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The next scheduled Meeting of the Hillside Board of Education will be held as posted, on May 28, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

In order to avoid public congregation, public comment regarding both agenda and non-agenda items will be accepted via email only through 6:15 p.m. on Thursday, May 28, 2020. Emails should be sent to [hboemeeting@hillsidek12.org](mailto:hboemeeting@hillsidek12.org). Please state your name and address in your email. Responses to emails will be addressed and recorded during the meeting. Please view the video of the meeting which will be posted on our webpage on Friday, May 29, 2020. Or subscribe to our HBOE Meeting Channel on YouTube using the following the link below to view and hear the meeting live.

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUmp9SixPIWlrAdpKbwzm4g?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUmp9SixPIWlrAdpKbwzm4g?view_as=subscriber)

Minutes Meeting May 28, 2020

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 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 January 8, 2020; by sending a copy of the meeting notice to the Star Ledger Newspaper and the Union County Local Source on April 14, 2020; and by filing a copy with the Township of Hillside and Hillside Public Library on January 17, 2020.

ROLL CALL:

Best	6:30 p.m.	7:28 p.m.	Shapiro	6:40 p.m.	7:28 p.m.
Harbin	6:30 p.m.	7:28 p.m.	Worrill	6:30 p.m.	7:28 p.m.
Howard	Absent		Cook	6:30 p.m.	7:28 p.m.
Lofton	6:45 p.m.	7:28 p.m.	Gregory	6:30 p.m.	7:28 p.m.
Robinson	6:30 p.m.	7:28 p.m.	Hamlin	6:30 p.m.	7:28 p.m.
Salters	6:30 p.m.	7:28 p.m.	Eichenholtz	6:30 p.m.	7:28 p.m.

Motion to open public comments.

Motion: Best                      Second: Worrill

Motion carried.                      Unanimous voice vote.

Dr. Eichenholtz read emailed questions and comments and he along with Mr. Gregory responded, where appropriate. (See attachment)

Motion to close public comments.

Motion: Worrill                      Second: Best

Motion to adjust agenda and go into executive session prior to committee reports.

Motion: Harbin                      Second: Best

Motion carried                      Unanimous voice vote.

BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, that the Board of Education meet in closed executive session at this time to discuss matters relating to personnel; teacher transfers and certificates; contract negotiations; contract renewal for Mr. Gregory. The Board will reconvene in public session at the conclusion of the closed session. The matters discussed in closed session will be disclosed to the public as soon as the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

Motion: Lofton                      Second: Worrill

Motion carried.                      Unanimous voice vote.

Motion to go into open session.

Motion: Lofton                      Second: Best

Motion carried.                      Unanimous voice vote.

**Committee Reports**

Ms. Best stated that the Finance Committee met last week and discussed agenda items 1-9.  
Mr. Robinson stated that the Buildings & Grounds Committee met and discussed agenda items 1-9.  
Ms. Worrill stated that the Education Committee met on 5/21/20 and discussed agenda items 1-3.  
Ms. Cook stated that the Policy committee met and discussed the updating of the district policies and bylaws.  
Mr. Shapiro stated that a Committee of the Whole met and discussed labor relation agenda items.

Superintendent's Report - See Attachment

**FINANCE – Best/Shapiro**

1. Motion to approve the Minutes of the April 30, 2020 regular meeting.
2. Motion to approve line item transfers.
3. Motion to approve the payment of bills subject to the availability of funds.
4. Motion to approve the February 2020 & March 2020 Secretary's Report.
5. Motion to approve the February 2020 & March 2020 Treasurer's Report.
6. Motion to transfer \$65,000 from the Extraordinary Aid account for legal expenses – account 11-000-230-331-01-00.
7. Motion to approve the agreement between the Hillside Board of Education and Hunt, Hamlin & Ridley to provide legal services for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. (FI#1-05/20)
8. Motion to approve the agreement between the Hillside Board of Education and Brown & Brown Metro, LLC for broker services for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. (FI#2-05/20)
9. Motion to approve the CSI Software Support Renewal Agreement for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. (FI#3-05/20)

Motion: Best                              Second: Lofton

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

Motion 1 to 9 carried.                      8 Yes 0 No 0 Abstentions

**BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Best/Robinson**

1. Motion to approve the agreement between Environetics Group Architects, PC and the Hillside Board of Education for Architect of Record Services for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. (BG#1-05/20)
2. Motion to approve the Resolution/Agreement for participation in Coordinated Transportation Service between the Hillside Board of Education and Union County Education Services for 2020-2021. (BG#2-05/20)
3. Motion to approve the Agreement for transportation services between the Hillside Board of Education and Essex Regional Educational Services Commission for 2020-2021. (BG#3-05/20)
4. Motion to approve the contract renewal with Villani Bus Company for school related activities for the 2020-2021 year. The rates are based on a 1.70% increase from the Consumer Price Index (CPI) (maximum permitted by New Jersey code). (BG#4-05/20)
5. Motion to approve the North Jersey Landcare Services, LLC (Moonachie, NJ) for all district-wide Landscaping effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 in the amount of \$6,490.44 per month.
6. Motion to appoint Maschio's Food Services Inc. as the Food Service Management Company for the period July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. (fourth year following RFP) (BG#5-05/20)

Management Fee/Flat	\$ 31,500.00
Guaranteed Profit	\$ 150,000.00

7. Motion to approve the pricing for breakfast and lunch and ala carte items for the 2020-2021 school year in accordance with the attached schedule. (BG#6-05/20)
8. Motion to revise the current 2019-20 school year food service contract with Maschio's Food Services Inc. due to the circumstances involving the Corona Virus and the subsequent closing of schools. Maschio's will need to reduce their guarantee from \$225,000.00 to \$100,000.00. (BG#7-05/20)
9. Motion to approve the agreement between Environetics Group Architects, PC and the Hillside Board of Education for Energy Services for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. (BG#8-05/20)

**BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Best/Robinson (continued)**

Motion: Robinson                      Second: Shapiro

	Yes	No	Ab.		Yes	No	Ab.
Best	X			Salters	X	6	
Harbin	X			Shapiro	X		
Howard	Absent			Worrill	X		
Lofton	X			Cook	X		
Robinson	X						

Motions 1 to 9 carried.

**EDUCATION- Worrill/Howard**

1. Motion to accept the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent of Schools and approve the Special Education request for Related Services/Out-of-District Placements as attached. (Attachment ED#1-05/20)
2. Motion to accept the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent of Schools and approve the contract between the Hillside Board of Education and Starlight Homecare Agency, Inc d/b/a Star Pediatric Home Care Agency to provide 'In School' Nursing Services and 'In School' Substitute Nursing Services for the 2020-2021 School year. (Attachment ED#2-05/20)
3. Motion to accept the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent of Schools and approve the Special Education Tuition Contract between the Union County Educational Services Commission and the Hillside Board of Education for the 2020-21 school year. (Attachment ED#3-05/20)

Motion: Worrill                                      Second: Best

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

Motions 1 to 3 carried      8 Yes 0 No 0 Abstentions

**POLICY – Cook**

1. Motion to approve the attached proposal by Strauss Esmay Associates, LLP to update Hillside School District's Bylaw, Policy & Regulation Manuals. (PO#1-05/20)

Motion: Lofton

Second: Shapiro

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

Motion 1 carried. 8 Yes 0 No 0 Abstention

**LABOR RELATIONS – Shapiro/Cook**

**Resignations/Retirements/Terminations**

1. Motion to accept with regret, the retirement of Dawn Knowlden, Business Teacher at Hillside High School, effective July 1, 2020. (D.O.H. 9/1/85)
2. Motion to accept the resignation of Iman Ali, ESL Teacher at George Washington, effective July 1, 2020. (D.O.H. 5/21/18)

**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)**

3. **WHEREAS**, this Board of Education accepts the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent of Schools, and approves the appointment of the listed personnel for the 2019-2020 School Year and that these appointments shall be charged to the appropriate line item account pursuant to the negotiated agreement with the Hillside Education Association; and

**WHEREAS**, these appointments are subject to criminal history background checks, effective as indicated, and subject to sixty (60) day termination notice; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.6 et seq., requires school districts to review the employment history of prospective employees to ascertain allegations of child abuse or sexual misconduct; and

**WHEREAS**, the following prospective employees in the Hillside School District have provided the necessary information regarding his/her employment history for review by the District in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.7; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hillside Board of Education has commenced, but not concluded, a review of these employees' employment history; and

**WHEREAS**, these employees have provided a written certification/statement concerning his/her employment history as required by N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.7; and

**WHEREAS**, these employees have received notice that if he/she has willfully provided false information or willfully failed to disclose any information required by N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.7, et seq., he/she is subject to all penalties provided by law, including, but not limited to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.8.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Hillside Board of Education hereby appoints the following employees to their respective positions in the District, subject to the above enumerated conditions:

**Certificated**

- a) -----, ----- for -----, at an annual salary of \$----- Step ---, --- Guide prorated for the period to be determined through June 30, 2020. (Replacing -----)

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this Board hereby approves the extension of a provisional offer of employment to each of the aforementioned individuals for a period not to exceed ninety (90) days pending complete review of his/her employment history pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.10.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that notwithstanding the above provisions, no prospective employee shall begin work in the District without completion of the criminal history background check.

**LABOR RELATIONS –Shapiro/Cook (continued)**

4. Motion to appoint the following staff members as special education teachers for the Extended School Year Program at a rate of \*\$53.30 per hour, not to exceed four hours per day effective July 1, 2020 through August 6, 2020. (\*Subject to negotiations)
  - a) Margaret Styler
  - b) Katarzyna Rudnik
  - c) Sohyla Sayedahmed
  - d) Christina Lubrano
  - e) Lindsay Williams
  - f) Tracy Williams
  - g) Judith Alvarez
  - h) Courtney Arias
  - i) Danielle Lazar
  - j) Michael Branagh
  - k) Patrick Greco
  - l) Vanessa Pegas Duarte
  - m) Jessica Giordano
  - n) Stephanie Sisak
  
5. Motion to appoint related services staff members to conduct therapy sessions for special education students attending the Extended School Year Program effective July 1, 2020 through August 6, 2020 at a rate of \*\$53.30 per our not to exceed five hours per day consisting of the following: (\*Subject to negotiations)
  - a) Lorayne Castiglione      Physical Therapist
  - b) Rena Weis                      Occupational Therapist
  - c) Ariela Borgen                  Occupational Therapist
  - d) Holli Horlacher                Speech
  - e) Melissa Silva                    Speech
  - f) Nicolette Isakov                Speech
  - g) Hilda Rozas                      Speech
  - h) Ciaran Sisko                    Social Worker
  
6. Motion to appoint Child Study Team members to facilitate Individual Education Plan (IEP) conferences, referrals and re-evaluations effective July 1, 2020 through August 31, 2020 (not to exceed 80 days for total summer hours, 6.5 hours per day) at a cost of \*1/200 per day of the established salary of each team member consisting of the following: (\*Subject to negotiations)
  - a) 1 LDTC
  - b) 1 Psychologist
  - c) 1 Social Worker
  - d) 1 Speech Therapist
  
7. Motion to appoint Lindsay Piviroto as a BCBA for the Extended School Year Program at a rate of 1/200 of her \*2020-2021 salary not to exceed five hours per day effective July 1, 2020 through August 6, 2020. (\*Subject to negotiations)
  
8. Motion to compensate Erica Sala Della Cuna a stipend of \$1,500 for the initial programming and set-up of LED signs.



**LABOR RELATIONS –Shapiro/Cook (continued)**

**Transfers/Amendments**

9. Motion to approve the following transfers effective September 1, 2020:

	<b><u>From:</u></b>	<b><u>To:</u></b>
a) Melissa Guadalupe	Inclusion-GW	Inclusion-CC
b) Karen Mannino	Art-GW	Art-CC/APM
c) Lisa McWilliams	Art-CC/APM	Art-GW
d) Joseph Kitchell	Inclusion-CC	Inclusion-GW
e) Rebecca Cohen	ESL-CC	ESL-GW
f) Timothy Westervelt	Grade 5/ELA-CC	Grade 5/Teacher of Elementary Education-HL
g) Vernon Maynor	Grade 5/ELA-HL	Grade 5/Teacher of Elementary Education-CC
h) Jenna Maneri	ESL-HL	ESL-CC

10. Motion to amend the maternity leave dates for Employee #0539 from September 26, 2019 through August 21, 2020 to September 26, 2020 through June 1, 2020.

11. Motion to amend the step for Barris Grant as the Athletic Academic Coach for Hillside High School, from Step 10, BA Guide to step 9a, BA Guide effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. There is no change in salary. (4/28/20 board action)

**Leaves**

12. Motion to approve maternity leave for Employee #2518 effective September 2, 2020 through December 11, 2020. The Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) will cover the period beginning September 2, 2020 through December 8, 2020.

13. Motion to approve maternity leave for Employee #2825 effective September 21, 2020 through January 1, 2020 utilizing accumulated days. The Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) will cover the period beginning September 21, 2020 through December 22, 2020.

**Other**

14. Motion to approve the employment contract with Dr. David Eichenholtz for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 at a salary of \$162,000 as approved by the Union County Superintendent of Schools. (Attachment LR#1-05/28/20)

15. Motion to rescind the retirement of Kerry DeVito, 12-month Secretary, effective July 1, 2020.

Motion: Shapiro

Second: Best

	Yes	No	Ab.		Yes	No	Ab.
Best	X	9		Salters	X	9	
Harbin	X	9		Shapiro	X		
Howard	Absent			Worrill	X	9	
Lofton	X			Cook	X	9	
Robinson	X	9					

Motions 1 to 8 and 10 to 15 carried.

Motion 9 failed.

Additional Item:

Motion to approve the Board of Education Resolution Appointment of Acting Superintendent of Schools:

WHEREAS, the Hillside Board of Education desires to continue to employ A. Robert Gregory as its Acting Superintendent of Schools; and

WHEREAS, A. Robert Gregory has agreed to undertake the role of Acting Superintendent of Schools; effective July 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 and

WHEREAS, the Hillside Board of Education and A. Robert Gregory have agreed to essential terms and conditions of employment (exactly the same as the existing contract except for the term) which same has been approved by the Interim Executive County Superintendent of Schools for Union County; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Hillside Board of Education hereby extends the contract of A. Robert Gregory as Acting Superintendent of Schools pursuant to terms and conditions contained in the approved agreement from July 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020, unless the agreement is terminated in accordance with the contract prior thereto at the amount of \$90,000.00, prorated (if required).

This amount shall not exceed \$180,000.00 from the time when Mr. Gregory began employment in January 2020 through December 31, 2020, inclusive of any other salary Mr. Gregory may be receiving.

Motion: Shapiro

Second: Harbin

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

Motion carried. 7 Yes 0 No 1 Abstention

Old Business – None

New Business – None

Announcements

Ms. Cook stated that Union County had received masks for community distribution. Board Members and Administrators would be handing them out at schools from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 2, 2020.

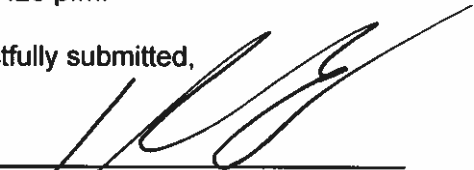
Motion to adjourn.

Motion: Worrill Second: Harbin

Motion carried. Unanimous voice vote.

Time: 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. David Eichenholtz  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary



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**Superintendent's Report: May Board Meeting**  
**May 28, 2020**

Good Evening Madame President, Vice President, esteemed board members, staff, students, and the Hillside Community. As we approach the final month of school, in these unprecedented times, I want to publicly thank this board, our teachers and staff, but most importantly, our parents and students.

To our students, we deeply miss you. The lives of our educators have been altered because they do not see you and your incredible genius throughout the week. To our parents, what you have endured unexpectedly is something we could never repay you for. We thank you for your perseverance, grits, and savvy ambition in support of your child's academic development. For families who have lost loved ones, we will continue to keep you in prayers and are here to lend any support needed.

To the Class of 2020, we are excited to announce we will be hosting a live graduation in compliance with Executive Orders and Social Distance Guidelines at a date to be determined. For the whole community, we look forward to celebrating the Class of 2020. They- along with their peers, will never be forgotten.

While, my report this evening is brief, I want the community to know that on June 2<sup>nd</sup> all educators in the Hillside Public Schools will be going through professional development coordinated and hosted by our new Director of Curriculum Dr. James Bever. Staff will receive PD on virtual learning, social emotional learning, and using data to drive instructional decisions.

Next week we will have our QSAC evaluation for the 2018-2019 School Year. The New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC) is the Department of Education's monitoring and district self-evaluation system for public school districts. The system focuses on monitoring and evaluating school districts in five key components that, based on research, have been identified to be key factors in effective school districts. These components are Instruction & Program, Fiscal, Governance, Operations, and Personnel. This will be conducted virtually. We look forward to getting valuable feedback as we embark on the strategic planning process to improve all schools in Hillside.

This past week, we launched our district wide school reopening committee and began planning for what will prove to be an amazing 20-21 school year. Students we look forward to celebrating your success at the end of this school year, but more importantly, welcoming you back into our buildings next school year.

Thank you.

Public Questions/Comments and Related Responses  
Board of Education Meeting of May 28, 2020

Good Morning,

Thank you for emailing your question. As articulated at the May board meeting, honor roll certificates and other recognitions will be mailed home to students and families. Have a great day.

Hello,

Can you ask this question at tonight's meeting?

How are you acknowledging our Honor Roll students?

I feel certificates should be mailed out.

Please advise,  
Carolyna

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**Any idea when a decision will be made about students collecting their personal belongings?**

The health and safety of our students, families, and staff remains of paramount importance. Thus, we want to ensure when providing opportunities for families to collect their personal belongings, we do it consistent with guidelines that adhere to executive orders in place, more importantly, keep people safe. I anticipate this process beginning the 2nd or 3rd week in June.

**Parents and children are slowly fading with distant learning .....Truly appreciate the friday make up day but I'm not going to lie, it is becoming increasingly difficult & stressful on the kids and parents . Do you anticipate the virtual learning to continue to this degree , through the 3rd week of June ? Is there a requirement by the state for them to work at this pace through that time frame?**

Students will not be working to the same degree through the 3rd week in June. Beginning June 15<sup>th</sup>, schools will begin to conduct classroom and school wide virtual celebrations. The marking period/trimester officially ends on June 18<sup>th</sup>. The last official day of school is June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Have you made any decisions on how students will be graded for the last semester? Whether they will get pass/ fail or letter grades and would it be consistent across the lower grade levels?**

We are finalizing our grading policy for the 4<sup>th</sup> marking period/3rd trimester. You can expect communication regarding our policy within the next two weeks.

**We have been receiving calls from teachers and principals, counselors to check in to see how our kids are doing which is great. What role do you think the district can take as a whole to help students transition back into school when that time comes? A lot of our students are suffering emotionally. This situation has not only an impact on their educational progress but also on their developmental growth. How will students who may need additional emotional support be identified when school opens? Will something be implemented in the daily instruction .**

Thank you for articulating this insight. This past week we launched our School Reopening Committee, on that committee we have our new director of curriculum Dr. Bevere, who got is doctorate in SEL, our Director of Guidance is also on the team along with our Director of Students Supports. We will be developing deliberate strategies to address the social emotional well being of our students. This will be incorporated throughout the school year. On June 2<sup>nd</sup> all teachers are being provided pd on Social Emotional Supports and how to ensure our students needs are met. We will continue to provide professional development in this area.

We appreciate your questions and can reassure you that we will be prepared to accelerate the achievement of our students in Hillside and provide them the supports they need during the 20-21 SY. I hope you have a great day. Please remain safe and healthy.

RG

**A. Robert Gregory**

**Acting Superintendent**

J'ne Brathwaite  
11 Vine Street

Good afternoon

Hope you are all well & staying safe .

Thank you for the call about graduation. We are all very excited about that. Genuinely appreciate it - it means a lot !

I just had a few questions :

Any idea when a decision will be made about students collecting their personal belongings ?

Parents and children are slowly fading with distant learning .....Truly appreciate the friday make up day but I'm not going to lie, it is becoming increasingly difficult & stressful on the kids and parents . Do you anticipate the virtual learning to continue to this degree , through the 3rd week of June ? Is there a requirement by the state for them to work at this pace through that time frame? Have you made any decisions on how students will be graded for the last semester? Whether they will get pass/ fail or letter grades and would it be consistent across the lower grade levels?

We have been receiving calls from teachers and principals, counselors to check in to see how our kids are doing which is great. What role do you think the district can take as a whole to help students transition back into school when that time comes? A lot of our students are suffering emotionally. This situation has not only an impact on their educational progress but also on their developmental growth. How will students who may need additional emotional support be identified when school opens? Will something be implemented in the daily instruction?

Look forward to hearing from you.

Best, J'ne  
J'ne Brathwaite

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Good Afternoon,

I hope you and your family are safe and well. Thank you for emailing your questions and insights. Below please find my responses articulated at the May Board meeting for your records.

**Why are teachers not giving online instruction in Kindergarten?**

Online learning has been deemed developmentally inappropriate for Pre-K and Kindergarten students. Our first graders at AP Morris are online participating in virtual instruction. Virtual Learning is made available to all students 1<sup>st</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade in the Hillside Public Schools.

**After submitting online assignment calendar for the whole month, what are teachers doing since they are not in touch with students and helping those who are struggling?**

We have dedicated Fridays to support students 1 on 1 or in small groups virtually. Teachers are required to contact the homes of any students with instructional packets once a week. If that has not occurred, I would encourage you to reach out to the Principal so we can rectify the situation. I forwarded your concerns to Principal Lowe. Please let me know if you require further assistance in this area.

**What is the district doing for parents who have no access to computers? Going forward, what is the district doing to support our babies? I know this is not right as I work in another school district where teachers hold online classes and support individual students who are struggling.**

On April 23, 2020 we distributed devices at all our schools to families that requested them and have since made additional accommodations. Moving forward we will ensure we have the appropriate technology to support virtual learning if it continues at some point during the 20-21 SY. On June 2nd all teachers are receiving PD on enhancing instruction in virtual learning. We will also launch next school year with more professional development in this area.

Thank you for your continued involvement. Please be safe.

RG

**A. Robert Gregory**

**Acting Superintendent**

**Hillside Public Schools**

**195 Virginia Street, Hillside, NJ 07205**

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**From:** Janepher Bosire <jpbosire1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 28, 2020 11:32:54 AM  
**To:** HHBOE Meeting <hboemeeting@hillsidek12.org>  
**Subject:** Students Instruction

Good Morning,

I'm Janepher Bosire, 275 Conklin Avenue, Hillside, NJ. 07205. I'm with a Kindergarten student who receives calendar packets of what should be completed every day. The packets give directions on finding materials or going to a website and completing tasks. No supplemental worksheets and the child has never seen the teacher since the closure of schools. Assignments are not collected and reviewed. Why are teachers not giving online instruction? After submitting online assignment calendar for the whole month, what are teachers doing since they are not in touch with students and helping those who are struggling? What is the district doing for parents who have no access to computers? Going forward, what is the district doing to support our babies? I know this is not right as I work in another school district where teachers hold online classes and support individual students who are struggling. Your response is highly appreciated. Thank you.

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Hello Ms. Iungerman,



In addition, regarding your item #1,

The Board of Education has found that providing detailed live verbal responses to the questions and comments of the community and posting that video on our website, as well as providing detailed email responses directly, has worked well in addressing any comments and questions.

Please feel free to send any concerns or questions to my attention, in between meetings, at [deichenholtz@hillsidek12.org](mailto:deichenholtz@hillsidek12.org).

Stay well, and the best to your family,

David

### **Follow up questions regarding Magnet School**

Our goal is to launch the magnet school during the 21-22 school year. We are in the preliminary stages of planning and have clarity on our programmatic and facilities needs. We will provide updates to the community and opportunities for engagement during the 20-21 SY. We have not received an update since our last board of ed. meeting from Mr. Salters. Dr. Bevere, our new Director of Curriculum, has led the Curriculum and Instruction team through a robust review of our curricula resources (K-12) in Math and Science. We are developing a strategic priority plan to address gaps identified. Our strategic priority plan will have clear goals, moreover, direct actions to advance achievement in this area. We look forward to sharing more in the near future.

### **3) What is the plan for allowing students to retrieve personal belongings that are still in the schools?**

The health and safety of our students, families, and staff remains of paramount importance. Thus, we want to ensure when providing opportunities for families to collect their personal belongings, we do it consistent with guidelines that adhere to executive orders in place, more importantly, keep people safe. I anticipate this process beginning the 2nd or 3rd week in June.

**4) We are no longer receiving phone reminders or seeing any outreach to remind residents about BOE meetings, can we change this and revert to the frequent reminders that we used to receive? I miss hearing the Lovely Ms Pat Sessions on the other end of the phone.**

Dr. Eichenholtz will email his response from the meeting for your records.

Thank you for your continued involvement. Please be safe.

RG

A. Robert Gregory

Acting Superintendent

Hillside Public Schools

195 Virginia Street, Hillside, NJ 07205-278

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Kimberly lungerman: 855 Winchester Ave

1) Thank you for your time this evening. The current format for the meetings--with advance emails only and no opportunity to interact with the board or seek clarification on questions or comments is very limiting for public participation. In addition, there is no way for the public to receive you tube notifications when you come out of public session. There are many interactive meeting opportunities like Zoom, Webex, BlueJeans and even Facebook Live (where people can comment or type their questions). Please consider a better option that allows for social distancing but still supports appropriate engagement with your voting constituents for future meetings.

2) Last month I inquired about the details for the Magnet school and I received the following response.

The process is ongoing, but Mr. Salters, who is consulting for the board of education on this matter, provided an update last night, and will every 3 months going forward. A parent meeting will be held in Sept. Mr. Salters will update on all aspects of the proposed magnet school at that time. That will be the time for parent feedback. For now, negotiations is ongoing for properties that would best meet the needs of the proposed school.

Eligibility, offerings, etc will be examined over the next few months and determinations in those areas will be provided publicly during the Sept meeting.

Mr. Salters was chosen by the board of education to consult on this matter given his strong background in this field. He will not be compensated.

Here are my follow up questions:

1. What is the timeline for implementation of the Magnet School? Why are the status reports from Mr Salters only be provided every 3 months?
2. What school administrators & educators are providing input into the process?
3. How can we work on finding a location for this magnet school if we don't already have a rough understanding of what offerings we will provide and what space we will need, in addition to the type of space? Is there a high level proposal that is available for review?
4. What are we doing to first address the gaps that we have in providing basic education and achievement in Math and Science before we take on any advanced or focused programming?

3) What is the plan for allowing students to retrieve personal belongings that are still in the schools?

4) we are no longer receiving phone reminders or seeing any outreach to remind residents about BOE meetings, can we change this and revert to the frequent reminders that we used to receive? I miss hearing the Lovely Ms Pat Sessions on the other end of the phone.

Thank you and stay safe.

Hello,

Here are the remaining responses to your questions/concern from the other night.

We truly appreciate your interest.

-Startlight is a substitute nursing service specifically utilized to ensure that the needs of classified special education students are met when the regular staff member is not available.

-the landscaping services have been handled by this same party throughout the current school year and an adjustment to their current rate was made utilizing the current percentage increase in the cost of living. An RFP will be set up for all landscapers to provide quotes at the end of the 20/21 school year.

The Cares Act funds will be utilized to provide medical supplies, virtual learning professional development, and tech equipment for students.

Thank you,

David Eichenholtz

**4- In the case where returning in September is not an option, what is the districts plan for virtual teaching? Will every student (not family) receive a device and will district assist or provide WiFi to those families that need it?**

We will be using federal funds provided via the CARES Act (funds you reference in question #3) to address the digital divide within our district. This will include, but is not limited to, the purchase of additional devices for students and assistance with Wifi access for families in need. Our goal is to bring Hillside to a one to one ratio.

**5- If we are returning in September, what steps is the district taking to assure students, teachers, and personnel are protected? Will we still be required to social distance?**

We are anticipating social distancing will still be required upon our return to school in September but remain committed to implementing guidelines established by the CDC and state of New Jersey. This past week we launched our School Reopening Committee, which consist of varied district level leaders in areas required to successfully launch next school year. As articulated, we are planning for 3 potential scenarios [linked here](#). Our reopening committee will meet on a weekly basis to continue to take the necessary steps to assure staff and students remain healthy and protected.

**6- When will first graders be notified to what school they will attend next year?**

First Graders will be notified about the school they will attend during the last week of June 2020. Families will receive notifications in the mail.

**7- Has a grading system been established for this last marking period?**

We are finalizing our grading policy for the 4<sup>th</sup> marking period. You can expect communication regarding our 4th marking period grading policy within the next two weeks.

**8- Will parents/students be provided the opportunity to retrieve items left behind in the classroom/lockers?**

The health and safety of our students, families, and staff remains of paramount importance. Thus, we want to ensure when providing opportunities for families to collect their personal belongings, we do it consistent with guidelines that adhere to executive orders in place, more importantly, keep people safe. I anticipate this process beginning the 2nd or 3rd week in June.

Thank you for your continued involvement. Please be safe.

RG

**A. Robert Gregory**

**Acting Superintendent**

**Hillside Public Schools**

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**From:** Marisabel West <marisawest81@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 28, 2020 3:06 PM  
**To:** HHBOE Meeting <hboemeeting@hillsidek12.org>  
**Subject:** Meeting Questions

Marisabel West, 36 Hurden Street

Good Afternoon, Hope everyone continues to be well.

I had a few questions for today's meeting:

- 1- Starlight Services- Is this just a nurse substitute agency? Or is the intent to replace our nurses with an agency?
- 2- How much were we paying in Landscaping before? Is the Landcare Services a new contract?
- 3- Hillside received \$558K for COVID aid- Has this been received and how does the district intend to use it?
- 4- In the case where returning in September is not an option, what is the districts plan for virtual teaching? Will every student (not family) receive a device and will district assist or provide WiFi to those families that need it?
- 5- If we are returning in September, what steps is the district taking to assure students, teachers, and personnel are protected? Will we still be required to social distance?
- 6- When will first graders be notified to what school they will attend next year?
- 7- Has a grading system been established for this last marking period?
- 8- Will parents/students be provided the opportunity to retrieve items left behind in the classroom/lockers?

Thank you in advance.

Thank you for the clarification.

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Please be advised that this is a Personnel matter and could not be discussed publicly by the Board of Ed last night.

Please note that the teacher transfer on last night's agenda was not passed by the Board.  
Dr. Eichenholtz

Lisa McWilliams  
443 N. Greenbush Rd.  
Blauvelt, NY 10913

I hope this communication finds everyone well.

With regard to the reassignment of schools, teaching at AP Morris/Calvin Coolidge to George Washington, during the Pandemic would be very untimely. Movement to another school will cause great stress on both my students and myself. A reassignment will break all connections that I have with my present students.

I urge this board to please reconsider movement of teaching staff at this time.

Sincerely,  
Lisa McWilliams

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Dr. Eichenholtz

Ryan Masterson

84 center street, Metuchen New Jersey

Hurden Looker School

I'm writing to convince you to keep Mrs Manari at Hurden Looker because of her relationships with her students. She has been with them for several years and has developed a great rapport with them and knows their needs. Consistency is so important for the students. They are familiar with her and her expectations. I believe transferring her would do a disservice to her students.

Thank you for your consideration

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Dr. Eichenholtz

Good Evening Hillside Board of Education-

My name is Jenna Maneri. My address is 302 Mountainview Terrace in Dunellen, NJ.

I hope this letter finds you well. I teach English as a Second Language at Hurden Looker School. Currently, on the board agenda for tonight there is a motion for me to be transferred to Calvin Coolidge. I am surprised to see my name on this month's board agenda and have been offered no explanation as to why there is a

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need for a change. I wanted to reach out to you and let you know that I am happy at Hurden Looker and do not wish to leave.

I believe consistency is number one. Showing up every day for my students, creating stability and excellence within the ESL program through routines and well-planned lessons, and providing a nurturing classroom environment are important to keep my students motivated.

In addition, I have a great rapport with my students. I have worked hard to collaborate with their classroom teachers. The result of which has been less confusion among the students and more consistency to create a stronger and more uniform learning environment.

The greatest strength of having grades 2-6 in our building is being able to track student progress. Having the same students year after year allows me to use the data from the WIDA ACCESS and MODEL assessments as well as other data to help drive my instruction for each individual student. I see where their strengths are and where there is a need for improvement. I make appropriate learning goals for each student that are specific and measurable. Having them in the same building for 5 years allows for me to monitor present and past students to make sure they continue to succeed.

I am a part of the Hurden Looker family. I have built relationships at Hurden Looker School with students, families, staff, and administrators. I have worked hard to improve the High Intensity ESL Program. The numerous trainings I have attended voluntarily have allowed me to ensure that the High Intensity ESL Program at Hurden Looker School complies with state laws and I have provided trainings to fellow staff to turn key how to best service the ESL students in their content area classrooms. Furthermore, I am a mentor to our newest ESL Teacher at Hurden Looker. I participate in the Science Committee, National Elementary Honor's Society, and School Climate Committee.

With the current global pandemic, I miss my students. I can't imagine not seeing them again and disrupting their lives further. Hurden Looker is my home and I don't feel my work is done there. Please allow me to continue my career at Hurden Looker and to see my students again. I believe I am doing a lot of good there and would like to continue.

Can you please explain why this is happening? And why now?

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate it.

Jenna Maneri ESL Teacher Hurden Looker School

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Dr. Eichenholtz

Kristen Klein

1556 Ashbrook Dr. Scotch Plains

It is on the agenda tonight that Jenna Maneri be transferred to Calvin Coolidge for the 2020-2021 school year. In my short time at Hurden Looker, I have seen the strong relationships Ms. Maneri has built with her students. Ms. Maneri is a role model to her students and is someone that her students feel comfortable and confident around. These students need as much consistency as possible, especially in these times of upheaval. Students want to return to "normal" in the following school year. Returning to a new unknown can cause further unnecessary stress for students. This is especially true of moving a teacher that is looked up to at Hurden Looker. Ms. Maneri has worked diligently to build the strong relationships she has with her students. Through her students reaching consistent academic milestones, she has shown her ability to work with these students in a positive manner and should remain at Hurden Looker.



Thank you for your consideration.

Thank you so much!

Phone: 9735686887

Lilian Lopes

Please forward your phone number and email address and I will forward to the proper party within the district.

Dr Eichenholtz

Good afternoon, I have called the BOE for a while and no one seems to have an answer to this. My daughters attended private school in the past years, but will be attending Hillside public schools since we live in Hillside. How do I go about in registering them for the ups coming school year?

We live in Buchanan St. Thank you in advance!

Lilian Lopes

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Dr. Eichenholtz

To whom it may concern,

It has come to my attention that Jenna Maneri has been put on the agenda to be moved to Calvin Coolidge. As a special education teacher who has been in district over 10 years, and have worked with Jenna Maneri for the past couple of years, I highly recommend that she stay at Hurden Looker. Jenna has been essential at HL and has been one of the only ESL teachers to collaborate with me with our students who are both ESL and Special Ed. Jenna has provided me with lots of resources and ideas to help students in an inclusion setting and I think it would be a disservice to our building and the students to take her away. Students need consistency especially in these times. For her returning students NOT to see her whenever we return back to our buildings, would be devastating. Please consider keeping her at Hurden Looker.

Sincerely,

Danielle M. Lazar

Special Ed/Inclusion Teacher

Hurden Looker

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Dr. Eichenholtz

Dear Hillside BOE,

As a former employee of the Hillside School District I would ask that you look at what this actual article is asking her to change from in her current teaching position. Ms. Karen Mannino has been an outstanding educator in your district for years now and is highly revered on even the state level. She is one of the most hard working individuals I have ever had the pleasure to work with especially at my time at WOK back in 2007.

I ask that you vote NO to article Labor/Relations 9B at tonights meeting.

It would be a detriment to her as an educator and to your district.

Thank you for your time,

Miss Emily A Fencik

Ms. Emily A. Fencik

Vox Director

Assistant Tennis Coach



**Saint Peter's Prep**  
New Jersey's Jesuit High School Since 1872

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Dr. Eichenholtz

Good Evening Superintendent Gregory, Board of Education Members, Hillside Public Schools Faculty and Staff, Community Members, and Guests;

I would like to extend my most sincere appreciation for your leadership during these very uncertain times. I applaud the communication between the Board, staff members, parents, and all stakeholders. I commend your resilience to offer the Class of 2020 a proper send off with an actual graduation. I recognize the unforeseen difficulty in navigating digital instruction and remote learning for thousands of students; and your ability to adapt. Over the last three months, the Board of Education, staff, students, and parents have worked together to create a sense of structure and normalcy during these ever-changing times. For every challenge we have faced, the district's faculty and staff have endured and overcome. As it has been said, you can't stop a comet!

But there is a Board decision that I am struggling to understand. There is a decision that has thrown me for a loop and has made me feel increasingly anxious. I would like to know why my name is on the Agenda, through a proposed transfer from GW to APM/CC for the upcoming school year. I am floored. Not only did I not request a transfer, there was no indication that this was even a consideration before the lockdown began. I enjoy being at GW. Over the last three years, I have worked collaboratively with colleagues, parents, and students to create an outstanding art program. I was named GW's Teacher of the Year in 2019. My students' work has been selected to be on display at numerous county-, state-, and nation-wide art exhibits. I have worked with staff and administrators to promote the visual arts for all school and class events. If you walk into GW, you can clearly see the hundreds of student pieces that have been displayed all around the school. Now that I have made this school my new home, I kindly ask that you explain why I am being considered for this transfer.

I would also like to know how it was determined that I would be the one who would be moved. It was my understanding that seniority has some influence in how decisions regarding employment have been made. In the past, I have had first-hand knowledge of what happens when you are the "low man on the totem pole". When I started teaching in Hillside in 2006, I was the Art Teacher at WOK. While I was there, I established and facilitated the middle school's soccer team and art club. WOK participated in the Union County Teen Arts Festival for the first time, and I served as the facilitator for that and subsequent events. I also served as assistant softball coach for the High School for five years, and we qualified for the State Tournament twice. In 2014, the district schools were reconfigured. Following that, a RIF was made to the Art Department. I was let go because I was the last hired. While it was a shock to leave a school in which I felt I had established a secure foundation, I understood. I was the last one hired, so I was the first one fired. After the RIF, I was hired at William L. Dickinson High School in Jersey City, where I taught Painting and Intro Art. I was also awarded the Art Educators of New Jersey's Secondary Art Teacher of the Year in 2016. While I taught in Jersey City, I continued to serve as the assistant coach to the Hillside High School Girls Soccer Team. I returned to WOK in 2016. In 2017, the

district schools were reconfigured again, and it was determined that WOK only needed one Art Teacher. Again, since I had less seniority than the other Art Teacher in the same school, my position was eliminated. Still, I continued to coach soccer at the high school – Where our squad has qualified for the state tournament twice in the past three years. I was transferred to GW in October 2017, where, following yet another school reconfiguration, I have since retained the full-time position as Art Teacher. Since then, Hillside hired a new Art Teacher, who also teaches grades 2-6. With a newly hired Art Teacher now at another elementary school, I do not understand why the seniority rule I have been affected by twice before, does not help me in this situation. I kindly ask that you explain why I am being considered for this transfer, instead of the new “low man.”

Lastly, I would like to know what grounds this transfer is based off of? As I stated before, I was blindsided. While at GW, I have earned effective and highly effective marks in all my observations and evaluations. I have completed every professional obligation of which I have been asked. I have often gone above and beyond my teaching duties and spent my own time and money creating an art-rich environment to showcase student art. In addition to being named GW’s Teacher of the Year last year, I have earned national and state awards for my work with New Jersey’s State Youth Art Month Program. I was awarded with the Award of Excellence from the Council for Art Education in 2016, 2017, and 2018. In 2019, I earned The Claire Flanagan Memorial Award - the nation’s top award - in recognition of my work with New Jersey’s State Youth Art Month program. Every year since 2017, I have been awarded Governor’s Awards in Art Education. I will be receiving my fourth Governor’s Award this upcoming June. I was told my superintendent and building principal would receive notification to the details of this event. In addition to the accolades I have brought to Hillside, I also brought in thousands of dollars of supplies that I have either purchased with my own money, or have donated. If transferred, I would like to know how and when those items will be transferred to my new school(s). This year, I was elated to hear that my administration had made it possible to have an Art classroom at GW. This was the first classroom I have had in the district since my RIF in 2014. I have received compliments from teachers and students about the appearance of my room. When I left my classroom in March, I was fully expecting to return to take down all the hand-made artwork from students, posters, and my personal affects. Now the room, along with my students, will be abandoned without a proper goodbye. Sadly many of my current students were looking forward to completing higher-level grade projects with me in the future. In addition to the uncertain of what September will bring, I will now have to adapt to a new, unknown environment. Does this move have anything to do with the fact that I recently earned my Supervisor’s Certification and am currently three graduate classes away from earning my “plus 30” pay increase? Does this move have anything to do with the fact that I applied for the position of Instructional Supervisor within the district earlier this year, but was not called for an interview? I kindly ask that you explain why I am being considered for this transfer. I am having trouble understanding why – for the third time in four academic years in the district – my employment is being affected.

I feel to make this change – especially now – lacks the same consideration, thought, and compassion that the Board has exemplified over the last three months. I feel it is off-putting not to consider the social and emotional well-being of the staff of the Hillside Public Schools during this time; especially to a staff member who lost her grandmother due to complications related to COVID-19 in April. These are challenging times for everyone – especially for the staff – who have been asked to adapt to a completely

digital teaching regiment in one day, and facilitate remote learning for hundreds of students. I feel it is extremely unfair to add to the weight of months of increasing uncertainty and anxiety, with a blindsided transfer.

I understand that you cannot stop a comet, but I kindly ask that you stop this transfer. I enjoy being at GW. I wish to continue working there, and further build on the relationships with teachers, students, and parents, that have been abruptly halted due to this pandemic. With the mounting uncertainty that awaits us in September, I kindly ask that you rescind my name from this transfer, so that I can remain at George Washington Elementary School.

With Most Sincere Thanks,

Karen Mannino

Art Teacher, GW

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Dr. Eichenholtz

Dear Hillside Board of Education Members:

Timothy Westervelt

My name is Timothy Westervelt and I am currently a 5<sup>th</sup> grade mathematics teacher at Calvin Coolidge. I have been teaching in the Hillside school district for 13 years. Previously, I served in the United States Army and have been deployed overseas in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. I hold a Master of Education degree from Montclair State University.

I am writing in hopes that you will reconsider transferring me from Calvin Coolidge School to Hurden-Looker School. Due to the reconfiguration of the Hillside school district the previous year, I transferred from being a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher at Hurden-Looker to a 5<sup>th</sup> grade mathematics teacher at Calvin Coolidge. This was an uncomfortable change, but a change I ultimately loved. I truly enjoy working with 5<sup>th</sup> grade students teaching mathematics. I have a great relationship with the students and many of their parents.

Additionally, the Board Agenda, which is how I found out about the move, states that I am currently a language arts teacher at Calvin Coolidge and will be a language arts teacher at Hurden- Looker. I have been trained in the Pearson mathematics program and the science program. I have not been trained in the language arts program, therefore, I feel I would be not as prepared to successfully do my job.

Please reconsider this change as it is not easy moving from building to building, especially two years in a row. I am also just getting comfortable with the new curriculum. I have built a great relationship with my colleagues and, just as the students, would love to be able to return to the normal I knew prior to the pandemic. Additionally, I believe it would be nice for my current students to be able to see me in the halls next year and come to me with any questions they might have since we have built a relationship this year and they will not have the opportunity to say good-bye at the end of the year in person.

I appreciate you giving me your time and ask that you please consider my request.

Timothy Westervelt

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Dr. Eichenholtz

**Dear Mr. Gregory and the Hillside Board of Education,**

I hope this email finds you and your family well. My name is Robin Siegel and I'm a 2nd grade teacher at Calvin Coolidge School. I've been a proud member of the Hillside School District for 16 years.

After reading the agenda for tonight's meeting, I'm reaching out to you about the proposed transfers. After our most recent reorganization, Calvin Coolidge came together as a newly formed staff. Over the course of this past year we've come together as a solid team with a wonderful climate and strong collaboration. Especially during these times of virtual instruction, having an established team in place that can work together is paramount. I am hoping that our team can remain.

Thank you for your time.

Be well,

Robin Siegel

Good evening to everyone. I am Eugenia Cooley, 6th grade ELA teacher at George Washington School. I wanted to take a moment to share something with each of you. Earlier today, my students were asked to explain what makes Hillside a great place to live. I was really moved by their responses and thought I would share with you. You never know what you will get from students at this age. Most days they keep things bottled up inside and then there are days like today when they are full of wonderful, sentimental surprises. The main reason I wanted to share this with you and the board is because it speaks volumes to your collective efforts in this township. Many of them spoke about their experience with schools and teachers but, these expressions lead directly back to the Hillside Board of Education. Many of their descriptions of this town and district, is the very reason Hillside is a desirable place to work as well. Below are their responses, which for me were like a walk down memory lane.

“Hillside is a great place to live because the people here are really nice. If you go to any of the summer camps, you are sure to make a friend or two. The schools in Hillside are good too, when you go to school, you can make sure that you will be able to learn properly. There are also many places to have fun and hang out with friends like the Hillside Community Center. Overall, Hillside is a perfect place for a family to move to if they want to be in a friendly community.”

“There are many things that make Hillside a great place to live. For example, Hillside is a safe neighborhood. Hillside is also culturally diverse and the people are friendly. Lastly, there are different town activities and events that are very inclusive. Therefore Hillside is a great place to live.”

“Hillside is a great place, though it may be a small town but there are so many things here. There are a lot of great shops and you might live really close to them. The schools are really nice and have kind teachers and staff. Hillside would be a great place for you to move to, with any family big or small.”

“Hillside makes a good place to live because if you like to live in suburbs, here is an idea of a place you could live. Most of the people in Hillside are really friendly like the crossing guards, neighbors, and even police officers. In Hillside you get a good education for each grade, and because of the new rule you wouldn't have to keep switching schools you would just stay in one school (unless you move) until you are in Middle school (W.O.K). Another good thing about Hillside is that we have really good stores, supermarkets and even restaurants where you can eat and buy food at. Lastly, we have a lot of open areas like the park and your own backyard so if you wanted to clear your mind and you like nature then you could take a walk around.”

“Hillside is a great place to live for several reasons. It's a calm and quiet town. The people in this neighborhood are pretty friendly. It's quite safe here as well. Even though the town is pretty small, there are a number of things to do around here. There are a couple parks to hang out at, stores to go to, and there are usually enough town activities to keep you occupied.”

“Hillside makes a wonderful place to live. There are beautiful houses, and trails you can visit. Groceries aren't a problem, stores are located all around. It can get very busy, and if you go to Hillside Public Schools your friends will be located everywhere so you can have fun. If you love

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books, go to the public library or wanna hang out, play basketball or go to the Pal. Hillside can be a great location for a family.”

“Hillside is a good place to live because there are lots of places to relax. There are lots of good places to go shopping for food or other accessories, the people in Hillside are very calm and very nice. The schools here are very calm because the teachers and staff are very nice and they would help you out if you have a problem. The neighborhood's here are really calm depends on where you are at times.”

“Hillside is a good place to live in because the people are nice and the schools are good. The Hillside public library has a lot of activities to do everyday. Some are watching a movie, reading to dogs, and playing with legos. Hillside food stores are filled with nice people. There are a lot of places in Hillside to relax and go to the parks with friends or family. That's why Hillside is a great location where a family can move to.”

“What makes Hillside a great place to live in is that the schools are good. There's supermarkets to get food in these times. Also the police and fire stations are really close so when there's a fire or a crime going on they'll be right there to help you. Hillside was also far away from the coronavirus so no one had gotten sick. Lastly the teachers are really nice in the schools.”

“What makes Hillside a great place to live is that since it's a small town it would be easier for people like firefighters to get to a place quicker and help save people. It also has good neighbors and good people living there. Stores in Hillside are also nice to go to because they have a wide variety of food people can get. The schools in Hillside are also filled with great teachers and children and not a lot of problems happen in the school either.”

“What makes Hillside a great place to live in is that it is peaceful. There are great schools that range from K-12. Hillside has many parks, grocery stores, fast foods, and many more! We also have great sources of entertainment too. There even used to be a bowling alley in this town. I have lived in Hillside for all of my life and to me it is just overall a great safe place to live!”

“Hillside is a great place to live because the rec center plans a lot of fun stuff like Family Fun Night. ShopRite does cooking classes for kids. There are also a lot of restaurants in Hillside. We are also very supportive of our football team. Also, the Hillside High School has a lot of extra curricular activities.”

“I think Hillside is a great place to live because it's not too loud and it's a calm community with great schools that helps all of us with nice teachers. Nice stores and restaurants, the houses are a little separated and apartments look nice. Many people visit and stay because of barely any loud noises. When seasons change everything is beautiful and you breathe nice fresh air. A beautiful park to golf, fish, and play. It's really pretty and a peaceful town.”

**Eugenia Cooley, M.Ed.**



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6th Grade ELA Teacher  
George Washington Elementary School  
<https://tinyurl.com/cooleywebpage>

"The whole world opened to me when I learned to read." -  
Mary McLeod Bethune