

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOROUGH OF NORTH HALEDON**

Minutes

Special Meeting

April 13, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

TIME: 7:34

Location: Memorial School

Michelle Melone led the Flag Salute.

Mr. Coffaro did Roll Call. Dr. Badami, Mrs. Contegiacomo, Mrs. DeNova, Mrs. Lampe, Mrs. Lacognata, Mr. Ten Kate, Mr. Valenti, and Mrs. Melone. All were present with exception of Mrs. Contegiacomo who arrived late at 8:04 pm.

Others Present were Mr. Coffaro, Superintendent of Schools/Acting Board Secretary and Mrs. Viola Lordi, Board Attorney.

Michelle Melone read the OPEN PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE:

In accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, the North Haledon Board of Education has issued notice of this meeting to be publicized by having the date, time and location of the meeting posted at the North Haledon Municipal Building and Memorial and High Mountain Schools and mailed to The Hawthorne Press, which has been designated as the Board's official newspaper, and to The Star Ledger, alternate newspaper. Notice was also filed with the Borough Clerk and will be sent to those persons requesting that such notice be mailed to them.

Superintendent's Comments: Mr. Coffaro welcomed everyone back. He stated the he did receive word that our 2016/2017 budget was approved by the county. Mr. Coffaro is also hosting Coffee and Convo with the Superintendent at Memorial School at 7:30 pm to discuss the budget. There was no bidder for the Sale to Lease April 6th deadline so a new deadline has been set. Candidates for the vacancy deadline has passed and there are 4 candidates.

Committee Discussion:

Technology-Scott Hlavacek stated that out current server is not very robust and has a lackluster performance. North Haledon has 1 servr for both schools. The possibility of a new server was discussed and current server would be moved to HMS to serve as disaster recovery. Virtual Desktop Capability (VDI) would cost \$90,000 and cost for new Dell server would be \$6500. Another option is to upgrade current server. This would cost approximately \$3000 with the server life span about 4 years. The Private Fiber Network was built by the county. The network has been open for about 4 years. They are offering high speed internet. The installation would be about \$5000 per building and \$500 per month for high speed internet. It is in our town and currently at the police department.

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Mr. Coffaro thanked Scott and Fernando. Feedback on both individuals has been positive and Fernando Hache has been an excellent addition to the schools.

In March there were 40 tickets opened. Two are still pending (one was a chromebook sent out to repair and under warranty. The other is a laptop that needs a new battery. Fernando is acquiring prices. In April, so far, there have been 14 tickets opened.

PARCC is underway and running smoothly.

All grade levels have met with Mrs. Mazzola to review expectations of using school email. Grades 7 and 8 have passwords. We are in the process of locking accounts without permission in grades 5 and 6 prior to sending out passwords. These will be releases this week.

BOE Facebook and Twitter accounts can be established easily. A webmaster will need to be designated that will need to update the accounts.

Facilities- Mr. Mullanaphey addressed the light issue in the gymnasium at Memorial School and repair would be done hopefully next Wednesday. Citronella ants have returned this year but in a much larger swarm. Many classrooms are affected. Alliance Pest Control will provide a more intense approach. Lower level rooms will be sprayed Thursday, April 14, 2016 at 4:15 pm. The 2nd floor girls bathroom was repaired at Memorial. There were 4 leaky toilets and the gaskets were repaired. The AC unit in the server room is in need of repair. An estimate of \$6500 was received to replace the unit. Most likely the unit will need to be replaced every 5 years. Security numbers were installed outside on the 2nd floor thanks to the North Haledon DPW. The tire swing was repaired and the part for the walk the plank is ordered. Hawthorne Water picked up samples on Tuesday, 4/5/16. The water is being tested for lead. Results should be in around April 20th. Due to the fact that Memorial is a new school no issues are expected. Water testing is recommended each month.

High Mountain School also conducted water testing by New Wave Environmental on Wednesday, 4/13/16. Results also should be in by 4/20. Again due to the fact that the piping was recently all redone, no issues are expected to arise. AN estimate of \$52,850 was received for the purchase of a new bus. Our current bus runs on diesel fuel and the new one would run on regular fuel which is easier service. It is recommended that the bus be upgraded to a 20 passenger for easier wheelchair capacity. An estimate to clean both schools over the summer was received \$19,837. All classrooms and offices are cleaned and rugs are shampooed. Associated Fire Protection inspected all fire extinguishers and wet chemical system and all passed.

Mr. Coffaro thanked Mr. Mullanaphey for his service to the North Haledon School District who will sadly be leaving North Haledon on April 30th.

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Personnel- There were three candidates for the Nurse position. The chosen candidate will be approved by the BOE on April 27th with a start date of May 10th. The Custodial position hasn't been filled yet and a candidate is still being

decided upon. RICE letters for all non-tenure teachers will occur prior to the April 27th BOE meeting. Administrative team will meet with Mr. Coffaro regarding staffing. The Administrative Team will also meet with the Personnel Committee prior to BOE meeting as well.

Curriculum- New legislation (which passed) prohibited standardized, commercial testing in grades K-2. This would include Terra Nova and InView Testing. InView Testing cannot be given in grade 2 but will be given in grade 3 now. A benchmark will be utilized instead which the district is in the process of creating. The benchmark we will be working off of is the NJ Model Curriculum Assessments and be given in grades K-3. This benchmark can also be utilized for BSI criteria as well. Once it is complete, it will be shared with teams and administered in early June. The good news is that this will reduce the cost of testing since we already have the books on hand. The only things needed to be purchased are answer sheets and scoring of assessments.

The PD Day in June (24th - full day) will be a workshop for Grant Writing. Information is still being gathered and the Curriculum Committee will meet prior to April 27th BOE meeting.

We are still waiting for science materials from Houghton Mifflin and Discovery Education, as well as Harcourt, for staff and administration to review..

Finance- The 2016/2017 budget was approved by the county at a meeting that Mr. Coffaro had with Mr. Davis and Mrs. Merlino. The budget presentation will occur on April 26, 2016.

The Sale to Lease bidding opened on April 6. We did receive one bid, but it was dropped. The next bid date is April 26th. In the meantime, we did receive a bid from PCIA and USBancorp on April 11th. We are currently awaiting Dennis Balodis and Hunterdon Group as to the structuring of the plan/agreement since we will be acting on this bid. We are awaiting final details on this agreement. A follow up will be provided to the community once the BOE receives the specifics.

Policy- Policy Committee will meet before the next BOE meeting in April regarding changes in policy.

Public Relations- There were four candidates for the vacant BOE seat. The deadline has passed. Letters will be sent out to the four candidates who will interview in public as a panel. The panel interview will be held on May 4 at 6pm in the HMS library. A candidate will be appointed that night but not sworn in that night.

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Mr. Coffaro will be hosting Coffee and Conversation with the community on Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at Memorial School Gym at 7:30pm to discuss budget questions and other concerns. Mrs. Merlino will be present as well.

The BA opening has not been filled yet. Mr. Coffaro did receive two suggestions from Mr Davis. They are both retired and would serve as interim.

Representatives' Reports: Will be given at next BOE meeting

Petition of Citizens – opened at 8:32 pm

Motion to Open the floor: Lucy DeNova
Second: Heather LaCognata
Vote: 9-0

Tony Griffo, 10 Onyx Court, wondered why the 32 page budget was removed from website. (Mr. Coffaro will place it back up). Mr. Griffo liked the Coffee and Convo with the community.

George Pomnianek, 64 Moccasin Road, congratulated Mr. Coffaro and the BOE of getting the 16/17 budget approved by the county. He questioned why budget questions couldn't be answered tonight. He also stated that he would have liked a print out of the budget. (Resources are depleted.) He also stated that the town council budget meeting will be approved tomorrow at 9 am.

Motion to Close the Floor: Renate Lampe at 8:47 pm
Second: Dorothy Contegiacomo
Vote: 9-0

Old/New Business:

ADJORN TO CLOSED SESSION:

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WHEREAS, P.L. 1975, chapter 231, also known as the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.), authorizes a public body to meet in closed or executive session under certain limited circumstances (set forth at N.J.S.A. 10:4-12) and

WHEREAS, said law (at N.J.S.A. 10:4-13) requires the Board of Education to adopt a resolution at a public meeting before it can meet in such a closed or executive session.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NORTH HALEDON BOARD OF EDUCATION AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Board does hereby determine that it is necessary to meet in closed session prior to adjournment of this meeting to:
 - a. Discuss negotiations with the North Haledon Education Association and
 - b. Receive attorney advice regarding (i) the pending arbitration matter with the North Haledon Education Association, (ii) the pending water bill issue involving the Manchester Utilities Authority and (iii) a student-related matter.
2. The matters discussed in closed session will be made public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.
3. No action will be taken when the Board of Education reopens its public meeting.

PRIVATE SESSION

Motion: Heather LaCognata
Second: Dorothy Contegiacomo
Time: 8:40 pm
Vote: 9-0

Re-open Public Meeting

Motion: Second:
Time: Vote:

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Second:
Time: Vote: