

Special Meeting July 1, 2020

CALL TO ORDER: PM

FLAG SALUTE

NOTICE OF MEETING:

Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting has been provided as follows: by having the time, date and place of the meeting posted on the bulletin board in the Administration Building February 28 2020; by sending a copy of the meeting notice to the Star Ledger Newspaper and the Union County Local Source on February 28, 2020; and by filing a copy with the Township of Hillside and Hillside Public Library on February 28, 2020.

ROLL CALL:

Best	5:30 p.m.		Shapiro	Absent	
Harbin	5:30 p.m.		Worrill	5:30 p.m.	
Howard	5:30 p.m.		Cook	5:30 p.m.	
Lofton	5:30 p.m.		Gregory	5:30 p.m.	
Robinson	5:30 p.m.		Hamlin	5:30 p.m.	
Salters	5:35 p.m.		Eichenholtz	5:30 p.m.	

Motion to open public comments at 5:32 p.m.

Motion: Harbin                      Second: Worrill

Motion carried.                      Unanimous voice vote.

Public Comments – Agenda Items Only

Good Evening

Angela Lawler

The HEA and I would like to congratulate the Hillside Board of Ed members for the new ELA curriculum on the agenda tonight. This will make the job of the teaching staff much easier in September if the motion on the agenda is passed this evening. In the past staff were not given ample time to review and digest the new curriculum, so this is refreshing. Over the last several months staff have been working diligently to move our students forward, even though they have been thrown a curve with Covid-19. I understand there is a virtual component to this curriculum which which help immensely since we do not know what September will bring. Again Thank You for being a forward thinker!

Kimley Davis

I am an administrator in the district, and I am going through training this week. As a new administrator, I thought that the training we were receiving was normal. I mentioned to someone that we are lucky to have this every year. I was advised that this is the first time that they received this type of training. The emotions that everyone has expressed this week have been excitement, rejuvenation, hopefulness and eagerness. These positive feelings are due to

Mr. Gregory. His leadership and vision has reinvigorated the administrators and teachers in the district. He has been the first superintendent, in my career in Hillside, that has a clear vision and a plan to carry it forward. I believe in his vision and will work hard to carry it out. I look forward to taking part in his plan and seeing the positive progression of the district.

Eugenia Cooley

I am currently an ELA teacher in the district and also an active board member with the New Jersey Literacy Association (NJLA). My desire is to address the implementation of Amplify to our K-8 curricular program. My work with NJLA allows me, as a reading specialist, to interact with educators throughout the state, discuss programs that work for teachers, and engage in curriculum writing projects throughout the year. A common topic from various districts has been the frustration with programs that do not readily lend themselves to remote learning, in a way that is engaging. As teachers, we find ways to make any program work for our students but, our remote learning experience revealed a need for more. As we do not know what the future will hold and if we will find ourselves in the virtual classrooms within our homes again, we need a program that will suit all needs. Yes, we will continue to find ways to make Benchmark Advance engaging and interactive by utilizing other supplemented platforms, if we have to.

The features that Amplify offers will provide a one-stop shop for all teaching and learning styles within the traditional learning setting but, especially in the virtual environment. The assessment component allows for immediate feedback to students, differentiated instruction and activities, and very timely data. What really appeals to me most, is the engaging activities that students can participate in either synchronously or asynchronously.

Thank you for considering a program that will provide the necessary resources to move our students forward no matter what the learning environment.

Motion to close public comments at 5:35 p.m.

Motion: Howard      Second: Best

Motion carried.      Unanimous voice vote.

**EDUCATION- Worrill/Howard**

1. Motion to accept the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent of Schools and approve Amplify to provide and implement ELA curriculum k-8 at a cost of \$115,000 to be paid from the 20-21 budget ( may include Title funds) and the balance of \$115,000 will be paid from 21-22 ( may include payment from Title funds).

Motion: Worrill      Second: Lofton

	Yes	No	Ab.		Yes	No	Ab.
Best	X			Salters	X		
Harbin	X			Shapiro	Absent		
Howard	X			Worrill	X		
Lofton	X			Cook	X		
Robinson	X						

Motion 1 carried.      8 Yes 0 No

**LABOR RELATIONS – Shapiro/Cook**

**Upon the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent of Schools:**

**Appointments – For all new hires, employment is conditioned upon completion of a criminal history background check pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1 of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1(b)**

1. Motion to appoint Cel C. Onyeagocha as the Technology Manager at a salary of \$85,000 effective July 1, 2020, pending receipt of fingerprints through June 30, 2021. (Replacing J. Mojica)

Motion: Robinson

Second: Howard

	Yes	No	Ab.		Yes	No	Ab.
Best	X			Salters	X		
Harbin	X			Shapiro	Absent		
Howard	X			Worrill	X		
Lofton	X			Cook	X		
Robinson	X						

Motion 1 carried.                      8 Yes 0 No

Mr. Howard made closing comments on behalf of the board. He thanked everyone for their hard work and continued dedication throughout this difficult time.

Motion to adjourn.

Motion:                      Second:

Time:

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Dr. David Eichenholtz  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary