is an important part of learning for students providing both community service as well as learning valuable lessons. Mr. Gjivoje noted the Day of Service was started a while ago and is glad to see it is back and better than ever. He thanked Mrs. Baldassari, Mrs. McDonough and Dr. Anastasiou for all their efforts in making the Day of Service a great day.

**STEM Project Presentation, Mrs. Diana Muench** – Mrs. Muench and 8<sup>th</sup> grade HTS students Henry Humphreys and Alfred Bentley presented their Butterfly Garden Irrigation System Stem Project to the Board. They noted the current area is underutilized and this project would enable the area to support a Butterfly Garden. Mr. Gjivoje noted that while the decision to proceed with the Project rests with the Administration, he noted the Board fully supports the project.

**STEM Teacher Award Acknowledgment, Mrs. April Friedman, Principal/Curriculum Director** -Mrs. April Friedman noted she nominated Mrs. Muench and she was recently recognized as the Morris County Chapter Stem Teacher of the year. She noted her dedication and enthusiasm for teaching and was truly deserving of the award/recognition.

**HIB Report (if necessary)** – None

## VII. HEARING OF PUBLIC REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS (Policy 0167)

**MOTION** to open public comments presented by Dr. Anastasiou and seconded by Mrs. Krikos, unanimously approved at 7:51 p.m.

No Public Comments

**MOTION** to close public comments presented by Mr. Bruno and seconded by Dr. Anastasiou, unanimously approved at 7:52 p.m.

## VIII. REPORTS/DISCUSSIONS

a. Superintendent – Dr. Spelker noted the Spring Concert will be held on Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. HTS will have May 26<sup>th</sup> and May 29<sup>th</sup> off for Memorial Day Weekend. HTS Field Day will be held on Friday June 2<sup>nd</sup> and there will be an early dismissal that day. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Washington DC will be held from Tuesday June 6<sup>th</sup> to Thursday June 8<sup>th</sup>. The Promotion Ceremony for the 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be held on Thursday June 15<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. The last day of school for 2022-2023 will be Monday June 19<sup>th</sup>. The next two BOE meetings are June 12<sup>th</sup> for a District Goals Update and June 22<sup>nd</sup> Board Retreat.

b. Business Administrator – John Jennings updated the Board on the status of the ROD

(Regular Operating District) grant applications; HVAC project at the Middle School and roof replacement project at the Elementary School. He also reviewed the Facility/Finance resolutions on the agenda with the Board.

c. Personnel and Management, 5/17/23- Mrs. Krikos noted all observations/folders were completed/reviewed by the committee.

d. Facility and Finance, 5/17/23 – Dr. Spelker noted the committee discussed the ROD grants as well as summer maintenance projects. He also noted the committee discussed generators but noted the current costs are considerable. Mr. Bruno noted the committee also discussed additional safety measures for the schools which is a continual process/goal.

e. Curriculum and Instruction, 5/17/23 – Dr. Anastasiou noted the committee discussed updates on World Language as well as the hiring of a new French teacher. The committee also noted the administration was working on next year's schedule as well as a Robotics program. He congratulated Mrs. Muench for her being named Morris County Chapter Stem Teacher of the year and that the District is lucky to have her as a teacher. He also noted NJSLA testing is complete and there were no student opt outs.

f. Madison Board of Education – Mr. Bruno noted the Madison BOE announced a new interim Superintendent Johanna Roberto in a unanimous vote. He noted that the new permanent Business Administrator is coming on-line shortly. He mentioned that the current Superintendent's, Mr. Schwarz last day in the District is July 1<sup>st</sup>. He noted that the Madison BOE intends to move forward with their bond referendum but the timing has yet to be determined. He also mentioned that one of the schools in Madison had a fire control issue which resulted in the school being closed for a day, but the issue was fixed and the school is reopened. Mr. Bruno noted that proper maintenance of schools/facilities is essential to avoid these issues.

**IX. CORRESPONDENCE**

Nurses Report, April 2023

Fire Alarm Drill Log, April 2023

**X. BOARD BUSINESS**

BB-020 Approve Regular Session Minutes

BB-021 Approve Memorandum of Agreement with the HTEA, 2023-2026

**MOTION** presented by Mr. Bruno and seconded by Dr. Anastasiou to approve:

**BB-020 RESOLVED**, that the Harding Township Board of Education approve the following minutes:

- Regular Session, May 1, 2023
- No Executive Session held on May, 1, 2023

**BB-021 RESOLVED**, that the Harding Township Board of Education, hereby ratifies the Memorandum of Agreement with the Harding Township Education Association, dated April 12, 2023 for the contract period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026, including related mutually adopted salary guides which were previously ratified by the Association and which is on file in the office of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary; and be it

**Further Resolved**, that the Board authorizes its Board President and/or Superintendent, or designee, as applicable, to execute an appropriate successor collective negotiations agreement upon finalization of same.

**Roll call vote:**

**AYES:** *Mr. Davor Gjivoje, Dr. Alex Anastasiou, Mr. Richard Bruno, Mrs. Melissa Krikos*

**Absent:** Mr. Abi Singh

**FACILITIES/FINANCE**

**FF-062 Approve Bills List**

**FF-063 Approve Financial Reports**

**FF-064 Approve April Transfer Report**

**FF-065 Approve Facility Use Application – HTRA Day Camp**

**FF-066 Approve HEPA Unit and Filter Program**

**FF-067 Approve Student Accident Insurance renewal**

**FF-068 Approve Out-of-District Tuition Contract – Randolph Schools Board of Education**

**FF-069 Approve Out-of-District Tuition Contract – Pillar Academy**

**FF-070 Approve Facility Use Application – Rose City Softball**

**FF-071 Approve Joint Transportation Agreement**

**MOTION** presented by Mrs. Krikos and seconded by Mr. Bruno to approve:

**FF-062 RESOLVED**, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the bills listed dated May 22, 2023 in the amount of \$779,681.26.

**FF-063 RESOLVED**, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the April Secretary and Treasurer reports certifying that no major appropriation or account or fund has been over-extended and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

**FF-064 RESOLVED**, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the May Transfer Report.

**FF-065 RESOLVED**, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves a Facility Use Application submitted by Jennifer Baldassari on behalf of the HTRA Day Camp for use of the Library Media Center on June 14, 2023 from 3:15 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. for an orientation meeting.

**FF-066 RESOLVED**, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the submission and acceptance of NJDOH K-12 High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) Unit and Filter Program. Under the program sponsored by the NJDOH and the NJDOE, all New Jersey schools are eligible to receive portable high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filtration purifiers and up to three corresponding replacement HEPA sets per unit at no cost to schools from a state sponsored vendor.

**FF-067 RESOLVED**, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the Student Accident Insurance Renewal with Bollinger Specialty Group for the 2023-2024 school year for annual premiums of \$718 and \$4,500 for Policies US563080 and US563081 respectively.

**FF-068 RESOLVED**, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves a Contract Agreement with Randolph Township Schools

Board of Education for Student #2971131699 to provide educational services for the 2023-2024 school year from July 6, 2023 to June 30, 2024 for Extended School Year and Regular School at a total cost of \$80,000.

**FF-069 RESOLVED**, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves a Contract Agreement with Pillar Care Continuum – Pillar High School for Student #6715826313 at \$409.72 per day for a total of 210 days (30 Extended School Year) and 180 days (Regular School Year) total tuition \$86,041.20 and Extraordinary Services at \$230 per day for 210 days for a total of \$48,300.00 and a combined total of \$134,341.20.

**FF-070 RESOLVED**, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves a Facility Use Application submitted by Rose City Softball for use of the Harding Township School softball field on Tuesdays June 6 through July 11 (excluding July 4<sup>th</sup>) and Thursdays July 6 and 13 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**FF-071 RESOLVED**, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools approves a Joint Transportation Agreement with Educational Services Commission of Morris County for the 2023-2024 school year to transport public, nonpublic and special education pupils on established routes as assigned in writing by the Board for each day that school is in session.

**Roll call vote:**

**AYES:** *Mr. Davor Gjivoje, Dr. Alex Anastasiou, Mr. Richard Bruno, Mrs. Melissa Krikos*

**Absent:** *Mr. Abi Singh*

## **CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

### **CI-016 Approve Field Trip**

**MOTION** presented by Dr. Anastasiou and seconded by Mrs. Krikos to approve:

**CI-016 RESOLVED**, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools approves the following field trips:

Mrs. Davis, PreK, Brookhollow Farm, Boonton, Jun. 13, 2023

**Roll call vote:**

**AYES:** *Mr. Davor Gjivoje, Dr. Alex Anastasiou, Mr. Richard Bruno, Mrs. Melissa Krikos*

**Absent:** *Mr. Abi Singh*

## **PERSONNEL AND MANAGEMENT**

**PM-021 Approve Non-Tenured Faculty, 2023-24**

**PM-022 Approve Administrators Assignment/Salary, 2023-24**

**PM-023 Approve Negotiated Administrative Support Staff, 2023-24**

**PM-024 Approve Teacher Assistants, 2023-24**

**PM-025 Approve Treasurer of School Monies, 2023-24**

**PM-026 Approve Non-Negotiated Hourly Support Staff, 2023-24**

**PM-027 Approve Leave Replacement Teacher, 22-23 SY**

**PM-028 Approve Madison High School Student Practicum**

**PM-029 Approve Extended School Year Faculty Assignment/Salary**

**PM-030 Approve Business Administrator Salary /Assignment, 2023-2024**

**MOTION** presented by Mrs. Krikos and seconded by Dr. Anastasiou to approve:

**PM-021 RESOLVED**, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the reemployment of non-tenured certificated faculty assignments and corresponding step on the 2023/24 HTEA guide:

Aquitato, Justine	LDTC	MA+15/Step 19
Conti, Danielle	Resource Room	MA/Step 2
Davis, Kerry	Pre-K	MA+15/Step 3
Doyle, Yana	Technology/Quest	MA/Step 12
Duggan, Alison	Grade 4	MA+30/Step 11
Jones, Todd	Grade 5	BA+30/Step 15
Kemner, Eileen	Grade 1	MA+30/Step 9
Larson, Cathy	Grade 4	BA/Step 10
Mele, Jennifer	Resource Room	BA+15/Step 5
Muench, Diana	STEM	MA+45/Step 12
Nedick, Erin	Special Education, Gr. 5	MA/Step 7
Orr, Sarah	Resource Room	MA/Step 10
Somelofske, Elizabeth	Spanish	BA/Step 3
Tsai, Joey	MS Math	MA/Step 17
Volz, Kimberly	Grade 3	MA+30/Step 15

**PM-022 RESOLVED**, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following reemployment of school district administrators:  
Mrs. April Friedman, Principal/Director of Curriculum, at an annual rate of \$141,250 effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

**PM-023 RESOLVED**, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following negotiated non-certificated support staff assignments/salaries, as per the HTEA bargaining agreement for the 2023-24 school year:  
Mrs. Eithne Howard, Secty. to Principal, \$+\$L /Step 18 (TBD)  
Mrs. Carole Ethridge, Secty. to Dir. of Student Services FTE .875, \$/Step 9, prorated (TBD)

**PM-024 RESOLVED**, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following Teacher Assistants for the 2023-24 school year.  
Mrs. Elise Blechner \$26,263  
Mrs. Sharon Grenard, \$30,403  
Ms. Kristen Mastrogiovanni, \$30,403  
Mrs. Ann Pierce, \$28,333  
Mr. Scott Richenaker, \$28,333  
Mrs. Diana Topor, \$26,263  
Mrs. Jean Wyman, \$28,333

**PM-025 RESOLVED**, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves Mr. Joseph Verbaro, Treasurer of School Monies, at an annual salary of \$4,000 for the 2023-24 school year.

**PM-026 RESOLVED**, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following non-negotiated hourly support staff assignments/salaries for the 2023-24 school year:

Mrs. Schenone, Staff Assistant, \$26/hour, not to exceed 25 hours/week

Mrs. Hay, Cafeteria Aide, \$20.70/hour

Mrs. Clark, Cafeteria Aide, \$18.63/hour

**PM-027 RESOLVED**, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following:

Mr. Kwang Lee, leave replacement teacher for Middle School Math at an annual rate of \$55,150 BA/Step 1 prorated to \$19,578.25 effective March 14, 2023 through June 19, 2023.

**PM-028 RESOLVED**, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following:

Ms. Isabella Lord Martin, MHS senior, to observe classroom instruction from May 10 - June 7, 2023, 9 am – 1 pm Monday through Friday.

**PM-029 RESOLVED**, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools approves the following assignment/salary for the Extended School Year Program Monday, July 3 through Friday July 7 (Closed Tuesday, July 4); July 10 through July 27, 2023 (Monday-Thursday) from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Ms. Allison Duggan, teacher, at per diem hourly as per the negotiated 2023/24 HTEA salary guide.

**PM-030 RESOLVED**, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the reappointment of the following Business Administrator contract: Mr. John Jennings, Business Administrator/Board Secretary at an annual rate of \$118,000 effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

**Roll call vote:**

**AYES:** *Mr. Davor Gjivoje, Dr. Alex Anastasiou, Mr. Richard Bruno, Mrs. Melissa Krikos*

**Absent:** *Mr. Abi Singh*

**XI. HEARING OF PUBLIC REGARDING (Agenda and non-Agenda Items- Policy 0167)**

**MOTION** to open public comments regarding agenda and non-Agenda items presented by Dr. Anastasiou and seconded by Mrs. Krikos, unanimously approved at 8:17 p.m.

No Public Comments

**MOTION** to close public comments regarding agenda and non-Agenda items presented by Mr. Bruno and seconded by Mrs. Krikos, unanimously approved at 8:18 p.m.

**XII. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS – No Comments**

**XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION – No Executive Session Held**

**MOTION** presented by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ to enter Executive Session at \_\_\_\_\_.

**Be It Resolved**, that the Harding Township Board of Education will convene into Executive Session in

full compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.; and the minutes of the discussion of any of these items will be available to the public when such minutes have been approved by the Board pursuant to N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1.1.

Mr. Davor Gjivoje \_\_\_\_\_ Dr. Alex Anastasiou \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Abi Singh \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Richard Bruno \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Melissa Krikos \_\_\_\_\_

**XIV. RETURN to PUBLIC SESSION – No Executive Session Held**

**MOTION** presented by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ to return to Public Session at \_\_\_\_\_.

Mr. Davor Gjivoje \_\_\_\_\_ Dr. Alex Anastasiou \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Abi Singh \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Richard Bruno \_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Melissa Krikos \_\_\_\_\_

**XV. OTHER BOARD BUSINESS - None**

**XVI. ADJOURN**

**MOTION** presented by Mr. Bruno and seconded by Dr. Anastasiou to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.

**AYES:** Mr. Davor Gjivoje, Dr. Alex Anastasiou, Mr. Richard Bruno, Mrs. Melissa Krikos

**Absent:** Mr. Abi Singh

Respectively Submitted,



John Jennings

Business Administrator/Board Secretary