

**HARDING TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, December 19, 2022, 7:00 p.m.**

**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 Township Board of Education is called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Dr. Anastasiou from the Harding Township 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 6, 2022.
  
- III. **Pledge of Allegiance**
  
- IV. **ROLL CALL**  
**Present:** *Dr. Alex Anastasiou, Mr. Abi Singh, Mr. Richard Bruno, Mrs. Melissa Krikos*  
**Also Present:** *Superintendent, Dr. Matthew Spelker, Business Administrator, Mr. John Jennings*  
**Absent:** *Mr. Davor Gjivoje*
  
- V. **PRESENTATION**  
**Christine Mulligan – Elementary Exemplary Educator Award, Dr. Matthew A. Spelker** – Dr. Spelker announced that Christine Mulligan received the Elementary Exemplary Educator award. He presented the award to her family. Dr. Spelker read the letter that was sent with the award from the Commissioner of Education, Dr. Angelic Allen-McMillan. Dr. Anastasiou thanked everyone for coming to the meeting to pay tribute to Christine Mulligan for her dedication to the students and the

District. He announced that the Board will recognize Christine Mulligan by naming the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade wing at the elementary school the Christine Mulligan wing with a Plaque to be presented at a later date. Mary Donohue, former Principal of Harding Township School read the letter she wrote nominating Christine Mulligan for the award. Jennifer Baldassari spoke on behalf of the faculty to share stories and memories of Christine Mulligan and praised her dedication to the students and the district. Candy Mulligan, Christine Mulligan's sister in law spoke on behalf of the family paying tribute to Christine Mulligan.

Note: There was a short-break (15 minutes) in the meeting for refreshments in tribute to Christine Mulligan.

**VI. HEARING OF PUBLIC REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS (Policy 0167)**

**MOTION** presented by Mr. Bruno and seconded by Mr. Singh, unanimously approved to open public comment regarding agenda items only at 7:43 p.m.

No public comments

**MOTION** presented by Mr. Bruno and seconded by Mrs. Krikos, unanimously approved to close public comment regarding agenda items only at 7:44 p.m.

**VII. REPORTS/DISCUSSIONS**

- a. Superintendent – Dr. Spelker noted: The PTO Pancake Breakfast was held on December 3<sup>rd</sup> and he thanked all the volunteers that helped make this a successful fundraiser and community event. The Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade concert was held on December 7<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to all the parents who were able to attend and congratulations to the students and Ms. Gareau for a great performance. HTS Holiday/Winter concert was held on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to the students, Ms. Gareau and Mr. Alworth for a great evening of music and songs. December 23<sup>rd</sup> will be an early dismissal for HTS. HTS administrative offices will be open only on December 28<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Friedman will present the Start Strong Assessment results at the January 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.
- b. Business Administrator – Mr. Jennings reviewed the election results and congratulated Mr. Bruno and Mr. Gjivoje for their election to a new 3-year term. He also discussed the \$2,000 contribution from the Lanzerottis to the science award endowment. Mr. Jennings then reviewed the items of facilities and finance on the agenda with the Board.
- c. HIB (if necessary) – None
- d. Madison Board of Education – Mr. Bruno noted the Madison BOE had a presentation from NJSBA regarding Board of Education Roles and interaction with the Administration.

**VIII. CORRESPONDENCE**

Fire Drill Log – November

Nurse's Report – November

Lanzerotti Letter

Election Results: Morris County Clerk

Name	Term
Richard F. Bruno	3 Years
Davor I. Gjivoje	3 Years
Write-in	N/A

**IX. BOARD BUSINESS**

**BB-015 Approve Regular Session Minutes**

**BB-016 Board certifies results of election**

**BB-017 Appointment of Richard Bruno Harding Township Representative**

Motion presented by Mr. Bruno and seconded by Mr. Singh to approve:

**BB-015 RESOLVED**, that the Harding Township Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools approve the following minutes:

- Regular Session Minutes, November 21, 2022
- No Executive Session Held November 21, 2022

**BB-016 RESOLVED** that the Harding Township Board of Education certifies the results of the Annual School Board Election held on November 8, 2022, for membership to the Harding Township Board of Education for a Three-Year Term for **Mr. Davor Gjivoje** and **Mr. Richard Bruno** as certified by the Morris County Clerk on Nov 18, 2022.

**BB-017 RESOLVED**, that the Harding Township Board of Education, pursuant to N.J.S.A 18A:38-8.2 et seq; appoints Mr. Richard Bruno Harding Township's (Sending District) representative to the Madison School District's Board of Education (Receiving District) for Calendar year 2023.

**Roll call vote:**

**AYES:** *Dr. Alex Anastasiou, Mr. Abi Singh, Mr. Richard Bruno, Mrs. Melissa Krikos*

**ABSENT:** *Mr. Davor Gjivoje*

**FACILITIES AND FINANCE**

**FF-066 Approve Bills List dated December 6, 2021**

**FF-067 Approve November 2022 Transfer Report**

**FF-068 Approve Lanzerotti Award Contribution**

**FF-069 Approve Transfer to Capital Reserve**

**FF-070 Approve Emergent Maintenance Capital Funding Submission**

**FF-071 Approve ACES (Alliance for Competitive Energy Services) Natural Gas Cooperative Pricing**

**FF-072 Approve ACES Electric Energy Cooperative Pricing**

**FF-073 Approve November Financial Reports**

**FF-074 Approve Copier Purchase and Lease Agreements**

**FF-075 Approve submission of ACSERS (Additional Compensation Special Education and Related Services for Students with Disabilities) Application**

**FF-076 Approve ESEA Carryforward**

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

**FF-066 RESOLVED**, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the attached bills list dated in the amount of \$873,369.50.

**FF-067 RESOLVED**, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the attached November Transfer Report.

**FF-068 RESOLVED**, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves and accepts the \$2,000 cash contribution to the permanent endowment fund for the Lanzerotti Science Prize for the Harding Township School.

**FF-069 RESOLVED**, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the transfer of \$31,516.59 from Fund 30 (Capital Projects Fund) to the Capital Reserve Account for the close of projects and returning unspent funds to the original funding source per Auditor Adjusted Journal Entry.

**FF-070 RESOLVED**, that the Harding Township Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the submission and acceptance of the FY 23 Emergent and Capital Needs Grant Program in the amount of \$6,353.

**FF-071 RESOLVED**, that the Harding Township Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools approves that the District binds itself to the ACES (Alliance for Competitive Energy Services Cooperative Pricing System) ##E8801-ACESCPS to purchase all natural gas supply services needed for its own use during the Effective Period from the natural gas supplier or suppliers awarded a contract for natural gas supply services by the Lead Agency; and, be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Lead Agency of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System is hereby authorized to execute a master performance agreement that obligates the district to purchase natural gas at the terms and conditions stated therein with a third-party supplier or suppliers who have been awarded the contract or contracts by the Lead Agency on behalf of the participating members of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System #E8801-ACESCPS (or any CPS number to be assigned in the future), and provided further that all such contracts shall be at prices reasonably forecast and estimated by the Lead Agency to provide savings to the districts relative to the price charged for basic gas supply service by the natural gas public utility that would otherwise provide such service; and, be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that ACES is authorized to continue to bid to obtain natural gas services at any time during the Effective Period on behalf of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System including, for example, a rebid if energy market conditions do not initially lead to a successful bid, on additional dates to be determined by the Lead Agency; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage. The authorization provided to the NJSBA pursuant to the Local Public Contracts Laws (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5), and the Local Public and Public School Contracts Laws Administrative Code (N.J.A.C. 5:34-7.1 et seq.) shall be valid until May, 2028 (the Effective Period) at which time the Cooperative Pricing System will be subject to renewal. Any rescission of this resolution shall not affect any Agreements entered into prior to such rescission or expiration.

**FF-072 RESOLVED** that the Harding Township Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools approves that District binds itself to the ACES Cooperative Pricing System ##E8801-ACESCPS to purchase all electric power needed for its own use (exclusive of on-site electric generation sources) during the Effective Period from the electric power supplier or suppliers awarded a contract for electric generation services by the Lead Agency; and, be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Lead Agency of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System is hereby authorized to execute a master performance agreement that obligates the district to purchase electricity at the terms and conditions stated therein with a third-party supplier or suppliers who have been awarded the contract or contracts by the Lead Agency on behalf of the participating members of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System #E8801-ACESCPS (or any CPS number to be assigned in the future), and provided further that all such contracts shall be at prices reasonably forecast and estimated by the Lead Agency to provide savings to the Districts relative to the price charged for basic generation service by the electric public utility that would otherwise provide such service; and, be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that ACES is authorized to continue to bid to obtain electric generation services at any time during the Effective Period on behalf of the ACES Cooperative Pricing System including, for

example, a rebid if energy market conditions do not initially lead to a successful bid, on additional dates to be determined by the Lead Agency; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage. The authorization provided to the NJSBA pursuant to the Local Public Contracts Laws (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5)), and the Local Public and Public School Contracts Laws Administrative Code (N.J.A.C. 5:34-7.1 et seq.) shall be valid until May, 2028 (the Effective Period) at which time the Cooperative Pricing System will be subject to renewal. Any rescission or expiration of this resolution shall not affect any Agreements entered into prior to such rescission or expiration.

**FF-073 RESOLVED** that the Harding Township Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the November 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-074 RESOLVED** that the Harding Township Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the Copier Sales order with Atlantic Tomorrows Office (State Contract #G40467) as well as the Lease with option to Purchase Agreement with Municipal Capital Finance.

**FF-075 RESOLVED** that the Harding Township Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of schools, approves the submission of the ACSERS (Additional Compensation Special Education and Related Services for Students with Disabilities) application for the 22-23 school year.

**FF-076 RESOLVED**, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, accepts the ESEA 2021-2022 Carryforward Funds of \$961 Title IA, \$1,599 Title II-A, \$10,000 Title IV Part A for the 2022-2023 school year.

**Roll call vote:**

**AYES:** *Dr. Alex Anastasiou, Mr. Abi Singh, Mr. Richard Bruno, Mrs. Melissa Krikos*

**ABSENT:** *Mr. Davor Gjivoje*

**CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION – No Resolutions**

**PERSONNEL AND MANAGEMENT**

**PM-030 Approve Leave of Absence**

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

**PM-030 RESOLVED**, that the Harding Township Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following Maternity Leave of Absence Ms. Ashley Mihaly commencing March 27, 2023 through April 21, 2023 utilizing (19) accumulated illness days. FMLA to commence April 24, 2023 through June 23, 2023, then continuing September 2, 2023 through September 22, 2023, to be unpaid but with benefits and subject to employee's current contribution, with a return to work anticipated for September 25, 2023.

**Roll call vote:**

**AYES:** *Dr. Alex Anastasiou, Mr. Abi Singh, Mr. Richard Bruno, Mrs. Melissa Krikos*

**ABSENT:** *Mr. Davor Gjivoje*

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

**MOTION** presented by Mr. Bruno and seconded by Mrs. Krikos, unanimously approved to open public comment at 7:55 p.m.

No public comments

**MOTION** presented by Mr. Bruno and seconded by Mrs. Krikos, unanimously approved to close public comment at 7:56 p.m.

**XI. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS** – Dr. Anastasiou thanked everyone for coming to the meeting to honor Christine Mulligan. He wished everyone a happy holiday and looked forward to seeing everyone in January 2023.

**XII. 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 convenes 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**XIII. 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**XIV. OTHER BOARD BUSINESS** - None

**XV. ADJOURN**

**MOTION** presented by Mr. Bruno and seconded by Mrs. Krikos to adjourn at 7:58 p.m.

**Roll Call Vote:**

**AYES:** Dr. Alex Anastasiou, Mr. Abi Singh, Mr. Richard Bruno, Mrs. Melissa Krikos

**ABSENT:** Mr. Davor Gjivoje

Respectfully Submitted

  
John Jennings

Business Administrator/Board Secretary