

**Hudson City School District  
Regular Board of Education Meeting  
Monday, March 27, 2017 – 6:30 p.m.  
Hudson Senior High School Library**

**Minutes Meeting #18**

A Regular Meeting of the Hudson City School District Board of Education was held on Monday, March 27, 2017 at the Hudson Senior High School, 215 Harry Howard Avenue, Hudson, NY.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The regular meeting was called to order by Maria McLaughlin at 6:30 p.m. with the following Board Members in attendance:

**PRESENT:**

- Maria McLaughlin, Board Vice President
- David Kisselburgh
- Sage Carter
- Sumayyah Shabazz
- Linda Hopkins
- Willette Jones
- Kamrul (Mohammed) Hassan, Student Representative (arrived 7:06 p.m.)

**ABSENT:**

Carrie Otty, Board President

**ALSO PRESENT:**

- |                                   |                            |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Superintendent                    | Dr. Maria Lagana Suttmeier |
| Coordinator of School Improvement | April Prestipino           |
| School Business Administrator     | Sharifa Carbon             |
| Clerk of the Board                | Leslie Coons               |

**COMMUNITY BUDGET WORKSHOP**

**Community Budget Workshop:** School Business Administrator, Sharifa Carbon, reviewed the process of developing the budget for 2017-2018:

- New York State Tax Cap Law
- State Aid Fluctuations
- Strategic investments needed to support Vision 2020 goals of social-emotional support and academic achievement
- Loss of State support for coming out of FOCUS
- End of Community Schools Grant
- Negotiations
- Cost of Employee Benefits ~ Retirement and Health
- Workers' Compensation Rate Increase & Deficit Balance
- Reserve Planning

Mrs. Carbon reviewed the tax cap calculation, explaining that the numbers start with the previous year's tax levy. The growth factor is the only number in the calculation that is required by law to be less than two percent. Mrs. Carbon showed a number of graphs illustrating the budgetary trends for the Hudson City School District. The current projected tax levy is 2.81%. Mrs. Carbon also presented an alternate tax level scenario of 2.49%, which would utilize the funds from the Claverack Building sale. Mrs. Carbon reiterated that the final number from the 17-18 budget would be the starting point for the 18-19 budget.

Dr. Suttmeier asked the board members to consider their options and have a final decision at the next board meeting. Since Board President, Carrie Otty, is absent, Dr. Suttmeier invited the Board Members to continue the discussion upon Mrs. Otty's return. Board Members were encouraged to email their questions and concerns regarding the two options.

**Acceptance of Agenda:** Board Vice President, Maria McLaughlin, made a motion to accept the board meeting agenda with the following addition: Board Member, Linda Hopkins, seconded the motion.

- Add Hand Carry 8J to the personnel agenda.

**Ayes – 6 Nays – 0**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**AGENDA  
ACCEPTED**

**Presentations:**

- A. Questar III is invited annually to a board meeting to discuss a topic of interest selected by the Board Members. This year, the Board Members, requested more information on the BOCES Services and Programs offered through Questar III. Mr. Harry Hadjioannou, Deputy Superintendent of Questar III, gave a history of Questar III.
- The changing landscape of Questar – 25 superintendents have been appointed in the component districts in the last 10 years.
  - New Questar III Appointments
  - Changes in Questar III Board Members, which are nominated and elected by the component districts.
  - Every Student Succeeds Act to replace No Child Left Behind Act and the coming changes not yet known.
  - Co-Ser services and the benefits to the component districts, but not every Co-Ser service is aidable.
  - Capital Project to build a new Rensselaer Educational Center. The budget is broken up between the participating component districts according to RWADA (the number of students in the Questar III districts).

Dr. Gladys Cruz answered questions and thanked the Board for inviting Questar III to present at the board meeting.

- B. Scott Preusser, of Raymond G. Preusser CPA, PC, reviewed the external audit for the Hudson City School District. A summary was handed out to the board members. Overall, Mr. Preusser reported the District is financially improving each year. No material weaknesses were found. Assets are increased. The fund balance has increased. Liabilities have decreased 2-1. Reserves are funded, which was not the case in 2014. Mr. Preusser also commended the School Lunch Program for its self-funding and profit.

**Student Representative Report:** Kamrul (Mohammad) Hassan, Student Representative, informed the Board Members of the following:

- The Class of 2019 continues to have their Cheesecake and Cookie Dough sale through April 3, 2017
- The Baseball Team is having a Flash Sale through April 3, 2017. Contact Mr. Bowes in the high school for more information.
- The Hudson High Robotics Team, Team 1665, ranked 5th out of 48 schools this last weekend at the National Competition. Schools from other countries also competed.
- The Hudson Varsity Club will be hosting a soccer tournament on April 7, 2017 at the high school. Teams are encouraged to join.
- "Footloose" will be performed by the High School Drama Club March 31 through April 2, 2017.
- Mrs. Wheeler accompanied students from the Writing Center to Liberty Con this past weekend. The Writing Center has begun working with the Underground Railroad History Project of the Capital Region and The Hudson Area Library to investigate the history of local involvement in the Underground Railroad and the Women's Suffrage Movement.
- Student Council hosted a Kindness Club Appreciation Lunch on March 21, 2017. The Kindness Club sells water and other healthy snacks for the Student Council in the school store. As a thank you, Student Council had the members of the Kindness Club join them for refreshments and board games and other activities.

**QUESTAR III  
PRESENTATION**

**EXTERNAL AUDIT  
PRESENTATION**

**STUDENT  
REPRESENTATIVE  
REPORT**

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT (continued)****Student Representative Report (continued):**

- The Varsity Club Volleyball Tournament is rescheduled for Thursday, April 27, 2017.
- Tracy Young, a milliner (also known as a lady's hat designer), will host the next Creative Career Pathways Luncheon on Tuesday, April 4, 2017.

**PERSONNEL AGENDA**

**Personnel Agenda:** Board Vice President, Maria McLaughlin, made a motion to accept Personnel Agenda items A through J. Board Member, Willette Jones, seconded the motion.  
**Ayes – 6 Nays – 0 MOTION CARRIED**

**OLD BUSINESS****Old Business:*****A. Policy Committee***

- Code of Conduct Review – Board Member reviewed pages 21 – 23 of the Code of Conduct and noted edits that needed to be changed or added. A Google doc will be shared amongst the board members.
- First Reading of Policy 4526 – Board Vice President, Maria McLaughlin, made a motion to waive the second reading of Policy 4526 and adopt the policy as amended with Policy 4526E as attached. Board Member, Sage Carter, seconded the motion.  
**Ayes – 6 Nays – 0 MOTION CARRIED**

**POLICY 4526 & 4526E****FACILITIES COMMITTEE UPDATE*****B. Facilities Committee***

Board Member, David Kisselburgh, reported the following:

- Phase I of the Capital Project will start on April 10, 2017 with the construction of a fence between the high school and the Firemen's Home.
- Phase II of the Capital Project is still at the State Ed waiting for approval. The timeline for approval is up to 29 weeks.
- The Grade 2 renovation at MCSIS is 60 percent complete. The unexpected snow storm caused a slight delay. Since the project is currently under budget, add-ons need to be prioritized. Air conditioning for the whole building is first on the list.
- Solar City has asked for an extension.
- The Committee is still working on the Building Use Policy. When the policy is final, a link to a fillable PDF application will be accessed on the website.

**PUBLIC FORUM****Public Forum:**

Mr. Steven Spicer, Principal of John L. Edwards Primary School, addressed the Board Members on the importance of hiring culturally diverse individuals as openings occur. Mr. Spicer named the organizations that he has personally contacted. He directly asked the Board Members if they would like his help with this endeavor. Board Members expressed their agreement in the importance of hiring a culturally diverse workforce. Dr. Suttmeier explained the District's current posting practices, which includes area colleges, and the OLAS site specifically for posting school openings. Dr. Suttmeier invited Mr. Spicer to meet with her to discuss his ideas.

**BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

**Business Administrator Report:** School Business Administrator, Sharifa Carbon, stated she had no other topics to discuss outside of the Budget Presentation and Mr. Preusser's External Audit presentation.

**SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT REPORT**

**Coordinator of School Improvement Report:** Coordinator of School Improvement, April Prestipino, reported the following:

- The District participated in Columbia County Professional Development Day on May 17, 2017. Faculty enjoyed collaborating with other district faculty. Mindfulness was the most popular offering. Science and Social Studies departments brainstormed on re-aligning curriculum.

**Coordinator of School Improvement (continued):**

- Next week is the Grade 3 – 8 English Language Arts testing. The testing will last for three days. Grade 3 – 8 Math will take place in May, so there will be a break in the testing.
- Concerted Effort presented a concert for student which was performed in two languages – English and Bengali. It was spectacular. This is the last year for Concerted Effort, as the couple is retiring.
- Every Student Succeeds Act has a lot of unknowns. There are rumors of eliminating Title II funds, which funds two teacher salaries and professional development for the District.

**SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT REPORT (continued)**

**SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

**Superintendent’s Report:** Dr. Suttmeier, Superintendent, reported on the following:

**A. Capital Project Update:**

- April 3, 2017 at 4 p.m. will be the Groundbreaking Ceremony for construction to begin for Phase I. Actual construction will start April 10 with inspections and setting up the construction site.
- A Grade 2 transition meeting was held today with Food Service, Transportation, Mr. Brenneman and George Keeler.

**CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE**

**B. General Updates:**

- A Bluehawk Parent Rally took place focusing on weapons and drug prevention in our schools. Attendance was hampered by weather difficulties. Another rally will be scheduled in the future, perhaps in conjunction with another event that already has parents out in the community.
- A letter was sent home to Grades 3 – 8 parents, explaining the purpose of the assessments in hopes of fewer refusals.
- The 2017-2018 School District Calendar is in the works. Discussions are taking place regarding the two extra snow days this year and whether to make up the days while keeping the April Spring Break intact. At the very least, the 2017-2018 calendar will hopefully have an additional snow day available.

**GENERAL UPDATES**

**C. Celebrating What’s Right:**

- The District has been publicly awarded My Brother’s Keeper in the second round. Dr. Suttmeier especially thanked ASP Coordinators for their advocacy and ideas on behalf of the District.
- The District has also been awarded another five-year block of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Schools Grant. The After School Program will remain funded by the grant.
- The Robotics Team competed internationally and came in fifth out of 48 teams. The loss in the semifinals still feels like a win given the enormity of the accomplishment.
- Night at the Races was a success again this year. Dr. Suttmeier thanked the Hudson Rotary Club for raising money for the McKinney Vento Homeless Program.

**CELEBRATING WHAT’S RIGHT**

**CONSENSUS AGENDA**

**Consensus Agenda:** Board Vice President, Maria McLaughlin, made a motion to accept consensus agenda items A through J. Board Member, Sage Carter, seconded the motion.

**BOARD MINUTES**

**Ayes – 6 Nays – 0**

**MOTION CARRIED**

- A. Be it Resolved, that the Board of education accepts Board Meeting Minutes #16, dated February 27, 2017, pages 3772-775, as attached.
- B. Be it Resolved, that the Board of Education accepts the External Audit Reports and Corrective Action Plans for July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, as attached, as as presented by Scott Preusser of Raymond G. Preusser, CPA, PC.
- C. WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Hudson City School District entered into a contract with SolarCity Corporation (“Solar City”) as of December 30, 2015 (“Contract”) for the installation of a photovoltaic system and related equipment and materials at its facilities located at 215 Harry Howard Ave, Hudson, New York; and  
WHEREAS, the Contract was previously amended on or about May 27, 2016; and  
WHEREAS, Solar City has requested a second amendment to extend the outside commercial operation date of the photovoltaic system from December 31, 2016 through March 31, 2018; and

**EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT**

**SOLAR CITY AMMENDMENT**

**CONSENSUS  
AGENDA (continued)**

**Consensus Agenda (continued):**

**REFUND IN TAXES**

**HHS & JHS  
EXTRACURRICULAR  
REPORTS**

**TRANSPORTATION  
AIDE CONTRACT**

**HHS FIELD TRIP  
REQUEST  
CPSE/CSE  
PLACEMENTS  
TREASURER'S  
REPORTS**

- WHEREAS, the Board of Education is willing to agree to such request, provided Solar City agrees to permit the Board of Education to terminate the Contract and impose delay damages if certain milestones are not met; and
- WHEREAS, Solar City is willing to agree to such conditions;
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Hudson City School District approves a second amendment to the Contract, and authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to execute any and all documents related to such second amendment to the Contract.
- D. Be it Resolved, that the Board of Education approves a refund in taxes in the amount of \$305.89 to Dirt Capital Partners, LLC, due to stipulation, as attached.
  - E. Be it Resolved, that the Board of Education accepts the Hudson High School Extra-Curricular Monthly Report for the month of February 2017, as attached.
  - F. Be it Resolved, that the Board of Education accepts the Hudson Junior High School Extra-Curricular Monthly Report for the month of February 2017, as attached.
  - G. Be it Resolved, that the Board of Education approves a transportation contract to add a bus aide to increase student safety. The total estimated cost will be \$5795.00 for the 2016-2017 school year, as attached.
  - H. Be it Resolved, that the Board of Education approves a field trip request for high school science student to visit the American Museum of Natural History in NYC on April 10, 2017.
  - I. Be it Resolved, that the Board of Education arranges for placement of student with disabilities (CPSE/CSE meetings held on January 4, March 1, 2, 2 6, 7, 8. 9, 10, 11, 13, 16, 2017).
  - J. Be it Resolved, that the Board of Education accepts the attached Treasurer's Reports for the months of October and November 2016.

**UPCOMING  
MEETING DATES**

**Upcoming Meeting Dates:**

**BOARD MEETING  
DATES**

**Board of Education Meetings**

- Monday, April 10, 2017, 7 p.m. – Regular Board of Education Meeting – Hudson High School Library.
- Tuesday, April 25 at 7:00 p.m. – Special Board of Education Meeting – (RCG BOCES Budget Vote and Board Vote) – Hudson High School Library

**COMMUNITY  
EVENTS**

**Community Events/Committee Meetings**

- Wednesday, March 29, 2017, 3:30 p.m. – BOE Facilities Committee Meeting – District Office
- Thursday, March 30, 2017, 5:30 to 7 p.m. – Capital Project drop-In Session – JLE Cafetorium
- Monday, April 3, 2017, 3 p.m. – Ground Breaking Shovel Ceremony behind the High School

**EXECUTIVE  
SESSION**

**Executive Session:** Board Vice President, Maria McLaughlin, made a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of contractual negotiations and the employment history of a particular person or persons at 9:47 p.m. Board Member, Sumayyah Shabazz, seconded the motion.

**Ayes – 6 Nays – 0**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**OUT OF EXECUTIVE  
SESSION**

Board Member, Willette Jones, made a motion to exit Executive Session at 10:07 p.m. Board Member, Sumayyah Shabazz, seconded the motion.

**Ayes – 6 Nays – 0**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Adjournment:** Board Member, David Kisselburgh, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:07 p.m. Board Member, Willette Jones, seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

**Ayes – 6 Nays – 0**

**MOTION CARRIED**

---

Carrie Otty, President  
Board of Education

---

Leslie M. Coons, District Clerk  
Board of Education