



**Hastings-on-Hudson
Regular Board of Education Meeting
Tuesday, October 25, 2022**

Members present

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

1. OPENING OF MEETING

A. Call to Order at 6:30 PM - it is expected that a motion will be made to move into Executive Session to discuss personal matters and review the employment histories of particular people.

- Meeting called to order at 6:38 PM by Alex Dal Piaz, President

Motion to move into Executive Session to discuss personal matters and review the employment histories of particular people.

Motion by Jeremy Galland, second by Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Jeremy Galland, Silvia Robles, Alexander Dal Piaz, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana

2. PRESENTATIONS

A. SPED Advisory Committee Update

Tesfa Stewart, Assistant Director of Special Education, Erin Dolan, Special Education Teacher and Amanda Kupillas, Vice President of SEPTA for Hillside, presented the SPED Advisory Committee Update to the Board.

[Click here to view the slide presentation](#)

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

3. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

A. Update

POHL

- POHL survey now closed, after extension to yesterday 10/24 at 9:00am. Thank you to all who participated. Your responses will be essential in shaping the Portrait and to the work of the Core Group going forward.
- Core Group deliberates the next two days, guided by facilitators Judy Wilson.
- We will keep the community informed as this work progresses. One of the ways will be through our website. There is now a dedicated section on the website for the POHL updates and information (in the top navigation and through a button in the "Find it Fast" section of the homepage). This will be your one-stop-shop for POHL info. Stay tuned for next steps in this very important work.
- My role for the next two days: Listen! However, based on work today with Tri-State Consortium for half-day session with Richard Lemons, I have a priority focus for all our work going forward:
- Civic purpose must be our signature as an educational community. We must organize our goals and actions to prepare Hastings students to be the future citizens required to address the complex realities of a modern

democracy.

Emergency Contact Information

- Reminder to families: Emergency Contact information must be updated on the parent portal by this Friday, 10/28. Letter sent out yesterday; reminders to follow.

B. District Highlights

Good News:

- "The Outsiders" HS play on 10/21-10/22 was a huge success. Photos will be distributed in this week's Hastings Happenings.
- Alexander "Ali" Marpet, former NFL player (Tampa Bay Buccaneers) and Hastings alumni visited with HHS athletics yesterday.
- Yesterday was also the last of Hillside's Fall nature walks facilitated by Robin Farrell (STEAM coordinator @ Hillside). A little bit of mist didn't stop the students from enjoying the great outdoors. Stay tuned for a special behind-the-scenes episode of The Buzz (this week) where Jackie joined students on their walk.
- Natalie Romero & Natalie Garson, 10th graders in Ms. Rudolph's English class, were accepted into The Moth Storytelling program. Learn more about the application process and what the students hope to achieve through the program in an interview in this week's Hastings Happenings.

Cheers Across Campus Yesterday:

Coach Gagliardi,

Congratulations on what I heard was an exciting first-round Sectional victory this afternoon. I am sorry I was not able to cheer you and your team in-person (due to immovable meetings), but I was thrilled to hear the cheers when victory was achieved. At roughly 4:25 p.m. the cheers cascaded into my office, even through closed windows.

Bill,

Thank you so much. I'm pretty sure that cheering was in response to Vivian Smith's diving save with about a minute left of the game which secured our 2-1 win! This group of girls is really something special and hopefully they get the recognition they deserve.

Upcoming (Anticipated) Good News:

- PTSA's Used Book Fair: Donate 10/28 & 10/29. Shop on 11/5. Info in the Daily.
- Halloween celebrations are in full swing including Hillside's Annual Fun Run which begins at 9am on Sunday, 10/30. Refer to the Daily for fun run facts and letters from building leaders for more information about how each school will be celebrating Halloween. SAFETY REMINDER
- Fall Sports Banquet: All Fall Varsity athletes and coaches. 11/4.
- Harvest Moon Ball: A Music Dept fundraiser. 11/5
- Cazes, McKersie & Phyllis Udice – Go to Washington for NBRIS Conference. 11/3-4.
- Formal National Blue Ribbon School Celebration at Hillside. Media will be present. 11/14.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Report from Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction

Hillside Mathematics Inquiry

- A team of teachers representative of each grade, special education, and mathematics intervention met to begin the mathematics Phase I inquiry process of the Curriculum Review Cycle at Hillside. This work was planned and co-facilitated by Cathy Williams, mathematics consultant from YouCubed (Stanford University), Amy Cazes, and Melissa Szymanski. Pre-session work involved reading articles. Session work included engaging with multiple mathematics learning activities, exploring the connections between conceptual understanding, computational/procedural skills and problem solving, discussing articles, and beginning to develop a shared vision grounded in research and the prior work of the K-12 mathematics committee.

Special Education Advisory Committee

- The Special Education Advisory committee continues to delve more deeply into the improvement science process. This week the committee solidified their aim, to increase self-efficacy for students with disabilities, based on themes in the peer-reviewed literature that emerged. Shortly, you will be hearing a more comprehensive presentation about the work of this group over time from Tesfa Stewart, Assistant Director of Special Education. Tesfa will be joined by Erin Dolan, a teacher member of the committee, and Amanda Kupillas, a parent member of the committee.

Curriculum Review Cycle: World Languages Phase I Inquiry

- Katie Paz, World Languages Department Chairperson, and I have been working together to plan for a phase I curriculum inquiry process. Last week we met with members of the middle and high school world languages department to begin the work. The session began with looking at revisions to the New York State standards with a focus on interpersonal and presentational communication modes. Teachers shared activities and assessments across the checkpoints they teach, identifying what was already being done within these two modes. They watched webinars to deepen their understanding of each mode, explored student work, and engaged in a calibration exercise to align around proficiency expectations.

Professional Learning Committee

- Earlier this month, members of the Professional Learning Committee came together to review faculty survey feedback about the fall 2022 Superintendent's Conference Days, begin discussion around 2023 Superintendent's Conference Days based on the formative survey data, and discuss an addendum to the Professional Development Plan. 63 members of the faculty responded to the Superintendent's Conference Day surveys. Though most responses were from teachers, 16% of respondents were from faculty members in other roles. Overall satisfaction with the Superintendent's Conference Days was high overall, with 81% indicating a favorable experience and 13% indicating a neutral experience. Curriculum collaboration was the highest rated experience across the three days, with 92% of respondents reporting it as favorable.

5. STUDENT REPORT

A. Student Report

Gus Renzin:

- Congratulated the cast of the Outsiders; the cast and crew put in a lot of work really paid off.
- Juniors took PSATs this morning, which carries weight for national merit scholarships.
- Tomorrow juniors are heading to Philadelphia enhancing the US History Curriculum.
- Red Ribbons throughout the building thanks to SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions).
- Hastings Kids - working closely with Hastings Youth Council planning a blood drive for November.
- November 1st deadline - Seniors sending in applications for early action and early decision - thanks to the Guidance department.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Public Comment

- No public comment

7. BUSINESS

A. Business Items

1. Science Professional Learning, Liz Mirra Consulting LLC, proposal.
2. Warrants.
3. Jenny Wallack, contract.
4. Westchester Jewish Community Services Center Lane, Professional Development at Hillside, proposal.
5. The Lice Lady of Westchester, invoice.
6. LHRIC - Proposal Access Door Addition #014533.
7. Month End Revenue Report - September 2022.
8. Month End Expenditure Report - September 2022.
9. Jag-One Athletic Training Services Agreement.
10. Contract for Services as Production Manager for Hastings High School Play - The Outsiders.
11. Impartial Hearing Officer, appointment for case #586028.
12. Side Letter of Agreement between the Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District and the Hastings Teacher Association.
13. Westchester Drone Ops, Hillside Blue Ribbon drone photography, estimate.
14. Approve the use of Reserve for Unemployment Claims, to increase the budget in the amount \$20,000.

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

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

B. Placement and/or Services for CSE and CPSE

RESOLVED, that upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and the Committee on Special Education, the Board accepts the classifications and arrangements for the placement and/or services for the 2022-2023 school year:

CSE: 12363, 11126, 10589

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

8. PERSONNEL

A. Appointments

1. Aaron Lefkowitz, appoint to Per Diem substitute teacher effective October 26, 2022 for the 2022-2023 school year.
2. Douglas Friedman, appoint as a Student Observer in Music at Hillside Elementary School for one day in November, 2022.
3. Updated Schedule B request spreadsheet. (Enc)

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

B. Amendments

1. Danielle DalCero, School Counselor at Farragut Middle School, amend probationary period due to prior conferred tenure. Amended probationary period August 30, 2022-August 29, 2025.
2. Ivan Espinosa, Technology teacher at Farragut Middle School, amend probationary period due to prior conferred tenure. Amended probationary period August 30, 2022-August 29, 2025.
3. Christina Hatjygeorge, Special Education teacher at Hillside Elementary School, amend probationary period due to prior conferred tenure. Amended probationary period August 30, 2022-August 29, 2025.
4. Amy Oliva, Special Education teacher at Hillside Elementary School, amend probationary period due to prior conferred tenure. Amended probationary period August 30, 2022-August 29, 2025.
5. Suzanna Pontillo, Special Education teacher at Hillside Elementary School, amend probationary period due to prior conferred tenure. Amended probationary period August 30, 2022-August 29, 2025.
6. MariAngela Sanchez, Assistant Director of Special Education district wide, amend probationary period due to prior conferred tenure. Amended probationary period October 24, 2022-October 23, 2025.
7. Doungkae Van Der Sande, School Monitor, amend appointment date to be effective September 21, 2022.
8. Michael Goldring, Clerical Substitute, amend appointment date to be effective September 16, 2022.
9. Con Kieran Roche, Per Diem Substitute district wide, amend appointment to Permanent Building Substitute at Hastings High School retroactive to October 20, 2022 for the 2022-2023 school year.
10. Suekhee Choi, Teacher Aide, promotional appointment to Teacher Assistant, Col. 1B, Step 3, \$38,041, effective August 30, 2022.

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

Motion by Jeremy Galland, second by Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

C. Resignations

1. Alisa Kolenovic, ENL teacher at Hastings High School and Farragut Middle School has provided notice of resignation effective November 10, 2022.
2. Devin Nunez, Teacher Assistant at Farragut Middle School has provided notice of resignation effective October 18, 2022.

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

Motion by Jeremy Galland, second by Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

D. Leaves of Absence

1. Gina Bartolini, Math teacher at Farragut Middle School has requested a leave of absence as follows: FMLA with pay September 16, 2022-November 10, 2022, FMLA without pay November 11, 2022-December 8, 2022, unpaid Parental leave of absence December 9, 2022-January 2, 2023. She will return to work on January 3, 2023.
2. Alecia Branger, Teacher Aide at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL September 28, 2022-October 3, 2022. She returned to work on October 4, 2022.
3. Christopher Campbell, Music teacher at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: Unpaid Leave of absence for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school year. He will return for the 2025-2026 school year.
4. Nidia Ferrara, Teacher Aide has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL September 28, 2022-October 7, 2022. She returned to work on October 11, 2022.
5. Kaitlyn O'Sullivan, Elementary K-6 teacher at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL October 12, 2022-October 17, 2022. She returned to work the afternoon of October 17, 2022.
6. Patrick Theodule, A/V Coordinator has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL September 12, 2022-September 15, 2022. He returned to work on September 16, 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: 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 October 11, 2022

RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of October 11, 2022.

Motion by Damaris-Lois Lang, second by Maureen Lennon-Santana.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Policy

- The policy committee gave a brief introduction to the Policies being presented for first read.

11. POLICIES

A. First Read

- Policy No. 2325 - Videoconferencing
- Policy No. 5420.2 - Immunization of Students

Policy No. 2325 - Videoconferencing:

- Jeremy Galland would like to set a limit of 3 times per calendar year that a Board member can use the "extraordinary circumstances".
- Dr. Lang - noted that this new policy does not nullify our original process, where you can join virtually but will have to make your location known to and open to the public.
- The Board discussed and agreed to set a limit of 3 meetings under the extraordinary circumstances. Beyond that, you would need to disclose your location and open it to the public.

Policy No. 5420.2 - Immunization of Students:

- Doreen Bucher summarized the revisions and updates to the policy. The Board discussed the policy and the updates with no additional revisions.

12. OLD BUSINESS

A. Resolution to set a Public Hearing for the proposed Board of Education Resolution to allow all members of the Board of Education to participate in meetings via videoconference

RESOLUTION

CONSIDERING SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ALLOW ALL MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO PARTICIPATE IN MEETINGS VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

WHEREAS, on April 9, 2022, Governor Hochul signed Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2022 which creates Section 103-a of the New York State Open Meetings Law to make permanent (until July 1, 2024) the expanded use of videoconferencing by public bodies to conduct open meetings, under extraordinary circumstances, regardless of a declaration of emergency; and

WHEREAS, Section 103-a(2) of the Public Officers Law requires a public school district that wishes to allow for remote attendance by its members at locations that do not allow for in-person physical attendance by the public under extraordinary circumstances to adopt a resolution permitting same after a public hearing; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education desires to adopt a resolution to authorize members of the Board of Education and its Committees and Subcommittees to participate in meetings via videoconference in a manner consistent with the authority granted in Public Officers Law § 103-a; and

WHEREAS, a proposed Resolution Authorizing Members of the Board of Education and its Committees and Subcommittees to Participate in Meetings Via Videoconference under consideration is attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education is fully familiar with the proposed Resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board Education of the Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District shall hold a public hearing, on December 6, 2022 at 7:15 PM in the Farragut Middle School Auditorium at 27 Farragut Avenue, Hastings-on-Hudson, New York 10706, to consider a proposed Board of Education Resolution to allow members of the Board of Education of the Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District, including its Committees and Subcommittees, to participate in meetings via videoconference in a manner consistent with § 103-a of the Public Officers Law.

RESOLVED, that the Board Education of the Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District shall hold a public hearing, on December 6, 2022 at 7:15 PM in the Farragut Middle School Auditorium at 27 Farragut Avenue, Hastings-on-Hudson, New York 10706, to consider a proposed Board of Education Resolution to allow members of the Board of Education of the Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District, including its Committees and Subcommittees, to participate in meetings via videoconference in a manner consistent with § 103-a of the Public Officers Law.

Motion by Silvia Robles, second by Maureen Lennon-Santana.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

13. NEW BUSINESS

A. Senior Citizen Tax Rate

Maureen Caraballo gave a brief overview of the reduced Senior Citizen Tax Rate the Board could consider for adoption:

- This will need to be adopted by our next meeting if we are going to participate.
- Currently, we have 40 people eligible in our District.
- Equates to about \$10 million of exemptions.

- We may have another 80 people in our district who would be eligible.
- It would be close to about 1% of our budget.
- Many districts in our area are likely to adopt.
- If we were to adopt in November, changes assessment for 2023, funding for the 2024-2025 Budget.
- If adopted now, the seniors would not see the reduction until 2024-2025.
- If there is a child living in the home attending the school, they would not be eligible for the exemption.

The Board discussed at length and shared their concerns. Decided to bring it up for a vote at the next BOE meeting.

B. Salaries of Non-Represented Staff

1. Salaries of Non-Represented Staff.

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the salaries of non-represented staff.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

14. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Second Public Comment

- No public comment

15. AGENDA REVIEW

A. Agenda Review

- Will shift Budget Work Session to next meeting
- November 9th Scheduled Budget Work Session
- Presentation from Amy on National Blue Ribbon

16. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

A. Comments

Jeremy Galland:

- Looking forward to a large committee meeting tomorrow.
- Liked the SPED presentation tonight. Hastings does not focus on academic performance. Hastings focuses on creating a positive environment where there are opportunities for students to feel like they belong.
- Hastings does not focus on performance in the ways easiest to judge. Students are supported and encouraged to succeed.

Maureen Lennon-Santana:

- Curious about the unprecedented decline in Math and English.
- Dr. McKersie clarified Hastings was not included in that testing process. However, we will get an update in a couple of weeks on Hastings's outcomes in those areas

Alex Dal Piaz:

- Asked about aggregated SAT scores

17. ADJOURNMENT

A. Adjournment

- Adjourned at 10:23 PM

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Maureen Lennon-Santana, second by Jeremy Galland.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Melissa DeLaBarrera

**Submitted by:
Melissa DeLaBarrera
District Clerk**