



**Hastings-on-Hudson
Regular Board of Education Meeting
Monday, November 8, 2021**

Members present

Doug Sundheim
Jeremy Galland
Silvia Robles
Alison Andrus
Alexander Dal Piaz
Doreen Bucher
Damaris-Lois Lang (arrived at 7:05 PM)

Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM

1. OPENING OF MEETING

A. Call to Order at 7:00 PM - It is expected that a motion will be made to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations. It is expected that a motion will be made at the end of the Executive Session to return to public session.

Meeting called to order Call to Order at 7:03 PM.

Motion made to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations. It is expected that a motion will be made at the end of the Executive Session to return to the public session.

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

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, Doreen Bucher

Motion to end Executive Session and resume public session.

Motion by Silvia Robles, second by Doreen Bucher.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Not Present at Vote: Alexander Dal Piaz

2. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. McKersie:

- District Highlights:
 - Hillside Annual Intervention Cafe, a professional learning experience for all teachers to share a wide variety of interventions (speech, language, reading, math, mental health, special ed., and occupational therapy) went very well.
 - The Hastings Cross Country High School Student Anna Thomas will represent Hastings in Section 1 of the NYS championships on November 13.

- Legally Blonde Musical performed by Farragut 7 & 8th grade, full house all indoors with a fully masked audience, it was a top-quality production after just 3 1/2 weeks of rehearsal.
- Hillside's Kindergarten class held their Season of Giving, the class assembled care packages for service members who are unable to be home for the holidays. Two carloads were delivered to West Point for distribution for troops.
- Veterans Day - due to the current COVID situation we are unable to bring Veterans into the school for events as done in the past, Hillside will be honoring Veterans by making cards to be sent out to veterans and learning what a veteran is. FMS has been recognizing Veterans Day each morning through morning announcements with some factual points and the High School through history class lessons.
- COVID 19 - Update:
 - Vaccinations: Quad Village responded with a large interest in vaccinations for students ages 5-11. Approximately 550-560 students listed by their families as interested. County to figure out how to provide vaccination sites for this number of children. Families who want the vaccination should avail themselves to all opportunities as we are not sure when the schools clinics will take place. Hastings may have to run their own clinic through the county.
 - Masks: View of Westchester County Superintendents at this point while sorting through vaccinations and the upcoming holiday season is to continue with mask-wearing.
 - Tests to Stay: Still in progress, it may be pushed down to districts to manage and run on their own, which would require districts to obtain their own tests, with very few cases and small numbers we could easily handle and run it here.
 - Screen to Stay: If exposed and we know that the mask has been on all the time you can come to school as long as you remain asymptomatic. This is currently being instituted in Connecticut.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Maureen Caraballo:

- Gave a brief progress report to the Board of the Hillside addition and shared photographs detailing the larger milestones:

[Click here to view Hillside Addition Progress Pics presentation](#)
- Status update for FMS - Music Suite and Auditorium
 - Music suite: Done in terms of construction, waiting for cabinetry to be delivered, anticipating it to be delivered in December.
 - MS Auditorium: Working on the HVAC and electrical now. The general contractor has begun some demo work. This week they were selecting colors for the room, the project is currently on target for completion in March.

4. STUDENT REPORT

Sabine Hinkaty:

- First marking period ends Friday.
- Fall varsity banquet was this past Friday, students enjoyed a night full of fun activities and food.
- Student Union: Looking for participants for the talent show to be held on December 10th, discussing the High School Honor Code and if there are any changes to be made with it, and looking at how fundraising and event planning will look for the rest of the year.

Gus Renzin:

- Anna Thomas of the High School Cross County Team has qualified for states - placed in the top 5 runners in the section.
- Harvest Moon Festival will be held on Saturday, the jazz band will be playing as well as a couple of different music groups.
- November SAT's were held on Saturday.
- Junior Formal will be held on Wednesday in the gym.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

- No Public Comment

6. PRESENTATIONS

A. DASA Introduction & Overview

- Melissa Szymanski presented a comprehensive overview of DASA (Dignity for All Students Act) to the Board in order to provide a working understanding of DASA and the process by which incidents are investigated.

[Click here to view presentation](#)

Dr. Lang:

- Asked if there is a possibility to have a different coordinator instead of the AP, and what happens when someone is not satisfied with how the AP handled it?
- Who can legally be trained as DASA Coordinator instead of AP's?

Melissa Szymanski:

- Explained that if someone is not satisfied with the result of an investigation done by the AP there is the option of an appeal, and it would move up to Melissa Szymanski to restart the investigation process.
- Also noted that theoretically anybody can be trained as a DASA Coordinator, however under the law, it can be an adult, or a student subjecting a student and so having someone who is not in a supervisory role doing an investigation that could potentially involve personnel would make it tricky.

Dr. McKersie:

- Added that DASA investigations are time-consuming. If you start to dip into the teaching pool, for administrative functions, the biggest penalty is on students who lose instruction time. Also, per state law, there is a set of accountability functions placed with administrators, they are held accountable in ways that those within bargaining units and the rest are not held accountable, which provides a lot of protections for that family, student or adult filing the complaint.

B. Technology Plan Update

- Melissa Szymanski and Maureen Caraballo presented the process and timeline for the three-year technology plan update which is required to be submitted to NYSED.

[Click here to view process timeline](#)

7. BUSINESS

A. Business Items

1. Budget calendar 2022-2023.
2. Almstead Tree & Shrub Care Co., proposal.
3. Professional Learning: Coaching through Metamorphosis, agreement.
4. DB Productions Costume Rental Agreement.
5. Warrants.
6. Bronxville UFSD, contract for Educational Services.
7. Pleasantville UFSD, contract for Educational Services.
8. Josh Govier, Audio & Video Solutions, proposal.

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

Motion by Jeremy Galland, 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

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:

CSE: 11916, 12346, 11392, 12105, 10480, 12267, 10818
CPSE: 12314, 12284

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 Silvia Robles, 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

8. PERSONNEL

A. Appointments

1. Amanda Puglise, appoint to 1.0 FTE Speech and Language Regular Substitute/Leave Replacement at Farragut Middle School and Hastings High School, MA, Step 2, \$68,733 (to be pro-rated) effective November 22, 2021. Certification held: Speech and Language Disabilities-Initial.
2. Benjamin Glassman, ELA Regular Substitute/Leave Replacement at Hastings High School, amend appointment to probationary 1.0 FTE English Language Arts teacher at Hastings High School, MA, Step 1, \$65,574 effective December 1, 2021. Probationary period December 1, 2021-November 30, 2025. Tenure date: December 1, 2025. Certification held: English Language Arts 7-12 Initial.
3. Updated Schedule B appointment requests as per attached spreadsheet.
4. Sarah Federici-Diaz, .7 FTE Art teacher at Hastings High School, appoint to .3 FTE Permanent Building Substitute at Hastings High School effective November 9, 2021 for the 2021-2022 school year.
5. Victoria Kelter, .8 FTE Physical Education teacher at Farragut Middle School, appoint to .2 FTE Permanent Building Substitute at Hastings High School effective November 9, 2021 for the 2021-2022 school year.

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 Alexander Dal Piaz, 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

B. Amendments

1. Darin Harrell, performed temporary supervisor duties, increase salary beginning July 25, 2021 and ending August 23, 2021, Column III, Step 9.

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

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

Motion by Alexander Dal Piaz, 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

C. Resignations

1. Claire Lytton, English Language Arts at Hastings High School has provided notification of resignation effective November 19, 2021.

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

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

Motion by Alexander Dal Piaz, 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

D. Leaves of Absence

1. Carlos Castaneda, Custodian district-wide has amended his leave of absence as follows: FMLA with pay August 30, 2021-November 12, 2021. He will return to work on November 15, 2021.
2. Devita Cruz, Social Studies teacher at Farragut Middle School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYCPSL October 19, 2021-October 22, 2021. She returned to work on October 25, 2021.
3. Tamara Cecere, Elementary K-6 teacher at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: FMLA with pay November 15, 2021-December 6, 2021. She will return to work on December 7, 2021.

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 Alexander Dal Piaz, 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

9. MINUTES

A. Approval of Minutes

- Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of October 25, 2021.

RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of October 25, 2021.

Motion by Doreen Bucher, 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

10. POLICIES

- The following policies were presented for Second Read and adopted by the board.
 - Policy 5300 - District Code of Conduct
 - Policy 1235 - Taping of Conversations
 - Policy 1420 - Objection to Instructional Materials

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education adopt policies 5300, 1235 and 1420.

Motion by Damaris-Lois Lang, 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

11. OLD BUSINESS

A. Board Goals

The Board discussed in detail the documents presented to identify Board Goals, they considered the option of renaming it Board objectives and/or Board responsibilities as opposed to goals. The Board did not come to an agreement on the goals/objectives and plan to discuss further at the next Board of Education meeting.

12. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT

- No Public Comment

13. BOARD COMMENTS

- No Board Comments

14. 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