

**HUNTERDON CENTRAL REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 24, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of Hunterdon Central Regional High School was held on February 24, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. in the Little Theater located on the 11/12 campus of Hunterdon Central Regional High School.

Mr. Panico, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., led the flag salute, and announced that in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act of the State of New Jersey, adequate notice of this meeting of the Board of Education of Hunterdon Central Regional High School was provided in the following manner:

CALL TO ORDER

On May 23, 2019, adequate written notice of the meeting was:

- a. Posted in the Board Room in the Upper School.
- b. Sent to *The Courier News*.
- c. Sent to the clerks of Delaware Township, East Amwell Township, Flemington Borough, Raritan Township, and Readington Township.

Members Present:

Members Absent

ROLL CALL

Jeffrey Charney
Bruce Davidson
Michael Dendis
Lisa Hughes
Roseann Nguyen
Scott Nicol
Robert Richard
Noelle O'Donnell
Vincent Panico

Also present were Superintendent Jeffrey Moore and Business Administrator Gymlyn Corbin. There were 213 visitors.

Minutes:

MINUTES

Moved by Mrs. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Davidson, and unanimously passed by a roll call vote of 9-0, to approve the regular and executive session minutes of the January 6, 2020 meeting.

Moved by Mrs. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Davidson, and unanimously passed by a roll call vote of 9-0, to approve the regular and executive session minutes of the January 13, 2020 meeting.

Moved by Mrs. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Davidson, and unanimously passed by a roll call vote of 9-0, to approve the regular and executive session minutes of the January 27, 2020 meeting.

Correspondence:

CORRESPONDENCE

Alicia Stevenson
Carol Dvoor
Carrie Moore
Cecelia L. Hopkins
Destinee Dockhorn and Linda Nemec
Donna Slovak
Kathleen LaGullo
Maggie Rose
Marie Tryon

Student Council: Laurel Hanrahan gave a report of events:

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

- Representatives of Student Council and Class Council met with Mr. Brandt on February 20 to improve communication across the school.
- Junior Class Council is hosting the Wing Bowl during Unit Lunch in the Commons on February 28 as a fundraiser for their prom.
- The Dance team returned from their Nationals trip as champions:
 - Varsity Jazz, 14th place
 - Varsity Hip Hop, 6th place
 - JV Jazz, Superior Semi-Finalist
 - JV Hip Hop, 3rd place
- The Cheer Team competed in Nationals in Florida.
- A Wrestling Tournament was held February 16.
- Habitat for Humanity Club had a build last weekend at Succasunna.
- The Speech and Debate competition was last weekend.
- The Interact Club is hosting the Rotary Soup Cook-Off tonight.

HCRHS BOARD MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 24, 2020 CONTINUED

- College admissions panel will be held in the Auditorium on February 27.
- Operation Smile ice skating event in Westfield on February 29.
- Psychology Club had a bake sale to raise money for Attitudes in Reverse, a group provides youth mental health awareness and programs.
- Student Council is planning the Mr. Central pageant for April 3. Students are creating dances, mixing music, and designing shirts, programs, and tickets. All profits benefit the Drew O'Donoghue Fund.

SUPT'S REPORT

Superintendent's Report:

- 2020 National Merit Scholarship Finalists – Dr. Moore congratulated Lauren Bruhl, Danielle Serrao, Bowie Shreiber for their achievement and presented certificates of recognition.
- Officer Jack Gale, Class III Officer – Dr. Moore welcomed Officer Gale as Hunterdon Central's second Class III Officer, noting that he recently retired from a near 30 year career in law enforcement.
- National School Counseling Week – February 3-7, 2020 – Dr. Moore recognized the Counselors as heroes as they work tirelessly in support of our students.
- Wellness Presentation

Wellness Partners

Dr. Moore introduced Lesley Gabel of Hunterdon Prevention Resources. Ms. Gabel thanked the Board for its partnership of over 10 years. She described peer-run programs designed to engage youth and improve communication. For the "Drop Your Phone and Talk" day, Ms. Gabel said 723 student put their phones in baskets on lunch tables, giving them a chance to talk to each other the whole lunch period. She said she will continue working with teens on similar projects. Dr. Moore commented there is a fine line between integrating Chromebooks into learning and controlling technology addiction. He said that for the first time in his career, students are talking about needing help putting phones down. Dr. Moore shared a list of agencies with which Hunterdon Central has partnered for its wellness initiatives. He said the district collaborates with experts on public health matters.

Wellness & Mental Health Staffing

Dr. Moore reported that the district has doubled the number of Student Assistance Counselors to one per grade level. He said the number students per counselor is 150 at Hunterdon Central, while the profession recommends no more than 250, the New Jersey average is around 300, and the national average is closer to 500. He reported that Counselors logged over 25,000 encounters with students so far this school year. The district regularly houses school-based therapists from Hunterdon Behavioral Health, and from Traumatic Loss Coalition when we need them. Dr. Moore said security staff are essential to wellness on campus; Hunterdon Central has ten Security Aides, two Class III officers, and one School Resource Officer.

Staff Training & Support

Dr. Moore outlined staff training and support to improve classroom culture through relationship building and stress reduction. He reported 20% swings in critical factors on the culture/climate survey following training. Dr. Moore said the Traumatic Loss Coalition trained all staff to recognize problems in students, and Pure Edge will work with staff on ways to reduce stress. Wellness training will migrate to students next, per Dr. Moore, teaching ways to take mental breaks. Dr. Moore said we must take care of the adults, particularly those who are grieving. The district has implemented an Employee Assistance Program and uses in-house therapists when needed.

District Practices

Dr. Moore said the Board recognized the need for more leadership and created the Dean of Students position to expand the work we have been doing and to quicken the pace. He announced that teachers have been working on changes to grading principles and homework to ensure reasonableness. He said the district is examining discipline and substance abuse policies to afford more protection around students and to prevent feelings of hopelessness. Dr. Moore noted that stress and anxiety often feed the roots of what traditional policies want to punish.

Parent Support

Dr. Moore discussed parent supports, seminars, and the numerous videos on HCTV. He noted that videos of tools for working with stress have been viewed by hundreds with additional programs and videos planned for the near future. Dr. Moore announced a March evening event featuring a parent who lost a child to suicide. He said the program shares a message of hope and service.

Student Involvement

Dr. Moore said he is honored and pleased to have students join us in district wellness projects. He said that as students ask for opportunities, and they will learn from experts. This Friday, Hunterdon Behavioral Health will be on campus

HCRHS BOARD MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 24, 2020 CONTINUED

for a program on how to talk to a friend in distress. He shared that students are currently working with Dr. Webb and Mrs. Kurilew to create wellness areas in school. He said Sources of Strength, a student-led support program is being introduced which gives students guidance on how to help their peers who might be in distress and how to refer them for help. This program is well recognized and proven to improve outcomes with students. Dr. Moore said students have also asked for a student wellness day. Supervisor Jesse Spencer has developed a student athlete leadership team to work on student athlete wellness. Dr. Moore reported that Prevention Resources continues to work with students on a variety of topics including anti-vaping and tech addiction, and the Student Assistance Counselors are creating a wellness group for Spanish-speaking students to address alcohol, tobacco, and drug abuse. He said the school will introduce a safety app to contact the Hunterdon Central hotline.

Dr. Moore summarized that the goals of the district wellness initiatives are to provide meaningful relationships with trusted adults, opportunities for service, and enhanced protective factors around our students, guarding them from self-harm and suicide. He said we must figure out how best to remember the students we have lost while balancing the needs of the 2,800. Dr. Moore said we will recognize all students in the yearbook and at graduation, but experts warn that certain actions bring concern for vulnerable students. As we shift our focus to active student wellness and service, he explained that this does not mean we forget our friends; remembrances also happen in faith communities, recreational teams, and families. Dr. Moore shared that the adults at Hunterdon Central are grieving, and the friends you lost are never far from the minds of the adults. He said we remember them every day as we watch over you and as you grow in your ability to care for one another. He praised students for the incredible steps they are taking to change the world.

Dr. Moore said that we are not done, and outlined next steps: the district will continue collaboration with K-8 schools, the faith community, law enforcement, and other community partners. He said we must build a toolbox of resources with common language available to every adult in our community. Dr. Moore said we need a better way to map our system of student care for parents, broader cooperation with K-8 schools, and case management for the whole family of a student in need. Dr. Moore said data of needs will be analyzed and processes to meet those needs will be adjusted, and strategies for de-stressing will continue, as will revisions to policies and procedures. He announced the district's involvement in two countywide initiatives: NJ Cares, which notifies the school of families in crisis, and P3 Campus, an anonymous reporting system. Dr. Moore concluded that he is proud to be working with so many talented people, and he would not want to work with any other group. He asked that community members join us to work together, sharing their passion and skills.

George Scott of the Traumatic Loss Coalition said he has partnered with Hunterdon Central for two years. He said the mission of the Board is education, and mental health initiatives were added on. He said he sees the suffering that children and families carry is a burden, and it is the school's responsibility to support that. Mr. Scott said he had spoken with a national expert who affirmed all of the work the district is doing. He said there is an uptick in suicide deaths of both students and adults. Mr. Scott cautioned that when you do this work to create healthy communities and lose a child, do not give up. He encouraged everyone to take a pledge to be indivisible; get scared, angry, and sad, but stay connected because we will only heal when we do not divide. All adults need to work together to make it a community of wellness, according to Mr. Scott. He concluded that we can celebrate our babies, and still stand by with a safety net to help those who need it.

- Students of the Month – December 2019
 - Grade 9 – Karoline Ambrose, Patrick Monus
 - Grade 10 – Mevelyn Brazoban, Nicholas Lewis, Jillian Taylor
 - Grade 11 – Madelyn Brennan, Mckayla Yard
 - Grade 12 – Nicholas Hudak, Marisol Nunez, Rowan Quintero, Ivan Rutgers
- Staff All Stars – December 2019
 - Jaime Krause – Math Teacher
 - Kelly Apffel – Social Studies Teacher
 - Paul Kolody – Strength Coach
 - Suzanne Vrancken – Special Services Teacher
 - Kelly Dooley – Special Services Teacher
 - Justin Moss – IT Technical Support Specialist
 - Yihua Yu – Science Teacher

HCRHS BOARD MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 24, 2020 CONTINUED

HIB/
SUSPENSION
REPORT

- HIB / Suspension Report

HCRHS 2019-2020 HIB / Suspension Report Summary						
Month / Year Incident Reported	# of Incidents Reported	# Identified as HIB	# Remediation	# Discipline & Remediation	# Appeals	# Student Suspensions*
Sep 2019	0	0	0	0	0	8
Oct 2019	2	2	0	2	0	11
Nov 2019	4	1	0	4	0	9
Dec 2019	0	0	0	0	0	7
Jan 2020	0	0	0	0	0	10
Total	6	3	0	6	0	45

* Suspensions - Of the total 45 suspensions, 6 students have had prior suspensions

RESIDENTS'
FORUM

Residents' Forum – Agenda Items: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Student Life & Program

OUT-OF-DISTRICT
PLACEMENT

Moved by Mr. Richard, seconded by Mrs. Hughes, and passed by a roll call vote of 8-0-1, with Mrs. O'Donnell abstaining, to approve tuition and related transportation contracts for the following special education students during the 2019-2020 school years with related services as required in their Individual Education Plans.

ID #	School	Transportation	Est. Tuition Cost	ESY
217093	Hunterdon Preparatory School	Y	\$24,100.95	N

NORTH
HUNTERDON/
VOORHEES
STUDENT

Moved by Mr. Richard, seconded by Mrs. Hughes, and passed by a roll call vote of 8-0-1, with Mrs. O'Donnell abstaining, to approve enrollment of students from North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District in the HCRHS ESL program. Transportation and tuition will be the responsibility of the resident district:

Student ID	Grade	Tuition – Prorated
208137	12	\$20,249

TUITION
STUDENT

Moved by Mr. Richard, seconded by Mrs. Hughes, and passed by a roll call vote of 8-0-1, with Mrs. O'Donnell abstaining, to approve a tuition contract for the following student for the 2019-2020 school year, commencing January 2, 2020, through June 30, 2020, as follows:

ID #	School	Est. Tuition Cost
208027	Belvidere School District	\$9,607.00

FINANCIAL
REPORTS

Operations & Transportation

Moved by Mr. Nicol, seconded by Mr. Richard, and unanimously passed by a roll call vote of 9-0 to approve the financial reports of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary and the Treasurer of School Monies for the month ended December 31, 2019, be accepted and placed on file. The Board of Education, after review of the Board Secretary and Treasurer's monthly financial report and consultations with the Board Secretary, hereby certifies that no major account has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.10(b).

INVOICES

Moved by Mr. Nicol, seconded by Mr. Richard, and unanimously passed by a roll call vote of 9-0 to approve District invoices presented for payment in the amount of \$8,193,690.37.

TRANSFERS

Moved by Mr. Nicol, seconded by Mr. Richard, and unanimously passed by a roll call vote of 9-0 to approve the attached line account transfers.

CHANGE
SHOR-TERM
DISABILITY PLAN

Moved by Mr. Nicol, seconded by Mr. Richard, and unanimously passed by a roll call vote of 9-0 to authorize the Business Administrator to terminate the private short-term disability plan with Guardian effective June 30, 2020, and to reinstate the district's New Jersey State temporary disability plan effective July 1, 2020.

HCRHS BOARD MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 24, 2020 CONTINUED

Moved by Mr. Nicol, seconded by Mr. Richard, and unanimously passed by a roll call vote of 9-0 to award Spring Athletic Trips Transportation Bid #2007, pursuant to the bid specifications, as follows:

**SPRING
ATHLETIC TRIPS
AWARD**

Bus Company	# of Trips	Total Dollar Value
Krapf School Bus-NJN, Inc.	24	\$7,817.50

The following bids for Spring Athletic Trips were received on Thursday, February 20, 2020, at 11:00 a.m.:

Krapf School Bus-NJN, Inc.

Moved by Mr. Nicol, seconded by Mr. Richard, and unanimously passed by a roll call vote of 9-0 to approve the following budget objectives for the 2020-2021 annual budget:

**2020-2021
BUDGET
OBJECTIVES**

Board Objectives: Education

- To maintain compliance with all mandated programs and initiatives of the New Jersey Department of Education.
- To continue to evaluate and implement programs in support of the academic experience for all students.
- To plan and provide the necessary resources for the faculty/staff and students in preparation for college/career as designated in the New Jersey State Student Learning Standards.
- To sustain and enhance District facilities for safety, academic experiences, activities, and environmental purposes through ongoing maintenance and long-range capital plan.

Board Objectives: Fiscal Responsibility

- To offer the community a fiscally responsible and respectful 2020-2021 budget with a 2% New Jersey state cap by implementing strategies to balance District needs while mitigating expenses to minimize future budget tax levy increases.

Moved by Mr. Nicol, seconded by Mr. Richard, and unanimously passed by a roll call vote of 9-0 to approve the donation of \$20,281.08 from the District Chromebook insurance fund for the purchase of new Chromebook devices.

**CHROMEBOOK
DONATION**

Moved by Mr. Nicol, seconded by Mr. Richard, and unanimously passed by a roll call vote of 9-0 to approve the purchase of Chromebook computing devices for instructional use from Dell Marketing, L.P., at a total cost not to exceed \$175,000, under the M0483 NASPO Valuepoint Computer Contract # 89967, funded by the 2019-2020 school year budget.

**CHROMEBOOK
PURCHASE**

These devices will continue efforts to support and sustain our district's one-to-one computing initiative.

Personnel

Moved by Mrs. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Nicol, and unanimously passed by a roll call vote of 9-0 to accept the resignation, with all rights reserved, of the following staff member(s), as recommended by the Superintendent:

RESIGNATIONS

RESIGNATION(S)			
#	Name	Position	Eff. Date
A	Kulik, Christian	Physical Education Teacher	2/18/20

Moved by Mrs. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Nicol, and unanimously passed by a roll call vote of 9-0 to approve the per diem rates and starting dates indicated for the following candidate(s), as recommended by the Superintendent:

EMPLOYMENT

PER DIEM				
#	Name	Position	Rate	Eff. Date(s)
1	Graham, Meghan	Substitute Teacher	\$100.00	2/25/20
2	LaFevre, Leah*	Substitute Teacher	\$100.00	1/29/20
		Long Term Substitute Visual Arts Teacher (L. Hopkins)	\$150.00 \$312.44	2/3-3/2/20 3/3/20-6/5/20
3	O'Shea, Maryellen*	Long Term Substitute English Teacher (S. Belsky)	\$150.00	2/10-2/14/20

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4	Rodriguez, Cristobal*	Substitute Teacher	\$100.00	1/31/20
5	Schiff, Rebecca	Substitute Teacher	\$100.00	2/25/20
6	Squicciarini, Michael	Substitute Teacher	\$100.00	2/25/20
7	Thompson, Christopher	Substitute Teacher	\$100.00	2/25/20

(Paid via timesheet)

*Interim approval given by Superintendent

HOURLY EMPLOYMENT

Moved by Mrs. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Nicol, and unanimously passed by a roll call vote of 9-0 to approve the hourly rates and starting dates indicated for the following candidate(s), as recommended by the Superintendent:

APPOINTMENTS – HOURLY				
#	Name	Position/Project	Rate	Eff. Date(s)
1	Seitz, Nicole*	AM/PM Supervision	\$30.00	2/13/20

(Paid via timesheet)

*Interim approval given by Superintendent

SCHEDULE C POSITIONS

Moved by Mrs. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Nicol, and unanimously passed by a roll call vote of 9-0 to approve candidate(s) for Schedule C positions at the contracted salaries for the 2019-2020 school year, as recommended by the Superintendent:

SCHEDULE C – ADVISORS			
#	Name	Position	Stipend
1	Glanville, Victoria	Gamers League Club	Unpaid
2	Larmore, Patrick	Robotics Volunteer	Unpaid

SCHEDULE D POSITIONS

Moved by Mrs. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Nicol, and unanimously passed by a roll call vote of 9-0 to approve candidate(s) for Schedule D positions at the contracted salaries for the 2019-2020 school year, as recommended by the Superintendent:

SCHEDULE D - COACHES				
#	Name	Season	Position	Stipend
1	Daly, William	Spring	Tennis (Boys) – Volunteer	Unpaid
2	Ingram, Walter	Spring	Track – Asst. Coach	\$6,541
3	Kornicke, Robert	Spring	Lacrosse (Boys) – Asst. Coach	\$6,541
4	Ransone, Robert	Spring	Lacrosse (Boys) – Asst. Coach	\$6,541
5	Switzler, Charles	Spring	Tennis (Boys) – Head Coach	\$8,111
6	Thompson, Christopher	Spring	Baseball – Asst. Coach	\$6,541
7	Villafane, Michael	Spring	Volleyball (Boys) -- Asst. Coach	\$6,541
8	Yunos, Paul	Spring	Baseball – Asst. Coach	\$6,541

STUDENT/ INTERNSHIP

Moved by Mrs. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Nicol, and unanimously passed by a roll call vote of 9-0 to approve candidate(s) for Internship/Student Teaching/Observer placement for the 2019-2020 school year, as recommended by the Superintendent:

INTERNSHIP/STUDENT TEACHING/OBSERVER					
#	Name	Position	Type	College/ Mentor	Eff. Dates
1	Wisowaty, Robert*	Outside Student	Student Teaching Secondary Education-History	TCNJ/ Darrell Detample	2/10-5/25/20

*Interim approval given by Superintendent

HCRHS BOARD MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 24, 2020 CONTINUED

Moved by Mrs. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Nicol, and unanimously passed by a roll call vote of 9-0 to approve the extension of Susan Gouldey to serve as Acting Transportation Director, from February 16, 2020*, through June 30, 2020, at a stipend of \$31,959 (prorated), as recommended by the Superintendent.
*Interim approval given by Superintendent

**EXTEND ACTING
TRANSP
DIRECTOR**

Moved by Mrs. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Nicol, and unanimously passed by a roll call vote of 9-0 to approve salary guide advancements per Article XV of the HCEA contract, effective 3/1/20, as recommended by the Superintendent:

**SALARY GUIDE
ADVANCEMENT**

SALARY GUIDE ADVANCEMENTS							
#	Name	From			To		
		Guide	Step	Salary	Guide	Step	Salary
A	Bernhard, Michele	MA+30	12	\$85,575	MA+45	12	\$87,805
B	Buchholz, Mark	BA	4	\$58,552	BA+15	4	\$60,310
C	Defazio, Tristen	BA	5	\$59,757	BA+15	5	\$61,550
D	Deichler, Mary	BA+15	14	\$82,195	BA+30	14	\$84,590
E	Esposito Jackson, Teresa	BA	6	\$61,257	BA+15	6	\$63,095
F	Ingram, Walter	MA+15	5	\$66,930	MA+30	5	\$68,720
G	McKeown, Kathleen	BA+15	9	\$69,275	BA+30	9	\$71,290
H	Plushanski, Jillian	MA	5	\$65,135	MA+15	5	\$66,930
I	Polito, Kristin	MA+15	5	\$66,930	MA+30	5	\$68,720
J	Rachel, Anicel	MA	6	\$66,770	MA+15	6	\$68,610
K	Turner, Marilyn	MA	8	\$71,020	MA+15	8	\$72,975

Moved by Mrs. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Nicol, and unanimously passed by a roll call vote of 9-0 to approve unpaid leaves of absence, as recommended by the Superintendent:

**UNPAID
LEAVE OF
ABSENCE**

UNPAID LEAVES OF ABSENCE				
#	Name	Position	Leave Type	Eff. Date(s)
A	Biber, Anne	Counselor	FMLA	1/29-3/6/20
B	Fernandes, Valerie	Science Teacher	FMLA	2/18-4/28/20
C	Griffith, Rebecca	Business Teacher	FMLA	2/20-4/8/20
D	Infante, Patrick	Bus Driver	4½ Days Unpaid	2/24-2/28/20
E	Maier, Marsha	Bus Driver	2½ Days Unpaid	3/11-3/13/20
F	McDaniel, Richard	Bus Driver	1 Day Unpaid	6/16/20
G	Nutret, Barbara	Bus Driver	2½ Days Unpaid	2/5-2/7/20
H	Wilson, Karen	Bus Driver	2 Days Unpaid	3/20 & 3/23/20

Moved by Mrs. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Nicol, and unanimously passed by a roll call vote of 9-0 to approve professional conferences for staff member(s), as recommended by the Superintendent:

**PROFESSIONAL
CONFERENCES**

PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES				
#	Name	Professional Development Activity	Est. Cost	Eff. Date(s)
A	Brink, Henry	34 th Annual Precalculus Conference: Good Ideas in Teaching Precalculus	\$165.00	3/20/20
B	Buckelew, Alexandra	Good Grief Spring Institute	\$125.00	3/7/20

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C	Colton, Hillary	Working with Transgender Singers in the Choral and Studio Settings	\$113.00	2/8/20
D	Craig, Victoria	Social Emotional Learning Seminar	\$121.00	3/27/20
E	Dayton, Danielle	Planning Next Generation Science Standards-Aligned Lessons and Assessments	\$125.00	3/11/20
F	Heard, Thomas	6 th Annual Tomorrows Classrooms Today	\$149.00	6/1/20
G	Mistele, Thomas	AP Exam Reading	\$750.00	6/1-6/9/20
H	Panzitta, Christine	Leading Teams and Building Capacity	\$175.00	3/25/20
I	Panzitta, Christine	Teaching Argumentative Literacy	\$175.00	5/22/20
J	Rodrigues, Telma	Student Centered Learning in Mathematics: High School	\$222.00	3/24/20
K	Rodrigues, Telma	Using Algebra Tiles and Other Manipulatives to Teach Algebraic Concepts	\$222.00	5/28/20
L	Schiff, Debra	Student Centered Learning in Mathematics: High School	\$200.00	3/24/20
M	Smith, Maria	Autodesk REVIT Software Training	\$985.00	3/18-3/20/20
N	Spencer, Jesse	Directors of Athletics Association of New Jersey	\$928.00	3/16-3/20/20
O	Spina, Denise	iSTEAM Conference 2020	\$21.56	1/14/20
P	Stenger, Cathleen	NJ State School Nurses Association Spring Conference	\$249.00	3/28/20
Q	Szceck, Lynn	Embracing the Whole Child: Promoting Social Emotional Learning	\$142.10	3/16/20
R	Thornton, Donald	2020 NJ School Buildings & Grounds Association Conference/Expo	\$483.00	3/23-3/25/20
S	Toth, Carly	Student-Centered Learning in Mathematics: High School	\$221.00	3/24/20
T	Walgren, Ashley	Embracing the Whole Child: Promoting Social Emotional Learning	\$125.00	3/16/20
U	Watt, Katherine	Student Centered Learning in Mathematics: High School	\$207.00	3/24/20

REVISIONS

Moved by Mrs. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Nicol, and unanimously passed by a roll call vote of 9-0 to approve the following revision(s)

REVISIONS				
#	Name	Position	Change From	Change To
A	Price, Jennifer	Paraprofessional	Intermittent Family Medical Leave (9/16/19 Board 3.2B)	FMLA Eff. Dates 12/3/19-2/14/20; 2/20/20
B	Suriyan, Patchi Rani	Long Term Substitute Chemistry Teacher (V. Fernandes)	Eff. Dates 1/6/20 (1/6/20 Board 3.2B5)	Eff. Dates 1/6-4/28/20
C	Webb, James	Long Term Substitute Business Teacher (R. Griffith)	Eff. Dates 1/6-4/30/20 (10/21/19 Board 3.2B4)	Eff. Dates 1/6-4/8/20

HCRHS BOARD MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 24, 2020 CONTINUED

Moved by Mrs. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Nicol, and unanimously passed by a roll call vote of 9-0 to rescind the following appointment, as recommended by the Superintendent:

RESCIND APPOINTMENT

RESCIND APPOINTMENT			
#	Name	Position	Stipend
A	Defazio, Tristen	Baseball – Asst. Coach (Spring) 2019-2020 School Year	\$6,541

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS: None.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

BOARD COMMENTS: None.

BOARD COMMENTS

RESIDENTS’ FORUM – GENERAL:

RESIDENTS’ FORUM

Acting Principal Ed Brandt recognized the retirement of Vice Principal Barbara Manfredi and thanked her for service since 1997. He reflected on his year as Acting Principal and the connections he has made with parents, community, the Board, student council, class council, and classes and groups that invited his participation.

Parent Cathy LaGullo expressed concern over the crisis in the community and the lack of communication and caring by staff and administration. She described children as terrified and angry. Ms. LaGullo said wellness seminars should be mandatory for students. She offered that many people are willing to partner with the school to be included in the solution. Ms. LaGullo concluded that she appreciates the school’s efforts, but asked that programs are more approachable for students.

Student Camryn Paulson said she applauds administration for its efforts, but she feels students do not understand what they are trying to do and things are not working. She said it is not natural for kids to be dying at 14 or 15. Ms. Paulson recommend school-wide workshops in the fieldhouse or auditorium and stronger relationships between students and administrators/teachers to improve mental health advocacy.

Student Amy Torres suggested ways to remove the stigmas around mental health such as talking about self-harm, mental health apps, and more inclusivity. She suggested a change to the school bell sound and more interaction with students through sports and clubs.

Student Emily Jerzewski told the Board that the school needs to talk more about mental health. She said she was 15 when her friend, Allison Vandal, committed suicide. Ms. Jerzewski said she is organizing a concert to benefit NAMI Hunterdon on June 19th to honor Allison, who was deeply involved in music. She also shared that it is important to include the pictures of classmates who have died in the yearbook.

Student Linda Nemec said she attended the Safe Harbor meeting and was inspired to write an email to the Board. She shared statistics about suicide and said that no immediate action was taken by the school following student deaths. Ms. Nemec said these problems are not just the school’s issue; everyone needs to help. She said students with mental health issues suffer from a loss of communication, no connection with others, stress, a large stigma, not knowing where to go, feeling pushed away by counselors, bullying, and social media. Student Destinee Dockhorn offered possible solutions such as implementing ideas from student advisory groups, peer mediation, no-phone Mondays, a peers-to-peers program, and curriculum changes to include mental health topics. Student Leah Ellenberg reported that suicide is the second leading cause of death for youth. She said suicide needs to end here; we are not going to wait for another student to die.

Student Sage Sorrentino expressed that the school’s work for mental health is not enough. She described the school as dull, dark, depressing, and cold. Ms. Sorrentino recommended solutions such as posters around school and gender-neutral bathrooms. She said LGBT students are at high risk and noted that she regularly hears homophobic comments. She criticized counselors’ offices as dark and bleak. Ms. Sorrentino expressed concern that students have too much pressure to perform well and need a break from homework on Fridays. She recommended mental health days for students. She concluded that Mr. Brandt has been very good for listening to students.

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Student Kate Quinn said she is sorry for each person in the room for the grief they are feeling. She thanked the Board for its work and said she appreciates everyone coming to the meeting. Ms. Quinn recommended that school walls be painted with messages and bright colors. She offered that nothing is perfect and there is more work to do. Ms. Quinn concluded by reading a pledge from Safe Harbor.

Parent Elizabeth Drelich said she is proud of kids standing up at the meeting. She observed that there is a disconnect between Dr. Moore's presentation that sounds great and the kids who are still struggling. Ms. Drelich offer her unique services, as the mother of Joe Drelich, to help anyone. She said knew how much he was loved and how much he loved others, but when he took his life, he felt alone. Ms. Drelich said that hundreds who walk in the school doors are diagnosed with mental illness, and we need to lift the stigma. She said the solution is not to bring in counselors temporarily or to tell students to get over it. Ms. Drelich said a teacher was heard to say it was a good year – the school had only one suicide. She said suicide is a crisis in our country, and she urged that we be the leaders on change. She concluded that the children just want to be cared for and to know that they are not alone.

Former student Abbey Herdman said she lost two special people in her life to suicide. She said those left behind wonder why. She concluded that this is not the Board's fault, but something must be done now.

Parent Susan Hemsley-Cicala said she is sorry to see student and parents who are suffering. She offered that as a 58-year old, she is a genius at nothing, but an expert at living. Ms. Hemsley-Cicala said that no one goes through life unscathed; that is life. She told students that everything they are struggling with, adults have lived through. Ms. Hemsley-Cicala said suicide is bigger than a New Jersey issue or a Hunterdon Central issue. She asked how willing everyone is to stop what is going on now and start doing something about it. She advocated for changes to the yearbook and graduation to include the classmates who are gone. She concluded that kids have had fabulous ideas, and we need to talk about it.

Supervisor Annie Suter expressed hope and encouragement for Hunterdon Central students. She shared that staff and administrators care deeply for students and it breaks their hearts to see children suffer. She said her peers want successful, happy lives for students. Ms. Suter said staff was not taught all of this, that dealing with suicide is uncharted territory. Ms. Suter concluded that she loves and cares for this community so much, and she wants everyone to rally together to do the good work.

Teacher Julie Nealon said she is proud to hear her students advocate for themselves and proud that Carol Dvoor and Lesley Gabel are working for our students. She told students that people at Hunterdon Central care about them every day. Ms. Nealon concluded that those we have lost would be very proud of these students and are watching over them.

Student Assistance Counselor Stacy Heller said that we can get through this if we all come together. She discouraged divisiveness and holding on to anger. Ms. Heller shared a poem about the role of staff and encouraged adults to help quiet the negative, to help students grieve, and to work toward connectedness.

Student Amy Torres translated residents' comments to Spanish after each speaker.

Mr. Panico responded that he is on the Board because loves Hunterdon Central. He said it breaks his heart that others do not feel like he did as a student. Mr. Panico offered that a solution goes beyond the borders of the school, but we need to lead the fight. He thanked everyone for attending and speaking, and he assured that he hears the passion and drive in their words and he cares about all of them.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Moved by Mr. Davidson, seconded by Mrs. O'Donnell, the following resolution to enter executive session was unanimously passed:

Whereas Section 8 of the Open Public Meeting Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 authorizes a public body to exclude the public from that portion of a meeting at which specified topics are to be discussed under circumstances where the public consideration of such topics will clearly endanger the public, or where the personal

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privacy of or guaranteed rights of individuals whose activities or affairs are to be discussed would be clearly in danger of unwarranted invasions and

Whereas the matters about to be presented for discussion clearly meet the "circumstances" test of such Act, now therefore be it

Resolved that the Board of Education of Hunterdon Central Regional High School now adjourns from public session to reconvene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the following: HIB matters, litigation, negotiations, personnel, school security, and be it further

Resolved that the Board will more specifically discuss litigation and a HIB matters,

And be it further

Resolved that the discussion in Executive Session be disclosed in the minutes to be released at the next regular meeting of the Board, provided the Board's consideration of the subject matter be closed, or that such matter does not adversely affect the rights of prospective, current, or past public officers, or personnel of the Board, unless such individuals have in writing requested the disclosures of such discussion at a public meeting and provided such a public disclosure will no longer clearly endanger the public interest.

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 9:37 p.m.

Moved by Mrs. Hughes, seconded by Dr. Charney, and unanimously passed, the Board reconvened to public session at 10:37 p.m.

RECONVENE

Mr. Panico reported the Board discussed litigation and HIB matters while in Executive Session.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business, on motion by Mr. Davidson, seconded by Mr. Richard, and unanimously passed, the meeting was adjourned at 10:38 p.m.

ADJOURN

Respectfully Submitted,

Gymlyn Corbin
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Date Approved

Vincent Panico, Board President