



**Hastings-on-Hudson
Regular Board of Education Meeting
Tuesday, December 20, 2022**

Members present

Doug Sundheim
Jeremy Galland
Silvia Robles
Doreen Bucher
Maureen Lennon-Santana

1. OPENING OF MEETING

A. Call to Order at 7:00 PM - it is expected that a motion will be made to move into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter, the employment history of a particular person.

- Meeting called to order at 7:01 PM by Doreen Bucher, Vice President

Motion to move into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter, the employment history of a particular person.

Motion by Jeremy Galland, second by Doug Sundheim.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Doug Sundheim, Jeremy Galland, Silvia Robles, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana

2. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

A. Update & District Highlights

William McKersie, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools
Superintendent Report

PRIORITY DISTRICT UPDATES

1. **Digital Art Auction (12/14-12/16):** To celebrate student artwork and exercise civic engagement, two Hastings High School clubs, Amnesty International and the National Art Honors Society, teamed up to host a Digital Art Auction to raise money for [CREA](#), an organization in Nicaragua that supports literacy and learning. From December 14 to December 16, the public was able to browse images of student artwork and bid on them using a PayPal account. From drawings and paintings to ceramics and photographs, there was a wide range of pieces to choose from. The best part: each piece for sale was created by a Hastings student. Approximately \$572 was raised for CREA.
2. **FMS Winter Concert (12/15/22):** Music Teacher Eric Day shared his sentiments on last week's Winter Concert...

"The FMS 7-8 Winter Concert last night was a beautiful celebration of music and community, with over 130 musicians performing to a packed auditorium of proud parents and friends. The eclectic program covered film score, classic rock, classical, jazz, Broadway, and world folk music. Highlights included the audience clapping along with the Band to "Let it Be" by the Beatles, an evocative performance of the Game of Thrones theme by the Orchestra, a vibrant world music piece called "Imbakwa" sung in Swahili by the Chorus, and the return of the FMS Jazz Band trading improvised solos on the tune "Sonny Moon for Two" by the great Sonny Rollins."

3. **Student Union Talent Show (12/16/22):** On Friday evening, December 16, the Student Union hosted its Annual Talent Show Fundraiser. For more than six years, students and their families look forward to the event, which celebrates the talents of students in a lively and inclusive setting. Student Union Advisor Steven Lopez shared more on the history of the event:

"Over the years I have noticed the kids get really excited to both participate and cheer on their peers. As soon as the event concludes, there is a crowd outside of the school discussing their favorite performances. I have seen and judged students singing, dancing, solving Rubik's cubes in record time, playing their own songs on the piano, role playing, and more."

4. **FMS Debate Club Wins 1st Place at American Debate League's Winter Classic (12/17/22):** Students have been preparing for the last two months for the American Debate League Winter Classic that took place on Saturday, December 17. There were three rounds of competition and four teams of students competing in the tournament, participating in the Novice Division. In this division, there were a total of 50 students competing. For FMS, Poppy Leon placed 10th for Top Speakers, Felix Reitz placed 9th, and Gabriel Akar placed 3rd. Among 22 other teams, the team of Gabriel Akar and Felix Reitz placed 7th, the Team of Eden Greenberg, Anna Lapson, and Phoebe Gelfand placed 6th, and the Team of Nami Saeed, Poppy Leon, and Karen Saltzman placed 5th, overall. Their performance earned our school the rank of first place out of 37 other schools who competed. Debate Club Advisor Devita Cruz shared her sentiments:

"These students prepared for so long and worked extremely hard going into this competition. They were in my room until 4:30 p.m. every day the week before the tournament. I'm so incredibly proud of the pride and dedication these students put into their speeches and research, which ultimately led to their - unsurprising - success!"

SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS & EVENTS

1. Highlighting Our HEF Partnership

The Hastings Educational Foundation (HEF) is an essential philanthropic partner. I want to share their uplifting "turn of the year" message. ([Click here](#) for the list of 2022-23 grants from HEF. Click the drop down to view.)

As 2022 comes to a close, we reflect upon the amazing year we have had to benefit Hastings students.

For one, we saw the return of our major funding event, the HEF spring gala, after a two-year hiatus due to COVID. This year's "Future So Bright!" theme brought our community the hope and celebration of coming together in person again for such an important cause for our school system, its teachers and students.

In addition, our fully integrated grants process funded exciting programs such as the FMS visit of Grammy, Emmy and Tony award-winning musician Andres Forero, the Hillside DEI Mural Project, and the new HHS Gel Electrophoresis System for our high school genetics testing labs.

We are thankful for your support in helping make these teacher-and-faculty dreams a reality for our kids and all Hastings students with the funding of \$63,000 in grants in this year alone.

We thank you for your support, and wish you a wonderful holiday season with your loved ones.

UPCOMING EVENTS TO NOTE

This Week's Happenings: Gearing Up for Holiday Break

1. **Senior Holiday Dinner (12/21/22):** We will be bringing back our Senior Holiday Dinner at the HHS this Wednesday from 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Jackie Saviano will be providing coverage of the event through a special holiday sendoff edition of The Buzz. Stay tuned for it in this week's *Hastings Happenings*.

2. **Hastings High School Winter Concert (12/22/22):** Hastings High School students will be performing their winter concert in the HS auditorium on Thursday, 12/22 at 7:00 p.m.

Events in Early 2023

1. **Coach John Costello Memorial Basketball Games (1/6/23):** In honor of beloved Coach John Costello, boys and girls Varsity basketball teams will be playing with a purpose on Friday, January 6. Keep an eye out for more information in the *Hastings Daily*.
2. **River-Towns 10th Annual MLK Breakfast (1/16/23):** On January 16, 2023, the River-towns will come together virtually to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 's Birthday Breakfast. As part of the celebration, students from the River Towns are invited to use their creative energies through various media to express their impressions of today's most challenging social issues. Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. believed in a better future for our community, our country and the world through civic engagement, (including exercising the right to vote). This year, the Hastings-on-Hudson Breakfast Committee is asking students to help keep Dr. King's dream alive by submitting an essay, poem, or piece of artwork for one of the following themes:
 - o *Why is it important to exercise your right to vote on a local and state level? How can you help make your community a better place for everyone?*

More information will be provided in the *Hastings Daily* this week. In addition, stay tuned for a January 2023 segment of *The Buzz* where I will share a personal story regarding Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Report from Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction

Melissa Szymanski, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction
Administrative Report

Computer Science and Digital Fluency

The technology "lead learners" team met to continue their work around the new New York State Computer Science and Digital Fluency standards. Work for this week's session focused on "unpacking" computational thinking K-12. Session learning activities included coming up with an algorithm to solve a dilemma, investigating subconcepts to the standard, exploring related vocabulary, creating abstractions through storytelling, debugging a program, telling a data story using a simulated data set, and engaging in an inventor challenge.

Physical Education: Phase I Inquiry

The Physical Education Department has continued its Phase I inquiry process. Teachers reviewed the K-12 curriculum scope and sequence and New York State standards, outlined current units of study, and examined student assessments. Elementary, middle, and high school gap analyses were conducted and research on regional practices was explored. The team made recommendations for improvement and created five goals for their next session together: (1) create and populate an "arc" template to enhance programmatic coherence and skill development across the three buildings, (2) create lessons to augment standards alignment, (3) enhance consistency of unit planning, (4) create a visual assessment template, and (5) consider innovative practices. The session ended by celebrating successes.

5th Grade Mathematics

Earlier this week, members of the 5th Grade team came together to further explore *Big Ideas*. Teachers worked together to plan for instruction around division. Time was spent planning lessons and assignments for this unit. Teachers worked on revisions to documents in support of student needs, SMARTboard slides to accompany the Big Ideas lessons, and assessments. The team also began reviewing the fractions unit.

World Languages

The World Languages Department is continuing their inquiry work. This week's session focused on the *Interpretive Communication* standard. Session objectives included (a) defining and differentiating skills and communicative

modes, (b) identifying reasons for the standards' shift from language skills to communicative modes, (c) understanding the State's meaning of *interpretive*, (d) considering current implementation practices, and (e) considering potential opportunities for implementation.

4. STUDENT REPORT

A. Student Report

Elianna Carvalho, Student Liaisons
Student Report

This past Friday was the Talent Show organized by the Student Union! Lots of students and families came out to support their friends who were performing. We had over ten acts showing off their wide range of skills. All extremely impressive, including a song sung by local police officer Rob Simmons. The Student Union sold popcorn and hot chocolate in the lobby. Huge congratulations to our winners, sophomore Sofia Eliasi and senior James Tong for their amazing violin and piano duo. The first place prize was a 100 dollar gift card to Sakura Gardens, funded by the Hastings Police Department.

The One Acts, a performance of skits all organized, directed, and acted in by high school students, is set for January 12th and 13th. The rehearsal process is going extremely well, with individual skits meeting once or twice a week. I highly recommend that everyone go see them. They should be extremely hilarious as always.

Today the Amnesty International Club met to write letters to foreign governments and embassy's demanding change against human rights violations through a campaign organized by the Amnesty International organization. The club wrote letters to Zimbabwe to demand justice for three women who were beaten, sexually assaulted, and jailed for leading an anti government protest. They sent a letter to Cuba to free an artist who was sentenced to five years in prison for posting a video saying he was going to protest and they sent letters to Russia to help free a woman who spread information about Russia's invasion of Ukraine. I'm inspired by my peers to want to use their voices to make change.

Hastings KIDS organized a Food Drive for the local food pantry these past two weeks. Just yesterday they brought about ten bags worth of canned goods and food to the pantry that were being collected in boxes in the lobby.

Hastings KIDS has also organized a program called Hastings Hikes where student volunteers will lead groups of elementary students on walks through the Hillside woods over break. The hikes are set up from 11 am to noon the Monday through Friday over break. It's a way to connect the two school buildings and give everyone something fun to do outside on their days off from school.

SADD Club is handing out Candy Canes on Friday to students around the building. They all have positive, uplifting holiday messages written on them hoping to further excite students for the holidays.

This week the list of Senior Superlatives came out. Everything from Class clown to best shoulder to cry on. Our very own Gus Renzin received the most likely to become president.

Many of the seniors have already committed to college as early decisions have been coming out. It is definitely an emotional and exciting time but us juniors still have quite the ways to go.

And finally this week is Spirit Week, organized by the Student Union to get students in the Holiday spirit.

Monday was cozy pajama day.

Today was dress as your favorite winter sport day.

Tomorrow is White Winter Wonderland.

Thursday is festive day.

And Friday is ugly holiday sweater day.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Public Comment

- No public comment

6. POLICIES

A. Second Read

Policies for Second Read:

1. Policy 2325 - Videoconferencing - revised
2. Policy No. 2310 - Regular Meetings
3. Policy No. 2340 - Notice of Board Meetings
4. Policy No. 2360 - Minutes

- Suzanne Volpe joined to provide clarification on the quorum requirements of the videoconferencing policy.
- After a thorough discussion, the Board agreed to approve policies, with one revision to Policy No. 2325 - remove the word "same" from Paragraph II Section C.

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education adopt policy nos. 2325, 2310, 2340 and 2360.

Motion by Silvia Robles, second by Doug Sundheim.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Doug Sundheim, Jeremy Galland, Silvia Robles, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana

B. First Read

Policies for First Read:

Policy No. 5152 Admission and Tuition of Non-Resident Students

- Tabled to revisit and will not move to second read.

7. BUSINESS

A. Business Items

1. Richard Smith, Piano Tuning and Repairs, invoice.
2. Joel Dean Foundation, Inc., contribution in the amount of \$6,000.
3. Impartial Hearing Officer, appointment for case #593309.
4. Resolution to Approve Amendment of License Agreement and Rooftop Solar Lease with 120 Lefurgy Solar LLC at Hillside.
5. Resolution to Approve License and Lease Agreement and Rooftop Solar Lease with One Mount Hope Solar LLC at FMS/HHS.
6. LHRIC Proposal for Hillside camera addition #015189.
7. Warrants.

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

Motion by Jeremy Galland, second by Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Doug Sundheim, Jeremy Galland, Silvia Robles, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana

B. Placement and/or Services for CSE and CPSE

CSE: 11806, 11279, 11890, 11778, 11915, 11127, 12292, 11014, 11850, 10462, 7668, 11514, 11261, 12269

CPSE: 12549, 12580, 12354

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

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Doug Sundheim, Jeremy Galland, Silvia Robles, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana

8. PERSONNEL (CONSENT AGENDA)

A. Appointments

1. Katelyn Pinto, current Elementary K-7 Regular Substitute teacher at Farragut Middle School covering a leave of absence until January 13, 2023, and returning to Per Diem Substitute teacher, appoint to a Special Education Regular Substitute for coverage at Farragut Middle School effective approximately March 20, 2023-June 20, 2023. MA, Step 1, \$65,574.
2. Aneesa Addarich, appoint to Per Diem Substitute teacher district-wide effective December 21, 2022 for the 2022-2023 school year.
3. Schedule B appointment requests as per attached updated spreadsheet. (Enc)
4. Lilia Martines, appoint to Student Teacher at Hillside Elementary School from January 18, 2023-March 14, 2023 and Farragut Middle School from March 15, 2023-May 10, 2023.
5. Appoint Beth Habermann to Hearing Officer Coordinator for the 2022-2022 school year at a stipend of \$1,500.

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

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Doug Sundheim, Jeremy Galland, Silvia Robles, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana

B. Amendments

1. Ross Abrams, English Language Arts teacher at Hastings High School, amend dates of leave of absence as follows; FMLA with pay July 11, 2022-October 2, 2022, Medical leave of absence October 3, 2022-February 3, 2023. His return to work date is February 6, 2023.
2. Sarah Stern, English Language Arts Regular Substitute/Leave Replacement at Hastings High School, amend appointment date to August 30, 2022-February 6, 2023.
3. Lisa Levine, Elementary K-6 teacher at Hillside Elementary School, recommend approval of salary increase as per attached for completion of National Board Certification, effective January 1, 2023.
4. Leslie Cachoian, Teacher Aide at Hillside Elementary School, amend appointment to Clerk, Column 1C, Step 3 effective December 21, 2022.

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

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Doug Sundheim, Jeremy Galland, Silvia Robles, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana

C. Leaves of Absence

1. Lisa Adipietro, Teacher Assistant at Farragut Middle School has requested a leave of absence as follows: FMLA with pay November 30, 2022-December 23, 2022. She will return to work on January 3, 2023.
2. Lisa Amster, Teacher Assistant at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL November 28, 2022-December 1, 2022. She returned to work on December 2, 2022.
3. Kathryn Concra, Music teacher at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL November 30, 2022-December 2, 2022. She returned to work on December 5, 2022.
4. Devita Cruz, Social Studies teacher at Farragut Middle School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL December 5, 2022-December 12, 2022. She returned to work on December 13, 2022.
5. Diana Lane, Elementary K-6 teacher at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL December 13, 2022-December 16, 2022. She returned to work on December 19, 2022.
6. Kathleen Purdy, Monitor at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL December 12, 2022-December 16, 2022. She returned to work on December 19, 2022.
7. Lisa Levine, Elementary K-6 teacher at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL December 12, 2022-December 16, 2022. She returned to work on December 19, 2022.
8. Stephen Sullivan, Special Education teacher at Hastings High School requests a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL December 15, 2022-December 20, 2022. He will return to work on December 21, 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 Maureen Lennon-Santana.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Doug Sundheim, Jeremy Galland, Silvia Robles, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana

9. MINUTES

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of December 6, 2022.

RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of December 6, 2022.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Doug Sundheim, Jeremy Galland, Silvia Robles, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana

10. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Second Public Comment

- No public comment

11. AGENDA REVIEW

A. Agenda Review

- Bill advised the Board that with Budget season coming up expect several Budget presentations.

12. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

A. Comments

Maureen Lennon-Santana:

- Her daughter is home for the holidays and commented how she misses Hastings and how Hasting's prepped her really well for college.

Doreen Bucher:

- Commented on how amazing the concert was last week and the reformed jazz band. Thanked the music department for an amazing show.

Jeremy Galland:

- Supports the way we have been putting administrative comments into the record. Highlighted a section of the Superintendent Report, the excerpt from HEF. Noted Hastings's relationship with HEF, SEPTA/PTSA, and other organizations.

Silvia Robles:

- Expressed appreciation to the Joel Dean Foundation for their contribution.
- She expressed her gratitude to the staff for keeping us a well-oiled machine and to members of the community.

13. ADJOURNMENT

A. Adjournment

1. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Doug Sundheim, second by Maureen Lennon-Santana.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Doug Sundheim, Jeremy Galland, Silvia Robles, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana

Melissa DeLaBarrera

Submitted by:

Melissa DeLaBarrera
District Clerk