



**Hastings-on-Hudson
Regular Board of Education Meeting
Wednesday, November 9, 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 6:00 PM - it is expected that a motion will be made to move into Executive Session to discuss: 1) the employment history of a particular person; 2) collective bargaining regarding an HTA matter; 3) the employment history of a particular person; 4) a legal settlement.

- Meeting was called to order at 6:07 PM by Alex Dal Piaz.

Motion to move into Executive Session to discuss: 1) the employment history of a particular person; 2) collective bargaining regarding an HTA matter; 3) the employment history of a particular person; 4) a legal settlement.

Motion by Doreen Bucher, second by Damaris-Lois Lang.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

2. PRESENTATIONS

A. National Blue Ribbon School Award

Amy Cazes, Principal, Hillside Elementary School, shared highlights of the 2022 National Blue Ribbon Award - Hillside Elementary School with the Board.

[Click here to view slideshow presentation](#)

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

3. BUDGET DISCUSSION

A. Budget Presentation

Maureen Caraballo, Business Official presented the following Budget presentation to the Board:

[Click here to view slideshow presentation](#)

[Click here for presentation and discussion](#)

4. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

A. Update

William McKersie, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools
Superintendent Report - November 9, 2022

PRIORITY DISTRICT UPDATES

1. POHL

The *Portrait of a Hastings Learner* took a big step forward in late October. The Core Group met on Wednesday, 10/26 and Thursday, 10/27, facilitated by Judy Wilson, to begin drafting the *Portrait* statement, goals and action steps. The [29-member Core Group](#) represents teachers, administrators, students, parents and the Board of Education. Their thoughtful participation in discussions and their contributions to guideposts for our K-12 systemic work was invaluable. The nearly 2,000 survey responses were an important part of the deliberations.

Since then, drafts are being polished and planning work has begun on the development of 18-month action plans. As Melissa Szymanski and I will discuss this evening, we expect to share a comprehensive overview of this pivotal work with everyone in the Hastings learning community at the December 6, 2022 BOE Meeting. I look forward to seeing the *Portrait's* positive impact for students, staff members and families unfold in the years ahead.

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

2. Hillside - National Blue Ribbon School

A special "Live from DC" update was sent as my Friday letter last week, recapping the two days spent in DC honoring Hillside. This can also be found on the website. Tonight, Amy Cazes is here to update us on how Hillside will be celebrating all next week for "National Blue Ribbon Week" with various activities that the NBRIS Committee has planned for each day (11/14-11/18). Jackie Saviano will be covering these events and putting together a video for a behind-the-scenes look which will be distributed to the community at the end of next week or early the following week.

3. The Buzz

The video series is building momentum. Jackie Saviano will be meeting with Elianna Carvalho and Gus Renzin to brainstorm ways that they can partner together on this, featuring more on student achievements and activities. Stay tuned for the next episode which will air the Week of 11/21.

4. November is Native American Heritage Month

Jackie will be out and about in classrooms covering celebrations and other activities. Keep an eye out for more in the Hastings Happenings throughout the rest of November.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS JUST COMPLETED

1. Fall Varsity Sports Banquet (11/4/22)

Last Friday evening, a banquet was held at HHS to honor varsity student athletes and coaches. A recap including a video of student speeches produced by the Hastings Yellow Jackets Boosters Club will be distributed in tomorrow's Hastings Happenings 11/10.

2. Harvest Moon Ball (11/5/22)

On Saturday in the HHS gymnasium, was the annual Harvest Moon Ball, a fundraiser hosted by Hastings Alliance for the Music Program (AMP), a group of volunteer parents who work to support music in the Hastings school district. Look out for a recap of the event in my Friday letter.

3. PTSA's Used Book Fair at Hillside (11/5/22)

Also on Saturday, was the Used Book Fair at Hillside, an annual PTSA fundraiser that has been a beloved community event for over 20 years. This year, it was back indoors and students had early-access through classroom visits. There are so many wonderful aspects and benefits of the UBF, most importantly, supporting the love of reading. It is only possible because of the many parent volunteers. Look out for more in tomorrow's Hastings Happenings.

UPCOMING EVENTS TO NOTE

1. Sophomore Caitlin Thomas Qualifies for NYSPHSAA State Championship (11/12/22)

Hastings star Cross Country Student-Athlete, Caitlin Thomas, finished 4th at the Sectional Championships this past Saturday, 11/5, qualifying her for the NYSPHSAA State Championships on Saturday, 11/12 at Vernon-Verona-Sherrill High School. Congratulations and good luck, Caitlin!

2. HHS & American Red Cross Blood Drive (11/21/22)

3. Project SHARE Annual Thanksgiving Dinner for the Homeless (11/22/22)

Many of the guests will be children and part of our dinner is providing them with arts and crafts, basketball in the gym and each year we have made certain that each child gets a new or gently used and clean stuffed animal to bring with them when they leave. This is our first dinner in two years to be held in the gym. Our last two dinners were mobile and although we distributed over 1,000 hot turkey dinners each year, there were no "stuffies" for kids to hug and hold. The last time we held our dinner at Hastings High School was in November 2019 and we collected more than 500 stuffed animals. We would love to be able to do this again and we need your help. Will you and your child find a new or "nearly new and gently used" clean stuffed animal to donate to this most worthy event? The deadline for this drive is Friday, November 18. Please drop them off at the James Harmon Community Center in the village and we will pick them up and make sure each child receives this sweet reminder of our Thanksgiving celebration.

5. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

POHL Update:

Melissa Szymanski gave a brief update of the POHL Process:

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. Report from Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction

Melissa Szymanski, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction
Administrative Report - November 9, 2022

Special Education Advisory Committee

The Special Education Advisory Committee has been moving forward in the improvement science process. Committee members looked for solutions-focused peer reviewed research on strategies for cultivating self-efficacy for students with IEPs. Participants worked individually, in partnerships, and collaboratively as a whole group to

discuss identified articles and potential solutions. Moving forward, this will be used to inform the creation of a driver diagram and the determination of change ideas.

Curriculum Review: Hillside Mathematics

Mathematics curriculum inquiry work has continued at Hillside. During our recent session, teachers and administrators participated in a video jigsaw. Videos focused on number talks with students in various grade levels. Teachers worked to calibrate their perceptions of instructional and learning practices, using the Hastings mathematical mindset rubric as the anchor for gathering evidence and sharing perceptions. The group also read a number of articles focused on mathematics, specifically about the importance of visual mathematics and the associated neurobiology for why it is important for students to learn conceptually. The session concluded with an analysis of the Standards for Mathematical Practice and engaging with them as adult learners.

Curriculum Review: NYS Computer Science and Digital Fluency Standards

Melissa Szymanski met with Sorin Mihalcescu, high school computer science teacher, to begin the process of aligning the high school computer science curriculum to the new NYS Computer Science and Digital Fluency Standards. Together they created an alignment template, which will serve as the repository for showcasing areas of curricular alignment and needs. An alignment document from the College Board will support the gap analysis process.

Computer Science & Digital Fluency Survey

Next week, assistant principals, library media specialists, Laura Sullivan, Jenice Mateo-Toledo, and Melissa Szymanski will be embarking together as lead learners of the new NYS Computer Science and Digital Fluency standards. Melissa and Leslie Accardo, our partner from the Lower Hudson Regional Information Center, designed a survey for the group to collect data on present levels of knowledge of the standards. Data from the survey will serve as a baseline and will also inform planning and group facilitation.

Curriculum Review: World Languages Debrief and Planning Session

Melissa Szymanski and Katie Paz, World Languages Department Chairperson, met to debrief the recent work with the world languages department and plan for the next inquiry session. This session will be focused on student work and calibration to proficiency targets.

6. STUDENT REPORT

A. Student Report

Gus Renzin and Elianna Carvalho, Board of Education Student Liaisons
Student Report - November 9, 2022

The One Act Interest Meeting

This past Thursday was the One Acts interest meeting for all high school students who want to be part of the process. The One Acts is a performance of a series of skits put together and completely run by the students. Students have a choice of acting, directing or working on tech. The performances are scheduled for January 12th and 13th.

JF

Monday night was Junior Formal with the theme Starlit City! It was a fantastic night full of great food, dancing, and celebrations. We thank all the parents who helped transform the gym lobby and Cochran gym into a New York City inspired setting with elegant decor. Juniors partied the night away thanks to the hard work of Ms. Rudolph!

Harvest Moon Ball

The annual HHS music department fundraiser, the Harvest Moon Ball, was this past Saturday, November 5th. The night featured performances from the HHS Jazz Band, Madrigals and String Sinfonia as well as swing dancing lessons from Amanda Kupillas Dance. There were awesome raffle raffles to raise money with fantastic prizes such as tickets to the Met Opera and Caramoor. It was an amazing, lively night with lots of parents and students coming out to support the music department.

Project SHARE

Last Tuesday there was a High School-wide assembly on the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner for The Homeless with guest speaker Jeanne Newman, the founder and director of SHARE as well as a former art teacher at HHS. After two years without the dinner as a result of COVID-19, there was enormous volunteer interest. More than 200 high schoolers have signed up for food prep days, bought shirts, and signed up to wait tables at the actual dinner on

Tuesday, November 22. For those of you that don't know, Project SHARE busses over 800 homeless folks annually from New York city and surrounding areas to our very own Cochran Gym for a delicious thanksgiving feast.

Caitlin Thomas to States for XC

Congratulations to Sophomore Caitlin Thomas for qualifying for New York State championships in cross country. With a blistering time of 20 minutes and 44 seconds, Caitlin placed 4th at Bowdoin Park in the Section One, Class C Championships. The girls team as a whole placed 3rd! Good luck to Caitlin as she heads up to Verona, New York for States this weekend.

Varsity Banquet

The Hastings Athletic Booster club hosted the annual Fall Sports varsity banquet this Friday Night. Varsity athletes were treated to a delicious pasta dinner, played a few fun games of bingo, and listened to speeches from the captains of each team. At the end of the night, athletes were given the pins to add to their varsity letters.

Regeneron STS Deadline was 8 PM on 11/8.

Seniors in Ms. Shandroff's science research class submitted their applications to the Regeneron Science Talent Search. It is a nationwide competition that seeks to recognise and elevate the country's brightest young minds in science. Students are judged based on their research papers, teacher and mentor recommendations, academic performance, and scientific aptitude. There are three rounds to the competition. Out of the approximately 2,000 students who apply to STS, 300 are selected as semifinalists and receive a \$2,000 scholarship as well as another 2,000 for their high school science research program. Of those 300 semifinalists, 40 are chosen as finalists and attend a weeklong program in Washington D.C. where they present their projects to additional judges, and win prizes ranging between \$20,000 and \$250,000. Good luck to all of our Hastings Applicants and thank you to Ms. Shandroff, for getting them to this point.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Public Comment

- No public comment

8. BUSINESS

A. Business Items

1. Nearfield Mark Frankel presentation for Hillside Elementary, invoice.
2. Fixed Asset Disposal.
3. MASLA, Title IX Training and Regional Roundtable, invoice.
4. Georgia Institute of Technology, trademark license agreement for Middle School.
5. Georgia Institute of Technology, trademark license agreement for High School.
6. Budget Calendar.
7. Contract for Services as Production Manager for 7th & 8th Grade Musical - Newsies Jr.
8. Warrants.
9. Budget Transfer.
10. Tax Certiorari Settlement - Mtr. of River Glen Tenants Corp. for the Assessment years 2017-2022.
11. Tuition Agreement between Hastings-on-Hudson UFSD and Ardsley UFSD.
12. Contract for Workshops and Performance between Jeremy Kittel and Hastings-on-Hudson UFSD.
13. 913 Directive Resolution.

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

Motion by Damaris-Lois Lang, 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. Resolution to Consider Raising the Maximum Income Level of Eligible Senior Citizens

1. Resolution to Consider Raising the Maximum Income Level of Eligible Senior Citizens.

No motion was made to adopt the resolution.

C. HTA Coverage Assignment Side Letter

1. HTA Coverage Assignment Side Letter.

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the HTA Coverage Assignment Side Letter.

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

D. Placement and/or Services for CSE and CPSE

CSE: 10725, 7602, 12522, 11890, 7756, 10590, 12344, 10942, 12494, 10816, 11058, 10699, 7703, 10926, 11514, 12498, 11207

CPSE: 12549

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 Doreen Bucher, second by Jeremy Galland

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

9. PERSONNEL (CONSENT AGENDA)

A. Appointments

1. Melissa Jethu appoint to Per Diem Substitute teacher district-wide effective November 10, 2022 for the 2022-2023 school year.
2. Updated Returning Substitute list as of November 9, 2022. (Enc)
3. Updated Schedule B spreadsheet. (Enc)

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

Motion by Damaris-Lois Lang, 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. Cheryl Jett, Teacher Aide at Hastings High School amend leave of absence to Medical leave of absence with pay August 30, 2022 - September 23, 2022. Medical leave of absence without pay September 28, 2022 - October 31, 2022. She will returned to work on November 1, 2022. (Enc)
2. Cheryl Jett, Teacher Aide at Hastings High School amend appointment from 1.00 FTE to .60 FTE November 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022. Return to Teacher Aide appointment 1.0 FTE January 1, 2023.
3. Michelle Macri, amend appointment date of 1.0 FTE Math Regular Substitute at Farragut Middle School to September 16, 2022-January 3, 2023.
4. Katelyn Pinto, amend appointment date of 1.0 FTE Elementary K-6 Regular Substitute at Farragut Middle School to October 25, 2022-January 3, 2023.
5. Nicolas Macri, Deputy Treasurer, Chief Information Officer (CIO) for the 2022-2023 school year, amend stipend to \$14,045 for the 2022-2023 school year.

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

Motion by Damaris-Lois Lang, 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. Cherry Byrd, School Monitor at Farragut Middle School has provided notice of resignation effective October 28, 2022.

2. Kristina Ippolito Radice, Special Education 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 resignations.

Motion by Damaris-Lois Lang, 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. Victoria Kelter, Physical Education teacher at Hastings High School has requested a leave of absence as follows: FMLA with pay October 17, 2022-December 6, 2022, FMLA without pay December 7, 2022-January 6, 2023, Parental Leave January 9, 2023-January 20, 2023. She will return to work on January 23, 2023.

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

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

10. MINUTES

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of October 25, 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 25, 2022.

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

11. POLICIES

A. Second Read

Policy for Second Read:

Policy No. 5420.2 - Immunization of Students

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education adopt policy no. 5420.

Motion by Silvia Robles, 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

12. NEW BUSINESS

A. Vote for NYSSBA Area 10 Director

BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Education of the Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District hereby casts their vote for in favor of Sheryl Brady to serve on the New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA) Board of Directors representing Area 10 for a two-year term, January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2024, and authorizes the District Clerk to execute any documents consistent with this motion.

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

13. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Second Public Comment

- No public comment

14. AGENDA REVIEW

A. Agenda Review

Dr. McKersie briefly reviewed the topics for the upcoming Board meeting:

November 21st:

- It has been moved to Monday, November 21st, because Project Share is having its Thanksgiving Dinner on November 22nd.
- Melissa Szymanski will be presenting a signification Assessment Data report.

December 6th

- Will be heavily focused on the Portrait Process, and we will try to have some members of that process present updates.
- There will also be a Public Hearing on the Video Conferencing policy.
- There will be an Executive Session at 6:15 PM on Security.

15. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

A. Comments

- No comments

16. ADJOURNMENT

A. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

Melissa DeLaBarrera

Submitted by:

Melissa DeLaBarrera

District Clerk