



**Hastings-on-Hudson
Regular Board of Education Meeting
Monday, January 24, 2022**

Members present

Doug Sundheim
Jeremy Galland
Silvia Robles
Alison Andrus
Alexander Dal Piaz
Damaris-Lois Lang
Doreen Bucher

1. OPENING OF MEETING

A. Call to Order at 6:30 PM

- Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM

Motion to move into Executive Session for the purpose of contract negotiations.

Motion by Alexander Dal Piaz, second by Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Doug Sundheim, Jeremy Galland, Silvia Robles, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang

Not Present at Vote: Alison Andrus, Doreen Bucher

- Public meeting called to order 7:48 PM by Doug Sundheim.

B. Announcements

Melissa Szymanski:

- Hastings High School SEPTA community conversation will be held on Wednesday, January 26, from 6:00-7:00 PM.
- Parenting in the Age of Climate Anxiety will also be held on Wednesday, January 26, from 7:00 - 8:00 PM. This is going to be a two-part presentation by two local climate psychologists, Eric Lewandowski and Rebecca Weston. They're going to be discussing current research findings of youth and climate anxiety and what the field of climate psychology can tell us about how we cope with these stresses. Second, we'll have a climate cafe. That will be a breakout experiential component in which participants share their own climate-related feelings in a safe nonjudgmental environment.
- On January 27, we will be having a Superintendents forum so we hope that folks will join us for that.
- Next week, each of our buildings is going to be hosting a racial equity day for students to be held during the school day. We have a wide range of experiences for students. Shout-out to Dr. Jenise Matteo Toledo and the teams that have worked at each building to design the days, a lot of work has gone on behind the scenes.
- February 7 from 6:30 to 7:30 PM FMS PTSA/SEPTA will be hosting a parent meeting.

2. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

A. Covid 19 Update

Melissa Szymanski read the following COVID 19 Update prepared by Dr. McKersie:

[Click here to view the COVID 19 Update report](#)

B. District Highlights

Melissa Szymanski:

- There is a new piece of equipment on the FMS playground called the Cinetic, that is gaining popularity, thanks to the generosity of the PTSA and SEPTA.
- Hillside Kindergartens have been learning about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
- Hastings High School Graduate Adam Oppenheimer was listed as an author on the article titled, "Variability and Spectral Characteristics of Three Flaring Gamma-Ray Quasars Observed by VERITAS and Fermi-LAT" in the January 2022 edition of The Astrophysical Journal.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Report from Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction

Melissa Szymanski:

- Logistical preparations for our March 9-11 Tri-State visit to Hastings are well underway and we are eager to welcome our critical friends from throughout the region. The focus of our visit, which is collaboration, was determined with our Chair Council. Our visit will be guided by three essential questions designed by Hastings faculty:
 1. To what extent, and in what areas, does the district have clear and well-understood protocols for systemic communication in service to a professional community for teachers and staff?
 2. To what extent are stakeholder roles and responsibilities understood and adhered to in service to a professional community for teachers and staff, a shared vision and environment for change, and parent and community support?
 3. How might we strengthen protocols, structures, and norms to enhance intradistrict collaboration in service to a professional community for teachers and staff?
- While our visit will include a document review, interviews with various stakeholders will be the key source for illuminating understanding of the Hastings system for the visiting team. The steering committee has requested that at least some Board of Education members participate in the interview process. Please let me know if you might be willing. A Google Form will be sent to the broader community in early February to solicit Hastings parents who are interested in being interviewed. A briefing prior to the visit will be held for anyone participating in the interview in order to share what to expect and to answer any questions.
- Last week's Professional Learning Committee session was focused on planning for the March Superintendent's Conference Day. While planning is still in progress, the team has focused the day on Culturally Responsive Pedagogies, which connects with one of the leadership goals that are applicable district-wide. At this time, the committee is recommending a keynote speaker followed by a choice of workshops, all of which are in the process of being finalized. Collaborative instructional planning time has been scheduled for the afternoon so new learning can be applied to practice. All faculty, including TAs, aides, monitors, clerical staff, and custodial staff will be participating in this learning day.
- Although our beloved science consultant, Helen Pashley, has retired, our district-wide efforts to align to the New York State P-12 Science Learning Standards are still underway. Because this work is so critical, we took great care to identify the right person to partner with us. Initially, Melissa Shandroff, Science Department Chairperson, and I consulted with BOCES for a recommended successor. Our regional science consultants were not available to support districts this year but suggested an outside consultant team for our consideration. We issued an RFP, to ensure that we cast a wide net, and this recommended team responded. While extremely impressive and knowledgeable, after meeting with them Melissa and I agreed to continue looking. We issued the RFP again as we continued to probe regionally and speak with colleagues. Liz Mirra was ultimately identified after taking these steps. As a business item on tonight's Board of Education agenda, you will find the proposal submitted by her. Melissa and I are confident that she will be a strong partner for our continued alignment efforts.

B. Report from Business Official

Maureen Caraballo:

- Governor Hochul released her proposed state budget, which is the Executive Budget. Based upon the runs Hastings will be seeing an increase next year of approximately \$500,000, which is good news for the District. The Governor has kept her promise in phasing in the foundation aid to schools over the next three years. For over a decade we have been either seeing very modest or sometimes decreases in our state aid, this is the first time in a number of years where we are seeing increases. There was also an allocation of pre-school that was first introduced last year. Will be presented with our upcoming budget presentation, how our district plans on allocating those funds, how much we received and how we are thinking about using those funds next year.
- The Budget 101 Session originally planned for this week was in conflict with the PTSA, trying to reschedule for next week, once a date has been secured information will be blasted out to the community. We will be

looking to present our first draft of the budget at the beginning of February, the Budget 101 meeting is helpful for the community to understand the school budget a little better.

- Shared progress photos of Hillside addition, FMS Auditorium, and Music Suite.
 - [Click here to view the progress photos presentation](#)

4. STUDENT REPORT

A. Student Report

Sabine Hinkaty:

- Paige Martin has been nominated for girls basketball player of the week. Next year she will be playing basketball at St. Francis College.
- The girl's basketball team is currently undefeated, they put up an impressive performance on Friday against Irvington.
- The boy's basketball team won against Irvington on Friday.
- Midterms start tomorrow.
- A lot of seniors are starting to feel really burnt out and are hoping that school will be less stressful after this, with an academically challenging 2nd quarter and college decisions looming.

Gus Renzin:

- Burnout feeling extends to juniors as well, with midterms coming it's been quiet, students hunkering down and studying.
- Student Union is committed to funding a mask recycling initiative
- Adam Oppenheimer got published in a real peer-reviewed journal article.
- As Omnicron cases are falling nationally, students are a little less nervous about COVID.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Public Comment

- No public comment

6. BUSINESS

A. Business Items

1. HTA side letter.
2. Science Professional Learning, proposal.
3. Racial Equity Week, proposal.
4. HTA side letter.
5. Revenue and Expenditure Reports for December 2021.

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the business items.

Motion by Alexander Dal Piaz, second by Jeremy Galland.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Doug Sundheim, Jeremy Galland, Silvia Robles, Alison Andrus, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher

B. Placement and/or Services for CSE and CPSE

RESOLVED, that upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and the Committee on Special Education and the Committee on Preschool Special Education, the Board accepts the classifications and arrangements for the placement and/or services for the 2021-2022 school year:

CPSE: 12358

CSE: 10725, 10663, 10974, 11049, 10897, 10462, 11262, 12282

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Committee on Special Education and the Committee on Preschool Special Education, the Board of Education accepts the classifications and arrangements for the placement and/or services.

Motion by Alison Andrus, second by Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Doug Sundheim, Jeremy Galland, Silvia Robles, Alison Andrus, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher

7. PERSONNEL

A. Appointments

1. Patricia Berry, appoint to Substitute Clerical Assistant district-wide, \$22.00/hr. pending verification of NYSED fingerprint clearance.
2. Eileen Bua, appoint to Substitute Clerical Assistant district-wide, \$22.00/hr. pending verification of NYSED fingerprint clearance.
3. Joseph Callagy, appoint to 1.0 FTE English Language Arts leave replacement at Farragut Middle School, MA, Step 2 \$68,733 (to be pro-rated), effective February 1, 2022 for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year.
Certifications held: English Language Arts (Grades 5-9) - Initial, English Language Arts (Grades 7-12) - Initial.

Resolution: RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the appointments.

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the appointments.

Motion by Silvia Robles, second by Doreen Bucher.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Doug Sundheim, Jeremy Galland, Silvia Robles, Alison Andrus, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher

B. Retirement

1. Deborah Troop, Elementary K-6 teacher at Hillside Elementary School has provided notice of resignation for the purpose of retirement effective July 1, 2022.

Resolution: RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accept the retirements.

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the appointments.

Motion by Silvia Robles, second by Doreen Bucher.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Doug Sundheim, Jeremy Galland, Silvia Robles, Alison Andrus, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher

C. Leaves of Absence

1. Veronika Aleiner, French and Latin teacher at Hastings High School has requested a leave of absence as follows: Leave of Absence for the 2022-2023 school year. She will return for the 2023-2024 school year.
2. Christopher Campbell, Music teacher at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL December 20, 2021-December 23, 2021. He returned to work on January 3, 2022.
3. Kyle Case, Elementary K-6 teacher at Farragut Middle School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL December 22, 2021-December 23, 2021. She returned to work on January 3, 2022.
4. Michelle Castellucio, Teacher Aide at Farragut Middle School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL January 18, 2022. She returned to work on January 19, 2022.
5. Francisco Clemente, district-wide cleaner requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL December 20, 2021-December 28, 2021. He returned to work on December 29, 2021.
6. Thomas Corveddu, Teacher Aide at Farragut Middle School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL January 3, 2022-January 7, 2022. He returned to work on January 10, 2022.
7. Nina D'Amato, Elementary K-6 teacher at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL January 10, 2022-January 20, 2022. She returned to work on January 21, 2022.
8. Jasmin Davis, ENL teacher at Farragut Middle School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL January 4, 2022-January 7, 2022. She returned to work on January 10, 2022.
9. Antoinette DeSouza, Teacher Aide at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL January 3, 2022-January 12, 2022. She returned to work on January 13, 2022.

10. Kathleen DeSouza, Teacher Aide at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL December 6, 2021-December 17, 2021. She returned to work on December 20, 2021.
11. Donna Gamble, Special Ed teacher at Farragut Middle School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL January 3, 2022-January 11, 2022. She returned to work on January 12, 2022.
12. Mary Ann Heckhaus, Special Ed teacher at Hastings High School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL January 10, 2022-January 11, 2022. She returned to work on January 12, 2022.
13. Kristine Ippolito, Special Ed teacher at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL December 13, 2021-December 23, 2021. She returned to work on January 3, 2022.
14. Michael LaRocco, Assistant Principal at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL January 6, 2022-January 11, 2022. He returned to work on January 12, 2022.
15. Katharine Magnatta, Elementary K-6 teacher at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL January 3, 2022-January 6, 2022. She returned to work on January 7, 2022.
16. Kevin McCarthy, Custodian at Farragut Middle School/Hastings High School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL January 3, 2022-January 10, 2022. He returned to work on January 11, 2022.
17. Ericka Melvin, Physical Education teacher at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL January 3, 2022-January 14, 2022. She returned to work on January 18, 2022.
18. Patricia Minozzi, Teacher Aide at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL January 3, 2022-January 12, 2022. She returned to work on January 13, 2022.
19. Anna Navarro, Teacher Aide at Farragut Middle School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL January 3, 2022-January 7, 2022. She returned to work on January 10, 2022.
20. Kaitlyn O'Sullivan, Elementary K-6 teacher at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL January 4, 2022-January 10, 2022. She returned to work on January 11, 2022.
21. Kevin Peace, district-wide Cleaner has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL January 3, 2022-January 10, 2022. He returned to work on January 11, 2022.
22. Rachel Pilla, Elementary K-6 teacher at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL November 1, 2021-November 15, 2021. She returned to work on November 29, 2021.
23. Kristin Scobie, Teacher Assistant at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL January 5, 2022-January 17, 2022. She returned to work on January 18, 2022.
24. Peter Scotch, English teacher at Hastings High School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL January 18, 2022. He returned to work on January 19, 2022.
25. Randie Shaw, School Counselor at Hastings High School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL January 4, 2022-January 10, 2022. She returned to work on January 11, 2022.
26. Gary Smith, Accounting Clerk district-wide has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL January 10, 2022-January 14, 2022. He returned to work on January 18, 2022.
27. Gloria Szeszko, School Psychologist at Hastings High School has requested a leave of absence as follows: FMLA January 7, 2022-January 21, 2022. She will return to work on January 24, 2022.
28. Phyllis Udice, Elementary K-6 teacher at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL January 12, 2022-January 14, 2022. She returned to work on January 18, 2022.
29. Stephanie Vega, Teacher Assistant at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL January 3, 2022-January 7, 2022. She returned to work on January 10, 2022.

Resolution: RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the following leaves of absence.

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the appointments.

Motion by Silvia Robles, second by Doreen Bucher.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Doug Sundheim, Jeremy Galland, Silvia Robles, Alison Andrus, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher

8. MINUTES

A. Approval of Minutes

- Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 10, 2022.

RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 10, 2022.

Motion by Alexander Dal Piaz, second by Alison Andrus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Doug Sundheim, Jeremy Galland, Silvia Robles, Alison Andrus, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Finance

Maureen Caraballo provided a brief overview of the items discussed during the Finance Committee Meeting:

- Focused on the upcoming budget
- State Aid Projections - as mentioned earlier we are seeing an increase in state aid.
- Looked at the Tax Cap calculation - there is a calculation that the state provides to the district. Ours for this coming year would allow us to stay tax cap compliant, we can increase it an additional \$1.7 million under the tax cap legislation without needing an override.
- Preliminary Budget Discussions - spoke about our drivers such as salaries and benefits, contractual obligations, the increase in utility costs, and some other goods and services due to inflation.
- Discussed how we will be picking up some expenses in the future that are currently being covered by federal money.
- During the pandemic we got a lot of federal funding around technology, discussed how it would impact our budget moving forward.
- Spoke about the debt service for our bond, borrowing very low, will have a tax impact.

B. Policy

- The committee members provided a brief overview of the two policies being presented for first read.
- Board members to review and will be posted for 2nd read at the next board meeting.

10. POLICIES

A. First Read

Policies presented for First Read:

- Policy No. 0105 - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the District.
- Policy No. 2100 - School Board Legal Status (would replace current Policy No. 2110 - District and Board of Education Legal Status and Authority)

11. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Second Public Comment

- No public comment

12. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

A. Comments

- No Board of Ed Comments

13. ADJOURNMENT

A. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Alison Andrus, second by Damaris-Lois Lang.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Doug Sundheim, Jeremy Galland, Silvia Robles, Alison Andrus, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher

Melissa DeLaBarrera

Submitted by:

Melissa DeLaBarrera

District Clerk