



**Hastings-on-Hudson
Regular Board of Education Meeting
Monday, March 21, 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 6:15 PM - It is expected that a motion will be made to move into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing: 1) Contract Negotiations; 2) Candidates for the FMS Assistant Principal position.

- Meeting called to order at 6:22 PM by Doug Sundheim, President

Motion to move into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing:

1) Contract Negotiations; 2) Candidates for the FMS Assistant Principal position.

Motion by Jeremy Galland, second by Doreen Bucher.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

- The public meeting opened at 7:34 PM

2. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

A. District Highlights

Dr. McKersie:

- The 5th & 6th-grade musical performance of The Little Mermaid Junior was a very high-quality performance.
- Every performance in the 5th and 6th-grade concert deserved mention.
- Saturday evening Playwrights Festival with Rachel Wineberg. The challenge was to write and perform plays within 28 hours, the students performed four plays and one musical, over 20 students, including tech pulled off this challenge. The creativity of the students was breathtaking.
- Congratulations to the Science Research program which will be covered by Gus in his student report.

B. Covid 19 Update

Dr. McKersie:

- The manual has been substantially updated, it has been posted and with far fewer procedures and regulations.
- We continue to send out daily COVID counts.
- A very small percentage of people are wearing masks, but we continue to pay close attention.
- We are providing tests to families and one of the newer regulations is that home tests are accepted.
- Advocacy from superintendents regarding the management of COVID-19, promoting health and remaining open, advocating for metrics.
- Friday we will update families on what the visitation policies will be, with a focus on security.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Report from Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction

Melissa Szymanski:

- On March 16th, for Superintendent's Conference Day, members of the faculty engaged in a series of learning workshops designed by the Hastings Professional Learning Committee. The purpose of the day was twofold; (1) to explore barriers and enabling forces for ensuring a welcoming and affirming environment for all through a series of learning opportunities with experts in the field, and (2) to plan for the shift from theoretical understanding to practical application with job-alike colleagues. Dr. Shawn Joseph kicked off the day with a call to action around culturally responsive practice in a session titled Persisting Through Difficult Times: The Leadership Lessons of Joseph. This keynote address was followed by a choice of workshop. One was The Social Neuroscience of Race and Ethnicity, facilitated by Dr. Dan McCloskey. The other was "You Can't Be What You Can't See ": How Media Shapes Our Understanding of Gender and What We Need to Envision a More Inclusive World, facilitated by Dr. Sharon Maxwell & Chelsea Maxwell. Thanked the PTSA for the funding, these programs were paid for by grants from the PTSA. We are grateful to Dr. Jenice Mateo-Toledo, Hastings Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator, and Kristen Kumar, Hastings Inclusion Facilitator, who collaboratively designed and facilitated a learning session on Culturally Responsive Pedagogies, Inclusive Mindset, & Universal Design for Learning. Time for reflection and collaborative instructional planning was incorporated into the day.
- The Professional Learning Committee spent time reviewing guidance on curriculum implementation timelines for each of the content areas identified in the design of the Curriculum Review Cycle. Following this review, the committee began to revise the placement of content in the review cycle template they have been creating together. Feedback on the final draft document will now be sought by members of the committee. Following this feedback process, the document will move through the department chairpersons and to the departments for review and input.
- The 2022-2025 Technology Plan has been submitted to the New York State Education Department portal. The plan will now go through a committee review process. Following the review process, the district will receive notification regarding next steps.

B. Report from Business Official

Maureen Caraballo:

- Provided a brief update of the construction projects at Hastings and shared progress photos of the Hillside Addition: finished cafeteria ceiling and flooring, classroom flooring, mechanical systems startup, and of the Farragut MS Auditorium: Upclose pictures of steps and repairs to existing flooring, stage flooring refinished and noted the seats for the auditorium were delivered today.
- All projects seem to be on schedule.
- Hoping within the next month or so prior to the ribbon-cutting to have a walk-through with the Board.
- At the next meeting will present a proposal for the flood mitigation strategy we were working with the Village on.

[Click here to view progress photos](#)

4. STUDENT REPORT

A. Student Report

Sabine Hinkaty:

- Spring sports started last week first games start next week.
- The Badminton tournament is this weekend.
- Seniors should receive final admission decisions this week and next week. This year has been challenging in terms of college applications. A large portion are receiving more waitlists and rejections than expected, it is clear that the pandemic has drastically changed the college admission process.
- Seniors got the couches back in the lobby thanks to Mr. Adipietro and the custodial staff.

Gus Renzin:

- Juniors are excited for their senior friends to get into college.
- The college process is starting for juniors, lots of visits and online information sessions, college visits during spring break.
- Playwrights festival was awesome, people managed to write full short plays in 24 hours, and they managed to be funny.

- The Westchester Science and Engineering Fair just happened and all of our seniors in the Science Research program competed. They were excited to present and share their amazing work, still waiting to hear back on decisions.
- As far as the juniors in the Science Research program the mentor boards are starting to fill up, Ms. Shandroff is placing juniors with different scientists for summer internships and research opportunities.
- Project share had a Board meeting last night and they are hoping that the Project Share dinner can be tentatively placed on the calendar for November 22nd this year for an in-person event.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Public Comment

- No public comment

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. Revised 2022-2023 School Year Calendar

Revised 2022-2023 School Year Calendar

Dr. McKersie:

- Advised that the revised calendar has been posted for the Boards review. Feels that we came quite quickly to a resolution based on the healthy conversation had at the last Board meeting.
- Noted that all professionals within the district endorse what is being presented.

Doreen Bucher:

- Thanked Dr. McKersie for revising and hearing what the Board asked and what the community asked.

Dr. Lang:

- Thanked everyone for the engagement that went on and for listening to the community. Added that taking the holiday away should not be a standing order. Had to step away but noted she was in agreement should she not be back when the Board votes.

Jeremy Galland:

- Very impressed with the leadership team's turnaround on the calendar. Thank you for making the change.

Dr. McKersie:

- Noted that Fi Goodman and Nancy Gagliardi were instrumental in making these changes, they put their minds together to bring you what you have and the committee reviewed their recommendations.

RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education vote to adopt the Revised 2022-2023 school year calendar.

Motion by Doreen Bucher, second by Alexander Dal Piaz.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Not Present at Vote: Damaris-Lois Lang

7. PRESENTATIONS

A. Budget Presentation

Dr. McKersie and Maureen Caraballo presented the following Budget Presentation to the Board:

Dr. McKersie:

- Noted they would be presenting possible long-term areas for savings, these are not recommendations.

Maureen Caraballo:

- Gave a brief overview of the budget drivers and presented the approximated long-term areas for savings and noted again that these are not current recommendations.

[Click here to view budget presentation slides](#)

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

Doreen Bucher:

- Thanked Maureen for the informative slides and breaking it down, really makes it clear where the money goes and cautions the community that cuts affect the value.
- The community voted for the bond a few years ago so the community should have known that would have caused our taxes to go up.

Dr. Lang:

- Thanked Maureen for bringing forth the drivers and noted that we have to look at this with an equitable eye.
- Trying to find a way to increase our revenue base is something we all have to think about.
- Over a hundred families are using the food pantry in Hastings and not just people of color.

Alex Dal Piaz:

- Noted that we have an ethical obligation to our students.
- What is the commercial base of this Town?
- One thing not in enrollment projection is the proposed condominium construction in the Village.

Jeremy Galland:

- Proposed getting out of bussing before it moves to electric.
- Concerned that the Board is not asking for what he wants, which is saying this is the largest increase we sent to our residents.
- We asked for considerations, but we are not receiving immediate fiscal considerations from Administration. This is the budget where he would like to see proposals and not hypotheticals.
- Would like to see a budget proposal that comes in below the tax cap.

Doug Sundheim:

- Thanked Maureen and Bill for putting the presentation together.
- Does not think this is the year to consider these types of cuts. These are very sensitive topics and you have to have the trust and currency to do that, you need a senior leader that has been here for a while to do that and we don't have a senior leader yet.
- The North Star process will give the board more confidence to make some of these calls.
- This year we have the Bond, increase in oil costs, increase in utilities, and inflation which lead to the increase in the budget. Personally does not think it would be smart to try to cut this year.

Silvia:

- Noted that in previous years they did make the unpopular changes/cuts and they were not well received. Teacher cuts, eliminating classes due to size, etc. have a real impact.
- When you actually try to cut back it is not that easy it is quite impactful and quite disruptive.
- Our community prioritizes the smaller class sizes as it benefits our students.

Doug Sundheim:

- Thinks this is one of the tightest slide decks presented to have a discussion about.
- Jeremy Galland has provided a very important voice. Doesn't sound like there is much to do to reduce the budget.
- Let's look at how we are increasing the revenue, looking at the reserves, and how we can use that to bring down the tax levy.

Doreen Bucher:

- Reiterated that the Board does not think that the 6.64% is a good number, but there doesn't seem to be a way to get it down.

8. BUSINESS

A. Business Items

1. SW BOCES, Resolution for Participation in Cooperative Bids.
2. Con-Tech Construction Technology, Inc., Water Main Break at Hillside, Invoice.
3. Merger Letter of Intent, Boys Swimming.
4. Merger Letter of Intent, Girls Swimming.
5. Merger Letter of Intent, Ice Hockey.
6. Merger Letter of Intent, Varsity Football.
7. Merger Letter of Intent, All Modified Sports. - tabled to 4.4.2022
8. Budget Transfer.
9. Gin Lin, Virtual Presentations for Multicultural Book Fair, Invoice.

10. Star Interpreting & Translating, Inc., proposal.
11. Impartial Hearing Officer, appointment for case #570628.
12. Change order W.J. Northridge Construction.
13. Change order E2 for All Bright Electric for the following additional work items, data room, kitchen service line circuitry, and fire panel in the amount of \$17,358.
14. Revenue and Expenditure Reports for February 2022.
15. Stipulation of Settlement.
16. Approve the use of Reserve for Liability Claims, to increase budget in the amount of \$40,000 for a Special Education Settlement.
17. Ron's Trucking Corp., estimate.
18. Westchester Institute for Human Development Technical Services contract.
19. County of Westchester, electronic voting machines and related services, agreement.
20. 2022-2023 Board of Education Budget Calendar, Revised 3/17/2022.
21. Appoint Election Inspectors for May 17, 2022, School Budget Vote and Board Election: Kathy Soderstrom as Chairperson, Brian Allen, Richard Martin, Debbie Klein, Christopher Costello, Linda Johnson, John Mondello.
22. Appoint Board of Registrars for April 20, 2022, in-person registration: Kathy Soderstrom, Debbie Klein, John Mondello and Linda Johnson.
23. Appoint Board of Registrars for May 11, 2022, in-person registration: Kathy Soderstrom, Richard Martin, Christopher Costello and Brian Allen.

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the business items 1-6 & 8-23.

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

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: 12363

CSE: 11279, 12080, 8035, 12293, 9027, 11850, 10572, 11060, 11510, 11429, 10359

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 Jeremy Galland.

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 March 7, 2022.

RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of March 7, 2022.

Motion by Jeremy Galland, second by Alexander Dal Piaz.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

10. PERSONNEL

A. Appointments

1. Bryan Stevens, appoint to Student Observer in Hastings High School for 15 hours in March, 2022-April, 2022.
2. Jason Bernbach, appoint to Per Diem substitute teacher for the Farragut Complex effective March 22, 2022 for the 2021-2022 school year.
3. Elizabeth Eugenio, appoint to School Monitor at Hillside Elementary School upon verification of NYSED fingerprint clearance.
4. Updated Schedule B appointment request as per attached spreadsheet. (Enc)

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

Motion by Doreen Bucher, 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

B. Resignations

1. Louis Cooper, Technology teacher at Farragut Middle School has provided notice of resignation effective June 30, 2022.
2. Jasmin Davis, English as a New Language teacher at Farragut Middle School has provided notice of resignation effective June 30, 2022.

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

Motion by Doreen Bucher, 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

C. Retirement

1. Carolyn Denton, English Language Arts teacher at Farragut Middle School has provided notification of resignation for the purpose of retirement effective June 30, 2022.

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

Motion by Doreen Bucher, 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

D. Leaves of Absence

1. Danielle LaBella Bennett, Special Education teacher at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL March 7, 2022-March 10, 2022. She returned to work on March 11, 2022.
2. Kristen Calle, English as a New Language teacher at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: FMLA with pay March 11, 2022-March 21, 2022. She will return to work on March 22, 2022.
3. James Forcinito, School Psychologist at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL February 1, 2022-February 10, 2022. He returned to work on February 11, 2022.
4. Walterson Martins-Filho has amended his leave of absence as follows: January 3, 2022-April 29, 2022. He will return to work on May 2, 2022.

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

Motion by Doreen Bucher, 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

11. POLICIES

A. Second Read

Policies for Second Read:

- Policy 0101 - Gender Neutral Single-Occupancy Bathrooms
- Policy 1230 - Public Comment at Board Meetings
- Policy 2342 - Agenda Preparation and Dissemination

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education adopt Policy Nos. 0101, 1230 and 2342.

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

12. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Second Public Comment

- No public comment

13. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

A. Comments

Doreen Bucher:

- When she went to the 5th & 6th-grade concert the other night, which was incredible she noted that you can see the difference between the 5th and 6th-grade orchestra. Parallel to that she wanted to comment on modified sports. You have to try out for modified sports and these 7th graders have never played before and if we did that with band or orchestra students would never pick up instruments. Feels it's unfair to the kids who want to play sports. Doesn't think it is fair to cut the 7th graders from sports.

Alex Dal Piaz:

- Agrees with Doreen's comment, feels there have been an inordinate number of cuts to modified sports. Agrees it is something we should keep an eye on. When looking at Schedule B's it's beneficial to have more coaches.

Dr. McKersie:

- Advised that he received an email today from Drew Wendol stating that we have large interest numbers in modified sports and not enough coaches and that in the past, we didn't make cuts. Drew was inquiring if we have the funds to add more teams and more coaches? Noted that Drew is advocating for this, the point is well taken and it is something we should be thinking about.

Alison:

- Also supports the idea and feels that modified sports are important. It's important for the students to try out for sports and supports that type of spending.
- Recognized Ms. Denton's many years here at Hastings.
- Sometimes she finds it hard to jump into conversations, we might want to consider as a group going around so that everyone gets a chance to participate.

Jeremy Galland:

- Continues to find these meetings easy to listen to and jump in and talk. Due to the leadership of the administration - they are helpful and transparent. Appreciates the group.

14. ADJOURNMENT

A. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Silvia Robles, second by Alexander Dal Piaz.

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