



Herricks Public Schools Board of Education

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

Regular Meeting ~ Minutes ~

Thursday, May 7, 2020

7:30 PM

Herricks Community Center

I Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by President Juleigh Chin

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Juleigh Chin	President	Present	
Henry Zanetti	Vice President	Present	
Nancy Feinstein	Trustee	Present	
James Gounaris	Trustee	Present	
Brian Hassan	Trustee	Present	

II Executive Session

Mrs. Chin moved that the Board of Education recess into Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations and personnel matters. The motion was seconded by Mr. Zanetti and passed by unanimous vote. Executive Session was held via teleconference due to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

III Meeting Reconvened

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was reconvened at 7:31pm via teleconference. There were no student government representatives present.

IV Pledge of Allegiance

V Announcements and Correspondence

Mrs. Chin thanked and welcomed the public for joining our live cast meeting via teleconference.

Mrs. Chin then stated that before she begins tonight's meeting, she wants to let everyone know that last night, we lost for a former Board of Education Trustee, Mr. Kevin Dunn. He was a member of our Board from 2008 through 2009. He was also a retired FDNY Lieutenant and a former Williston Park Village Board Trustee. Mrs. Chin went on to ask that everyone take a moment of silence to honor Kevin Dunn, as well as all other friends and loved ones that have lost family members since our last meeting.

Mrs. Chin thanked everyone for taking a moment of silence. She then added that our prayers are with the Dunn family, and with the other families that have lost someone at this time.

Mrs. Chin then opened the meeting to any announcements and correspondence from the Board. Among the items raised were the following:

Mrs. Chin stated that if you had any questions that normally would come up during a board meeting, you can email them to the Board. She stated that we received a few questions, but we're going to address the questions at the end of the meeting, because we might be going over some things in the meeting that there were questions about. This will also give people a chance to email the Board questions during the meeting. If you have a question, please don't hesitate to email the Board. We will try to get to all of the questions but whatever we don't get to, we will answer them by email.

Ms. Maggiacomo stated that the first Board meeting in May is always a great night, and it is her favorite night, because we get to talk about some special people that we are recommending for tenure. She added that tonight we are also recommending two administrators for appointments. This comes after a thorough interview process, which consisted of resume reviews, interviews by our administrators, teachers, and parents, and extensive reference checks. These candidates were then interviewed by the Board of Education. Ms. Maggiacomo stated that she is thrilled to share that on tonight's agenda, we are recommending Ms. Natasha Khan for Director of Guidance K-12. She will be replacing our good friend and colleague, Lori Dorr, on July 1. We are also recommending Ms. Eleni Chronas for Assistant Director for Pupil Personnel Services, replacing Susan Saban, who will be taking a position in another local district. Ms. Chronas will also be starting on July 1. We are really excited about both of our candidates and we welcome them to the Herricks family.

Ms. Maggiacomo was excited to announce that Dr. Celano is making recommendations for tenure for 15 teachers and 13 teaching assistants, most of whom are joining the teleconference Board meeting. Ms. Maggiacomo then sent out her congratulations to them. She added that they have spent the past three or four years working hard, undergoing thorough observations, working with our parents, students and administration. We are excited to recommend them for tenure. We love them, and we wish that we were together with them to celebrate, but we will celebrate once we are all together again. Congratulations to all of you, I am sending you virtual hugs.

Mrs. Chin stated that we will certainly put a tenure reception on the calendar when we get back in school, because that's one of the best nights when we get to celebrate with our new members of the Herricks family.

Ms. Guercin congratulated this evening's tenure recipients, touting the amazing group of teachers that we have coming into Herricks. We are really proud of them and it's very well-deserved. Ms. Guercin then welcomed the two new administrators, Ms. Khan and Ms. Chronas, to the Herricks family.

Ms. Rutkoske stated that last Thursday, in her own car following social distancing, she joined the Honk & Hello Party that the high school put together. It was a lot of fun and great to go around and see much of the community. A big shout out to all involved.

Ms. Rutkoske stated that she usually gives a shout out to our facilities team, but yesterday was Nurses Day, so just a shout out to our nurses. Her mother was a school nurse, so she must recognize the effort they put in every day. Congratulations and thanks for all the work you do!

Mr. Gounaris congratulated all the tenure recipients. He then thanked them for their hard work and thanked them for making the grade. We are happy to welcome them and want to congratulate the two new administrators.

Mr. Gounaris then stated that many people don't know that the Board of Education is regularly meeting, and also meeting with administration by teleconference. We are planning for the upcoming school year and doing what we can to properly close out this school year. He added that maybe you can't see us or we are not always around, but we are doing what we can to make sure our roles are being fulfilled.

Mr. Gounaris then congratulated Mr. Alan Semerdjian, teacher and a man of many other talents. He added that Mr. Semerdjian has written, *The Serpent and the Crane*, along with a Vancouver-based guitarist, Aram Bajakian. Mr. Gounaris added that he has won awards with regards to his books and his history on the Armenian Genocide. Mr. Gounaris added that it is interesting work that Mr. Semerdjian has accomplished, and wanted to give him a proper pat on the back.

Mr. Hassan congratulated the teachers and teaching assistants that are tenure recipients. He added that the Board knows it is a strenuous process, and we know not everybody makes it through. Mr. Hassan then welcomed them to the Herricks family and added that we have high standards, as they may have learned when they went through their interview process, as well as over the past few years. Once again, congratulations.

Mr. Hassan congratulated and welcomed into the Herricks family, Ms. Natasha Khan and Ms. Eleni Chronas. He added that it was a strenuous process, but they both really shined in their interviews with the Board of Education.

Mr. Hassan then stated that he also wants to congratulate central administration. He added that he thinks the hiring process that has been put in place in the last few of years has really paid off and we're starting to see the fruits of those efforts. The process has paid off in all the hiring that we have done at the administrator level and teacher level. Mr. Hassan then congratulated everyone.

Mr. Hassan stated that he hopes everybody is safe and secure and will enjoy the weather, although this weekend it is not going to be the greatest. It could be a little cold, but hopefully everyone has a happy Mother's Day and hopes people have time to enjoy the day.

Mrs. Feinstein stated that she wants to acknowledge the parents and the students in our district who are working so hard, along with the teachers. We know that parents are

struggling right now with their jobs, working from home and having multiple age children possibly in the house. Mrs. Feinstein wants these people to know that we appreciate the work that they are doing with our students: their children. They are doing right for filling part of the job a little bit more than they usually do.

Mr. Zanetti stated that he too wants to congratulate all the tenure recipients and welcome them to the full-time Herricks family. He then congratulated Ms. Khan and Ms. Chronas, and added that their interviews with the Board were terrific and very impressive.

Mr. Zanetti stated that he was able to listen to one of the cuts from Mr. Semerdjian's spoken word music album. He added that it was very good, interesting and different, and that he enjoyed listening to it. Mr. Zanetti then congratulated Mr. Semerdjian.

Mr. Zanetti stated that it is actually Nurses' Appreciation Month and that he is sure everyone has followed the stories on TV of all those who are involved in this pandemic. There are moments of sorrow and horror, but also exhilaration when something goes right. It is all very touching and we want to thank them for all the work that they do.

Mrs. Chin stated that in addition to Nurses' Week, it is also Teacher Appreciation Week. She added that she doesn't know if it is a coincidence, but it is pretty cool that we are recognizing tenure recipients during the same week. Mrs. Chin then gave a shout out to the teachers, especially this year, for their enormous amount of work and effort that has gone into these remote learning sessions. It's not easy for anyone. It's a learning curve not just for the students, but for the staff as well. Learning how to balance the home/work life is really a big thing. Mrs. Chin then stated, as Mrs. Feinstein said, how the parents are homeschooling, it should also be Parent Appreciation Week too! She added there are so many funny memes out there that she is sure everyone has seen, and they totally show how much the teachers really do. Mrs. Chin stated that we just can't say enough about our teachers.

Mrs. Chin then stated that she appreciates the strength of everyone in our Herricks family we appreciate you for just being strong. We will get through this together and that hopefully, we will see a resemblance of normalcy sometime soon.

Dr. Celano welcomed everyone to tonight's Board Meeting. He then stated that he would like to also echo his congratulations to all of the folks receiving tenure. Dr. Celano told the Board of Education that this group of tenure candidates one of the most talented and strongest group of new teachers that he had ever worked with. He added that they are a tremendous group of people, who went through a very rigorous tenure review process, which included his observing them during classroom lessons, so congratulations!

Dr. Celano stated that he would also like to congratulate two of our administrators who are receiving tenure this evening as well, Dina and Lisa. Dr. Celano quipped that they are being rewarded after four years of putting up with him, and four years of really working hard, and doing what's best for the community, our students, our parents, and our teachers. Dr. Celano thanked them for everything they do.

Dr. Celano then sent out congratulations to our two new administrators that are being appointed tonight, Eleni Chronas and Natasha Khan. Dr. Celano also congratulated and

thanked Lori Dorr, who is retiring, and Susan Saban, who is moving on to another district. We really wish Eleni and Natasha well. We are very impressed with their credentials, their background, their experience, and what they bring to Herricks. We know that they are going to do an excellent job.

Dr. Celano stated this is indeed Teacher Appreciation Week and he would like to thank all our teachers for the wonderful work they have been doing under very challenging circumstances. They quickly adapted to remote learning, and continue to grow each and every day because it's an evolutionary process. They are doing really terrific work. They are connecting with their students, and working with parents, side-by-side in many cases, to do the best we can in terms of the remote learning.

Dr. Celano then focused on some of the things going on right now, as he previously mentioned in his last weekly letter home. We are working with our principals and faculty members for planning end of the year virtual events. We all feel badly about the fact that a lot of special events, concerts, ceremonies, and graduations will not take place at the end of year. We really can't do that in today's situation, but we are planning wonderful year end virtual events including virtual yearbook signings, virtual graduations, virtual award ceremonies, and virtual sports nights. They are all in the works and you will be hearing more about them as the details unfold. We are going to really try to do the best we can to serve our kids and make the end of the year special for all of our students, especially our seniors. We feel very badly that this happened in their senior year, and you will be hearing more about those things coming up.

Dr. Celano stated that he would like to say a couple things about the budget. Tonight was supposed to be the Budget Hearing but that was based on a calendar, which has since been modified. We had to adjust the Budget Hearing based on state guidelines and regulations. The Budget Vote will be on June 9 and will be done through absentee ballot. Dr. Celano added that every registered voter in the community will be getting a ballot in the mail and will be asked to mail that ballot back. Since the date of the vote was moved to June 9, our Budget Hearing had to be moved within a certain period of time. Our new Budget Hearing will take place virtually on May 28 at 7:30pm. Residents will receive much information about the budget in the mail, and it will be posted on our website. We really want, as always, to encourage everybody to come out and vote, now more than ever.

Dr. Celano then stated that if you are following the news, due to the financial crisis that has been caused by the pandemic, the governor has said that New York State is in a serious deficit mode. Governor Cuomo has indicated there is a possibility that school districts may be faced with up to a 20% cut in state aid. For Herricks, that would be a little more than \$2 million. We are trying our best and we are waiting to find out exactly what the state aid reduction will be. We are hoping that it will not be that extensive, but are preparing for the worst, while hoping for the best. Our priorities are to continue to keep our programs intact and our class size guidelines intact. We have class size guidelines that have existed and have been working really well for many years. It is still very early, and enrollment can change a lot between now and September. If we see numbers going up, we do have some contingency positions in the budget in case we need to add extra positions. Dr. Celano urged people to write our government officials at the federal, state, and local level to convey how devastating a 20% cut would be for Herricks.

Dr. Celano then asked Ms. Rutkoske if she has anything to add, specifically about the budget.

Ms. Rutkoske stated that she would like to add just a few things. She invited the public to keep revisiting our Budget Information page on our website, which can be found at: <https://www.herricks.org/Page/11539>. We will keep putting everything up there. Ms. Rutkoske then stated ballots for the budget vote will need to be received by 5:00pm on June 9. This is what we are being advised through the governor's orders. She added that residents will get a prepaid envelope to send back the ballot. For health and safety reasons, there are limitations on registering to vote. There is a link on our website to register and you can still register through Department of Motor Vehicles.

Dr. Celano then encouraged the public to come to our virtual Budget Hearing on May 28, which will be an additional budget presentation prior to the budget vote.

Dr. Celano informed the public that the District is already in the planning stages for reopening. He added that he is a very optimistic person and he is hoping that we are going to be able to reopen in September. The planning is in three really important areas. One of course is health and safety. We anticipate that we will be getting some guidelines and protocols from the State Education Department and from the CDC in terms of what we need to do to reopen safely for all of our students and families in the Herricks Community. Those conversations are already taking place.

Dr. Celano then stated the need to focus on assessment of the academic progress of our students, because of the disjointed nature of the school year and switching over to remote learning. We are going to be trying to do our best both this spring and in the fall to assess the academic progress. Finally, another big area is assessing the social emotional needs of our students. It has been a very traumatic experience for many families and students, so through various means, including our instructional support teams, we will be taking a look at the emotional needs of the students and providing whatever we need to do to support them emotionally when they return, both individually and in groups. In our budget, we have additional school social workers, which we were planning on even before the pandemic, so we will have one full-time social worker in each of our three elementary schools, one full time and one part-time social worker in our middle school, and we will be adding an additional full-time social worker to our high school. We will be going from one to two full-time social workers in our high school to support our students and their social emotional well-being.

Dr. Celano went on to say that we are also entering into a partnership with Northwell Health to provide a local clinic with mental health services, including a staff psychiatrist and psychologist. They will provide crisis interventions for our students and our families. This is an initiative that we began just before the pandemic struck in March. Dr. Celano hosted a meeting in Herricks with the folks from Northwell Health and a number of North Shore Districts. Dr. Celano added we will continue to work with Northwell and I think this would be another wonderful resource for our students and families in Herricks. All of these things are in the works, as we are working very hard, not only to complete this year at its best, but also to prepare for a wonderful reopening in September.

Mrs. Chin stated that she is so pleased that to start this relationship with Northwell Health, especially with our neighboring Districts, because of the importance of mental health. She added that she knows one of the head doctors at Northwell Health, Dr. Vera Feuer, and she is amazing.

Dr. Celano stated that Dr. Feuer was the person that came to Herricks when we held our meeting. She was very impressive.

Mrs. Chin added that she had the opportunity to hear Dr. Feuer speak at a conference and it was unbelievable. Dr. Feuer’s heart is there for the kids and she has so much vision. She added that she believes this partnership is such a great thing for our District, as well as our neighboring districts, and is glad that we are going to do this together.

Mrs. Chin, on behalf of herself and the rest of the Board, thanked Dr. Celano for his leadership in this pandemic, as well as his communication and openness with the community. She added that when people reach out to Dr. Celano, he responds back. He has been emailing the community weekly, if not more. Mrs. Chin thanked Dr. Celano again for keeping the community up to date.

Dr. Celano thanked Juleigh and the Board and added that it is his pleasure, because it is important that we all continue a high level of communication with the community. He added that he appreciates these remarks and will continue to do that on a regular basis. As always, if anybody needs to reach out to him, please feel free to email him and he will certainly respond right away.

Mrs. Chin added that she and the Board are very grateful to the entire team at central administration, staff and teachers. Everyone has just really stepped up and it just shows how amazing our district is and it all starts at the leadership. Mrs. Chin thanked everyone again.

VI Recommended Actions - Routine Business

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Henry Zanetti, Vice President
SECONDER:	Brian Hassan, Trustee
AYES:	Chin, Zanetti, Feinstein, Gounaris, Hassan

A Approval of Minutes

1 Minutes - April 21, 2020 & April 29, 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 April 21, 2020 & April 29, 2020 Minutes.

B Approval of Personnel Report

1 Personnel Report - May 7, 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 May 7, 2020 Personnel Report.

C Approval of Transfer Report

1 Transfer Report - May 7, 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 May 7, 2020 Transfer Report.

D Approval of Treasurer's Report

1 Treasurer's Report - March 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 March 2020 Treasurer’s Report.

E Approval of Warrants

1 Warrants - May 7, 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 following Warrants:

General Fund Schedule: 93 through 97

Trust & Agency Schedule: 31 & 32

Warrant #93	General Fund	\$ 2,778,930.13
Warrant #94	General Fund	\$ 194,230.74
Warrant #95	General Fund	\$ 2,065,932.30
Warrant #96	General Fund	\$ 546.69
Warrant #97	General Fund	\$ 40,000.00
Warrant #31	Trust & Agency	\$ 2,757,438.18
Warrant #32	Trust & Agency	\$ 916.67

F Acceptance of Business Reports

1 Business Reports - May 7, 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 March 2020

Budget Transfer March 2020

Revenue Status through March 2020

System Audit Analysis March 2020

Trial Balance through March 2020

Cash Flow through March 2020

VII Recommended Actions - New Business

A Revised Notice of Annual Election & Hearing on 2020-21 Budget

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 Revised Notice of Annual School District Election and Public Hearing on the 2020-2021 School Budget and authorizes the District Clerk to take all such necessary steps to publish the notice as required by law.

Note: Notice of Annual Election & Hearing on 2020-21 Budget was originally approved by the Board of Education on March 12, 2020. Due to the pandemic, as per Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 202.26, the vote was postponed from its original May date, and will now be conducted on June 9, 2020, exclusively by absentee ballot. There will be no voting at the polls.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	James Gounaris, Trustee
SECONDER:	Nancy Feinstein, Trustee
AYES:	Chin, Zanetti, Feinstein, Gounaris, Hassan

B Adoption of School District's Use of Fields Fee Schedule

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 adopts the following fee schedule in connection with the use of natural grass School district Fields:

\$60 per hour, per season for the 2020-2021 school year, effective July 1, 2020.

Note: The above schedule applies to not for profit, community based organizations; being defined as organizations incorporated/headquartered within district and a majority of participant’s district residents. Use by for profit organizations at discretion of Board of Education and Superintendent for permitted uses only per Policy 1500.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Brian Hassan, Trustee
SECONDER:	Nancy Feinstein, Trustee
AYES:	Chin, Zanetti, Feinstein, Gounaris, Hassan

C Results of School Breakfast Survey

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 resolves not to offer a School Breakfast Program during the 2020-2021 school year.

The following chart details the results of the school breakfast survey:

School Breakfast Survey Results

	Center Street	Denton Ave.	Searingtown	M.S.(6th)
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Total Enrollment	489	634	569	349
# of Responses Required (33% of enrollment)	161	209	188	115
# of Responses Received	249	246	257	130
% Responding	51%	39%	45%	37%
# who would participate in School Breakfast Program	42	43	52	18
# who would not participate in School Breakfast Program	207	203	205	112
% of NO Votes	83%	83%	80%	86%

Note: By law, a school district must offer a breakfast program unless 80% or more of the families who respond to the survey decline to participate. Based on the results detailed above, the Superintendent recommends that a School Breakfast Program not be offered during the 2020-2021 school year.

RESULT: **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER: Henry Zanetti, Vice President
SECONDER: Brian Hassan, Trustee
AYES: Chin, Zanetti, Feinstein, Gounaris, Hassan

D Approval of Middle School New Course Proposals for 2020-2021

Resolved: that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the addition of the following courses to the 2020-2021 Middle School course selection booklet:

1. ELA
 - a. Investigative Journalism
 - b. Social Issues & Global Citizenship Through Text
2. Mathematics
 - a. Math Research
3. Social Studies
 - a. News Literacy

- b. Fighting Intolerance Throughout American History
- 4. Science
 - a. Energy & The Environment
 - b. Wonders of Flight
- 5. Related Arts
 - a. Technology
 - i. Robotics
 - ii. Advanced Design & Modeling
 - b. Family Consumer Sciences
 - i. Junior Chefs
 - ii. FACS & The Community
 - c. Art
 - i. Modern Art & More
- 6. Music
 - a. Music appreciation
 - b. Ukulele & Songwriting

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Henry Zanetti, Vice President
SECONDER:	Nancy Feinstein, Trustee
AYES:	Chin, Zanetti, Feinstein, Gounaris, Hassan

E Approval of Agreement Between Ingerman Smith & Roslyn U.F.S.D.

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 a Disclosure and Consent Agreement with Ingerman Smith, L.L.P., 150 Motor Parkway, Suite 400, Hauppauge, NY 11788 and the Roslyn U.F.S.D., 300 Harbor Hill Road, Roslyn, NY 11576, for the 2020-2021 school year, and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Assistant Superintendent for Business be authorized to execute the agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	James Gounaris, Trustee
SECONDER:	Brian Hassan, Trustee
AYES:	Chin, Zanetti, Feinstein, Gounaris, Hassan

F BOCES Letter of Intent 2019-2020 - CoSer #602.580 - Infinite Campus

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 BOCES Letter of Intent #732729, CoSer #602.580 for Infinite Campus to provide a Data Schema Classes that will take place via distance learning for a fee of \$1,180.00.

Note: Custom Computer Specialists will provide a Data Schema Class that will take place from 10:00am – 12:00pm on May 5, 6, 7, 12 and 13, 2020 by via distance learning. During this multiple day course, staff will learn the Infinite

Campus database schema and create SQL scripts to review data. The class will utilize SQL Server Management Studio 2008 as the tool to access the Infinite Campus data. This course is intended for Infinite Campus database administrators and developers who are familiar with the Infinite Campus database schema and have T/SQL experience. Students should have some experience using reporting tools such as Crystal Reports

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	James Gounaris, Trustee
SECONDER:	Brian Hassan, Trustee
AYES:	Chin, Zanetti, Feinstein, Gounaris, Hassan

G BOCES 2020-2021 Letter of Intent #733155 - Outsourced Network Support

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 BOCES Letter of Intent #733155 in the amount of \$512,643,02 with Outsourced Network Support for the 2020-2021 school year.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	James Gounaris, Trustee
SECONDER:	Brian Hassan, Trustee
AYES:	Chin, Zanetti, Feinstein, Gounaris, Hassan

H Appointment of J.J. Stanis and Company as Self-Insured Dental Administrator and Approval of Rates

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 reappoints J.J. Stanis and Company to administer the District’s self-insured dental program for the 2020-2021 school year at a fee of \$6.62 per person enrolled, and

Be It Further Resolved: that the Board of Education hereby approves the renewal of the monthly rates, noted below, effective July 1, 2020.

<i>Base Plan</i>		
<u>Coverage</u>	<u>Current Rates</u>	<u>Renewal Rates</u>
Single	\$18.68	\$18.68
Family	\$59.55	\$59.55
 <i>Enhanced Plan</i>		
<u>Coverage</u>	<u>Current Rates</u>	<u>Renewal Rates</u>
Single	\$42.59	\$42.59
Family	\$143.36	\$143.36

Be It Further Resolved: that the Assistant Superintendent for Business be authorized to sign the renewal letter with J.J. Stanis on behalf of the Board of Education.

Note: The total dental claims administration fee of \$6.62 and the monthly premiums remain the same as 2019-20. The rates are reviewed and recommended by JJ Stanis based on current claims data trended from July 1, 2019 through

March 31,2020. The Board contribution remains fixed as per the contracts at \$9.15 individual and \$30.62 family.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	James Gounaris, Trustee
SECONDER:	Brian Hassan, Trustee
AYES:	Chin, Zanetti, Feinstein, Gounaris, Hassan

VIII New Business and Future Agenda Items

Mrs. Chin stated that before we get to New Business and Future Agenda items, we will take a few minutes to address some of the email questions that came to the Board.

A resident emailed if the Board meetings can be held via teleconference through Zoom or to a live format. Mrs. Chin stated that one of the reasons that we don't do it that way is because with an audience like tonight of 70 people on the call, so it would just be really difficult. She added that she works for the town, and the town board meetings are conducted in a similar way that we are doing our board meetings. The board is talking out loud and then they take questions by email.

Mrs. Feinstein state that she has been on Zoom calls with 250 women over the past few days. You can mute the callers just like we can here. She added that she is not sure of the reason why people want to see us, maybe they just want to see what we look like.

Mr. Gounaris stated that he would not have a problem with that either. He thinks that would be fine.

Mrs. Chin stated that the Board could discuss how it would work. She added that Ms. Maggiacomo works really hard in setting up the conference calls for us. We can definitely explore this option, but she is not quite sure how much of it would change what we are doing now, because it is still a meeting of the board. The questions would still have to be emailed to us.

The resident also emailed if there would be a mail-in option for the budget vote. Mrs. Chin stated that it was discussed earlier in the meeting that the budget vote will take place by absentee ballot. A ballot will be mailed to everyone who is registered to vote through the Board of Elections. Mrs. Chin added that if she is not mistaken, it's almost 20 thousand pieces of mail that will be sent out, versus the on average about 3,000 people that show up to vote in person. Everybody registered will have the ability to vote.

The resident also emailed about class size guidelines and the number of students in a class, particularly at Center Street School. Mrs. Chin stated that Dr. Celano and Lisa have already mentioned that we are keeping with our class size guidelines. She added that if you have any questions, specifically about any classes, please reach out to your building administrators or even directly to Ms. Guercin or Ms. Maggiacomo. Mrs. Chin reminded the public that this is something that we look at all the time. The numbers are a snapshot and they change every day, even after school starts in September.

Dr. Celano stated that the numbers of students in the classes on the slide of Budget Presentation #2 may no longer be accurate because the numbers do change. This tends to

be a case-by-case basis, but the point that we want to emphasize is that we're constantly monitoring them and making adjustments, so that we are within our class size guidelines. He added that hopefully we will be able to maintain our Board of Education class size guidelines even with these looming state aid cuts. It's going to be a challenge.

The resident's last email question asks what plans the Herricks School District have in place regarding helping with social, emotional, and mental health aspects. Mrs. Chin stated that this is also something that we've been talking about throughout today's meeting. We will be adding staff members, and that this issue is definitely something that is on the forefront. All of our minds, and actually two of the administrators that we hired on today's personnel agenda, will be right in the forefront of all of this, Natasha Khan and Elani Chronas.

Dr. Celano added that once we start back up, we are going to be assessing the needs of our students through various methods. We will be reaching out to our students and parents and we already have instructional support teams in place. The teams will identify students who need additional support. They will be able to deliver that support through both individual and group sessions, utilizing our school psychologists, guidance counselors, and school social workers. We are also adding to the staff and our new guidance director is very strong in this area. Dr. Celano stated that he knows that Ms. Khan has some wonderful ideas. We have some very talented mental health professionals who have some wonderful ideas of how we approach identifying students and also delivering supports that they need. He added that the new partnership with Northwell will be a great resource for us as well.

Another resident emailed a question that the Board responded to, but Mrs. Chin would like to share the resident's question. The resident asked about an overlap in some of the schedules with the online learning. Mrs. Chin stated that as parents, or even as students, if you have an inadvertent overlap in scheduling with the online classes. We encourage you to speak to your teachers and also speak to your building administrators. She added that this is not something that we had been aware of, and obviously not anything that would be done intentionally, so it is good to clear up a lot of confusion.

Another resident submitted a two-part question. They both are related to seniors. The first question is about grading, if this quarter will be a pass/fail grade. The second is that seniors are currently receiving more work to do than they would be if they were in school. Dr. Celano stated that we are fine tuning the details on the grading plan for fourth quarter average. We have had extensive conversations internally with our administrators and teachers, and we are also looking how our comparative school districts are doing in terms of a plan. Basically, there are two goals. One is to make sure students are motivated to continue to work for the balance of the school year, but also to make sure that we are sensitive to the needs of our students. A system that takes into account the struggles that our students have had, particularly many families where parents have been on the frontlines of fighting the pandemic and they have not been home, and students have had their lives disrupted. Dr. Celano added that we certainly coming up with a plan that takes all of this into consideration. A plan in full detail will be sent home during the coming week.

Ms. Guercin added that the district has been really cognizant to the large population of families who are health care providers, so we are very mindful of trying to balance everything and very much aware. She is hopeful that the grading policy that we are going to be putting in place for the final quarter and the final grading has a really nice balance for everyone.

Mrs. Chin stated that the second part of the resident's question is talking about the balancing of work, and about what's too much work or not enough work. Obviously there is going to be differences of opinion on this, and that is one of the things that we want touched upon because, you know no matter what grade or what level, you always have a difference of opinion. She added that Governor Cuomo had pretty much erased our spring breaks and we were kind of in a tizzy at that time. However, this ended up working out for everyone. Mrs. Chin then stated that she thinks that it is about trying to keep the students motivated all the way to the very end and let them not lose sight of the prize at the end of the year, which for the seniors is moving forward.

Dr. Celano stated that it is all about striking that balance, so it is not too much work and obviously not just giving busywork to keep students occupied. We want students to continue to make progress academically, but at the same time, there is a recognition of the fact that this has been a very stressful time. We want students to continue to have a balanced life, go out in the backyard, run around, do some things, relax as well as the school work. It is all about balance, and that is the fine line that we are trying to accomplish. We have received comments from parents on both sides of this argument.

Dr. Celano added that if there is any specific concerns that you have, feel free to reach out to your child's teacher or administrators. They are really working hard to manage this and we will get through this as best as we can for our students. Our principals, assistant principals and Department chairs are available too, and so are our guidance counselors, psychologists and social workers, so any issues that you are concerned about, feel free to contact any one of us.

Mrs. Chin added that all of us, not just the Board of Education and not just our administrators, feel for our seniors and all of our students. We feel not just for the graduating seniors, but we also feel for our fifth graders and our eighth graders as well. This is something that we have never would have expected. We want the very best for them, but we hope to be able to provide some sort of celebration. Mrs. Chin added when this is all said and done, they will look back with fondness and know that every decision that was made was not in spite of them, but for them. Health and safety will always take priority. There will be good that comes out of out of this.

Mrs. Feinstein stated that all of us sitting on the board right now have at least one child that has graduated from Herricks. We do understand all of the important things that these children are missing. In addition, we do know that the seniors in the springtime are not really doing that much work. Seniors have senioritis and feel they accomplished what they set out to do. They either already got accepted to college or maybe they didn't and they're waiting this out because of the situation. We do know if you feel like your child, your senior especially, is doing an extraordinary amount of work right now, he/she can reach out to someone. Mrs. Feinstein added that she feels so badly for these kids and for

every child in our district. Right now, the focus is on those kids and making sure they are all doing well.

A resident emailed the Board questions which Mrs. Chin stated overlaps with previous questions discussed regarding the fourth quarter grades and finals, which kind of will all goes together. There was a separate question though regarding the possibility of school not starting in September. Dr. Celano stated that they asked the governor and he said, September is a long way off. Dr. Celano added that a lot can happen between now and then, but he is hoping and is trying to be optimistic that will be back. It has to be based on the recommendation from the governor and State Education Department. If there is a delay or a resumption of remote learning, or some kind of combination of remote learning in school, we would certainly continue to develop and improve the delivery of the remote learning. It's a work in progress.

Mrs. Chin added that her biggest fear for the students is that they are going to have to come back and wear masks. When she has to sit at her desk at work, with a mask on, she feels like she is going pass out. There is not enough oxygen to my brain.

Dr. Celano added that is why we are hoping and praying for a vaccination, sooner rather than later, because that is really the answer.

Mr. Gounaris stated that another question was just emailed from a resident to the Board. The resident stated that her son just told her that he has to continue with his AP classes even after his AP tests, instead of working on a Quest Project. Dr. Celano stated that typically there would be a Quest Project, which would be some sort of a project that the students would work on after the AP tests are over.

Ms. Guercin stated that she is not familiar with this. They are still enrolled in school and still have to continue as part of the course. Ms. Guercin asked if the Board could forward the question to her and she would look into it and get back to the resident.

Mrs. Chin asked the Board if there was any New Business or Future Agenda items. There was none at this time.

Mrs. Chin then mentioned the following dates:

May 21, 2020 – Regular Meeting and Recognition of Student Government Representatives.

June 9, 2020 – Budget Vote by Absentee Ballot which you will receive in the mail.

June 11, 2020 – Regular Meeting

Dr. Celano mentioned that are we will have that Budget Hearing, it's not a board meeting but that Special Budget Hearing is on May 28th at 7:30.

Mr. Zanetti then stressed the point about the Budget Vote and that June 9th is the deadline for the District to receive the returned votes. When you get your vote in the mail, you should take care of it quickly and send it back to us.

Mrs. Chin, along with the other Board Members, added that it won't be counted if it is dropped off at the Community Center. It needs to be dropped in the mailbox and received by 5:00pm on June 9. It has to come by mail. It is going to be a postage paid return envelope so you know so no excuse, you don't need a stamp. Just fill it out and stick it in the mail.

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

May 21, 2020	Location To Be Determined	Regular Meeting & <i>Recognition of Student Representatives</i>
June 9, 2020	Absentee Ballot	Budget Vote
June 11, 2020	Location To Be Determined	Regular Meeting

X Adjournment

At 8:30pm, Mrs. Feinstein 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,

Lisa Rutkoske, C.P.A.
District Clerk