

Regular Board Meeting Agenda Revised – Harlem High School, Auditorium, One Huskie  
FACE MASKS REQUIRED Circle, Machesney Park, IL 61115  
Monday, August 9, 2021 6:00 PM One Huskie Circle  
Machesney Park, IL 61115

**MINUTES**  
**Of**  
**August 9, 2021**

1. Call to Order of Regular Board meeting at 6:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Board members:

Mike Sterling, Kurt Thompson, Sue Berogan, Sharon Ranieri, Larry Smith, Jill Berogan, Evelyn Meeks

Other Attendees:

Kris Arduino, Recording Secretary

Dr. Terrell Yarbrough, Superintendent

Dr. Michelle Erb, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

Josh Aurand, Chief School Business Officer

Dr. Shelley Wagner, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Harlem School District Mission Statement:

The Mission of the Harlem Consolidated School District, as a vital part of the community, is to help diverse learners realize their unlimited potential by providing an educational program dedicated to academic excellence and the development of strong character in a safe and respectful learning environment.

**Presenter:** Dr. Terrell Yarbrough

5. Approval of Agenda

Member Sterling noted the following changes:

No facility requests (11 B 2) and (12 C), Item 10 A 5 and 13 C reschedule on the August 23 meeting is withdrawn by President Sterling

**Motion to Approve Agenda with Changes as noted:**

**1st S. Berogan 2<sup>nd</sup> Thompson**

**Thompson, S. Berogan, Ranieri, Smith J. Berogan, Meeks, Sterling – 7 ayes**

**Motion carried**

**6. Motion to Approve Board Meeting Minutes:**

**Regular & Closed Minutes of July 12, 2021**

**Special & Closed Minutes of August 2, 2021**

**1<sup>st</sup> Thompson 2<sup>nd</sup> S. Berogan**

**S. Berogan, Ranieri, Smith, J. Berogan, Meeks, Sterling, Thompson – 7 ayes**

**Motion carried**

7. Awards and Recognitions

**Presenter:** Jason Blume, Director of Stakeholder Engagement

8. Comments from the Community

1. Erica Hafferty addressed the Board regarding resisting facemasks by simply saying no to CDC and President Biden.

2. Stacie Ruffecorn addressed the Board regarding masks noting she has children in school here and in a private school. She asked what was going on when her grandchild was sent home from school due to distancing. She asked the Board to not mask children. Children need to be in school with freedom. It is out of control and children are not allowed to be children.

3. Sarah Ruffcorn, noted her son attends a local school in third grade. She noted she is against wearing masks in school due to hard breathing, social barrier, and they do not work. It gets too hot and she is passionate about not wearing masks and children need not to be wearing masks.

4. Paul Hofmann addressed the Board regarding his being opposed to requiring that all students must wear masks. Supports Optional mask wearing policy. He is on the Harlem Township Board. In that role he is questioning the numbers being used. He will look at the results in Wall Street Journal and he sent in written comments.

5. Pam Harding addressed the Board regarding unmasking our kids and thanked Dr. Yarbrough and Dr. Erb for meeting with her and others. It is not to be an attack on the administration. It is hard work to be in the public school system but we want to help by assisting you. There is a decline in students being enrolled for this school year due to the masking. Everyone wants to do the best for our kids and she is looking forward to working with the District.

6. Vanessa Romine addressed the Board a registered nurse and substitute school nurse for Harlem and Rockford for several years. She is on the front lines and all of her children have had covid. They take care of themselves due to their God-given immune system. We change our masks in surgery every two to four hours due to humidity from breathing. The surgical masks block our bacteria from getting into wounds but do not block the virus. The oxygen saturation level decreases with masks in children as they don't know how to breath with a mask. CDC is not a branch of the government and our officials as you are voted. I hope that we can be a leader and her grandchild who has breathing problems she worries about. Board members took their Oath of Office and we allow students to learn in school without masks as their brains are forming daily. Also, she added that we need to think of children that read lips. Our best immunity is our own God-given immune system.

9. Approval of Bills

9.A. Payables Summary \$1,099,394.70

9.B. Voided Checks

9.C. Payroll Voucher(s) \$9,194,924.39

9.D. Accounts Payable Warrants \$10,294,319.09

Mr. Aurand reviewed the fund expenditures which total \$10,294,319.09

No questions

**Motion to Approve Bills**

**1<sup>st</sup> S. Berogan 2<sup>nd</sup> Thompson**

**Ranieri, Smith, J. Berogan, Meeks, Sterling, Thompson, S. Berogan-abstain – 6 ayes, 1 abstain**

**Motion carried**

10. Communications and Committee Reports

10.A. Michael Sterling, President

- Thanked all the public comments individuals, noting we need to know how you to feel and it is trying times

10.A.1. Next Regular Board Meeting: August 23, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m.

10.A.2. Special Board meeting: September 1, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m. - Closed Board Starting Right Session

10.A.3. Recommendation to destroy Board meeting audio recordings from July 15, 2019 through December 12, 2019 as per Illinois School Code

10.A.4. Discussion on CTE/Welding Facilities

This discussion is we will be meeting with different stakeholders so we can better determine what we are doing with the facility, on or off campus and how it impacts the Middle School.

Dr. Yarbrough noted we need feedback from the Board as to what you want us to explore, a site off campus, on campus, both and report back to you with costs. We will need direction from the Board. Larry asked if it is the Education Technology Committee that will bring this forward to look at it. Mike noted he will bring it through Policy Committee to come back to the Board. Mike will get the framework to Jill before the Policy meeting. Once approved it will be that committee that will involve stakeholders to look at the business and curriculum aspects of that.

Sue noted it makes no difference if it is at the high school or offsite. She wants the best but the safest for kids to navigate the program. Thompson asked if there is a list of current safety issues that we need to discuss. Mike noted that students walk long distances and that is one. Kurt noted we need to look at these. The welding facility right now was a temporary since 1970's. More students are becoming involved in the CTE Program and we don't need to limit ourselves. Mike noted we can't move a program right now. Jill asked what the timeline is and the financial outlook. Mike noted that having the discussions to begin we can determine that. Josh noted we need to determine these things. Jill noted we need to have the CTE Coordinator. Larry noted we need to have everyone involved in vital

roles. Dr. Yarbrough noted that some of these things are occurring and this person is a part of it right now also. Jill noted we need to have the Coordinator present for the first meeting which will be brought forward to Policy Committee will be August 20. We are looking for a starting point and we need to know what programs we are targeting so we can give direction to the team and Coordinator.

Sue thinks we look at both and the safety.

*Consensus to look at both options, Ranieri, Smith, J. Berogan, Meeks, Sterling, Thompson, S. Berogan – all yes to look at both options*

10.A.5. Recommendation to reschedule August 23, 2021 Board meeting to August 17, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. - **withdrawn**

10.B. Jill Berogan, Vice President

- Please take a moment of silence for Skylar Hussey who passed away. There will be a balloon release Thursday at Sennisippi Gardens.

- Thanked the people who addressed the Board

- Noted it is great seeing everyone getting ready for school next week

10.B.1. Next Policy Committee Meeting: August 16, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m.

10.C. Evelyn Meeks, Secretary

- Sending condolences to Skylar's family

- Thanked everyone for coming and addressing the Board. We understand what you are saying and we are in this together. It is totally new to everyone. We do care for our students and we want them to enjoy school as you only go to school once. We want them to remember the time in school. We will be discussing everything. We do care. We do represent each and every one of you.

- Wished the kids well as they begin school

10.C.1. Next Equity & Social Justice Meeting: September 30, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m. at HHS Commons.

10.D. Kurt Thompson, Board member

- Noted that he appreciates all the feedback, emails, letters noting it is reviewed and it is helpful.

- Students are coming back, it is exciting, the awards are coming.

10.D.1. Next Business Services Committee meeting: September 8, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m.

10.E. Larry D. Smith, Board member

- Go Huskies!!! It is wonderful having a full house

- He noted he reads every email sent to him and he takes it seriously

- He loves democracy and he does listen and read and takes his responsibility very seriously

He also researches. Being a Board member does take a lot of time and he is cautious to not get caught up by his own bias. He does independent research, he looks at the AMA and Academy of Pediatric Medicine has to say. He appreciates all input that he gets

10.E.1. Next Education Committee meeting: August 10, 2021 @ 4:30 p.m. and he will recommend that these meetings be moved from 6:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The reason for this is selfish as it is for him as he has another commitment before he was elected to the Board. Kurt and Sue will be unable to attend at 4:30 and it would limit some meeting members as well. Larry noted he agreed. Dr. Erb asked the other committee members if it worked with their schedule but I didn't think about how it would impact people who want to attend. We will need to look at all the dates and move them to another night if it would work better for everyone.

10.E.2. Recommendation to change time of all Education Committee meetings from 6:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. – **Not voted on this item**

10.F. Sue Berogan, Board Member

- Thanked the community for sharing their thoughts with the Board
- As we sit here as a Board don't think we have not done research on this. There is a big picture that the community is not shown and a lot has to do with not following mandates and what happens to us as a school district, ISBE and other things. We are still checking options.

The students are our number one priority.

- She attended the fundraiser Christmas for Kids at Rascals and thanked everyone that were there
- There is another fundraiser coming up in December and all proceeds go for Christmas for Kids. Last year people did it for kids but in years past we have volunteers to shop with kids
- Condolences to the family of Skylar and our thoughts are with the family
- Wished Harlem good luck on Orange & Black Night on the 20th

10.G. Sharon Ranieri, Board Member

- Condolences to Skylar's family and she prays for them
- Told everyone to keep coming back to bring their comments. We do our research and we will do our best to help our community

11. Administrative Reports

11.A. Dr. Michelle Erb, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

11.A.1. Recommendation to approve Student Travel Requests:

- 2 requests (1) September 3-4 with the Volleyball Team in Hoffman Estates
- (2) December 3-4 with Glenwood High School

She works with Rebecca Hoffmann and she insures that all rules follow IHSA guidance

11.B. Josh Aurand, Chief School Business Official

11.B.1. Recommendation to approve Resolution Declaring Surplus Property:

Machesney, Maple, Administration Center, Middle School, High School

11.B.2. Recommendation to approve Facility Requests: NONE

11.B.3. Recommendation to approve Gordon Flesch Company agreement to provide 3 copiers (2 at Harlem High School and 1 at Harlem Middle School) for a cost of \$33,995 and a per copy charge of \$0.00345

11.B.4. Recommendation to approve an agreement with Edpuzzle for one (1) subscription for a total cost of \$12,096 paid with ESSER II funds

11.B.5. Recommendation to approve an agreement with Screencastify for a three (3) year subscription for a total cost of \$24,500 paid with ESSER II & III funds

11.B.6. Recommendation to approve an agreement with Seesaw for a three-year subscription for a total cost of \$51,971.50 paid with ESSER II & III funds

11.B.7. Recommendation to approve an agreement with Quaver Music for a one (1) year subscription for a total cost of \$11,760 paid with Title IV funds

11.B.8. Recommendation to approve an agreement with Teaching Strategies Gold for a one (1) year subscription at \$6,650 paid with PreSchool for All Grant

11.B.9. Recommendation to approve an agreement with Mystery Science for a one (1) year subscription for a total cost of \$9,992 paid with local funds

11.B.10. Recommendation to approve agreement with T-Mobile for Education for wireless mobile service and 25 devices (Hotspot) for one (1) year for District families without reliable internet access for a total amount of \$6,000 paid with ESSER II funds

11.B.11. Recommendation to approve an Assistant Girls' Golf Coach for a differential of \$3,872 per the Collective Bargaining Agreement

Larry noted that if we have two assistant coaches won't it cost more then we have two people that we need substitutes for. It helps the kids when they are competing. Terrell explained two coaches will better help our kids. Kurt noted that another recommendation was that the skill needs to be created and grown. There is a greater divide between students that excel and student that do not so you need two assistants to benefit the students.

Jill noted that there is a potential to hire someone that doesn't work for the District so we would not lose a teacher. Larry noted that Mr. Thompson brings a great issue and we are asking for another assistant coach when the team is doing great. The Coach interjected that there are five on the team now but it fluctuates and we can have as many as 15. There are two separate teams for girls and boys and they really need a dedicated assistant regardless of the size of the team.

11.C. Dr. Shelley Wagner, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

11.C.1. Recommendation to approve Personnel Agenda & Addendum

22 total transfers, 2 leaves of absence and 24 employments

## 11.C.2. Informational only: Resignations

35 Resignations since the last meeting

Kurt asked if we are following up with proper exit interviews and they need to be provided to the Board. Our HR Coordinator does send them out and she will send to the Board. It is important that we see those

## 11.D. Dr. Terrell Yarbrough, Superintendent

### 11.D.1. Re-Opening of Schools Discussion

- Gave a big shout out to everyone involved in creating the Guide Books with many donating their time this summer to get ready to get kids back in school. We are now going to be full time and he appreciates all the work done. Dr. Erb noted there are many subcommittees. Lot of people developed the Guide Books. Hopefully they will come out tomorrow and if you have any questions, please let us know. Sue noted there are some concerns and they will be tweaked throughout the year. At middle school level lockers will not be used but at the high school they will be used. Jill noted she will forward the email she received from Jason. Sue noted that the response should go to all Board members. When Board members send out questions they will send to all of us. Dr. Yarbrough noted that it is a constantly changing process for the book.

Mike asked about discussion regarding the mask mandate. He noted that if there was not a mandate we could go optional. Kurt noted that things change so any recommendations unless the mandate changes tomorrow we need to base our decisions on what is today and it is ever changing.

Larry noted that the Board has been consistent on the guidance that it follows ISBE and we need to be consistent so we all know the School District is going to follow the recommendations and not follow one time and not another. We need to be consistent in following guidance. IHSA when the field trip came up he researched IHSA. We need to be consistent on the recommendations and we need to be able to change clearly in the Back to School Handbook. We need to be consistent so as not to be arbitrary and capricious and it needs to be clearly stated in the Handbook that if recommendations change we will change our protocols. Kurt noted it makes good sense. Sue noted that some of us are not recognizing some of the information being given is true and accurate. If our students were not going to lose out so much, we have liability insurance, workman's comp coverage, funding, activities and sports. If it was not mandated we would have the discussion of optional masking. Dr. Yarbrough noted that changes will occur but what we can say is once it happens then we can have a discussion about it. Mike noted that last year at this time we had a meeting with Dr. Martell at 6% to 8% to close schools and the continued to move the bar. If it changes we need to have something ready to go so we can make the changes.

Jill asked if the mandate changes we reconvene and have the discussion then. Kurt is not against it but we need to do what we have to. Kurt noted any stand can be changed. We listen and research and make decisions based on the information. There is no reason to make the decisions for change until they occur. Larry noted that we need to make a decision to be consistent in following whatever we say is the best practice – I will be

dependent upon my due diligence to find out what the recommendations are and what is best practice.

Sue moved to consense that if the mandates drops we schedule an emergency meeting and discuss it. Seconded by Kurt this idea.

**Consensus: Ranieri, S. Berogan, Thompson, Meeks, J. Berogan, Smith, Sterling– all yes**

11.D.2. Freedom of Information Act Request (FOIA) dated July 8, 2021 received from Mark Seibold requesting records for teacher/staff trainings from January 1, 2018 through January 8, 2021 relative to various subjects and authored books, the Requestor's narrowed request dated July 15, 2021 and the District's response dated July 22, 2021

11.D.3. Freedom of Information Act Request (FOIA) dated July 29, 2021 submitted by Bernadette Soto of the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters requesting all information, including emails and executed contract(s) between Harlem SD 122, BR Bleachers, Carpetland and Custom Playgrounds, Inc., for FY 2020.

11.D.4. Freedom of Information Act Request (FOIA) dated August 3, 2021 submitted by Tim Oliver requesting for ACT and SAT webinars, all student directory information

11.D.5. Freedom of Information Act Request (FOIA) dated August 3, 2021, submitted by James Horne requesting the enrollment totals of Black, Hispanic, and White students, as well as students on free/reduced lunch, and students not on the free/reduced lunch who were enrolled in the following Advanced Placement courses for years 2015-2016 and 2018-2019

11.D.6. Freedom of Information Act Request (FOIA) dated August 3, 2021, submitted by Attorney Michael Weber on behalf of Philadelphia Indemnity Insurance Co requesting information relating to contractual relationship with FFP Origination LLC (a/k/a ForeFront Power LLC) as to services provided to the Energy Services Agreements and Site License Agreements between the District and FFP for school projects

## 12. Consent Agenda

12.A. Approve Personnel Agenda & Addendum

12.B. Approve Student Travel Request(s)

12.C. Approve Facility Request(s)

**Motion to approve Consent Agenda item 12 A**

**1<sup>st</sup> S. Berogan 2<sup>nd</sup> Smith**

**Smith, J. Berogan, Meeks, Sterling, Thompson S. Berogan – abstain, Ranieri - 6 ayes 1 abstain**

**Motion carried**

**Motion to approve Consent Agenda Item 12 (B)**

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

**J. Berogan, Meeks, Sterling, Thompson, S. Berogan, Ranieri, Smith – 7 ayes**

**Motion carried**



13. ACTION ITEMS

**13.A. Motion to Approve destruction of Board meeting audio recordings from July 15, 2019 through December 16, 2019**

**1<sup>st</sup> Smith 2<sup>nd</sup> S. Berogan**

**Meeks, Sterling, Thompson, S. Berogan, Ranieri, Smith, J. Berogan – 7 ayes**

**Motion carried**

13.B. Motion to Approve change in times of Education Committee meetings from 6:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**(we will come back with dates)**

13.C. Motion to Approve the rescheduling of the August 23, 2021 Board meeting to August 17, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

**withdrawn**

**13.D. Motion to Approve Resolution Declaring Surplus Property**

**1<sup>st</sup> S. Berogan 2<sup>nd</sup> Thompson**

**Meeks, Sterling, Thompson, S. Berogan, Ranieri, Smith, J. Berogan – 7 ayes**

**Motion carried**

**13.E. Motion to Approve Gordon Flesch Company agreement to provide 3 copiers (2 at Harlem High School and 1 at Harlem Middle School) for a total cost of \$33,955 and a per copy charge of \$0.00345**

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

**Thompson, S. Berogan, Ranieri, Smith, J. Berogan, Meeks, Sterling – 7 ayes**

**Motion carried**

**13.F. Motion to Approve an agreement with Edpuzzle for a one (1) subscription for a total cost of \$12,096 paid with ESSER II funds**

**1<sup>st</sup> Thompson 2<sup>nd</sup> S. Berogan**

**S. Berogan, Ranieri, Smith, J. Berogan, Meeks, Sterling, Thompson – 7 ayes**

**Motion carried**

**13.G. Motion to Approve Screencastify for a three (3) year subscription for a total cost of \$24,500 paid with ESSER II & III funds**

**1<sup>st</sup> S. Berogan 2<sup>nd</sup> Thompson**

**Ranieri, Smith, J. Berogan, Meeks, Sterling, Thompson, S. Berogan – 7 ayes**

**Motion carried**

**13.H. Motion to Approve agreement with Seesaw for a three-year subscription for a total cost of \$51,971.50 paid with ESSER II & III funds**

**1<sup>st</sup> Thompson 2<sup>nd</sup> S. Berogan**

**Smith, J. Berogan, Meeks, Sterling, Thompson, S. Berogan, Ranieri – 7 ayes**

**Motion carried**

**13.I. Motion to Approve an agreement with Quaver Music for a one (1) year subscription for a total cost of \$11,760 paid with Title IV funds**

**1<sup>st</sup> S. Berogan 2<sup>nd</sup> Thompson**

**J. Berogan, Meeks, Sterling, Thompson, S. Berogan, Ranieri, Smith – 7 ayes**

**Motion carried**

**13.J. Motion to Approve an agreement with Teaching Strategies Gold for one (1) year subscription at \$6,650 paid with PreSchool for All 3-5 Grant**

**1<sup>st</sup> S. Berogan 2<sup>nd</sup> Thompson**

**Meeks, Sterling, Thompson, S. Berogan, Ranieri, Smith, J. Berogan – 7 ayes**

**Motion carried**

**13.K. Motion to Approve agreement with T-Mobile for Education for wireless mobile service and 25 devices (Hotspot) for one (1) year for District families without reliable internet access for a total amount of \$6,000 paid with ESSER II funds**

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

**Sterling Thompson, S. Berogan, Ranieri, Smith, J. Berogan, Meeks – 7 ayes**

**Motion carried**

**13.L. Motion to Approve an agreement with Mystery Science for a one (1) year subscription for a total cost of \$9,992 paid with local funds**

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

**Thompson, S. Berogan, Ranieri, Smith, J. Berogan, Meeks, Sterling - 7 ayes**

**Motion carried**

**13.M. Motion to Approve an Assistant Girls' Golf Coach for a differential of \$3,872 per the Collective Bargaining Agreement**

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

**S. Berogan, Ranieri, Smith, J. Berogan, Meeks, Sterling, Thompson – 7 ayes**

**Motion carried**

14. Announcements and Discussion: none

Motion to go into Closed session at 7:32 p.m. to discuss Employment of Personnel (**5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)**), Negotiations (**5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)**), and Discussion of Lawfully Closed Meeting Minutes (**5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21)**).

1<sup>st</sup> S. Berogan 2<sup>nd</sup> Thompson

Ranieri, Smith, J. Berogan, Meeks, Sterling, Thompson, S. Berogan – 7 ayes

A person from the audience shouted out questions about sex education and Dr. Yarbrough and Mike said we do not teach sex education to kindergarten students and if any more questions to contact Dr. Yarbrough

*The Board went into closed session at 7:32 p.m. and returned to open session at 8:08 p.m.*

15. 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).

16. ACTION ITEMS AFTER CLOSED SESSION

**16.A. Motion to release of redacted closed minutes from January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021 at the August 23, 2021 Board meeting**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Thompson 2<sup>nd</sup> J. Berogan**  
**Smith, J. Berogan, Meeks, Sterling, Thompson, S. Berogan, Ranieri – 7 ayes**  
**Motion carried**

17. Adjournment

**Motion to adjourn**  
**1<sup>st</sup> J. Berogan 2<sup>nd</sup> Sterling**  
**All in favor aye**  
**Motion carried**

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Kris Arduino,*  
Recording Secretary

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

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