

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
HELD ON JUNE 12, 2013  
HAMILTON TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Mays Landing, New Jersey  
William Davies Middle School Library**

The Special Meeting of the Hamilton Township Board of Education was called to order at 6:02 p.m. in the Michael H. Duberson Memorial Library at the Davies Middle School by Dr. Anne Erickson, President. **Call To Order**

Dr. Erickson led the Pledge of Allegiance. **Pledge of Allegiance**

**ANNUAL NOTICE OF MEETING**

This meeting is being held in compliance with the Sunshine Law, having been advertised in the Press of Atlantic City and the Atlantic County Record and a notice posted with the Township Clerk on the Bulletin Board at the following locations: Mizpah Social Services Center, Mizpah Post Office, Mays Landing Post Office, Atlantic County Library as well as all the schools of the district.

The following members answered roll call: Mr. Eric Aiken, Mrs. Peggy Capone, Mrs. Amelia Francis, Mrs. Barbara Kupp, Mr. John Sacchinelli, and Dr. Anne Erickson **Roll Call**

Members Absent: Mr. Carl Anderson

Also present were: Dr. Michelle Cappelluti, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Daniel Smith, Board Secretary  
Mr. Louis Greco, Solicitor

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**BOARD MEMBER CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS**

Dr. Erickson asked the rest of the Board if they would like the candidates to stay in the room or wait in the lobby. Mr. Greco informed the Board that the candidates did not have to wait outside if they did not want to, but he was hopeful they would be respectful of the Board's wishes and the other candidates. Dr. Erickson, after asking the Board, asked the candidates to wait in the lobby during the interviews.

Mr. Smith will ask each candidate the four pre-determined questions (the questions are attached to the minutes).

**George Hassa** was the first candidate to interview. He stated that he has an interest in the community and the education of our students. He will support the students of the district and will make sure the curriculum supports those students.

**Q1** Mr. Hassa feels he is a good problem solver and will produce solutions that will be favorable for everyone involved.

**Q2** He has read over information on the NJSBA website and will try to shape policy for the superintendent to follow.

**Q3** He has been involved with the Hamilton Township Soccer Club, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts and the Cedar Creek Educational Engineering Advisory Committee. Was in alpha phi omega in college and stayed on after graduating college. Mr. Hassa was involved as an advisory to committees, and was also the President and Treasurer. He has a good leadership background.

**Q4** Yes, understands that it could involve up to 50 hours a month.

Mr. Hassa has a BA in engineering and a MA in computer science. He works with many different people. He helps in high pressure, crisis situations. He has two children and has been involved in the classroom. He feels that students should be involved in science.

Mrs. Kupp asked Mr. Hassa what he feels the district does very well. Mr. Hassa responded that he feels the district provides a good education to the children. Mrs. Kupp asked if he feels there is anything that needs attention. Mr. Hassa responded that he has an open mind and will look at the facts before making a decision.

6:15 p.m.: Kim Melton entered.

Dr. Erickson asked Mr. Hassa how he would feel if the union was present. Mr. Hassa responded that he does not have an issue with it. He thinks the teachers are entitled to a good wage, but would want to look at the financial data.

Mr. Aiken asked Mr. Hassa if he was related to anyone in the District. Mr. Hassa responded that he is not.

Dr. Erickson asked Mr. Hassa what he would change on the Board if he were chosen. Mr. Hassa did not feel there was anything he would change. He feels the Board has had a lot of discussion and this is good.

Mr. Sacchinelli asked Mr. Hassa if he were selected, would he want to be

sworn in this evening. Mr. Hassa stated that he did not have any issues with being sworn in at this meeting.

**Stephanie Buchanan** stated that she decided one and a half years ago that she wanted her children to have a worthwhile experience in school. She has been very active in the PTA and she took part in the program presented by Andrea Lawful-Trainer. She has been volunteering at Shaner and is the PTA representative for the school.

**Q1** Mrs. Buchanan has an education in the medical/technical field. She stated that she looks at the best way to get things done. She has taken on a lot of projects at work. She feels she has good patient relation skills. She is a very “hands on” person and is always volunteering her time.

**Q2** Mrs. Buchanan would be open to the community, parents and teachers, and would make sure the process runs well. She feels that being part of the PTA is important. She understands the Board has many concerns, but ultimately everything comes down to supporting parents, teachers and students.

**Q3** She is an active member of the PTA and volunteers her time with the Hamilton Township Education Foundation. She has a program for schools which offers two hours of hands on experience with horses for students. Takes part in fundraisers for the Education Foundation.

**Q4** When asked if she was aware of the time and training it took to be a board member, she stated she was aware. She said that she realizes she may need to be available two to three times per week for meetings.

Mrs. Kupp asked Mrs. Buchanan what she feels the district does well. Mrs. Buchanan stated that she feels the parent communication and parent relationships are great. She thinks that Kids Corner is great as well.

Mrs. Melton asked if she would be running on the ballot in November. Mrs. Buchanan responded that she would be.

Dr. Erickson asked how this candidate would handle the pressure of the union. Mrs. Buchanan stated that she has experienced similar issues at work, including layoffs. She has reduced staff and still managed to get the work done and have it done right. Mrs. Buchanan feels the teachers have to be aware of the present economy.

Mrs. Capone asked what skills Mrs. Buchanan feels she can bring to the Board. Mrs. Buchanan responded that she uses technology and she can work well with mechanical items. She feels she has great communication skills and works well with employees that she supervises. She runs her

own business and is a good teacher in her field. Mrs. Buchanan also stated that she is very timely.

Mr. Sacchinelli asked Mrs. Buchanan if she would be willing to be sworn in this evening if she were chosen. Mrs. Buchanan responded that she would be willing to do so.

Mr. Aiken asked if Mrs. Buchanan were related to anyone in the District. Mrs. Buchanan stated that she was not. She is from Egg Harbor Township and moved to that District 20 years ago.

**Ethel Gaylord** is very interested in being part of the school system. She was born and raised here and would like to help the District.

**Q1** Mrs. Gaylord feels she has fresh ideas. She is very active in the community working with children. She does have ideas for improving curriculum.

**Q2** She feels that her foremost goal as a Board member would be to focus on getting the best education for the children and prepare them for going out into the world. She feels that it is important to keep a balance with needs and finances. It is important to make sure we have quality teachers.

**Q3** Mrs. Gaylord has been Executive Director of Mizpah Inland Human Services for 23 years, and has social work experience. She is very involved in the community and instrumental in starting activities for children on the outskirts of Mays Landing. She has worked with parents on parenting skills and has worked with Atlantic County Corrections working with women. She worked as a teacher in Nigeria. Mrs. Gaylord has also been responsible for securing funding to run summer programs for children.

**Q4** Mrs. Gaylord understands that a lot of time is involved with being a Board member, and she is capable of attending all training sessions. She does have the time to give at this point in her life.

She would like to be considered for this position, as she likes working in a group. She feels it is important to have different opinions. Mrs. Gaylord would like to help come up with solutions to problems.

Mrs. Capone asked Mrs. Gaylord if she had any thoughts on the district's curriculum. Mrs. Gaylord responded that Hamilton Township is so diverse. She wants to make sure the curriculum can support all of our students.

Dr. Erickson would like to know how she would deal with union pressure.

Mrs. Gaylord responded that she feels the sub-committees should try to address the issues and communicate with the teachers. She feels it is best to be honest and to let the union know that the Board is doing the best that it can. It is important to find a way to find a happy medium.

Mrs. Kupp asked what she feels the District does well. Mrs. Gaylord responded that the District tries to present activities to help the educational growth of our children. Schools try to keep a balance and she thinks the district makes an honest effort to meet the needs of the children.

Mrs. Capone asked if Mrs. Gaylord was planning to run on the ballot in November. Mrs. Gaylord responded that she was.

Mrs. Sacchinelli asked if she would be willing to be sworn in this evening if chosen. Mrs. Gaylord responded that she would.

**Harry Rogers** feels that community service is important. He has been involved with Township Council and has helped to make changes. He feels the school board is similar.

**Q1** Mr. Rogers has an MA in Finance and he has 22 years of operational managerial experience in a managerial position. He has experience in working with unions, union contracts. Mr. Rogers has experience in the types of business elements completed by the Board.

**Q2** Mr. Rogers feels it is important to be able to analyze information put in front of you. You have to have some activism and take part in schools and finances.

**Q3** He has been involved with the Boy Scouts. He has volunteered at St. Vincent de Paul School and teaches Introduction to Economics to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. He participates in the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

**Q4** Mr. Rogers stated that he is aware of the time and commitment of being a Board member.

On his resume, he stated that he was a ship captain for six years. He has participated on policy making committees at the national level. He feels he brings a different aspect to the board. He is employed in the private sector and does not rely on the public sector.

Mrs. Capone asked Mr. Rogers how he would analyze information as a Board member. Mr. Rogers responded that he would have to look to see where the money is budgeted and where it is being spent. He would like to see what the Board is buying. He feels motivated to look at finances.

Mrs. Kupp asked what he feels is one thing the district does well. Mrs. Rogers responded that he was very involved in this school when his children were here. He feels that the discipline needs improvement. There are superb teachers, but he sees a lack of support of the teachers.

Mr. Sacchinelli asked Mr. Rogers if he would be willing to be sworn in this evening if he were chosen. Mr. Rogers responded that he would defer to the Board.

Mr. Aiken asked Mr. Rogers what things he would like to see changed in the District. Mr. Rogers stated that he would start with the Solicitor. He feels that the Board has received bad advice over the years.

Mr. Aiken asked if he was related to anyone in the District. Mr. Rogers responded that he was not.

Dr. Erickson asked Mr. Rogers what he feels he could bring to the Board to generate consensus and have the Board work as a team. Mr. Rogers responded that he has to work with various agencies and people throughout the day and he would not change as a Board member.

Mrs. Melton asked Mr. Rogers if he is on the ballot for the November election. Mr. Rogers stated that he was.

**Marla Caldwell** has lived in Mays Landing for 30 years and has four children who have gone through the school system. She has had great experiences with teachers. She understands that not everything is perfect. She has worked for a veterinary hospital for 24 years and has supervised employees. She likes to fix things and is a community mediator for the Atlantic County Court System. She feels it is time to give back to the community.

**Q1** Mrs. Caldwell feels she is good at seeing all sides of the situation. She feels there has to be a balance, and she can provide that balance.

**Q2** Mrs. Caldwell feels it is important for the Board to be in charge of the budget and curriculum, and to support the parents and the students.

**Q3** Mrs. Caldwell is a CASA volunteer and she works with the Food Bank in Pleasantville.

**Q4** Mrs. Caldwell stated that she is aware of the time it takes to be a Board member. She has been reading a lot of the material.

Mrs. Kupp asked what she feels is the one thing the District does well.

Mrs. Caldwell responded that she has been out of the system, but thinks teacher/parent relationships are good and everything is done for the kids.

Dr. Erickson asked Mrs. Caldwell how she would deal with the pressure of the union. Mrs. Caldwell responded that there has to be a balance. We have to realize that we are in it together.

Mr. Sacchinelli asked Mrs. Caldwell if she would be willing to be sworn in tonight if she were chosen for the position. Mrs. Caldwell responded that it would be fine.

Mrs. Melton asked if she would be on the ballot in November and Mrs. Caldwell responded that she would be.

The Board took a short recess at 7:25 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

**Kristina Carr** (via telephone) has lived in the Mays Landing area for 13 years and has been involved in volunteering her time. The teacher's negotiations have made her interested in being a school board member. She feels she would contribute and help keep things moving forward.

**Q1** Mrs. Carr feels she has good organization skills and money management skills. She is a project manager for the FAA and works closely with various individuals on a regular basis.

**Q2** She feels as a Board member it is important to work for the betterment of the children and the community. She feels it is important to move the district forward, but to keep the children in mind.

**Q3** Mrs. Carr is the program director for a non-profit organization in Atlantic City that offers enrichment for students. She is a member of Jack and Jill, Inc. which helps the development of cultural enrichment in children. She is involved in various community activities.

**Q4** Mrs. Carr is aware of the meeting schedule. She understands there is also committee meetings involved.

Mrs. Carr is involved with many organizations and has an extensive professional background; which she feels would be a good fit for this position. She is familiar with Roberts Rules of Order.

Dr. Erickson asked Mrs. Carr what she feels is the one thing the district does well. Mrs. Carr feels that the special needs programs are good. She sees good services provided and a commitment by the teachers.

Dr. Erickson asked if she were related to anyone in the District. Mrs. Carr responded that she was not.

Dr. Erickson then asked what are thoughts were on improving the Board. Mrs. Carr responded that the Board could possibly incorporate answers to questions asked by the public during the public meetings.

Dr. Erickson asked Mrs. Carr if she would be on the ballot in November and Mrs. Carr responded that she would not be. She understood it was a three year commitment and did not feel she could commit 100% for that amount of time.

Dr. Erickson also asked how she would handle the pressure of the union. Mrs. Carr responded that she thinks everyone is in this together. Everyone wants what is best for the District. It is important to communicate and understand the process.

Mrs. Capone asked about her position as a Project Manager at FAA. Mrs. Carr responded that she is a project manager for research activities for aviation. She works with contractors on each task.

Mrs. Carr asked if a decision would be made tonight. Dr. Erickson told her that the Board did plan to appoint someone tonight.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motioned by Dr. Erickson, seconded by Mrs. Capone, to enter into executive session for discussion of Board candidates.

Resolved that pursuant to Sections 7 and 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, the public shall be excluded from that portion of the meeting involving discussion of Board candidates. Further resolved that the discussion of such subject matter in executive session can be disclosed to the public when formal action is taken on such subject matter or at any other appropriate time.

Roll Call Vote: All in favor: Mr. Aiken, Mrs. Capone, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. Kupp, Mrs. Melton, Mr. Sacchinelli, and Dr. Erickson.  
(7-0-0)

The Board entered into executive session at 8:00 p.m.

The Board reconvened the regular meeting at 8:23 p.m.

Motion by Dr. Erickson, seconded by Mr. Sacchinelli, to approve the following Motion as presented:

To approve George Hassa as the selected Board Candidate to serve on the unexpired term from June 25, 2013 through December 31, 2013.

Roll Call Vote: All in favor: Mr. Aiken, Mrs. Capone, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. Kupp, Mrs. Melton, Mr. Sacchinelli, and Dr. Erickson.  
(7-0-0)

Mrs. Capone thanked all of the candidates for their interest in the school board and is encouraged that they are all on the ballot for the November election. Mrs. Capone noted that she looks forward to their participation.

Mr. Sacchinelli thanked the candidates for their time and suggested that they attend the Board meetings leading up to the election.

At this time Mr. Smith administered the oath of office to the newly appointed Board Member, George Hassa.

Motion by Mr. Sacchinelli, seconded by Dr. Erickson, to approve the following Motion:

To approve George Hassa as the selected Board Candidate with an amended start date of June 12, 2013.

Roll Call Vote: All in favor: Mr. Aiken, Mrs. Capone, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. Kupp, Mrs. Melton, Mr. Sacchinelli, and Dr. Erickson.  
(7-0-0)

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motioned by Dr. Erickson, seconded by Mr. Aiken, to enter into executive session for discussion of legal matters.

Resolved that pursuant to Sections 7 and 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, the public shall be excluded from that portion of the meeting involving discussion of legal

matters. Further resolved that the discussion of such subject matter in executive session can be disclosed to the public when formal action is taken on such subject matter or at any other appropriate time.

Roll Call Vote: All in favor: Mr. Aiken, Mrs. Capone, Mrs. Francis, Mr. Hassa, Mrs. Kupp, Mrs. Melton, Mr. Sacchinelli, and Dr. Erickson. (8-0-0)

The Board entered into executive session at 8:35 p.m.

The Board reconvened the regular meeting at 9:36 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motioned by Dr. Erickson, seconded by Mr. Aiken, to adjourn the meeting.

Voice Vote: All in favor: (8-0-0)

The Hamilton Township Board of Education meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

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Daniel Smith  
Board Secretary