

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOROUGH OF NORTH HALEDON**

Minutes – Special Meeting

May 14, 2015

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CALL TO ORDER

TIME: 7:34pm

Location: Memorial School

Flag Salute

Roll Call

Mrs. DeNova, Mr. Gorga, Mr. Jordan, Mrs. Melone, Mr. Valenti,
Mrs. Contegiacomo and Mrs. Antropow

Absent:

Mrs. Lampe, Mrs. Koblick

Other Present:

Mr. Coffaro, Superintendent, Mrs. Viola Lordi, Esq., Mrs. Mioli,
Bus. Admin/Bd. Secr.

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, January 13, 2015, which has been designated as the Board's official newspaper and to The Star Ledger, alternate newspapers. Notice was also filed with the Borough Clerk and will be sent to those persons requesting that such notice be mailed to them.

Communications:

The following was distributed to the board members:

- Hawthorne Boys & Girls Club 5th Annual Cruise for Kids Invitation
- Strauss Esmay Seminar information and registration

Petition of Citizens

Mrs. Antropow, Board President, explained that there will be three minute limit on

Motion to Open the Floor: Mr. Jordan

Second: Mrs. Contegiacomo

Vote: 7-0

Mrs. Amy Spalt asked for an explanation on what will be happening in the library without a librarian/media specialist. Mr. Coffaro responded that the media center will be open for service. It will be utilized as reinforcement and an extension of the classroom.

Mrs. Aspalt inquired as to when the students will visit the library. Mr. Coffaro responded that the principals will work with the teachers on scheduling the students attending the library.

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Mrs. Spalt expressed her concern over the students receiving library/media instruction.

Mr. Coffaro agreed but his concerns are global. The needs will be met and not abbreviated.

Mrs. Spalt offered information on an electronic petition that was distributed last evening.

Mr. Coffaro explained that any decision made is on the best interest of the students. He asked “Why have the position?”

Mrs. Jessica Walsh – Why have the position? Are the teachers certified to bring the students into the media center? To teach everything the media specialist is certified to do? Mrs. Walsh would like to make sure that the students receiving the same education.

Mr. Coffaro responded to Mrs. Walsh’s concern. He has both education and fiscal responsibilities. Goal is to make the best decision with the money we have.

?? Is this going on at both schools? Mr. Coffaro responded that there is no specialist at High Mountain.

Mrs. Primavera asked the following: why the High Mountain School librarian was not abolished like the Memorial School librarian is. Where is the budget money going? How is the money being utilized? 8th grade graduation is inside, not outside? We hear it is funding? If the 8th grade had money, could it be outside? Dress code – 8th grade is being called upon because shorts are too short. She sighted the district’s policy and the items that should not be done – unusual hair styles, colors and shapes. Are students being with different colored hair are they being suspended until their hair is returned back to natural color.

Mr. Coffaro responded that it is nice to see the support. Unfortunately there are topics that I cannot provide an answered that you may want to hear.

Mr. Coffaro stated that he cannot responded to the personnel related concerns on Mrs. Primavera. He suggested that she reach out to the building principal regarding her concerns on the dress code and hair color.

The funding has not been cut the budget still support the media center.

Graduation, financially is a stretch. The cost to have the graduation outside is over \$6000, an inside graduation is \$1700.

Mrs, Primavera asked again is fund were to be raised. Mr,. Coffaro suggested that she meet.

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Mrs. Mannino, 8 Cranbury Court. By not having a library what example are we setting for students? How is reading being promoted? She applauded Mrs. Macalle for her work in the media center.

Heather Davidson bid money at the tricky tray, so that her son can be librarian for the day. Her son who couldn't read, read to third graders. To target one large sum and abolish it all. The board needs to reconsider and reevaluate taking Mrs. Macalle's job.

Mrs. Tanis read a letter from Mrs. Lisa Neilson, on behalf of the aides, Lisa Donnelly, Patty Morreale and Cheryl D'Andrea.

Mrs. Padulla, parent of a 10 year old student, presented child's letter which was read by Ms. Tanis. Mrs. Padulla also asked why there was a \$100,000 budget cut to special education services and \$80,000 to remedial services.

Mr. Coffaro stated that all needs will be met.

Ms. Anita Kocevski, special education teacher, feel strongly about the aides situation. Ms. Kocevski wanted to acknowledge the paraprofessional and make sure that they all know that they are appreciated.

Mr. Joe Mannino stated that it seems like a decision has been made on the media center. Mrs. Antropow stated that there has been no vote and the board will be discussing and will seek attorney advice during executive session. Mr. Mannino asked that there be more specifics before voting to abolishing something. Understand how board will implement and keep up the standards with a reduction in staff.

Janelle Feather feels disappointed that this is the first she is hearing about the changes.

Danielle Forest asked that the media specialist must be state certified with a master degree. Does not matter what carpet the students sit on, it matters who teachers them. The students need instruction, they need assistance in finding books. How do we afford Michele Mazzola and not Ms. Macalle?

Ms. Brown stated how wonderful, special and appreciated the aides are.

Mrs. Forest questioned the role of Ms. Mazzola. Mr. Coffaro responded that the position is a supervisory position, better balances the administrative responsibilities.

Karen Mernamin enjoys Mr. Coffaro's coffee and Conversation. She asked about the smart boards working. Is the problem been fixed? Mr. Coffaro reported that the boards are being repaired and fixed. She asked where can we get the money if the BOE doesn't have it? Does anyone know?

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Nadine Adverso the changes that are happening are effecting our children. How much less are we getting from the State? Why is this happening this year? Is it coming from the State?

Mr. Coffaro explained that it is hard to function as a school when you are not getting the funding from the State. Special education drives it. Unfunded mandates. We are trying to form partnerships with universities, other districts. We are trying to find ways to close the gap, maintain excellence.

Mr. Gorga asked isn't personnel speaking about the person, not the position and the programing. We have to be able to say something. He tries to be fair. Wants to make clear that we don't work for you, we represent you, we fight for you. He is having a hard time sitting at table, respect the law and he respect Mrs. Lordi, board attorney.

Mrs. Lordi, Board Attorney, responded that the board can speak about positions, answer the public questions, we are not here to speak about people.

Programing is not a person. A person is being taken out of a room due to programing.

Mr. Gorga feels that there are so many questions here and he feels nothing is being put back out there.

Mr., Coffaro state we are not sweeping, we do have a position to bolster the educational needs of the classroom.

Mr. Brian Reneri understands that there are budgetary limitations. He questions the cut to the library/media center.

Mrs. Antropow asked the audience what other areas, specials, would you cut? There are so many areas that need to be looked at.

Heather Davison suggested that the proceeds from the book sale go towards Ms. Macalle's salary.

Janelle Feather asked that the board look at other options before making a decision. Parents need to understand what people do.

Brian Murphy reduction in staff or programs is not best for our students.

Michelle Manning asked about the position of the aides. Will experience be taken into account when the aides re-apply for positions?

Mrs. Primavera spoke about her experience working in the media center and Ms. Macalle.

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A parent expressed opinion based on the conversation this evening, the vote should not take place this evening. She asks that the board wait and take into consideration what was said this evening. She does not want her child to attend a school with no library.

Mrs. Kozinski asked what enrichment is occurring each day? Mr. Coffaro responded. He also asked that the parent reach out to the building principal.

Marco Alliano asked if the board cannot reach an agreement this evening, would the budget be reconsidered as to what programs would be cut? Trying to follow the process. Mr. Antropow explained the process.

Mrs. Ginny Groenwal, district aide, expressed that the library is awesome, the children love it, it is so huge for the children to come to the library.

Several other parents and community members, Mrs. Rose, Mrs. Lega, expressed their concerns over the library/media center.

Mrs. Morano asked about the playground being taped off. Mrs. Mioli explained we are waiting on the delivery of playground mulch.

Mrs. Antropow addressed Mrs. Lega's concerns. We hope that more people come to the board members. Typically the public would address the board president and Superintendent. The public comments do matter to the whole board.

Motion to Close the Floor: Mr. Gorga

Second: Mrs. Contegiacomo

Vote: 7-0

Executive Session:

WHEREAS, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, also known as the Open Public Meetings Act, authorizes a public body to meet in executive or private session under certain limited circumstances, and

WHEREAS, said law requires the board to adopt a resolution at a public meeting before it can meet in such an executive or private session,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NORTH HALEDON BOARD OF EDUCATION THAT:

1. It does hereby determine that it is necessary to meet in Executive Session prior to adjournment of this meeting for purposes of :

- a. To discuss and receive attorney advice on matters pertaining to personnel.

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2. The matters discussed will be made public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.
3. Action will be taken.

PRIVATE SESSION

Motion: Mr. Jordan

Second: Mrs. Contegiacomo

Time: 9:06PM

Vote: 7-0

Adjourn to Public Session:

Motion: Mr. Jordan

Second: Mr. Gorga

Time: 10:25 PM

Vote: 7-0

New Business

Finance:

The Finance Committee recommends the following motions for approval by the Board.

Motion: Mr. Jordan

Second: Mrs. Contegiacomo

Vote: 7-0

1. Approval of the proposed 2015-2016 School District Budget

BE IT RESOLVED that the North Haledon Board of Education adopt the budget for 2015-2016 School Year as follows:

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Local Tax Levy</u>
Total General Fund:	\$ 9,413,202	\$ 8,832,095
Total Special Revenue Fund:	\$ 201,563	\$ 0
Total Debt Service:	\$ 1,471,487	\$ 1,471,487
Totals:	\$11,086,252	\$ 10,303,582

Personnel:

The Personnel Committee recommends the following motions for approval by the Board.

Motion: Mrs. Contegiacomo

Second: Mr. Jordan

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Discussion:

Mrs. Contegiacomo asked that Mr. Coffaro elaborate on his plan for the future.

Mr. Coffaro shared that the budget was presented in April and he shared the districts plan moving forward. It is about proactive planning which results in positive student results. You want to do what you can to maintain and to also take district to the next level. It is not just about the students, it is also about teachers in the classroom.

Mr. Coffaro reviewed the budget goals. We need to make the best of it with what we have.

Mrs. Contegiacomo publically thanked Mrs. Mioli, thanked her for all of her hard work.

Vote: Mrs. DeNova resolutions 1-4 – yes, 5- no, Mr. Gorga resolutions 1-4 – yes, 5- no
Mr. Jordan resolutions 1-5 – Yes, Mrs. Melone resolutions 1-5 – Yes, Mr. Valenti
resolutions 1-5 – Yes, Mrs. Contegiacomo resolutions 1-5 – Yes and Mrs. Antropow
resolutions 1-5 – Yes

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves motions: 1) Administrative Staff Appointments and the Acknowledgement of Salaries for the 2015-2016 School Year as listed on Appendix B; 2) Resignation of Business Administrator/Board Secretary; 3) Appointment of Long Term Substitute Teacher – Mr. Guy Pomante; 4) Appointment of Long Term Substitute – Miss Jennifer Pierson-Lo Campo; 5) Reduction in Force of the Library/Media Center Position

1) Administrative Staff Appointments and the Acknowledgement of Salaries for the 2015-2016 School Year as listed on Appendix B

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves the Administrative Staff Appointments and the Acknowledgement of Salaries for the 2015-2016 school year, July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016, as listed on Appendix B.

*Salaries subject to an adjustment at the conclusion of negotiations between the North Haledon Board of Education and the North Haledon Administrators and Supervisors Association.

2) Resignation of Business Administrator/Board Secretary

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby accepts the resignation of Audrey Mioli, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, effective June 30, 2015.

3) Appointment of Long Term Substitute Teacher – Mr. Guy Pomante

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby appoints Mr. Guy Pomante as a long term substitute for physical education, from May 4, 2015 through June 12, 2015, at a substitute rate of \$100 per day.

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4) Appointment of Long Term Substitute – Miss Jennifer Pierson-Lo Campo

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby appoints Miss Jennifer Pierson-Lo Campo as a long term substitute for Mrs. Dana Tinari, from May 18, 2015 through the last day of school June 24, 2015, at a substitute rate of \$100 per day.

5) Reduction in Force of the Library/Media Center Position

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:28-9 authorizes any board of education to reduce the number of teaching 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; and

WHEREAS, North Haledon Board of Education Policy No. 3112 (Abolishing Positions) states, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:28-9, that “[t]he Board of Education reserves the right to abolish positions and reduce district staff commensurately whenever reasons of economy, reorganization of the school district, reduction in the number of pupils or other good cause so warrant; and

WHEREAS, North Haledon Board of Education Policy 3146 (Conduct of Reduction in Force) states, in part, that “[w]hen teaching staff member positions have been abolished, in accordance with Board Policy No. 3112, the Board of Education will transfer and/or dismiss affected teaching staff members as required by law[;]” and

WHEREAS, for reasons of economy based upon the authority referenced above, and information provided by the Superintendent of Schools and the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, the North Haledon Board of Education deems it necessary to abolish the position of Media Specialist in the North Haledon School District.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the North Haledon Board of Education as follows:

1. The position of Media Specialist in the North Haledon School District is hereby abolished effective as of July 1, 2015 for reasons of economy.
2. As a result of the aforesaid reduction in force, the Board further approves the transfer of teaching staff member Stephanie Macalle to the position of teacher at Memorial School, effective July 1, 2015.
3. The Superintendent of Schools shall promptly notify the affected employee of the employee’s employment status resulting from this reduction in force.
4. The Superintendent of Schools and the Business Administrator/Board Secretary are hereby authorized and directed to take all necessary action to implement this action of the Board of Education.

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ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Mrs. Contegiacomo
Time: 10:50pm

Second: Mr. Gorga
Vote: 7-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Audrey Mioli, RSBA
Board Secretary