

Minutes Organization Meeting – January 7, 2020
7:00 p.m., Saybrook School

CALL TO ORDER 7:00 p.m.

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 on December 3, 2019;

By sending a copy of the meeting notice to the Star Ledger newspaper on December 3, 2019; and

By filing a copy with the Township on December 3, 2019.

The Business Administrator/Board Secretary declares the following persons as duly elected Members of the Hillside Board of Education as a result of the election held on November 5, 2019.

FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM

Eleanor Worrill

FOR A THREE-YEAR TERM

Laquana Best

Donald Howard

Pinchas Shapiro

The Oath of Office is administered to the newly elected Board Members individually.

Oath Administered to Eleanor Worrill, by Raymond Hamlin, Esq.

Oath Administered to Laquana Best, by Dwayne Warren

Oath Administered to Donald Howard, by Raymond Hamlin, Esq.

Oath Administered to Pinchas Shapiro, by Raymond Hamlin, Esq.

ROLL CALL:

Best	P	Robinson	P
Cook	P	Shapiro	P
Harbin	P	Worrill	P
Howard	P		
Lofton	P		

Motion to move public comments until after President & Vice President have been installed.

Motion: Shapiro Second: Lofton

Motion carried. Unanimous voice vote.

At this time, the Business Administrator/Board Secretary will entertain nominations for the Office of President of the Board of Education.

Motion by Ms. Harbin, Seconded by Ms. Best, Ms. Cook is nominated for the President of the Board.

Ms. Cook accepts the nomination.

At this time, the Business Administrator/Board Secretary will entertain other nominations for the Office of President of the Board of Education. (None)

There being no further nominations, motion by Ms. Harbin seconded by Ms. Best, that nominations for the Office of President of the Board are ordered closed.

ROLL CALL: (closing of nominations)

Best	X	Robinson	X
Cook	X	Shapiro	X
Harbin	X	Worrill	X
Howard	X		
Lofton	X		

Motion carried. 8 Yes 0 No

The Business Administrator/Board Secretary will now conduct a Roll Call Vote for Ms. Cook for the President of the Board.

ROLL CALL: (Vote for president, **first** candidate)

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

Motion carried. 8 Yes 0 No

The Business Administrator/Board Secretary declares the results of the election of the President of the Board and turns the gavel over to Ms. Cook to act as the presiding officer of this meeting.

The newly elected Board President will entertain nominations for the Office of Vice-President of the Board of Education.

Motion Mr. Howard, seconded by Ms. Worrill, Ms. Best is nominated for the Vice-President of the Board.

Ms. Best accepts the nomination.

There being no further nominations, motion by Mr. Howard, seconded by Ms. Worrill, that nominations for the Office of Vice-President of the Board are ordered closed.

ROLL CALL: (Close the nominations for vice president)

Best	Y	Robinson	Y
Cook	Y	Shapiro	Y
Harbin	Y	Worrill	Y
Howard	Y		
Lofton	Y		

Motion carried. 8 Yes 0 No

The President will now conduct a Roll Call Vote for Ms. Best for the Vice-President of the Board.

ROLL CALL: (Vote for Vice-President)

Best	Y	Robinson	Y
Cook	Y	Shapiro	Y
Harbin	Y	Worrill	Y
Howard	Y		
Lofton	Y		

The President declares Ms. Best the new Vice-President of the Board.

Motion to open public comments.

Motion: Shapiro Second: Worrill

Motion carried. Unanimous voice vote.

Public Comments

Angela Lawler congratulated and welcomed all. She thanked Anthony Salters who had offered his time and financial assistance to the schools.

George Cook congratulated his sister.

Anthony Salters congratulated all. He said that we need adult conversations about the actions taken for our students. There was a former board member that voted no to all trips. The Board continues to fight in court over a 5-year contract for a former Superintendent. The Board had to fight over our student mentor who gave a wonderful presentation last month. Anthony Salters had asked previously what the procedure if a child is sexually assaulted.

Ms. Cook responded appropriately.

Mr. Salters also stated that we have a responsibility to educate all students and we need a sense of pride for our students. He ended by saying we must love what we are doing and not continue to hate on each other. He wanted to have a serious conversation about minorities hating on their own people.

Maddie Holloway congratulated the new board members. She said that we all believe in excellence and that is why she knew Hillside School District was the right place for her children.

Angela Garretson said it was a pleasure to be in attendance. She had received her foundation to serve as a board member. She wanted all to know that Hillside is still under a desegregation plan. She congratulated the new Superintendent. She also stated

that she was looking to see Hillside take advantage of all the resources the County has to offer. She thanked everyone for their commitment and said she was proud of every one.

Motion to extend public comments for 15 minutes.

Motion: Shapiro Second: Best

Motion carried. Unanimous voice vote.

Candy Dale-Rawls as a parent thanked the board for the job they had done.

Kimberly Iungerman congratulated all. She said she knew that being a board member was not an easy job especially making decisions for all our children. She welcomed Mr. Gregory but wanted to know how the Board hired him.

Raymond Hamlin responded that it was a personnel matter and could not be discussed. The determination was made by the Board of Education during executive session.

Kimberly Iungerman stated that the Board had "great transparency".

~~Motion to close public comments at 7:35 p.m.~~

Motion to open public comments at 7:35 p.m.

Motion: Lofton Second: Harbin

Motion carried. Unanimous voice vote.

Anthony Salters publicly apologized to Chris Jackson and told him to keep up the good work.

Motion to close public comments at 7:37 p.m.

Motion: Harbin Second: Worrill

Motion carried. Unanimous voice vote

Motion: Lofton Second: Shapiro

Motion carried. Unanimous voice vote.

Resolution to temporarily vacate Mr. Robert Gregory as Acting Superintendent.

Motion: Harbin

Second: Best

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

Motion carried.

7 Yes 0 No 1 Abstention

Resolution to temporarily appoint Dr. David Eichenholtz as Acting Superintendent effective immediately.

Motion: Harbin

Second: Shapiro

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

Motion carried.

7 Yes 0 No 1 Abstention

The Acting Superintendent recommends the appointment of Mr. Robert Gregory, Director of Early Childhood effective immediately at the rate of \$90,000 pro-rated plus benefits.

Motion: Harbin

Second: Shapiro

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

Motion carried.

7 Yes 0 No 1 Abstention

Resolution to remove Dr. David Eichenholtz as Acting Superintendent effective immediately.

Motion: Harbin

Second: Shapiro

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

Motion carried. 7 Yes 0 No 1 Abstention

Resolution to appoint Mr. Robert Gregory, Acting Superintendent, effective immediately at the prorated salary of \$90,000, through June 30, 2020, unless terminated prior thereto.

Motion: Harbin

Second: Shapiro

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

Motion carried. 7 Yes 0 No 1 Abstention

Executive Session

1. Recommend the Board approve the following item:

Open Public Meetings Act – Establish Meeting Dates, Time and Place

RESOLVED that the Hillside Board of Education, pursuant to Chapter 231, PAL. (Open Public Meetings Act) does hereby proclaim the public meetings of the Board of Education will be held in the Hillside Board of Education Meeting Room, Saybrook School, 1100 Woodruff Avenue, at 6:30 p.m., as set forth below unless indicated otherwise:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the purpose of the Regular Meetings shall be the normal conduct of business of the Board of Education and any other items brought to the Board's attention by the Board Members, Board Attorney, Superintendent and Business Administrator/Board Secretary

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education does hereby designate the Star Ledger and Union County Local Source as official newspapers to receive notices of meetings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that notices of meetings of the Board of Education will be posted in the Hillside Board of Education Administration Office and posted on the District website.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education reserves the right to adjourn or recess a meeting at any time to discuss such matters that may be considered in closed session. However, the Board will first adopt a resolution stating the general nature of the subject to be discussed, and, as precisely as possible, the time and circumstances under which disclosure to the public will be made; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in order to conduct its meetings properly and efficiently, the Board shall require the following procedures pertaining to public participation at Board meetings:

- Any individual desiring to speak shall give his or her name, address, and the group, if any, that is represented.
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- The presentation shall be as brief as possible but no more than three (3) minutes per individual.
 - The Board vests in its president, or other presiding officer, authority to terminate the remarks of any individual if he/she deems it in the best interest of those present to do so.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education will meet on the following dates:

Regular Meeting Schedule
2020

JANUARY 23, 2020	Thursday	Regular Meeting	Board Meeting room – Saybrook School
FEBRUARY 27, 2020	Thursday	Regular Meeting	Board Meeting room – Saybrook School
MARCH 26, 2020	Thursday	Regular Meeting	Board Meeting room – Saybrook School
APRIL 23, 2020	Thursday	Regular Meeting	Board Meeting room – Saybrook School
MAY 28, 2020	Thursday	Regular Meeting	Board Meeting room – Saybrook School
JUNE 25, 2020	Thursday	Regular Meeting	Board Meeting room – Saybrook School
JULY 23, 2020	Thursday	Regular Meeting	Board Meeting room – Saybrook School
AUGUST 27, 2020	Thursday	Regular Meeting	Board Meeting room – Saybrook School
SEPTEMBER 24, 2020	Thursday	Regular Meeting	Board Meeting room – Saybrook School
OCTOBER 29, 2020	Thursday	Regular Meeting	Board Meeting room – Saybrook School
NOVEMBER 19, 2020	Thursday	Regular Meeting	Board Meeting room – Saybrook School
DECEMBER 17, 2020	Thursday	Regular Meeting	Board Meeting room – Saybrook School
JANUARY 6, 2021	Wednesday	Organization Meeting	Board Meeting room – Saybrook School

All board meetings are scheduled to start at 6:30 p.m. (Exceptions will be advertised.)
The Organization Meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. All meetings are scheduled to be at Saybrook School, Board Meeting room, 1100 Woodruff Avenue, Hillside, NJ.

Unforeseen circumstances may require the rescheduling and/or relocation of these meetings. In such cases, notice will be given as provided in the Open Public Meetings Act. All meetings are posted on the district website: www.hillsidek12.org.

ROLL CALL:

Motion: Shapiro

Second: Worrill

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

Motion 1 carried. 8 Yes 0 No 0 Abstentions

2. Motion to authorize the Board President to submit standing committee assignments.
3. Motion that the Board of Education conducts its meetings in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.
4. Motion to readopt the existing Bylaws and Policies for the operation of the Board and the school system in full force.

5. Motion to adopt the New Jersey School Board Member Code of Ethics as follows:

RESOLVED, that the New Jersey School Boards Association "Code of Ethics" shall be considered the official Code of Ethics of the Hillside Board of Education:

CODE OF ETHICS

- a. I will uphold and enforce all laws, state board rules and regulations, and court orders pertaining to schools. Desired changes should be brought about only through legal and ethical procedures.
- b. I will make decisions in terms of the educational welfare of children and will seek to develop and maintain public schools which meet the individual needs of all children regardless of their ability, race, creed, sex or social standing.
- c. I will confine my Board action to policymaking, planning, and appraisal and I will help to frame policies and plans only after the board has consulted those who will be affected by them.
- d. I will carry out my responsibility, not to administer the schools, but, together with my fellow Board members, to see that they are well run.
- e. I will recognize that authority rests with the Board of Education and will make no personal promises nor take any private action which may compromise the Board.

- f. I will refuse to surrender my independent judgment to special interest or partisan, political groups or to use the schools for personal gain or for the gain of friends.
- g. I will hold confidential all matters pertaining to the schools which, if disclosed, would needlessly injure individuals or the schools. But in all other matters, I will provide accurate information and, in concert with my fellow Board members, interpret to the staff the aspirations of the community for its schools.
- h. I will vote to appoint the best qualified personnel available after consideration of the recommendation of the chief administrative officer.
- i. I will support and protect school personnel in proper performance of their duties.
- j. I will refer all complaints to the chief administrative officer and will act on such complaints at public meetings only after failure of an administrative solution.

Motion: Shapiro

Second: Howard

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

Motions 2 to 5 carried. 8 Yes 0 No 0 Abstentions

- 6. Motion to declare that Investors Bank shall be the depository for the following accounts, with all signatories per each account as indicated and that all disbursements shall be made by check (reflects only accounts affected due to new president).

Account Name/Number

Signatories

Operating Account
#XXXXXXXXX0765

Gregory/Eichenholtz/Cook
Superintendent/Business Admin./President

Agency Account
#XXXXXXXXX0904

Gregory/Eichenholtz/Cook
Superintendent/Business Admin./President

Unemployment Account
#XXXXXXXXX0920

Gregory/Eichenholtz/Cook
Superintendent/Business Admin./President

Cafeteria Account
#XXXXXXXXX0939

Gregory/Eichenholtz/Cook
Superintendent/Business Admin./President

Athletic Account
#XXXXXXXXX0947

Gregory/Eichenholtz/Cook
Superintendent/ Business Admin./President

Deanna Taylor Banks
Scholarship Fund
#XXXXXXXXX9042

Gregory/Eichenholtz/Cook
Superintendent /Bus. Adm. /President

Deanna Taylor Banks
Memorial Fund
#XXXXXXXXX9056

Gregory/Eichenholtz/Cook
Superintendent/Bus. Adm./President

Investors Savings
Capital Reserve Account
#XXXXXXXXX3312

Gregory/Eichenholtz/Cook
Superintendent/Bus. Adm./President

Escrow Agent, TD Equip.
Finance, Inc.
Lease #XXXXX4648
Escrow #XXXXXX4011

Gregory/Eichenholtz/Cook
Superintendent/Bus. Adm./President

~~Summer Pay Account
#XXXXXXXX3596~~

~~Gregory/Eichenholtz/Cook
Superintendent/Bus. Adm./Bd. Secy./President~~

Motion: Shapiro

Second: Worrill

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

Motion 6 carried. 8 Yes 0 No 0 Abstention

- Motion to appoint Dr. David Eichenholtz, Business Administrator/Board Secretary as the Public Agency Compliance Officer (PACO) for calendar 2020.

Motion: Shapiro

Second: Howard

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

Motion 7 carried. 8 Yes 0 No 0 Abstentions

Welcome statement from Acting Superintendent A. Robert Gregory. (Attached)

Motion to adjourn.

Motion: Harbin Second: Lofton

Motion carried. Unanimous voice vote

Time: 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. David Eichenholtz
Business Administrator/Board Secretary



HILLSIDE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
New Visions, New Pathways, New Possibilities

Mr. A. Robert Gregory
Acting Superintendent of Schools

Acting Superintendent Gregory's Statement
Hillside Board of Education Meeting
January 7, 2020

Madame President, Vice President, and Honorable Board Members,

First and foremost, I'd like to congratulate all of you and look forward to getting to know and work with each of you. Tonight, is about you and marks an important moment in the history of the Hillside Public Schools. As the Acting Superintendent, it is my responsibility to ensure we have 2.2 square miles of excellent schools where adults love to work, students are free from fear, and free to learn.

Hillside will always be considered my home and was the only place growing up, where I experienced community. In visiting all our schools over the course of the past several days and greeting every staff member- who is valued and counts; I felt their desire to be heard, led, and involved in our transformation efforts.

I've been fighting the war against intergeneration poverty in Newark for the past two decades which has prepared me to fight for equity and excellence in the Hillside Public Schools.

I'm looking forward to engaging all stakeholders over the next 30 days and reacclimating myself to Hillside; as I embark on my Learn, Look, and Listen tour to define new visions that reflect the needs, desires, and goals of this community.

Together we will create new pathways and new possibilities and ensure the Hillside Public Schools are amongst the best in Union County, more importantly, the United States of America. It's a new day, a new narrative, and a new beginning. We will collectively ensure our students are prepared for the labor demands of the 21st Century.

Thank you and congratulations.

A. Robert Gregory
Acting Superintendent
Hillside Public Schools