



# Herricks Public Schools Board of Education

999B Herricks Road  
New Hyde Park, NY 11040  
<https://www.herricks.org/HUFSD>

## Regular Meeting ~ Minutes ~

**Thursday, February 27, 2020**

**7:30 PM**

**Herricks Community Center**

### **I Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Vice President Henry Zanetti

<b>Attendee Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Arrived</b>
Juleigh Chin	President	Absent	
Henry Zanetti	Vice President	Present	
Nancy Feinstein	Trustee	Present	
James Gounaris	Trustee	Present	
Brian Hassan	Trustee	Present	

### **II Executive Session**

Mr. Zanetti moved that the Board of Education recess into Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations and personnel matters. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Feinstein.

### **III Meeting Reconvened**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was reconvened at 7:41pm. There was one student government representative present.

### **IV Pledge of Allegiance**

### **V Announcements and Correspondence**

Mr. Zanetti welcomed students, parents and the public to tonight's Board of Education meeting. Mr. Zanetti then opened the meeting to announcements and correspondence from the Board. Among the items raised were the following:

The student government representative stated that they are very busy at the high school getting ready for *Battle of the Classes*. She also stated that members of the music department are getting ready for their trip to Disney, where they will be performing.

Ms. Maggiacomo congratulated Lori Dorr, Director of Guidance, on her upcoming retirement. She added that the search will begin for her replacement. Ms. Maggiacomo then thanked Ms. Dorr for her years of service and wished her the very best.

Ms. Guercin stated that last night, she attended a math presentation sponsored by SEPTA.

She added that this presentation was not just for parents of students with special needs. Dr. Geetha Murthy, Director of Mathematics, spoke about the Herricks math curriculum for all grades and resources for parents to support math learning. Ms. Guercin added that it was a great presentation and showed that math is accessible to all of us and that we can grow in math.

Ms. Rutkoske stated that tonight is our first budget presentation. She then encouraged the public to make sure they are registered to vote. They can do so by contacting the Board of Elections to register. She added that once you are registered you can vote not only for the upcoming primary voting but for the budget vote as well.

Mr. Hassan stated that he attended the Heritage Celebration under Ms. Deirdre Bambrick's direction at Searingtown Elementary School. He added that he was so impressed with the amount of time and effort the students put into their costumes, cultures and customs. He added that we were fortunate to have Regent Roger Tilles as a guest, who was also very impressed. Mr. Hassan stated that it was very well done.

Mr. Zanetti apologized for missing the Heritage Festival. He also stated that Mrs. Chin was unable to make tonight's meeting due to family obligations.

Mr. Zanetti invited the Public to attend the annual PTA Scholarship Fundraiser taking place this Saturday at the High School. He added that it sounds like it will be a lot of fun with lots of activities for all.

Mr. Zanetti congratulated the two high school students who are being recognized tonight for outstanding achievement in fencing. He also gave a shout out to the Herricks Wrestling Team for placing 11<sup>th</sup> in the County and Joseph Manfredi for being named Nassau County Champion in the 99-pound weight class.

Dr. Celano invited the Public to the PTA Scholarship Fundraiser which will be held on this Saturday from 11:00am – 3:00pm at the High School. Tickets will be available at the door.

Dr. Celano congratulated wrestler Joseph Manfredi for being named Nassau County Champion in the 99-pound class. He then wished Joe good luck as he competes in the state championship this weekend. We will be recognizing Joe at a future Board of Education meeting.

Dr. Celano informed the public that they will be receiving a notice regarding the Census. He added that it is important for every household to complete the Census questions. The Census is tied into federal aid that the district receives.

Dr. Celano stated that tonight we will have the first of a series of four budget presentations on our draft budget for the 2020-21 school year.

Dr. Celano then stated that before we get to our first budget presentation, we will be recognizing a number of students for outstanding achievement.

## **VI Recognition of Outstanding Student Achievement**

Dr. Celano stated that tonight we will be recognizing outstanding student achievement. Ms. Guercin announced each of the students’ names and their bios.

- 2 Herricks High School students (brother & sister) were crowned Nassau County Champions for Sabre. They also achieved All-Long Island and All-County status as well as winning the “Fencer’s Fencing Award”. This special award is given to two individuals (one female and one male) who have displayed outstanding sportsmanship throughout the season.
- 9 Herricks High School Seniors were recognized as National Merit Finalists by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. These students were initially honored as semifinalists this past fall and advanced to the more prestigious status after meeting high academic standards and completing other rigorous requirements.

On behalf of the Board of Education and Central Administration, Dr. Celano congratulated the students, their parents and teachers for an outstanding job. Dr. Celano then thanked Mr. Jim Petricca, Director of Athletics, and Kristen Silk, fencing coach for attending tonight’s Board of Education meeting.

**VII Questions or Comments from the Public**

Mr. Zanetti asked if there were any questions or comments from the Public. There were none at this time.

**VIII Recommended Actions - Routine Business**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	James Gounaris, Trustee
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Brian Hassan, Trustee
<b>AYES:</b>	Henry Zanetti, Nancy Feinstein, James Gounaris, Brian Hassan
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Juleigh Chin

**A Approval of Personnel Report**

**1 Personnel Report - February 27, 2020**

The following resolution has been prepared for the Board’s consideration:  
**Resolved:** that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the February 27, 2020 Personnel Report.

**B Acceptance of Report of Committee on Special Education**

**1 Report of Committee on Special Education - February 27, 2020**

The following resolution has been prepared for the Board’s consideration:  
**Resolved:** that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the February 27, 2020 Report of Committee on Special Education.

**C Approval of Transfer Report**

**1 Transfer Report - February 27, 2020**

The following resolution has been prepared for the Board’s consideration:  
**Resolved:** that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the February 27, 2020 Transfer Report.

**D Approval of Treasurer's Report**

**1 Treasurer's Report - December 2019**

The following resolution has been prepared for the Board’s consideration:  
**Resolved:** that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the December 2019 Treasurer’s Report.

**E Acceptance of Business Reports**

**1 Business Reports - February 27, 2020**

The following resolution has been prepared for the Board’s consideration:  
**Resolved:** that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the following Business Reports:

Appropriation Status through December 2019  
Budget Transfer December 2019  
Revenue Status through December 2019  
System Audit Analysis December 2019  
Trial Balance through December 2019  
Cash Flow through December 2019

Quarterly Extra Classroom Activity Fund – October 2019 through December 2019

**IX 2020-2021 Draft Budget Overview Presentation #1 - Discussion by Dr. Fino Celano**

Dr. Celano, along with Ms. Rutkoske and Ms. Guercin, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the 2020-2021 Proposed Budget. Dr. Celano reminded the public that this is a draft overview of the budget, and not a finished product. He then explained the Budget Development Process. Dr. Celano informed the public further discussions on the proposed budget will take place at future Board of Education/Budget Meetings during March and April. There will then be a Budget Hearing on May 7 and the adopted Budget by the Board of Education will be presented for voter approval on May 19.

Ms. Rutkoske spoke about the financial aspect of the Proposed Budget:

- The 3-part budget breakdown
- School Budgets & Tax Levy Cap
- The Tax Levy Cap of 2.35% and the Formula used for computing it.
- District’s contributions to ERS & TRS
- Healthcare Costs
- State Aid Outlook

- Foundation Aid Formula Levels for Herricks

Dr. Celano spoke about how the District respects the fact that property taxes from homeowners are the major source of revenue for the budget. He showed a per-pupil expenditure comparison chart, which highlighted that Herricks has among the lowest per-pupil expenditures among our high-achieving comparator school districts. He added that our Mission Statement focuses on goals aligned with our budget. Dr. Celano also stated that the District provides efficient, cost-effective operations and strong fiscal controls and oversight. He emphasized that the District must look at the future by maintaining long-term financial well-being. These are a few of many priorities the District must look at.

Ms. Guercin spoke about Herricks Points of Pride, which included the following:

- Academic Achievement
- Programs
- Clubs
- Student Activities

Dr. Celano summed up the Proposed Budget presentation with proposed budget highlights. He added that the budget challenge is finding the right balance between providing the best education for our students and what's cost effective for taxpayers. Dr. Celano reminded the public that the School Budget Vote is on May 19 during the hours of 7:00am-9:00pm. A copy of tonight's PowerPoint can be found on the Herricks website at: <https://www.herricks.org/Domain/53>.

Mr. Zanetti thanked Central Administration for a comprehensive budget presentation. He then asked if there were any questions or comments from the Board. Among the items raised were the following:

Mr. Hassan directed his comment to the student government representative that was present. He told her that the Board appreciated the students' feedback at the *Fireside Chat* and added that the Board listened. Of the four topics that were mentioned by the students, three are being addressed in the proposed budget. Ms. Keegan, in conjunction with the facilities department, is working on the fourth topic regarding the auditorium stage.

The student government representative stated that this is one of the best proposed budgets she has seen so far, she then thanked the Board and Central Administration for listening.

Mr. Zanetti asked if there were any questions or concerns from the Public. Among the items raised were the following:

A resident asked, what are the expenses that fall under the Administrative Costs of the budget. Ms. Rutkoske replied that the expenses include administrative salaries, insurance, cost of budget vote, auditors fees, tech programs and District financial management systems just to name a few. Dr. Celano added that the largest percentage of the budget is for the students.

A resident asked what is the amount of state aid for each district based upon. Dr. Celano stated that it is based on the number of enrolled students and their economic level. He added that the Districts with higher economical needs get more.

Dr. Celano stated that the Board, Administration and PTA have been advocating for Herricks to receive its full share of Foundation Aid to legislators on behalf of the District.

Mr. Zanetti stated that as when he was part of the PTA, he wrote letters to legislators showing comparator charts of foundation aid amounts that each district received. Some Districts received more than they should have while others, like Herricks received less. He added that this has been an ongoing thing for years.

Mr. Gounaris stated that Herricks has been short changed almost 50 million dollars over the last ten years. Ms. Rutkoske added that this has been a challenge for many districts.

**X Recommended Actions - New Business**

**A Acceptance of 2018-2019 Single Audit Corrective Action Plan - R.S. Abrams & Company, LLP**

The following resolution has been prepared for the Board’s consideration:

**Resolved:** that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the Single Audit Corrective Action Plan in response to Auditor comments for the Audit conducted by R.S. Abrams & Co. LLP, the District’s External Auditor, for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2019.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Brian Hassan, Trustee
<b>SECONDER:</b>	James Gounaris, Trustee
<b>AYES:</b>	Henry Zanetti, Nancy Feinstein, James Gounaris, Brian Hassan
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Juleigh Chin

**B Approval of Middle School and High School Masonry & Site Work Capital Projects Submission (SED Project # 28040903 - 0-011-026 and 0-008-041) for Third-Party Review**

The following resolution has been prepared for the Board’s consideration:

**Resolved:** that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves Middle School and High School Masonry & Site Work Capital Projects for third party review for an additional fee by third-party vendors retained by CiTi BOCES of \$7,700.

**Note:** Beginning February 1st, 2018, the NY State Education Department (SED) Office of Facilities Planning in conjunction with CiTi BOCES (the Center for Instruction, Technology and Innovation/Oswego BOCES) began outsourcing eligible capital project submissions to third-party vendors in an effort to expedite the review and approval of capital projects. As of February 25, 2020, the average time for final architectural review by SED is 14-16 weeks.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Nancy Feinstein, Trustee
<b>SECONDER:</b>	James Gounaris, Trustee
<b>AYES:</b>	Henry Zanetti, Nancy Feinstein, James Gounaris, Brian Hassan
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Juleigh Chin

**C Approval of BOCES Letter of Intent - ESSA Accountability Dashboard - Coser 602.073**

The following resolution has been prepared for the Board’s consideration:

**Resolved:** that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves Nassau BOCES Letter of Intent, Coser 602.073, for a fee of \$4,500.00 for 2020-21 ESSA Accountability Dashboard.

**Note:** The ESSA Accountability Dashboard provides district leaders with an enhanced data visualization tool that represents accountability data in a variety of interactive formats. The Dashboard will contain an Accountability Summary page that displays the current status of all buildings and their accountable subgroups. With the new transparency reporting required by the NYSED, this dashboard will help our district readily access and interpret the NYSED Accountability Designations, uncover trends, be able to prioritize areas for improvement, identify the schools targets and subgroups that need to be meet. Contracting via Nassau BOCES, net aid is approximately 51% back to the Herricks School District.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	James Gounaris, Trustee
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Henry Zanetti, Vice President
<b>AYES:</b>	Henry Zanetti, Nancy Feinstein, James Gounaris, Brian Hassan
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Juleigh Chin

**D Approval of Consultant**

The following resolution has been prepared for the Board’s consideration:

**Resolved:** that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves Greg Tang, Tang Math LLC, PO Box 777850, Henderson, NV 89077 to facilitate a two-day workshop at Searingtown Elementary School during the 2019/20 school year. Tang Math is a program designed for struggling math students in grades K-5. The workshop will provide teachers and students with a visual approach to problem solving. Teachers will learn engaging methods that will assist our AIS students with activities that support number bonds in all four operations, multiple representations to model numbers, place value, money, fractions and measurement. Searingtown School is identified as a Title I school with the highest need among the three elementary schools. The fee is \$10,800.00 and will be paid via ESSA grant funds.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	James Gounaris, Trustee
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Henry Zanetti, Vice President
<b>AYES:</b>	Henry Zanetti, Nancy Feinstein, James Gounaris, Brian Hassan
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Juleigh Chin

**XI Questions or Comments from the Public**

Mr. Zanetti asked if there were any questions or comments from the Public. There were none at this time.

**XII New Business and Future Agenda Items**

Mr. Zanetti asked the Board if there was any New Business or Future Agenda items. There were none at this time.

Mr. Zanetti mentioned the following future meeting dates:

- March 12, 2020 – Regular and Budget Meeting #2
- March 26, 2020 – Regular and Budget Meeting #3
- April 2, 2020 – Regular and Budget Meeting #4
- April 21, 2020 (*Tuesday*) – Regular and Boces *Hearing*
- May 7 – Budget Hearing and Regular Meeting

**XIII Future Business - Meetings are held at 7:30 PM unless otherwise noted**

March 12, 2020	Community Center	Regular & Budget Meeting #2
March 26, 2020	Community Center	Regular & Budget Meeting #3
April 2, 2020	Community Center	Regular & Budget Meeting #4 & <i>Budget Adoption</i>
April 21, 2020 – <i>Tuesday</i>	Community Center	Regular and BOCES <i>Hearing</i>
May 7, 2020	Community Center	Budget Hearing & Regular Meeting

**XIV Adjournment**

At 8:40pm, Mr. Gounaris made a motion to adjourn the Board of Education Regular Meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hassan and passed by unanimous vote.

**Respectfully submitted,**

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**Lisa Rutkoske, C.P.A.  
District Clerk**