

**HARDYSTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
ANNUAL REORGANIZATION AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 2, 2024
7:00 PM – MIDDLE SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER**

I. CALL TO ORDER: by Board Secretary

The Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Carolyn B. Joseph, will call the 2024 Reorganization Meeting of the Hardyston Board of Education to order on January 2, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

The Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Carolyn B. Joseph, will read the Open Public Meetings Act statement. **“This is to advise the general public and to instruct that it be recorded in the Minutes that in compliance with Chapter 231 of the Public Law 1975, entitled, “Open Public Meetings Act,” Hardyston Township Board of Education posted a meeting notice setting forth the time, date, and location of this meeting at the Office of Hardyston Township Board of Education and on the district’s web site and mailed to the New Jersey Herald and to the Office of the Municipal Clerk of Hardyston Township.”**

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. SCHOOL ELECTION RESULTS:

For Three-Year (3) full term for membership on the Board of Education, Jeff Parrott, Sussex County Clerk, certified the following candidates were elected to the Hardyston Township Board of Education.

The official certified results from the Sussex County Clerk’s Office will be on file in the Hardyston Township Board Office for review.

Induction and Administration of Oath of Office to the new and re-elected Board Members (N.J.S.A:18A:17.11) – Please rise, recite the oath of office, and sign as indicated in the presence of the Board Secretary.

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| a. | 3-year term: Nicholas Demsak | Board of Education Member, 2024-2026 |
| b. | 3-year term: Susan Lucarelli | Board of Education Member, 2024-2026 |
| c. | 3-year term: Brian Drelick | Board of Education Member, 2024-2026 |

IV. Roll Call

Mr. Anthony Alfano	present
Mrs. Jean Barrett	present
Mrs. Donna Carey	present
Mr. Nick Demsak	present
Mr. Brian Drelick	present
Mr. Ron Hoffman	present
Mrs. Susan Lucarelli	present
Mr. Edward Reinle	present
Mr. David Van Ginneken	present

Mr. Michael Ryder	present
Ms. Carolyn B. Joseph	present

Quorum confirmed: [X] Yes [] No

Special Guest(s) Present: J. Roselle, Esq. Board attorney SPS&K, LLP
Staff Members Present: 3
Community Members Present: 40
Other: _____

V. CODE OF ETHICS FOR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS (School Ethics Act, Chapter 178, Public Law 2001)

18A:12-24.1 Code of Ethics for School Board Members

A school board member shall abide by the following Code of Ethics for School Board Members:

Each board member will take turns reading aloud the following statements, which is then followed by each board member affixing their signature to an affirmation statement and discussion:

1. I will uphold and enforce all laws, rules and regulations of the State Board of Education, and court orders pertaining to schools. Desired changes shall be brought about only through legal and ethical procedures.
2. I will make decisions in terms of the educational welfare of children and will seek to develop and maintain public schools that meet the individual needs of all children regardless of their ability, race, creed, sex, or social standing.
3. I will confine my board action to policy making, 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.
4. 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.
5. I will recognize that authority rests with the board of education and will make no personal promises nor take any private action that may compromise the board.
6. 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.
7. I will hold confidential all matters pertaining to the schools which, if disclosed, would needlessly injure individuals or the schools. 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 school.
8. I will vote to appoint the best qualified personnel available after consideration of the recommendation of the chief administrative officer.
9. I will support and protect school personnel in proper performance of their duties.
10. I will refer all complaints to the chief administrative officer and will act on the complaints at public meetings only after failure of an administrative solution.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Hardyston School District together with our parents, families and community is dedicated to preparing our students for the 21st Century by providing each student with a quality education, in a safe and caring environment, which allows all students to achieve the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards and Common Core State Standards at all grade levels and includes the knowledge, confidence, and self-esteem to be successful life-long learners in a culturally diverse democracy.

VI. BOARD OFFICERS AND APPOINTMENTS - School Business Administrator

Election of President of the Board:

Nominations will now be accepted for President of the Hardyston Twp. Board of Education:

1. D. Carey Nominated by A. Alfano

2. D. Van Ginneken Nominated by R. Hoffman

Roll call vote to elect the President of the Board:

Alfano <u>D. Carey</u>	Barrett <u>D. Carey</u>	Carey <u>D. Carey</u>
Demsak <u>D. Van Ginneken</u>	Drelick <u>D. Van Ginneken</u>	Hoffman <u>D. Van Ginneken</u>
Lucarelli <u>D. Van Ginneken</u>	Reinle <u>D. Van Ginneken</u>	Van Ginneken <u>D. Van Ginneken</u>

President of the Board is: D. Van Ginneken

The meeting is now turned over to the Board President.
Election of Vice President of the Board:

Nominations will now be accepted for Vice President of the Hardyston Twp Board of Education:

- 1. R. Hoffman Nominated by D. Van Ginneken
- 2. D. Carey Nominated by A. Alfano
- 3. J. Barrett Nominated by D. Carey

Roll call vote to elect the Vice President of the Board:

Alfano <u>D. Carey</u>	Barrett <u>D. Carey</u>	Carey <u>J. Barrett</u>
Demsak <u>R. Hoffman</u>	Drelick <u>R. Hoffman</u>	Hoffman <u>R. Hoffman</u>
Lucarelli <u>R. Hoffman</u>	Reinle <u>D. Carey</u>	Van Ginneken <u>R. Hoffman</u>

Vice President of the Board is: R. Hoffman

VII. Appointments and Delegates:

Presentation, by the President, of positions to which delegates and alternates will be appointed to the New Jersey and Sussex County School Boards Association:

Board President David Van Ginneken delegated the responsibility of creating the committees to Vice President Ronald Hoffman.

NJSBA & SCSBA Delegate	R. Hoffman
NJSBA & SCSBA Alternate	D. Van Ginneken
Sussex Co. Ed. Services	R. Hoffman

VIII. Public Comment (Board Policy #1200) – Agenda “Action” Items only as indicated under Committee Reports, numbered, with “motion to” in the introduction statement.

“All regular and special meetings of the Hardyston Township Board of Education shall be open to the public. Because the Board desires to hear the viewpoints of citizens throughout the district, and also needs to conduct its business in an orderly and

efficient manner, it shall schedule one or more periods during each meeting for public participation. Each speaker will be given a maximum of three (3) minutes per subject with a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes for all speakers on that subject. Additional segments in two-minute increments must be approved by a majority vote of the Board quorum present.

The Board President shall be responsible for recognizing all speakers, who shall properly identify themselves” (please provide name and street address). The public comment section is for the board members to listen to the concerns of the public and take those concerns under advisement and be discussed during a committee meeting. Please note that the Board appreciates any and all comments made and welcomes the participation. (please provide name and street address).

IX. REORGANIZATION AGENDA FOR APPROVAL, AS REQUIRED BY STATUTE:

Motion to approve the following governance year organizational items (1 - 10) for approval, as required by statute:

1. Motion to renew the approved monthly regular and workshop meeting schedule at 7:00 p.m. at the Hardyston Middle School, 183 Wheatsworth Road, to be held on the second (regular) and fourth (workshop) Tuesday of each month (except as noted). The next successive Tuesday will be the alternate date if needed.

Month	2nd Tuesday Regular	4th Tuesday Workshop
January	2 Annual Reorganization	23 Budget Workshop
February	13	27 Budget Workshop
March	12 Approve Tentative Budget	26 No Workshop Scheduled
April	9 No Regular Meeting Scheduled	23 Regular Meeting and Public Hearing and Adoption of 2024-2025 Budget ***
May	14	28 No Workshop Scheduled
June	11 Regular Meeting/Annual Reorg.	25 Annual Evaluation and Retreat
July	9	23 No Workshop Scheduled
August	13	27 No Workshop Scheduled

2. Motion to approve the Code of Ethics for School Board Members subject to Statute 12-24.1, Chapter 178, Public Law 2001, Robert’s Rules of Order, and Parliamentary Procedures for all meetings of the Hardyston Township Board of Education.

3. Motion to reaffirm all past resolutions and motions previously approved by the Board of Education through December 31, 2023.

4. Motion to approve all past executive session minutes, through December 31, 2023, for review and redaction by attorney to comply with potential Open Public Records Requests.

5. Motion to re-adopt all existing Strauss Esmay Board of Education policy manual, by-laws, regulations; handbooks, contractual agreements, and other legislative or regulatory action of this board hereby continued in force through June 30, 2024.

6. **Motion** to recognize the Hardyston Township Education Association as the official organized bargaining units representing all non-administrative contractual staff.
7. **Motion** to approve all curriculum, curriculum guides, 5-year curriculum review schedule through June 30, 2024, educational programs, and existing approved textbooks for the 2023-2024 school year.
8. **Motion** to approve the New Jersey Herald as the official newspaper and the Star Ledger and Advertiser News as the official (alternate) newspapers of the Board of Education for advertising purposes.
9. **Motion** to designate the Provident Bank, New Jersey Cash Management Fund, and New Jersey Asset Rebate Management Fund as the official depositories of the Board of Education for all funds.
10. **Motion** to continue the board committee structure (with board incumbents) as listed for the 2023-2024 School year.
 1. Curriculum, Programs and Educational Technology & Community Relations
 2. Finance, Facilities and Operations & Technology Infrastructure
 3. Personnel, Negotiations, Grievance & Policy
11. **Motion** to approve the revised Uniform State of Memorandum of Agreement Between Education and Law Enforcement Officials.

Background: Revisions mandated by the State Department of Education dated December 13, 2023 for the 2023-2024 school year. Summary of revisions attached.

ACTION ITEM(S): Reorganization Items #1 - #11

MOTION	Motion to accept: D. Van Ginneken		Seconded By: N. Demsak	
	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Alfano	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Barrett	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Carey	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Demsak	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Drelick	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Hoffman	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Lucarelli	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Reinle	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Van Ginneken	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

***Motion made by N. Demsak and seconded by E. Reinle to affirm the votes from Board President and Board Vice President prior to swearing in of new members.**

Voice unanimous.

X. ADJOURNMENT of Annual Reorganization Meeting

With no further action or discussion required of the Hardyston Township Board of Education at this time, a motion was presented by R. Hoffman, and seconded by S. Lucarelli, to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

Middle School Educator of the Year: **Justine Maris**
Elementary Educational Services Professional: **Francesca Benvenuto**
Middle School Educational Services Professional: **Patricia Clipperton**

4. **Student Recognition:**

Kindergarten: **Harley Boughton**
Grade 1: **Dylan Jackson**
Grade 2: **Andrew Woodbury**
Grade 3: **Madison Tordai**
Grade 4: **Cullen Patalita**
Grade 5: **Alex Beck**
Grade 6: **Ryan Wagoner**
Grade 7: **Jayden De Los Santos**
Grade 8: **Ashley Culmone**

5. **National Board Recognition Month:** *New Jersey's 5,000 local school board members devote countless hours – with no compensation – to the oversight and advancement of our children's education. They play an essential role in our students' lives. They oversee 581 school districts, which in turn, operate nearly 2,500 public schools and provide educational services to nearly 1.4 million children. They set the policies for our schools and make important decisions affecting curriculum, financing and staffing.*

January 2024 is the annual School Board Recognition Month in New Jersey, a time to raise public awareness of the role and responsibilities of local boards of education and to thank your community's school board members for their efforts.

WHEREAS, *The New Jersey School Boards Association has declared January 2024 to be School Board Recognition Month, a time when all residents can acknowledge the contributions made by our local school board members; and*

WHEREAS, *The Hardyston Board of Education is one of 581 local school boards in New Jersey, which sets policies and oversees operations for public school districts; and*

WHEREAS, *The Hardyston Board of Education embraces the goal of high-quality education for all New Jersey public school students; and*

WHEREAS, *New Jersey's local school boards help determine the educational goals for approximately 1.4 million children in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade; and*

WHEREAS, *New Jersey's 5,000 local school board members, who receive no remuneration for their services, act as advocates for public school students as they work with administrators, teachers and parents for the betterment of public education; and*

WHEREAS, *School boards strive to provide the resources necessary to meet the needs of all students, including those with special needs; and*

WHEREAS, *Boards of education provide accountability to the public; they communicate the needs of the school district to the public; and they convey to school administrators the public's expectations for the schools; and*

WHEREAS, *New Jersey can take pride in its schools, which rank among the nation's best in key achievement indicators such as the National Assessment of Educational*

Progress scores, and the preparation for college through advanced placement offerings and SAT assessments; Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, *That the Hardyston Board of Education, does hereby recognize the services of local school board members throughout New Jersey as we join communities statewide in observing January 2024 as SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH; and be it further*

RESOLVED, *That the Hardyston Board of Education urges all New Jersey citizens to work with their local boards of education and public school staff toward the advancement of our children's education.*

6. Ethics Training (Kelly Mitchell, NJSBA)

IV. Public Comment (Board Policy #1200) (please limit to agenda items only)

None

V. Executive Session *if needed*

None

VI. Return to Public Session

n/a

Action following Executive Session if needed:

n/a

VII. Old Business

O/B-1

Meeting Dates for 2023- 2024:

- January 23 – Budget Workshop
- February 13 – Regular Meeting
- February 27 – Budget Workshop
- March 12 – Regular Meeting
- April 23 – Regular Meeting and Public Hearing of 2024-2025 Budget

VIII. New Business

Motion was made by A. Alfano and seconded by J. Barrett to create an ad-hoc committee to identify issues and concerns on district goals.

Voice unanimous.

Motion was made by A. Alfano and seconded by E. Reinle to create a sub-committee to revise the mission statement.

Voice unanimous.

IX. Agenda Items:

MEETING MINUTES

1. December 12, 2023 – Regular Meeting

Motion of adopt: R. Hoffman Seconded By: E. Reinle

<u>MOTION</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Alfano	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Barrett	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Carey	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Demsak	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Drelick	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Hoffman	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Lucarelli	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Reinle	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Van Ginneken	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

HIB REPORT *All policies and procedures have been followed and met; the January report is based on the recommendation of the Superintendent.*

Background: HIB report for 1-2-24 is located in the Executive Session folder and will be voted on at the February 13, 2024 BOE meeting (if necessary).

<u>MOTION</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Alfano	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Barrett	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Carey	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Demsak	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Drelick	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Hoffman	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Lucarelli	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Reinle	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Van Ginneken	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

FINANCE

F-1

Motion to accept an anonymous donation of \$500.00 to help support our families in need.

ACTION ITEM(S): F-1

Motion to adopt: R. Hoffman Seconded By: A. Alfano

<u>MOTION</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Alfano	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Barrett	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Carey	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Demsak	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Drelick	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Hoffman	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Lucarelli	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Reinle	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Van Ginneken	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

FACILITIES/OPERATIONS *Nothing to report*

CURRICULUM/PROGRAMS *Nothing to report*

PERSONNEL

(All Personnel resolutions are based on the recommendation of the Superintendent.)

P-1

Motion to approve the substitutes listed below to be placed on our substitute calling list for the 2023-2024 school year. Employment is on an emergent basis, if necessary, and contingent upon criminal history background clearance as required by P.O. 1986, C.116.

NAME	POSITION	CERTIFICATION
Luis Moscoso	Teacher / Aide	Sub Cert – in process
Patrice Hess	Teacher / Aide	Sub Cert – Exp. 12/7/2028
Natale Saraceni	Custodian	N/A
Christine Larco	Nurse	Sub Cert – Exp. 10/19/2028

P-2

Motion to accept, with regret, the letter of resignation from Candace Ouellette, part time paraprofessional at the elementary school, effective 12/22/23.

P-3

Motion to accept, with regret, the letter of retirement from David Sasso, School Social Worker, effective July 1, 2024. Mr. Sasso has been the district’s social worker for 23 years.

P-4

Motion to approve the following staff member for miscellaneous non-certified activities as needed for the 2023-2024 school year, at an hourly rate of \$25.00, as per the negotiated agreement:

Ryan Neal

P-5

Motion to approve Juan Hurtado as full time custodian at the elementary school, Step 1, \$40,857, prorated, for the period January 2, 2024 through June 30, 2024.

Background: This position is part of the preschool expansion and funded through that grant.

P-6

Motion to approve movement on the salary guide to MA+15 for Megan Landgraff, as per Article XXXIII of the negotiated HTEA contract, upon submission of completion of course work and submission of official transcripts to the School Business Administrator, effective September 1, 2024.

P-7

Motion to accept, with regret, the letter of resignation from Milenko Popovic, elementary part time paraprofessional, effective immediately.

Background: Mr. Popovic is committed to other responsibilities but would like to be considered as a substitute.

ACTION ITEM(S): P-1 – P-7

Motion to adopt: N. Demsak Seconded By: S. Lucarelli

<u>MOTION</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Alfano	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Barrett	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Carey	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Demsak	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Drelick	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Hoffman	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Lucarelli	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Reinle	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Van Ginneken	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

POLICY *Nothing to report*

XI. Written Communication

None

XII. Public Comment (Board Policy #0167)

One member of the public spoke.

XIII. Executive Session *if needed*

None

XIV. Return to Public Session

Motion to the Board of Education will return to public session at _____ p.m.

Roll Call

- Mr. Anthony Alfano _____
- Mrs. Jean Barrett _____
- Mrs. Donna Carey _____
- Mr. Nick Demsak _____
- Mr. Brian Drelick _____
- Mr. Ron Hoffman _____
- Mrs. Susan Lucarelli _____
- Mr. Edward Reinle _____
- Mr. David Van Ginneken _____

Mr. Michael Ryder _____
Ms. Carolyn B. Joseph _____

Action following Executive Session if needed:

None

XV. Adjournment

With no further action or discussion required of the Hardyston Township Board of Education as this time, a motion was presented by D. Van Ginneken, and seconded by R. Hoffman to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 p.m.

Voice unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn B. Joseph

Carolyn B. Joseph
Board Secretary