



**Hastings-on-Hudson
Regular Board of Education Meeting
Monday, May 23, 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 6:00 PM in the HS Auditorium

- Meeting called to order at 6:10 PM by Doug Sundheim, President

B. Tenure Recommendations

1. Erin Dolan. Recommendation to approve tenure in the area of Special Education for Erin Dolan, Special Education teacher at Hastings High School, effective August 29, 2022. Certifications held: Students w/Disabilities Generalist (Grades 7-12)-Initial, Literacy (Grades 5-12)-initial.
2. Jeanette Kocur. Recommendation to approve tenure in the area of Director of Guidance for Jeanette Kocur, Director of Guidance district-wide, effective August 29, 2022. Certifications held: School Building Leader-initial, School Counselor-permanent, Nursery, kindergarten, Grades 1-6-permanent.
3. Danielle Brennan. Recommendation to approve tenure in the area of Special Education for Danielle Brennan, Special Education teacher at Hillside Elementary School, effective October 8, 2022. Certifications held: Students w/Disabilities (Birth-Grade 2)-professional, Students w/Disabilities (Grades 1-6)-professional, Literacy (Birth-Grade 6)-professional, Childhood Education (Grades 1-6)-professional.
4. Devita Cruz. Recommendation to approve tenure in the area of Social Studies for Devita Cruz, Social Studies teacher at Farragut Middle School, effective August 29, 2022. Certification held: Social Studies (Grades 7-12)-professional.
5. James Forcinito. Recommendation to approve tenure in the area of School Psychology for James Forcinito, School Psychologist at Hillside Elementary School, effective August 29, 2022. Certification held: School Psychology-permanent.
6. Kristina Ippolito. Recommendation to approve tenure in the area of Special Education for Kristina Ippolito, Special Education teacher at Hillside Elementary School, effective August 29, 2022. Certifications held: Students w/Disabilities (Grades 1-6)-professional, Literacy (Birth-Grade 6)-professional, Childhood Education (Grades 1-6)-professional.
7. Lisa Levine. Recommendation to approve tenure in the area >Senior internships

C. Presentation of AMC Certificates

- AMC Certificates were presented to the following AMC 8 Math recipients by Dr. Greg Stephens and Jennifer Spirelli:
 - Liam Belton
 - Harley Griffin
 - Maxwell Boyd
 - Claire Jiang
 - Sadie Knittel
 - Jacob Charny

D. Announcements

Dr. McKersie:

- The county reinstated Monday morning meeting with Superintendents, no recommended shifts to policies or procedures from the State or County, and masks remain optional, in most cases, every district will do their end-of-the-year ceremonies as usual. Will not be meeting again on Monday mornings in the near future.
- State and County data counts, great inconsistency in the submission of data. Some districts such as Hastings are submitting both the antigen and the PCR results, some are submitting only PCR, and some are not submitting at all. George Latimer will look into it to determine if they're still going to require reporting.
- Hasting's continues to do our daily counts based on PCR and antigen tests.

2. STUDENT REPORT

A. Student Report

Gus Renzin:

- Congratulated tenure recipients and the middle school AMC winners.
- Academic Field day was last Wednesday.
- High School Olympics, grades competed against each other in a variety of random challenges.
- Regarding COVID, although cases are rising, anxiety levels seem low, and many people are wearing masks as a show of communal responsibility.
- Our Euro challenge team competed in a national economics competition, the team comprised of four sophomores and one freshman created a 15-minute presentation on how to fix Portugal's challenges with automation and net-zero emissions.
- Seniors are currently on their internships.
- Girl's track broke the school record.
- Varsity banquet this Wednesday.
- Students are anxious for summer.

3. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

A. Budget Introduction

Dr. McKersie:

- Made a brief introduction to the upcoming Budget Presentation, and noted that the documents that will be presented are posted on the website. What is being brought tonight is a response to the Budget being voted down. What will be presented is a revised budget with approximately half-million in reductions, about a 1% reduction that being the tax levy rate down just below 2%.
- Additionally, they will be presenting a Contingent Budget as required by the State of New York, if the second budget does not pass we would immediately go into a contingent budget with a larger set of reductions.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Public Comment

Katherine DeMartino - Resident of Hastings (parent of 3 students):

- Commented on leadership. Looming and current leadership shortage in nation and state. Strong leaders in our district, important to keep it that way.
- Encouraged Board members and the community to support the Administration and Budget.

Cassandra Sweet - Resident of Hastings (parent of 4):

- Political Economist, speaking on behalf of a group of parents in the community ashamed of what happened with the budget and the misinformation that rippled through the community.
- Message to Board, do what needs to be done, but don't slice too deep.
- Suggested better presentations via zoom or better video to present to the community.

Bob McCannon - District parent:

- Apologized for complacency, and for not saying more to support publicly.
- Acknowledged how difficult budgeting is.
- Hopes when we go to the next round there will be a more unified front. Not a vote to cut or slash programs.

5. PRESENTATIONS

A. 2022-2023 Budget Presentation

- Maureen Caraballo and Dr. McKersie presented an updated 2022-2023 Budget with reductions to consider for adoption. Also presented the Contingency Budget which would go into effect should the Budget be voted down again.

- [Click here to view the slide presentation](#)
- The Board members each shared their thoughts on the revised budget. The majority of the Board members felt that more money should go back into PD.
 - [Click here to view the video of the Budget presentation and discussion](#)

6. BUSINESS

A. Business Items

1. Increase 2021-2022 School Year Lunch Fund Revenue & Expenditures by \$200,000, for contractual expenses.
2. Change Order No. E-4 - Contract E - Electrical - All Bright Electric.
3. Change Order No. G4 - Contract G - General - W.J. Northridge Construction Corp.
4. Expenditure and Revenue Reports for April 2022.
5. Health services contract with Yonkers Public Schools.
6. Veera Hiranandani, Multicultural Book Fair: Author Visit, invoice.
7. Ron's Trucking, Transport of Voting Machines for Budget Re-Vote, invoice.
8. Stipulation of Settlement.
9. HTA Side Letter.

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

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

B. WPSBA Budget and Nominating Committee Slate

- WPSBA 2022-2023 Budget and Nominating Committee Slate vote.

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the WPSBA 2022-2022 Budget and Nominating Committee Slate.

Motion by Silvia Robles, second by Doreen Bucher.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

C. 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: 12354

CSE: 11111, 10663, 12267, 10182

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 of the placement and/or services for the 2022-2023 school year:

CPSE: 12083, 10284

CSE: 11733, 12091, 12267, 11725, 12251, 11716, 10182, 11350, 11060, 11059, 11898

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 Doreen Bucher, 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

7. PERSONNEL

A. Appointments

1. Joseph Callagy, appoint to 1.0 FTE probationary English Language Arts teacher at Hastings High School, MA, Step 3, \$71,877, effective August 30, 2022. Probationary period August 30, 2022-March 29, 2026 (due to prior leave replacement), Tenure date: March 30, 2026. Certifications held: English Language Arts (Grades 7-12), English Language Arts (Grades 5-9).
2. Cindy Greenberg, appoint to 1.0 FTE probationary English Language Arts teacher at Hastings High School, MA, Step 5, \$78,185, effective August 30, 2022. Probationary period August 30, 2022-August 29, 2026. Tenure date: August 30, 2026. Certification held: English Language Arts (Grades 7-12).
3. Updated Schedule B appointment requests as per attached spreadsheet.
4. Christian Anacassis, re-appoint for summer employment in the Buildings and Grounds department effective May 31, 2022.
5. Josue Petithomme, appoint for summer employment in the Buildings and Grounds department effective May 31, 2022.
6. Maria Roditis, appoint to Per Diem Substitute Nurse district wide upon verification of NYSED fingerprint clearance.
7. Elizabeth Keogh, appoint to 1.0 FTE 11-month School Nurse in the Farragut Complex effective July 1, 2022, RN Step 10.
8. Matthew Bobo, appoint to Administrative Intern in Curriculum and Instruction effective approximately June 3, 2022-August 31, 2022.

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

Motion by Silvia Robles, 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. Amendment

1. Luis Palacio, Column I Custodian I to be moved to Column II Custodian II effective May 24, 2022.

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

Motion by Silvia Robles, 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. Leaves of Absence

1. Matthew Adipietro, Physical Education teacher at Farragut Middle School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL from May 4, 2022-May 6, 2022. He returned to work on May 9, 2022.
2. Andrea Bromberg, World Language teacher at Farragut Middle School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL May 9, 2022-May 13, 2022. She returned to work on May 16, 2022.
3. April Browne, Art teacher at Hastings High School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL May 4, 2022-May 6, 2022. She returned to work on May 9, 2022.
4. Amy Cazes, Principal at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL May 11, 2022-May 13, 2022. She returned to work on May 16, 2022.
5. Tamara Cecere, Elementary K-6 teacher at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: April 28, 2022-May 4, 2022. She returned to work on May 5, 2022.
6. Christina Gagliardi, Science teacher at Hastings High School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL April 19, 2022-April 22, 2022. She returned to work on April 25, 2022.
7. Nancy Gagliardi, Secretary to Principal at Hastings High School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL April 25, 2022-April 29, 2022. She returned to work on May 2, 2022.
8. Maria Gunther, Elementary K-6 teacher at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL April 29, 2022-May 2, 2022. She returned to work on May 4, 2022.
9. Nicole Josiger, Reading Specialist at Hillside Elementary School has requested leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL April 29, 2022-May 4, 2022. She returned to work on May 5, 2022.
10. Christopher Lembo, Special Education teacher at Farragut Middle School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL May 4, 2022-May 11, 2022. He returned to work on May 12, 2022.

11. Melissa Otivich, Physical Education teacher at Farragut Middle School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL May 9, 2022-May 13, 2022. She returned to work on May 16, 2022.
12. Jocelyn Perez, School Counselor at Farragut Middle School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL May 5, 2022-May 13, 2022. She returned to work on May 16, 2022.
13. Suzanne Suydam, Teacher Aide at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: FMLA without pay, May 12, 2022. She returned to work on May 20, 2022.

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 Alison Andrus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

D. Resignation

1. Colleen Jones, Special Education teacher at Hillside Elementary School has provided notification 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 Silvia Robles, 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

8. MINUTES

A. Approval of Minutes

- Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of May 4, 2022.

RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of May 4, 2022.

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

9. POLICIES

A. Second Read

- Policy for Second Read:
 - Policy 2120.2 Voting
- Tabled for next meeting

10. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Second Public Comment

Mike Berger - Hastings Resident (parent of 3):

- Thanked the administration for all the work, and apologized that community put them in this position.
- Noted that there is a very mobilized group of advocates for the School Budget, to make sure that the next budget is passed.

Cassandra Sweet:

- Asked the Board for the quickest time frame to receive public comment from the conversation tonight to address the painful cuts. Doug Sundheim advised within 24-48 hours.

Bob McCannon:

- This has been an exhausting process for everyone, the reductions coming down the pike, in terms of per capita price. Can't help but feel awful for the 6 faculty members who will be pulled in to be told they may be reduced.
- Hopes in the future we get to this point earlier to save those 6 conversations.

Leo Burdick - Student at Hastings High School:

- Incredibly grateful for all the work that has been done to make sure that his new budget is something that will be able to pass.
- Too young to vote, encourages everyone to advocate to make sure that it passes because a contingency budget would be terrible for students, administrators, and staff.

11. AGENDA REVIEW

A. Agenda Review

Review topics for upcoming Board of Education Meeting

Dr. McKersie:

- May 24th - Special Meeting to canvass affidavit and absentee ballots
- June 6th meeting - moving items to lighten the load.

12. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

A. Comments

Jeremy Galland:

- The leadership that we get in the schools, but also the leadership from administration to the board itself is evident.
- Thinks the administration has put a budget proposal together that is going to pass with significant community support.
- The way the administration reads the room and the way they read the community, the three who are here, and all their teams is helpful and impressive, and much needed.
- Very helpful to see the details of this proposal that he thinks the community is going to be supportive of.

Doreen Bucher:

- Appreciates the good faith effort, and thinks it's necessary, but she did approve the first one and wishes it went through, coming from the corporate world, has dealt with many budgets and when you take things out, it's always really hard to put things back in, which is her fear about this one, hopes that is not the case for us for next year.

Silvia Robles:

- We had to compromise and we came back, thanks to our administrator's incorporated feedback. We can't tell the community to support the budget, we can provide information, people need to read the information for themselves.
- It is important for people to understand that the first budget did not include the biggest budget increase in either dollars or percentages and that the board has, in fact, as recently as last year, not had unanimous support amongst the seven of us and it still passed.
- Wanted to give credit to all the time and thought that went into developing this revised budget and the quick turnaround. Knows what was provided both the first time around and the second time around has been guided by nothing but professionalism.

Doug Sundheim:

- Thanked the community and the administration.
- This has been a painful process, things we are going to become stronger as a result of it.

Dr. Lang:

- To the collective board, we need to work our process together and not assume something other than what we actually hear directly.
- Was unhappy about the fact that no board member called to ask why she voted no, except one person who was more concerned about going into the community. Even people in the community that she revered and would ask for advice never asked her why she voted no. Yet when the community votes no it becomes spotlighted. That is her grievance that she wanted to share.
- Placing judgment is not the way to go as a collective board, you have to give people that respect to understand. If you had listened to or asked directly you would know that her NO had nothing to do with cutting, please stop stereotyping.

Alexander DalPiaz;

- Wanted to thank everybody for all the work that goes into this and looks forward to getting past this.

13. ADJOURNMENT

A. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Silvia Robles, 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

Melissa DeLaBarrera

Submitted by:

Melissa DeLaBarrera

District Clerk