

**HASBROUCK HEIGHTS BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 2022**

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Thursday, June 9, 2022, in the High School Auditorium, 365 Boulevard, Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Board President, Mrs. Ferdinand.

Mrs. Ferdinand read the following statement:

The New Jersey Open Public Meeting Law was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon.

Pursuant to the New Jersey Open Public Meeting Act, Public Law 1975, Chapter 231, the Board Secretary caused notices of this meeting to be given to the public and the press on June 1, 2022.

Said notice was posted at the Hasbrouck Heights Municipal Building, Hasbrouck Heights Board of Education Office, Hasbrouck Heights Middle and High School, Euclid Elementary School, Lincoln Elementary School, and Hasbrouck Heights School District Website.

Notice of said meeting was published under legal notice in The Record.

Roll call was taken by Dina Messery, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, and the following members responded to their names:

**Roll call:**

Mrs. Caruso	Mr. Faussette-absent	Mr. Mullins
Mrs. Cintron	Mrs. Ferdinand	Ms. Russo
Mr. DeLorenzo	Mrs. Krommenhoek	Mrs. Terranova

Also Present: Dr. Helfant, Mrs. Messery, Ms. Kleen

**Mrs. Ferdinand led the Board in the flag salute.**

**Mrs. Ferdinand made the following statement:**

Before we start this meeting, I want to remind everyone here that the members of this board of education are volunteers. We do not get paid for this, we all do this because of our love for this town, this district, our children, and YOUR children.

We are all parents and have kids here, or some of our children have already graduated and are out in the world as successful individuals.

I have been on this board for 4.5 years and while the past 2 years have been difficult for all of us, it's been the most challenging for me as a board member and many difficult decisions have had to be made.

The amount of hours that I have given back to our district is more than you can even imagine. The past few months have been difficult and the amount of disrespect I have felt from my fellow community members is shocking. While I am empathetic for how upset you all are over different situations, I feel it's necessary to show my continued support and respect for myself, my fellow board members, and the district we represent.

We are volunteers, we choose to do this job and show up for all of our kids. This job isn't easy and you all have the same opportunity to run for a seat here at the table.

Please choose to show us kindness and respect. Our children are watching the behaviors of all of us.

As for everyone employed by this district....they also deserve kindness and respect, they are the ones with our children everyday developing their minds and shaping their futures. When speaking, please make sure your statements and concerns are reflective of that. Thank you.

**Dr. Helfant stated:** There has been a lot of conjecture about the transfer. There have been verbal discussions over past two years with Mr. Mastropietro where he has indicated his desire, both professional and personal, to be an elementary principal if the opportunity arose. When Mr. Sickels applied for the Director of Special Services position, a possible opening at Euclid school could occur. Mr. Mastropietro submitted a letter to myself and the board president requesting a transfer. Mr. Mastropietro rescinded his request right before the May meeting, leaving insufficient time for the board to discuss per district policy.

## PERSONNEL

### RESOLUTIONS:

The following resolution was moved by L. Krommenhoek, seconded by C. DeLorenzo,

P06-01-22A Be it Resolved that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools the Hasbrouck Heights Board of Education approve the following for the 2022-2023 school year:

#### **Transfers:**

M. Sickels to the Middle School as of July 1, 2022

J. Mastropietro to Euclid School as of July 1, 2022

**Roll Call:**

Ayes: Mrs. Caruso, Mr. Mullins

Abstains: None

Nays: Mrs. Cintron, Mr. DeLorenzo, Mrs. Ferdinand,  
Mrs. Krommenhoek, Ms. Russo, Mrs. Terranova

Absent: Mr. Faussette

**Resolution Did Not Pass**

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING:

**Mrs. Ferdinand read the following statement:**

Residents are requested to state their names, addresses and subject matter. Issues raised by members of the public may or may not be responded to by the Board. All comments will be considered and a response will be forthcoming if and when appropriate. The Board asks that members of the public be courteous and mindful of the rights of other individuals when speaking. Specifically, comments regarding students and employees of the District are discouraged and will not be responded to by the Board. Students and employees have specific legal rights afforded by the laws of New Jersey. The Board bears no responsibility nor will it be liable for any comments made by members of the public. Members of the public should consider their comments in light of the legal rights of those affected or identified in their comments and be aware that they are legally responsible and liable for their comments.

A. Vignola – Thanked the board for voting no on the transfer.

R. Davis – Why as a special meeting necessary if Mr. Mastropietro rescinded his request?

J. Kleen – Once an item is on the board agenda, it must be discussed and voted upon.

M. Warren – The HHEA respects both administrators. We have and always will work with our administrators to make sure our students get the best of all of us. I respect the statement Mrs. Ferdinand made. There were a lot on nasty things said online which are really hurtful. Kudos to you for that statement.

Meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Moved by C. DeLorenzo, seconded by L. Cintron

All in favor

Respectfully submitted,

Dina Messery

School Business Administrator/Board Secretary