

Special Board Meeting MINUTES  
Thursday, November 12, 2020 6:00 PM

Harlem Administration Center  
8605 North Second St  
Machesney Park, Illinois 61115

## **Agenda Minutes**

1. Call to Order of Special Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m. by President Sue Berogan

2. Roll Call

Sue Berogan, Patti Lawrence, Michael Sterling Rich Meister, Jill Berogan, Evelyn Meeks

Kris Arduino, Recording Secretary

Dr. Julie Morris, Superintendent

3. Pledge of Allegiance led by President Berogan

4. **Motion to approve Agenda**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sterling 2<sup>nd</sup> J. Berogan**

**Lawrence, Sterling, Meister, J. Berogan, Meeks, S. Berogan – 6 ayes**

**Motion carried**

5. Comments from the Community

1. Sara Schrader addressed the Board regarding works at HMS as a social worker as a parent, employee and community member and noted her concerns during the pandemic. She has been here 3 years, traumatized students and staff is the worse climate she has seen. Children are concerned about themselves and the ones they love. Many employees have concerns about themselves and students and many are subbing on their planning periods. She is sad that the students cannot be close to their friends. She is saddened that the school is a shadow of how they know it and the 8% threshold has been met. She feels unseen and unheard with health and well-being is comprised as well as for the students. She is sad that the Board will not go remote temporarily as the proposal that was presented or a similar plan. She pled that the Board reconsider.

2. Megan Hembrough addressed the Board librarian at PC and a resident of the District. The IDPH in a report issued yesterday recommended that all Illinois residents stay home for the next three weeks and work it out with your employer. Covid dashboard is referred to IDPH dashboard, Region 1 and schools top the list for transmitting covid. The number 1 is schools in our region. Will medical grade PPE be provided to staff and students. Several meetings ago Ms. Lawrence mentioned our Huskie Pride getting us through. She believes in being all in in Illinois and Huskie Pride. This IDPH guidance cannot be ignored and we need to take action.

3. Melissa Henschel addressed the Board, impact of Covid epidemic not just as a teacher but as a parent. She has two children with special needs in the district and our County positivity rate is at 19.1% today. She signed her children up when it was 5%. Covid is running rampant with kids and staff. There are no subs for when special education teachers are not available. Finding subs to cover classrooms is a challenge and going remote an eventuality. For her autistic child she needs to prepare and for students they have severe anxiety. The Board says we must come

together to keep kids in school because that is what is best for them. 1/3 of her class is out waiting for results for covid tests and the rest are worried about being exposed to covid. What is best is to vote on and implement the plan that Dr. Morris presented for remote learning.

4. Elana Schelling-Tufte addressed the board as a representative of the HFT. At the social justice meeting last week Ms. Lawrence noted she wants the District to be a leader as previously it had been but we are still a leader. We need to be a leader with WCH positivity rate is 19.1% and we are the highest region in the entire state. Governor Pritzker and Dr. Ezke noted that over 5 million people are positive. The IDPH released a statement that all people able to work from home should do just that. We can do that. We started preparing our teachers and staff before school and many are doing this right now. Our entire high school, Belvidere, Freeport are doing this right now. Harlem School District needs to be doing this right now. We need to slow the spread and again be a leader in our Region.

**Motion to appoint and seat Sharon Ranieri to fill the open Board Seat**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sterling 2<sup>nd</sup> J. Berogan**

**Lawrence, Sterling, Meister, J. Berogan, Meeks, S. Berogan – 6 ayes**

**Motion carried**

Mrs. Sue Berogan administered the Oath of Office to Sharon Ranieri and she was seated at the Board table.

**Motion to go into executive session to discuss Employment of Personnel at 6:19 p.m.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Lawrence 2<sup>nd</sup> J. Berogan**

**All aye – 6 ayes**

**Motion carried.**

6. Executive Session to discuss Employment of Personnel (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), Negotiations (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2), Selection of a Person to Fill a Public Office ( 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(3), Pending Litigation (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11), Student Discipline (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9), Placement of Individual Students in Special Education Programs and Other Matters Relating to Individual Students (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10), Purchase or Lease of Real Property for the Use of the District (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5), Setting of a Price for Sale or Lease of Property Owned by the District (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6), Self-Evaluation, Practices and Procedures or Professional Ethics (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(16), Sale or Purchase of Securities, Investments or Investment Contracts (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(7), Security Procedures (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(8), Establishment of Reserves or Settlement of Claims as provided in Local Government and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(12), and Discussion of Lawfully Closed Meeting Minutes (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21).

**7. Adjournment**

Respectfully submitted,  
*Kris Arduino,*  
Recording Secretary

ATTEST:

---

President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_