



**Hastings-on-Hudson
Regular Board of Education Meeting
Monday, August 23, 2021**

Members Present:
Doug Sundheim
Silvia Robles
Alexander Dal Piaz
Damaris-Lois Lang

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM

1. OPENING OF MEETING

A. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM by Doug Sundheim, Board President

B. Announcements

Dr. McKersie:

- Advised the public that the Board just completed a walk-through of all facilities with the facilities team in preparation for school opening September 1st
- Buildings and grounds have been working around the clock to have the facilities ready, which includes deep cleaning and remodeling updates across the buildings.

2. REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. COVID-19 Update

Dr. McKersie:

- Provided an update on where we are with Covid 19 noting that with a new Governor taking over at midnight, he is anticipating significant announcements.
 - Given that CT & NJ are now mandating masks and vaccinations with test options for employees, there is some sense NY will follow.
 - We are about to sign on with a Westchester County paid for coordinated testing program, it is optional.
 - Mandating masks for anyone in building around students or not, will build in mask breaks and will be using a layering strategy: masks, ventilation and building cleanliness.
 - A survey has gone out to all employees to determine vaccination status. Will provide a % of employees vaccinated to the community in the community update.
 - There will be no daily COVID questionnaire this year, we will be using the honor system. Staff, students, and families will commit to personal health checks every morning.
 - We will need to establish trust between nursing staff and students, if a student is not feeling well they should go to the nurse and not be afraid to be sent home or quarantined, especially High School students who don't want to miss a class or sports.
 - We still need to resolve the issue of visitors. Working with the Quad village and waiting on guidance, right now we would like to minimize the # of visitors in the building in order to minimize any point of exposure in school and minimize quarantines.
 - Virtual back to school night, waiting on guidance regarding spectators for musicians and other performers.
 - For the fall we are leaning towards no visitors in the building.

Alexander Dal Piaz:

- Asked about outside lunch for Hillside, since the younger students are not eligible for vaccinations and are at most risk of exposure during lunchtime.

Maureen Caraballo:

- Advised that last week she met with Joe Martarano, Amy Cazes and Dr. McKersie to plan for outside lunch at Hillside since children aren't vaccinated.
- Tents and additional tables have been ordered. Planning to have the majority of students outside. If there are some students that have to eat inside this will reduce the density.

Alexander Dal Piaz:

- With regard to the students having to self monitor, asked if it would be possible to have no touch thermometer stations set up where students who feel ill could check their temperature.

Dr. McKersie:

- Stressed the importance of students going to nurse if they feel ill, COVID related or not, our nursing staff would be able to best guide them.

Dr. Lang:

- Agreed that students should go to the nurse for any illness, however, in some districts nursing staff are following guidelines and are sending students home for symptoms that could be allergies, need to consider the input of parents when making a determination if a child should be sent home.

Maureen Caraballo:

- Added that teachers and aides who work with students on a regular basis are also aware if a student is not feeling well and they have a heightened awareness now during COVID. If a student has allergies, this is all well documented.

Gus Renzin:

- With regard to students self-monitoring the obstacle for high school students is they don't want to go to the nurse and risk being sent home causing them to miss class or sports.

Dr. Lang:

- Suggested the use of rapid testing.

Dr. McKersie:

- Noted a lot of false positives with rapid tests, medical advisors strongly recommend PCR's.

B. School Opening Update

Dr. McKersie:

- Facilities working hard to get everything ready for school opening.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Report from Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction

Melissa Szymanski:

- Highlighted the work going on in the around of curriculum instruction and assessment:
 - Project Lead the Way
 - Middle School Math - transitioning to new math resource - Big Ideas
 - Work around MTSS at Hillside
 - Social Studies work - professional learning in all 3 buildings
 - New guidance around Civics and Culturally Responsive practices, working together with Dr. Jenice Mateo Toledo and input from English and Social studies department to develop a 3 year plan
 - Planning work around the upcoming word study with literacy for Dr. Gravity Goldberg at Hillside
 - Aligning with new New York Science Learning standards, science department working hard across district this summer
 - Upgraded Sparks at elementary school
 - Courageous Conversations in the Middle School
- Welcomed student liaison officers.

Dr. Lang:

- Asked since Melissa mentioned receiving input from teachers regarding culturally responsive framework if there is a way to hear student voices from varying ethnic groups to determine the social atmosphere.

Melissa Szymanski:

- Jenice has some individual input from the Affinity group members and we anticipate having that across all three buildings.
- The Panorama Survey (Social Emotional Learning Survey) does allow us to disaggregate.
- Agrees that student voices are critical for students to be able to share their own experience.

B. Report from Business Official

Maureen Caraballo:

- Highlighted the work the facilities team has done over the summer. Incredible to see what goes on over the summer to get the building ready for reopening. Quite a bit goes on beyond just the upgrades, logistically moving things, cleaning the spaces, construction continuing to move along.
- Will provide a formal update at the next meeting on the construction and schedule of work being done at Hillside, a time frame for middle school auditorium work to start, and updates on the music suite.

4. STUDENT REPORT

A. Student Report:

Sabine Hinkaty:

- Briefly introduced herself as a senior at Hastings HS, plays soccer and softball and is in the High School band. She has a younger sister at Hillside in the special needs program which is what intrigued her to take on this position to get an insider perspective on that from the BOE.
- On Saturday class of 2022 kicked year off with tie die event, senior shirts distributed and students had the opportunity to tie dye their shirt with festive green and yellow colors.
- JV and varsity sports started today.

Gus Renzin:

- Briefly introduced himself as a junior at Hastings HS, does cross country track and plays baseball, he is on the board of Project Share, a non-profit that works out of the high school. He is also on the band. Excited to see how school works at a higher level and figure out how you can create solutions to some daily problems and to see how the board does their job and how it works. Excited to be a part of the process.
- Student body looking forward to more consistency this year.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Public Comment

- No public comment

6. BUSINESS

A. Business Items

- Discussion of Item #29:
 - Melissa Szymanski and Dr. McKersie outlined the request.
 - Dr. Lang asked about the hiring policy and whether or not there is a system in place to select committee members for the hiring committee.
 - Melissa Szymanski provided an overview of the current process to select hiring committee members as well as the screening process currently used when hiring new personnel.
 - The Board decided to vote on Item #29 separately, noting that it will be approved for up to 4 appointments.

1. Warrants.
2. Expenditure Report for June 2021.
3. Revenue Report for June 2021.
4. Cafeteria meal pricing for the 2021-2022 school year: Breakfast meal \$3.00 and Lunch meal \$4.00.
5. Establish the Dr. Cy Gruberg Scholarship: Hastings on Hudson High School, in the amount of \$62,500.
6. SW BOCES, Contract for Cooperative Educational Services, school years 2021-2026.

7. Governance Retreat, Ken Mitchell, Ed.D and Susan Elion Wollin - Consultants, Proposal.
8. Side letter for Schedule B 2021.
9. Adopt District-Wide Safety Plan for 2021-2022 school year.
10. Recommendation to Write Off Old Receivables: State Aid Special Education Program Aid, 17/18 and 19/20, in the amount of \$56,081.59.
11. Budget transfers.
12. Pacific Transglobal Construction Corp., proposal.
13. Be it resolved, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves to increase the balance of the Liability Reserve Fund, in an amount not to exceed \$125,000.
14. Be it resolved, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves to increase the balance of the Capital Reserve Fund, in an amount not to exceed \$700,000.
15. Substitute Custodial Worker, per diem rates, effective July 1, 2021:
16. i. \$18.00/hour.
17. ii. \$22.00/hour, should the Substitute Custodial Worker be a retiree from the Hasting on Hudson UFSD.
18. 2021-2022 Professional Development Plan.
19. Establish the 2021-2022 cafeteria budget in the amount of \$400,000.
20. Westchester Behavior Analysts, contract.
21. Behavior Analysts of Oregon, contract.
22. Pleasantville Union Free School District, contract.
23. Hendrick Hudson Central School District, contract.
24. Tuckahoe Union Free School District, contract.
25. Devereux: Glenholme (Connecticut), contract.
26. Devereux: Brandywine (Pennsylvania), contract.
27. Achieve Beyond, contract.
28. Final 2020-21 AS-7 SWBOCES, contract.
29. Retroactive Personnel Appointment, memo. (Pulled to vote on separately)
30. 2021-2022 Managerial and Non-Represented Staff Salary Increases.

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the business items #'s 1-26 & 28.

Motion by Alexander Dal Piaz, second by Damaris-Lois Lang.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the business item #29 Retroactive Personnel Appointment, up to 4 positions.

Motion by Damaris-Lois Lang, second by Alexander Dal Piaz.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

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 2020-2021 school year:

CSE: 7650, 10208, 11189, 7116, 7115, 7605, 7316, 11614, 10891, 10583, 6130, 10745, 11923, 7747, 11731, 10444

CPSE: 11916

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: 7625, 10673, 10493, 11451, 11677, 11916, 7602, 7672, 11905, 10350, 10180, 10300, 11276, 11218, 11411, 10679, 10208, 10309, 11101, 10681, 10663, 7528, 10852, 10606, 10483, 11924, 11272, 8054, 11378, 7605, 8082, 10474, 10974, 12105, 10465, 11665, 11664, 10480, 12109, 11909, 8035, 7757, 1050, 7780, 11216, 10408, 11897, 11049, 10968, 11071, 9015, 7232, 7421, 11294, 11293, 7607, 10559, 11374, 10242, 10590, 10688, 10661, 7644, 11102, 11103, 10655, 11998, 9046, 10464, 10696, 10027, 10448, 11138, 6569, 9098, 10755, 11727, 7717, 10697, 7469, 7698, 10664, 10908, 10699, 10897, 11850, 11511, 10898, 10421, 12262, 11160, 7888, 11882, 11085, 10572, 10600, 10462, 10210, 11444, 10182, 11697, 7622, 10818, 7703, 11350, 10904, 11159, 11055, 11425, 11207, 7619,

10542, 10444, 10466, 10709, 7662, 11743, 10914, 11783, 11429, 10359, 11900, 11899

CPSE: 12073, 12222, 12231

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 Damaris-Lois Lang.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

7. PERSONNEL

A. Appointments

1. Christine Smith, Teacher Aide, promotional appointment to Teacher Assistant, Column 1B, Step 1, effective August 30, 2021.
2. Schedule B appointments as per attached spreadsheet dated August 19, 2021. (Enc)
3. Sarah Federici-Diaz, appoint to .7 FTE Visual Arts teacher at Farragut Middle School/Hastings High School, effective August 30, 2021 for the 2021-2022 school year. MA. Step 4, \$75,038 (pro-rated). Certifications held: Visual Arts - Initial, Students with Disabilities (Gr. 1-6) - Initial.
4. Rosa Fernandez, appoint to Teacher Aide, Column 1A (10 months), Step 1, pending fingerprint clearance.
5. Naiky Tena, appoint to Teacher Aide, Column 1A (10 months), Step 1, effective August 30, 2021.
6. Updated spreadsheet dated August 23, 2021 of returning previously appointed substitute teachers and Permanent Building substitute teachers for the 2021-2022 school year. (Enc)
7. Benjamin Glassman, appoint to ELA Regular Substitute/Leave Replacement at Hastings High School, MA, Step 1, \$65,574 (pro-rated), effective August 30, 2021-November 1, 2021. Certification held: English Language Arts 7-12 - Initial.

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

Motion by Damaris-Lois Lang, second by Alexander Dal Piaz.

B. Amendments

1. Patricia Feeney, School Nurse, amend hours from full-time to part-time, 4 hours per day, effective August 30, 2021.
2. Marisa Barbera, amend salary column to reflect her recently conferred Master of Science in Education degree. Her new salary column is MA, Step 2, \$68,733, effective August 30, 2021.
3. Jenice Mateo-Toledo, amend salary column to reflect her recently conferred Doctor of Education degree. Her new salary column is DR, Step 18, \$136,170 effective August 30, 2021.
4. Matthew Adipietro, amend salary column to reflect his recently conferred Master of Science in Health Education degree. His new salary column is MA, Step 6, \$81,342, effective August 30, 2021.
5. Jada Dickens, amend appointment to 1.0 FTE probationary Elementary K-6 serving as a Math Interventionist at Hillside Elementary School, MA, Step 3, \$71,877 effective August 30, 2021. Probationary period August 30, 2021-August 29, 2025. Tenure date: August 30, 2025. Certification held: Childhood Education Gr. 1-6 - Initial.
6. Lisa Amster, amend appointment from Building Substitute to Teacher Aide, Column 1A (10 months), Step 2, effective August 30, 2021.
7. Margaret Tummulo, amend appointment from School Monitor to Teacher Aide, Column 1A (10 months), Step 2, effective August 30, 2021.
8. Devin Nunez, amend appointment from Cleaner to Teacher Assistant, Column 1A (10 months), Step 2 effective August 30, 2021.

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

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

C. Resignations

1. Joseph Callagy, ELA Regular Substitute/Leave Replacement at Hastings High School has provided notice of resignation effective August 12, 2021.
2. Elise Malone, Kindergarten teacher at Hillside Elementary School has provided notice of resignation effective August 17, 2021.
3. Joseph Oriti, Special Education Regular Substitute/Leave Replacement at Farragut Middle School has provided notice of resignation effective August 4, 2021.
4. Alaina Ulrich, Special Education teacher at Farragut Middle School has provided notice of resignation effective August 3, 2021.

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

Motion by Alexander Dal Piaz, second by Damaris-Lois Lang.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

D. Leaves of Absence

1. Matthew Williams, Cleaner at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYCPSL July 23, 2021-July 31, 2021. He returned to work on August 2, 2021.

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

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

8. MINUTES

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of August 5, 2021.

RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of August 5, 2021.

Motion by Alexander Dal Piaz, second by Silvia Robles.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Hillside Addition of 4th Grade Section

1. Recommendation for the addition of a 4th Grade section at Hillside for the 2021-2022 school year.

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the addition of a 4th Grade section at Hillside for the 2021-2022 school year.

Motion by Alexander Dal Piaz, second by Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

10. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Second Public Comment

- No Public Comment

11. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

A. Comments

Silvia Robles:

- Looking forward to resuming school September 1st, expressed her gratitude to the staff for all their hard work over the past 18 months and the fact that we've got to the point where we are all going to be in the building is a testament to the work.

Alexander Dal Piaz:

- Seconded Silvia's comments, happy and pleased with the work that has been done and that we will have a vastly more normal year this year, which is extremely important.

Dr. Lang:

- Thanked all administrators, teachers, and students. Hastings is rare the fact that we remained open during COVID. Parents want to make sure that children are being holistically educated.

12. ADJOURNMENT

A. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Melissa DeLaBarrera

Submitted by:

Melissa DeLaBarrera

District Clerk