



**Hastings-on-Hudson  
Regular Board of Education Meeting  
Monday, November 21, 2022**

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**Members present**

Doug Sundheim  
Jeremy Galland  
Silvia Robles  
Alexander Dal Piaz  
Damaris-Lois Lang  
Doreen Bucher  
Maureen Lennon-Santana

**1. OPENING OF MEETING**

A. Call to Order

- Meeting was called to order at 7:36 pm by Alex Dal Piaz, President.

**2. STUDENT REPORT**

A. Student Report

Gus Renzin and Elianna Carvalho, Student Liaisons  
Student Report

Elianna:

Today was the Blood Drive! With help from Hastings KIDS and the Youth Council, sophomore Natalie Romero along with Charlotte D-Bourdain and Catie Cho organized a blood drive through the American Red Cross. In addition to contacting the mayor and other town officials, they spread the word by running a life saver table where they would hand out life savers to students and parents at various locations including at the school play and at the farmer market. The drive took place in the Cochran gym and there were many student volunteers helping check people in. And it was such a great success! They collected an amazing 41 liters of blood today!

Sports are back! Winter Track, Boys and Girls Basketball, Boys Swimming, and Wrestling have all started. We're still in the preseason phase, but teams are hard at work preparing for games, matches, and meets. We're looking forward to a great winter season.

Special Congrats to sophomore, Caitlin Thomas, who placed 26th this weekend in the New York State federal meet. There were nearly 300 runners in the meet up at Bowdoin Park in Wappingers Fall New York. The entire girls cross country team went to support her, a testament to the supportive culture of Hastings athletics. Congrats to Caitlin and to the entire running program.

Gus:

**PROJECT SHARE**

Fundraising: Nearly \$20,000 was raised through t-shirt sales, farmers markets, and community donations.  
Jeanne Assembly: After Jeanne Newman, former HHS art teacher who is Project Share's founder and director, spoke to the entire high school in an assembly on November 2, interest in the dinner spiked with more than 200 signing up for the dinner and food prep days.

**PREP OVER THE WEEKEND;**

Various community restaurants partnered with share to cook nearly 100 turkeys. Students crowded into the HHS

cafeteria to prepare mashed potatoes, turkey legs, stuffing, salads, pies and fruits.

The Thanksgiving dinner will be held tomorrow, November 22, at the Cochran Gym. SHARE expects more than 500 guests who range in age from children to octogenarians. More than 100 students will Volunteer at the dinner.

### 3. PUBLIC COMMENT

#### A. Public Comment

- No public comment

### 4. SPECIAL REPORT

#### A. Academic Assessment Report Grades 3-8

Melissa Szymanski, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction presented the following report to the Board.

Click [HERE](#) to view the Academic Assessment Report Grades 3-8

Click [HERE](#) to view the video presentation and discussion

### 5. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

#### A. Update & District Highlights

William McKersie, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools  
Superintendent Report

#### **PRIORITY DISTRICT UPDATES**

##### 1. **Portrait of a Hastings Learner (POHL)**

I want to repeat for your benefit what Melissa Szymanski shared verbally at the 11.9.22 BOE Meeting regarding POHL status. The major point is that we intend to devote much of the 12.6.22 BOE Meeting to a Comprehensive Update on POHL. Melissa said the following:

*We will provide a comprehensive report on POHL status to the Board on December 6th. We are currently gathering additional feedback from various groups based on the draft materials created by the Core Group during their two day workshop on October 26-27.*

*We are seeking student feedback at this time through three focus groups (Student Union, HASP, and HS Affinity Group.) Additionally, we are working with members of the Core Group to gather additional feedback and input on draft materials. We anticipate having several Core Group members refine drafts ahead of the December 6 meeting.*

*On the 6th, we will be sharing our Portrait of a Hastings Learner design process, drafts of content, and a plan to create action steps associated with each goal:*

- *Our Commitment (Preamble)*
- *Values Statement*
- *Portrait of a Hastings Learner (Competencies for Success)*
- *Goals*
- *Action Steps*
  - *Plans for Work Groups established to develop 18 month Action Steps in each Goal Area*

A reminder: We have [a dedicated page on the website as a communications resource for the Portrait of a Hastings Learner.](#)

##### 2. **Thanksgiving Week Schedule – Early Dismissal 11.23.22**

All staff and families should have received [a letter](#) on November 16 announcing an early dismissal on Wednesday, November 23. Hillside will dismiss at 2:00 p.m. and the Farragut Complex (FMS and HHS) at 2:30 p.m. Besides providing an early start to the Thanksgiving Break, the early dismissal meets the New York State requirement that

each school district conduct an emergency early release or "Go Home Early Drill" as part of its Emergency Management Plan. The purpose is to test the effectiveness of our transportation and communication systems, in the event we need to respond to an emergency. Please be in touch with your building principal if you have any questions.

### **3. COVID-19 Reminders – Antigen Tests Going Home**

Our COVID-19 case counts remain low, yet we must remain vigilant. First, the district will be sending home with each student and staff member two boxes of home antigen tests prior to the Thanksgiving holiday. If extra tests are needed, please contact the Health Office at any time during the school year. Second, we ask that families and staff continue to report any positive COVID cases [here](#).

## **SIGNIFICANT EVENTS JUST COMPLETED**

### **1. Hillside's National Blue Ribbon School Week (11/14-18)**

Thanks to the National Blue Ribbon Committee, Hillside Elementary School's National Blue Ribbon Week Celebration went off without a hitch with a week full of surprises for students, staff, and the larger Hastings community. You can read more in the 11/17 Hastings Happenings or my Friday Letter, 11/18, which includes a video recap.

### **2. Newsies Jr. – Grade 7-8 Musical (11/18-19)**

The 7-8th grade musical took place this past Friday, 11/18 & Saturday, 11/19 and was quite a success. Stay tuned for a behind-the-scenes video recap from dress rehearsals to be featured in Hastings Happenings and on the Theatre Program page of the district website.

### **3. Cool News from Math Department (11/10)**

If you read my Friday letter, you will know that Dr. Greg Stephens, Math Department Chair, started my week last week with an email, "pushing cool news from the math department!" About 100 students in the High School participated in the American Mathematics Competition (AMC) last Thursday (11/10). It was the first time the exam moved from paper to screen. Every participant solved at least two questions, quite an accomplishment since this is a national competition aimed at selecting the top mathematics students in the country. We're proud all our competitors, but I'd like to highlight our top scorers in each of the two versions:

- o For the AMC 10, our top scorers, in order: Henry Sliker, Callum McCabe, and David Caramanica.
- o For the AMC 12, our top scorers, in order: Sonya Lasser, Robert (Leo) Burdick, and Andrei Konon.

### **4. Caitlin Thomas – Amazes Us Once Again (11.19.22)**

Hastings Star Cross Country Student-Athlete, Caitlin Thomas, ran an incredible race at the Federation Championship Meet on Saturday, November 19th. She took more than a minute off her time from the Class C meet, running 19:31.8. This earned her a 26th place finish out of a 277 runner field. Truly an amazing race! Congratulations Caitlin! We are honored to have you represent Hastings Yellowjackets!

## **UPCOMING EVENTS – In the Spirit of Thanksgiving**

### **1. Hastings High School Blood Drive (11.21)**

In the true spirit of giving before Thanksgiving, today, Hastings High School students teamed up with the American Red Cross to host a Blood Drive in the Cochran Gym. It doesn't get any better than our students giving back and helping to make a lifesaving difference. Thank you to all the donors!

### **2. Project Share - Thanksgiving Dinner for the Homeless (11.22)**

Tomorrow night, the HS gymnasium will be transformed into a colorful, bright and welcoming sit-down dinner for as many people as we can transport. Due to COVID-19, this signature event has not been held for the past several years. So, we are thrilled it will be back in full force. Gus Renzin has been a student champion for Project Share, mentored by Jeanne Newman, Project Share's founding executive director. Stay tuned for more in the next Hastings Happenings including a behind-the-scenes video recap which will give you a greater sense of the immediate impact of the event and Project Share's larger mission.

### **3. Hillside Elementary School Thanksgiving Celebration (11.23)**

On Wednesday morning, 11/23, Hillside staff, students and families will take part in a Thanksgiving celebration. Stay tuned for more in Hastings Happenings.

## **FINAL WORD**

Happy Thanksgiving! May it be restful, refreshing and a time we give thanks for all the good we provide and share as Hastings.

## **6. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

### A. Report from Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction

Melissa Szymanski, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction  
Administrative Report

#### Portrait of a Hastings Learner (POHL)

Last week, additional steps were taken to move the Portrait process forward. Additional feedback was gathered from members of the Student Union, HASP, and the high school affinity group. The POHL subgroup met together on Friday afternoon to review and revise the learner competencies to incorporate the student input. A group of 7 will be taking a look at the final draft document, inclusive of a preamble, mission/vision statement, goals, POHL, and values statements to streamline and refine. More detail will be provided during the upcoming 12/6 Board of Education meeting.

#### Hillside Mathematics Committee

The Hillside Mathematics Committee met early last week to continue their Phase I inquiry work. The focus areas for the session included an exploration of the NY State Next Generation Standards for Mathematical Content (current grade taught, grade before, and grade after), a crosswalk between the practice standards, mindset indicators and research-based beliefs and values generated from previous committee sessions and the Eureka teacher guidebook, a data dive (student work samples, local assessment data, and State assessment data), and consideration of other mathematics resources used regionally.

#### 5th Grade Mathematics

5th Grade general education and special education teachers met together to begin exploring Big Ideas resources, with the intent to engage in a pilot this year.

#### Computer Science & Digital Fluency Professional Learning

With the support of Leslie Accardo from the Lower Hudson Regional Information Center, the technology "lead learners" group began working together to explore and understand the NYS Computer Science and Digital Fluency Standards. This group is inclusive of assistant principals and librarians, as outlined in the State-approved Hastings Technology Plan.

#### Hillside Learning Walks

Melissa Szymanski, Amy Cazes, teachers participating on the Hillside ELA committee, and Heather Frank (literacy consultant) visited a kindergarten classroom and 4th grade classroom to observe teachers conferring with their students during the writing period. Following these learning walks, participants debriefed their observations, discussed strong instructional practices, and posed questions to each other.

### B. Report from Business Official

Maureen Caraballo, Business Official  
Administrative Report

#### Cafeteria Update

The Hillside cafeteria's kitchen is scheduled to be inspected by the Westchester County Health Department tomorrow. Once this inspection is done, we will be issued our license to operate the kitchen. Our food service provider is actively working on hiring new staff for the program. In the next few weeks, we will be working on the preliminary menu that will be offered. I will work with Hillside administration on a committee to help develop food options parents would like to have included in the offerings.

## **7. BUSINESS**

### **A. Business Items**

1. Georgia Tech License Agreement for Hillside Elementary School.
2. Holly Hochstein Weinrib, speech and language therapy services, agreement.
3. Budget Transfer.
4. Westchester Jewish Community Services Center Lane, Professional Development at FMS and HHS, proposal.
5. Vanessa Gronbach, appoint as the Impartial Hearing Officer for case #590909.
6. Amendment to Employment Agreement with Superintendent Dr. William McKersie.
7. Salary Advancements for the 2022-2023 school year.
8. HTA Stipulation of Settlement.
9. Warrants.
10. Expenditure and Revenue Reports for October 2022.
11. Josh Govier, Invoice for 7th/8th Grade Musical Videography.
12. Merone Landscaping Inc. 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 Doug Sundheim.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Doug Sundheim, Jeremy Galland, Silvia Robles, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana

### **B. Placement and/or Services for CSE and CPSE**

CSE: 11497, 11888, 11552, 12267, 11605, 12268

CPSE: 12430, 12581

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 2022-2023 school year.

Motion by Silvia Robles, second by Doug Sundheim.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Doug Sundheim, Jeremy Galland, Silvia Robles, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana

## **8. PERSONNEL (CONSENT AGENDA)**

### **A. Appointments**

1. Colleen Walker, appoint to 1.0 FTE ENL teacher at Hastings High/Farragut Middle School, MA, Step 8, \$88,966 (to be pro-rated) effective December 12, 2022. Probationary period December 12, 2022-December 11, 2026. Tenure date: December 12, 2026. Certification held: English to Speakers of Other Languages - Professional.
2. Updated Schedule B request spreadsheet. (Enc)
3. Brianna Thompson, appoint to Student Observer at Hastings High School during December, 2022.

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

Motion by Jeremy Galland, second by Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Doug Sundheim, Jeremy Galland, Silvia Robles, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana

### **B. Amendment**

1. Katelyn Pinto, amend appointment date of 1.0 Elementary K-6 Regular Substitute at Farragut Middle School to effective date October 24, 2022-January 13, 2023.
2. Josue Petit Homme, amend appointment to Cleaner, Column 1A, Step 1, effective November 22, 2022.

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

Motion by Jeremy Galland, second by Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Doug Sundheim, Jeremy Galland, Silvia Robles, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana

#### C. Retirement

1. Marie Frederique, Cleaner, provided notification of resignation for the purpose of retirement effective end of business day, December 30, 2022.

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

Motion by Jeremy Galland, second by Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Doug Sundheim, Jeremy Galland, Silvia Robles, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana

#### D. Resignation

1. Jordyn Pena, Permanent Building Substitute teacher at Hillside Elementary School has provided notice of resignation effective December 2, 2022.

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accept the resignation.

Motion by Jeremy Galland, second by Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Doug Sundheim, Jeremy Galland, Silvia Robles, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana

#### E. Leaves of Absence

1. Kyle Case, Elementary K-6 teacher at Farragut Middle School has requested a leave of absence as follows: FMLA with pay October 24, 2022-December 4, 2022, FMLA without pay December 5, 2022-January 13, 2023. She will return to work on January 17, 2023.
2. Anne Marie Fardo, School Monitor at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL October 27, 2022-October 31, 2022. She returned to work on November 1, 2022.
3. Stephanie Vega, Teacher Assistant at Farragut Middle School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL November 7, 2022-November 9, 2022. She returned to work on November 11, 2022.

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

Motion by Jeremy Galland, second by Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Doug Sundheim, Jeremy Galland, Silvia Robles, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana

## 9. MINUTES

### A. Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of November 9, 2022.

RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of November 9, 2022.

Motion by Jeremy Galland, second by Damaris-Lois Lang.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Doug Sundheim, Jeremy Galland, Silvia Robles, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana

## **10. POLICIES**

### A. First Read

Policies for First Read:

Policy 2325 - Videoconferencing - revised  
Policy No. 2310 - Regular Meetings  
Policy No. 2340 - Notice of Board Meetings  
Policy No. 2360 - Minutes

- Doug raised the issue that the policy only refers to videoconferencing and not teleconferencing in and considering the potential of connectivity issues.
- The Board discussed the policies presented for first read and agreed to bring all forward for a 2nd read at the December 6 meeting.

## **11. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT**

### A. Second Public Comment

- No public comment

## **12. AGENDA REVIEW**

### A. Agenda Review

Dr. McKersie provided a brief review topics for upcoming Board of Education Meeting on December 6:

- 6:15 PM - Executive Session on Safety
- 7:15 PM - Public Hearing on Videoconferencing Policy
- POHL Presentation

## **13. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS**

### A. Comments

Dr. Lang:

- Commented on questions from the community regarding public comment and the need for equitable voices in the room.
- The policy regarding public comments and the public having to be in person to make a comment.
- Noted that all emails that are sent to the board become a part of the board's conversations to ensure that voices are being heard.
- Suggested public comments continue to be at the beginning of the meeting so that anyone who wants to comment, can make a comment early on and leave if they have to, and that way, the board can use that information to shape their discussions.

Doreen Bucher:

- Following up on Dr. Lang's comment, regarding emailing the Board and asking the Board to publicly read emails.
- She pointed out that there is no way to authenticate an email which is why the public should attend in person to make their comments.

Jeremy Galland:

- Thanked the administration for the district highlights that were put in the record.
- Noted the 7 & 8th grade play, which he heard was fabulous and thanked all who helped put it on.
- Part of our whole learner program is the way we support our drama department and students.

## **14. ADJOURNMENT**

### A. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 9:17 pm.

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Damaris-Lois Lang, second by Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Doug Sundheim, Jeremy Galland, Silvia Robles, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana

*Melissa DeLaBarrera*

**Submitted by:**

**Melissa DeLaBarrera**

**District Clerk**