

The meeting of the Harding Township Board of Education held on Monday September 26, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.,  
Harding Township School.

**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 Board of Education is called to order by Mr. Gjivoje at 7:01 p.m. in the Library of 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:** Mr. Davor Gjivoje, Dr. Alex Anastasiou, Mr Richard Bruno, Mrs. Melissa Krikos  
**Also Present:** Superintendent, Dr. Matthew Spelker, Business Administrator, Mr. John Jennings  
**Absent:** Mr. Abi Singh
- V. **PRESENTATION**  
**Student Safety Data System, 2021-22 – Dr. Matthew A. Spelker** – Dr. Spelker reviewed the Student Safety Data System report for 2021-22 with the Board. He noted the results have been consistent for the last 10 years. He stated that Harding Township School is proud to be a safe and caring environment for our students to learn and grow. He noted that the faculty and administrate have made concerted efforts to improve the climate and culture of our school. He thanked the parents

and school board for its continued support for the Climate and Culture Committee and School Safety teams.

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

**MOTION** presented by Mr. Bruno and seconded by Mrs. Krikos, unanimously approved to open public comment regarding agenda items only at 7:10 p.m.

No comments from the public

**MOTION** presented by Mr. Bruno and seconded by Dr. Anastasiou, unanimously approved to close public comment regarding agenda items only at 7:11 p.m.

**VII. REPORTS/DISCUSSIONS**

a. Superintendent – Dr. Spelker noted the HTS Barbeque was a huge success with the highest attendance ever. He thanked Mrs. Rosato and Dr. Bentley for a wonderful event. HTS back to school night was Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. He noted it was a pleasure to have our parent community back in the buildings. Update on the MS HVAC project noting it is nearing completion with just one room needing to be turned on.

b. Business Administrator – John Jennings mentioned agenda items FF-044 and FF-045 which were 21-22 school year completion reports submitted to NJDOE for IDEA and ESEA. He also mentioned FF-046 which is a non-public consultation report as part of the non-public state aid that is required to be submitted to the Morris County Executive Superintendent. He also discussed FF-047 which grants Deep Roots School in New Vernon temporary use of the District's FCC license as part of their security grant.

c. Facilities and Finance, 9/21/22 – Mr. Bruno noted the committee discussed the following items in his report:

- Middle School HVAC update
- ES and MS generators as a potential project given the frequency of loss of power
- MS ramp replacement
- District is looking forward to successful negotiations with the HTEA
- Afterschool math program

d. Curriculum and Instruction, 9/21/22- Dr. Anastasiou noted the committee discussed the following items in his report:

- Curriculum unchanged this year
- First round of teacher observations begins tomorrow
- Differentiation of instruction at all levels is a focus this year
- Professional Development by staff in early September was well received
- NJSLA results would be presented at the Oct. 17 Board Meeting
- Reviewed SSDA presentation

e. Personnel and Management, 9/21/22 – Dr. Anastasiou noted the committee discussed the following items in his report:

- Maternity Leaves
- All previous open positions are now filled
- Teacher observations begin tomorrow with second round in November
- Creating a new Dean of Student position that would be filled by existing staff member with additional compensation

f. Madison Board of Education, 9/20/22 - Mr. Bruno noted the Madison Board discussed the policy regarding sex education. He noted the Madison Board plans a public meeting in

December inviting all elected members focusing on the Board's Role to help the Board operate more efficient.

**VIII. CORRESPONDENCE**

Fire Drill Log, September 2022

**IX. BOARD BUSINESS**

**Motion** Presented by Mr. Bruno and seconded by Dr. Anastasiou to approve:

**BB-008 RESOLVED**, that the Harding Township Board of Education approves the following minutes:

- Regular Session, September 12, 2022
- Note no Executive Session held on September 12, 2022

Board unanimously approved the 9/12/2022 Minutes

**FACILITIES AND FINANCE**

**FF-037 Approve Bills List**

**FF-038 Approve July Financial Reports**

**FF-039 Approve Bus Evacuation Drill**

**FF-040 Approve Mileage Reimbursement Rate**

**FF-041 Approve E-Rate Funding Agreement**

**FF-042 Approve Parental Transportation Agreement**

**FF-043 Approve Out-of-District Placements**

**FF-044 Approve submission of IDEA Final Report**

**FF-045 Approve submission of ESEA Final Report**

**FF-046 Approve the submission of the Nonpublic Consultation**

**FF-047 Approve use of FCC License**

**MOTION** presented by Dr. Anastasiou and seconded by Mrs. Krikos to approve:

**FF-037 RESOLVED**, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the attached bills list dated September 26, 2022 in the amount of \$450,986.12.

**FF-038 RESOLVED**, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the July 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-039 RESOLVED**, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves a bus evacuation drill held on Wednesday, September 14, 2022 from 8:15-8:37 in the front drop off area of the Harding Township School for HTS Routes 1,2,3,4,5,6.

**FF-040 RESOLVED**, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools approves the mileage reimbursement rate increase to \$0.47 per mile in accordance with P.L. 1943,c. 188 (C.52:14-17.1 et seq.) for the 2022-2023 School Year.

**FF-041 RESOLVED**, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the

Superintendent of Schools, approves the E-Rate Funding Agreement with On-Tech Consulting for the 2022-2023 School Year. E-Rate is an FCC program that provides discounts for certain technology and telecommunications equipment to eligible schools.

**FF-042 RESOLVED**, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves a Parental Contract for student transportation, student ID #6836, to Kohler Academy, 1137 Globe Avenue, Mountainside, NJ 07092 for the 2022-2023 school year in the amount of \$1,022.00.

**FF-043 RESOLVED**, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following Out-of-District placements with Madison Board of Education:

- Student #8360136889 to attend Madison Junior School for the 2022-2023 school year from August 29, 2022 to June 14, 2023 at an annual cost of \$36,325.00.
- Student #5065507418 to attend Central Avenue School for the 2022-2023 school year from August 29, 2022 to June 14, 2023 at an annual cost of \$30,484.00.
- Student # 1416334533 to attend Central Avenue School for the 2022-2023 school year from August 29, 2022 to June 14, 2023 at an annual cost of \$30,484.00.

**FF-044 Resolved**, that Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the submission of the 2021-2022 IDEA Final Expenditure Report.

**FF-045 Resolved**, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the submission of the 2021-2022 ESEA Title 1, Title IIA and Title IV Final Expenditure Reports.

**FF-046 Resolved**, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the submission of the 2022-2023 Nonpublic Affirmation of Consultation.

**FF-047 Resolved**, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves granting temporary permission the use of the District's FCC License to Deep Roots School. Note the granting of permission will not interfere with the District's own communications.

**Roll call vote:**

**AYES:** *Mr. Davor Gjivoje, Dr. Alex Anastasiou, Mr. Richard Bruno, Mrs. Melissa Krikos*

**ABSENT:** *Mr. Abi Singh*

**CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

**CI-006 Approve Professional Development**

**CI-007 Approve Week of Respect**

**CI-008 Approve Superintendent Travel**

**MOTION** presented by Mrs. Krikos and seconded by Dr. Anastasiou to approve:

**CI-006 RESOLVED**, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of schools approves the following professional development:

Mrs. Pam Fry, annual Art Educators of NJ conference, October 13, 2022, registration at \$200,

additional work sessions \$25, mileage at \$0.47/mile.

**CI-007 RESOLVED**, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, Declares October 3rd through October 7th as the "Week of Respect"

**WHEREAS**, The Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights, Assembly Bill 3466, was approved by the New Jersey Legislature in November 2010 and signed into law as P.L. 2010, c. 122, by Governor Chris Christie, on January 5, 2011; and,

**WHEREAS**, the statute is intended to protect students from harassment and intimidation that would substantially interfere with their education; and,

**WHEREAS**, in a 2009 survey by the National Centers for Disease Control, one in five New Jersey students indicated they had been the subject of bullying on school grounds during the previous year; and,

**WHEREAS**, The Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights places expanded responsibilities on teachers, school administrators and boards of education to protect students from incidents of bullying, harassment and intimidation; and,

**WHEREAS**, The Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights designates the week beginning with the first Monday in October as "Week of Respect" throughout New Jersey; and,

**WHEREAS**, the law directs school districts to observe the "Week of Respect" through age-appropriate instruction in accordance with New Jersey's core curriculum content standards; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Harding Township Board of Education recognizes the harmful impact of harassment and bullying on children and is committed to providing all of its students with a safe and secure learning environment free from intimidation; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Harding Township Board of Education supports the intent of the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights to protect our children, as well as the goal of previous law to enhance training and instruction to prevent harassment, intimidation and bullying. Now therefore be it;

**RESOLVED**, that the Harding Township Board of Education declares **October 3rd through October 7th 2022** as a "Week of Respect" throughout the district; and be it further,

**RESOLVED**, that the Week of Respect will be a part of the Harding Township Public Schools' ongoing efforts to foster respect among students and staff in our school community.

**CI-008 RESOLVED**, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the Registration and Travel Expenses for Matthew Spelker to attend the ASSA Conference on February 16-18, 2023. Registration of \$845, Lodging of \$1,237, airfare of \$702, meals & I&E at the GSA per diem rate, and mileage at \$0.47 cents per mile.

Roll call vote:

**AYES:** Mr. Davor Gjivoje, Dr. Alex Anastasiou, Mr. Richard Bruno, Mrs. Melissa Krikos

**ABSENT:** Mr. Abi Singh

**PERSONNEL AND MANAGEMENT**

**PM-017 Approve Extracurricular Position**

**PM-018 Accept the Separation of Service, Basketball Coach**

**PM-019 Approve Change in Contract, Café Aide**

**PM-020 Approve Faculty Summer Hour Payments**

**MOTION** presented by Dr. Anastasiou and seconded by Mr. Bruon to approve:

**PM-017 RESOLVED**, that the Harding Township Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following extracurricular stipend according to the HTEA agreement:

Ms. Kimberly Volz, Forensic Club Co Advisor, at a stipend of \$1,390.50

**PM-018 RESOLVED**, that the Harding Township Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, accepts the separation of service for the following extracurricular stipend:

Mrs. Ashely Mihaly, rescinds previously approved stipend contract as 2023 Girls Basketball coach.

**PM-019 RESOLVED**, that the Harding Township Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves a change in contract:

Ms. Taheesha Hay, Cafeteria Aide, from 12.5 hours/week to 15 hours/week, effective Sept. 1, 2022, at the same hourly rate.

**PM-020 RESOLVED**, that the Harding Township Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following summer hour payments according to the HTEA agreement:

Ms. Mele - IEP Meeting - 2 hours, total \$106.80

Mrs. Aquitato - IEP Meetings, Reports and LDTC Work - 20 hours, total \$1,066.80

Ms. Kristen Carleen - IEP Meetings, Reports and Speech Work - 21.5 hours, total \$1,146.80

Roll call vote:

**AYES:** *Mr. Davor Gjivoje, Dr. Alex Anastasiou, Mr. Richard Bruno, Mrs. Melissa Krikos*

**ABSENT:** *Mr. Abi Singh*

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

**MOTION** presented by Dr. Anastasiou and seconded by Mrs. Krikos, unanimously approved to open comment at 7:47 p.m.

Dr. Piotrowski thanked the District for organizing the extra programs to help with learning loss. She also appreciated the comments related to the differentiation program. She inquired given that the District has one less bus route this year was that leading to late bus arrivals at school? She also mentioned that it would be beneficial if future Board meetings not be held on a religious holiday. Mr. Gjivoje thanked Dr. Piotrowski for her comments about the programs and will look to avoid scheduling future Board meetings on religious Holidays. Dr. Spelker noted there are unfortunately always some bus delays early in the year with new bus drivers learning routes.

**MOTION** presented by Mr. Bruno and seconded by Mrs. Krikos, unanimously approved to close public comment at 7:57 p.m.

XI. **PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS** – Mr. Gjivoje thanked the PTO for their efforts on the HTS Barbeque and the participation achieved. He mentioned the MS HVAC is nearing completion and thanked everyone for their efforts in completing the project. He noted that the presentation at the next Board Meeting would be a review of the NJSLA assessments.

XII. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – No Executive Session called

**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**

**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** – Dr. Anastasiou discussed the Board formally recognizing Christine Mulligan. Dr. Spelker noted he would schedule this topic at the next committee meeting(s).

XV. **ADJOURN**

**MOTION** presented by Mr. Bruno and seconded by Dr. Anastasiou to adjourn at 8:02 p.m.

**AYES:** Mr. Davor Gjivoje, Dr. Alex Anastasiou, Mr. Richard Bruno, Mrs. Melisa Krikos

**ABSENT:** Mr. Abi Singh

Respectfully Submitted



John Jennings  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

