



**Hastings-on-Hudson
Regular Board of Education Meeting
Tuesday, December 6, 2022**

Members present

Doug Sundheim
Jeremy Galland
Alexander Dal Piaz
Damaris-Lois Lang
Doreen Bucher
Maureen Lennon-Santana

1. CALL TO ORDER - 6:15 PM

A. Call to Order at 6:15 PM - it is expected that a motion will be made to move into Executive Session to discuss: 1) District and School Security; 2) A personnel matter, the employment history of a certain individual.

- Meeting called to order at 6:15 PM by Alex Dal Piaz.

Motion to move into Executive Session to discuss: 1) District and School Security; 2) A personnel matter, the employment history of a certain individual.

Motion by Jeremy Galland, second by Doug Sundheim.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Doug Sundheim, Jeremy Galland, Alexander Dal Piaz, Maureen Lennon-Santana

2. PUBLIC HEARING - 7:15 PM

A. Public Hearing on Videoconferencing Policy

This is a Public Hearing to hear input on the proposed resolution of the Board of Education to allow all members of the Board of Education to Participate in meetings via videoconference.

- No public comments

3. OPENING OF MEETING

- Public meeting opened at 7:40 pm

4. STUDENT REPORT

A. Student Report

Gus Renzin
Student Report

- With temperatures cooling down, and several major projects on the horizon, Student Union has kicked fundraising into new gear with hot chocolate Fridays. This past Friday was the first one and was thoroughly enjoyed by HHS students. The funds will go towards the talent show, ski trip, and other upcoming SU run events.
- Winter Sports have officially started! Indoor Track and Field, Boys and Girls Basketball, Wrestling, and Boys Swimming have been hard at work preparing for their respective seasons for the past few weeks, and

games are beginning. It looks like it's going to be a great season for Hastings all around.

- Project SHARE's, Thanksgiving dinner was a massive success. More than 100 students volunteered on the night of the dinner, and we served over 300 guests. It was really a testament to Hastings' resilience post-pandemic and a show of our community's commitment to service.
- Early college decisions are beginning to arrive. Several schools have already released acceptance letters, and more will continue to do so in the coming weeks. Although the process is stressful and seniors are quite nervous, we're incredibly lucky to have a guidance department that is so responsive and empathetic.
- This year's first Edition of the Buzzer came out just before Thanksgiving! Student journalists examined a broad range of topics, from staples in the school cafeteria and an analysis of abortion rights after the Supreme Court overruled Roe Vs. Wade.
- Although there has been an uptick in covid and flu cases, students are handling it really well. Although students are taking necessary precautions, anxiety levels around health are low, and we are lucky to have a fantastic nursing staff on hand to take care of us whenever we're feeling under the weather, no matter the cause.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Public Comment

- No public comment

6. PRESENTATIONS

A. Portrait of a Hastings Learner Update

William McKersie, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools, Melissa Szymanski, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, and representation from the POHL Core Team (Students: Gus Renzin, Jael Sanchez, FMS Assistant Principal Kamillah Dawkins, STEM Teacher Robin Farrell) presented the following POHL Update to the Board.

Click [here](#) to view the presentation

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

7. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

A. Update & District Highlights

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

PRIORITY DISTRICT UPDATES

1. **Portrait of a Hastings Learner (POHL)**

Members of the POHL Core Group are presenting a draft of the emerging Portrait of a Hastings Learner at tonight's BOE Meeting. As Dr. Melissa Szymanski and Core Group colleagues will explain, the next step will be a series of work sessions in January-February 2023 to develop 18-month Action Plans for each of the three major goals. We will keep the BOE and community informed as we proceed. In the meantime, we will distribute tonight's presentation widely, and it will be posted on the [dedicated page on the website for the Portrait of a Hastings Learner](#). We anticipate an upcoming edition of *The Buzz!* will feature the emerging Portrait and next steps.

2. **Health Cautions for Winter Months**

I sent a [letter today to staff and families](#) providing health cautions from the NYSDOH/NYSED for the coming winter months. Our Health Office has already sent out health guidance for the winter, but it is important that you also receive guidance from the NYSDOH and NYSED. Please review this guidance and contact your school's Health Office if you have any questions.

3. **Superintendent PTSA/SEPTA Forum – December 14, 2022**

The second Superintendent's Forum for the school year will be on December 14, 2022 from 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Stepping away from the virtual format of the past two years, we will meet in-person in the Multi-

Purpose Room at Hillside Elementary School. Please refer to the form in the *Hastings Daily* to submit questions by this Friday, December 9, 2022.

4. **Hastings Daily Going Weekly**

The *Hastings Daily* will be shifting to a weekly schedule beginning January 1, 2023. We are making this change after consultation with the BOE Communications Work Group, Leadership Team and PTSA/SEPTA leadership. We believe it is a way to optimize our communication quality by better managing the volume of notices and emails. We will review the efficacy of the change over the second half of the school year.

SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS & EVENTS

1. **Hastings Theatre Program On a Roll**

Over the course of the last few months, the Hastings Theatre Program has put on two productions: HHS Play - *The Outsiders* - October 21 & 22 and 7/8th Grade Musical - *Newsies Jr.* - November 18 & 19), both of which received rave reviews. And there's more to come...

- **Interest Meetings:** Interest meetings are being held for the 4th Grade Musical, *The Lion King KIDS*. If your child decides to participate in the cast or the crew, there's a form located in the *Hastings Daily*. Here's the direct link to the form: [The Lion King Kids Involvement Form](#). The deadline to complete the form is December 23. The dates of the show are March 9-10 at 7:00 PM. There was also a virtual tech interest meeting earlier this evening for those students interested in participating in the Tech Crew for the 6th Grade Musical, *Honk Jr.* If families have more questions about upcoming productions, they may reach out to Production Coordinator Phyllis Udice.
- **Website Updates:** The Theatre Program page on our website has recently been updated to include all upcoming production dates, director bios and behind-the-scenes videos, which will be posted after each production.

2. **Senior Sewing at Hillside - Volunteers Needed**

If you have read the latest *Hastings Happenings* and are tuned into the *Hastings Daily* announcements, you know 'Sew Can You,' a PTSA-sponsored program known as 'Senior Sewing' and a longtime Hillside tradition, has resumed this year. Susan Loveley has been helping to facilitate the program, beginning when her child was a student at Hillside. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Susan at jsjlove24@gmail.com. In addition, teachers may ask for family volunteers to assist with their visit to Sew Can You. Most third and fourth-graders have already participated. If your child's class has not yet done so, please look out for an invitation from your child's teacher.

3. **HHS Photo Club Taking Creative Reigns with Annual Photo Zine Project**

High School Photo Club members have met to begin organizing, curating, and preparing the biannual printed magazine built on photos and captions. *The Zine*, which comes from the word "magazine," follows the style of magazines with photographs put on a grid. Completely student-made, *The Zine* is a visual storytelling tool sharing Hasting's stories from the student perspective, with the details of just a single frame carrying personal and universal meaning. Photo Club Advisor and High School Photography Teacher Cory Merchant created the Photo Zine project a few years ago and ever since has been amazed at the dedication and passion of the students involved. The Photo Zine will be available to all students and staff in the coming weeks (just before Christmas break).

4. **Hudson Valley Paws for a Cause**

This local non-profit organization has recently teamed up with a class at FMS taught by Larry Cerretani. The Animal Assisted Activity Program features a three-year-old chocolate labrador/shar pei mix certified therapy dog, Harper, and her handler, Jackie. In Cerretani's first period class, students had the chance to read a current events article to Harper, who is certified in the R.E.A.D. (Reading Education Assistance Dog) program. During the read aloud, Harper listened attentively to a story about the ECHO robot in Antarctica that is helping scientists learn more about emperor penguins. Cerretani's class and the Harper-Jackie team also had the chance to walk around the school and get introduced to different staff members and students in the hallways. The team plans to meet the class every other week and is looking into opportunities to potentially expand the program. According to the organization's website, "clinical studies have proven that animals have the power to help people heal. Simply petting, touching or talking to animals can improve physical health and emotional well-being." Stay tuned for a special feature in *The Buzz!*

UPCOMING EVENTS TO NOTE

1. **Virtual IEP Night**

In connection with SEPTA, the Special Education Department will host a Virtual IEP Night **on December 8, 2022, from 6:30-7:30 pm.** to examine what families need to know in preparation for our upcoming annual

review season. The link to join was included in the Hastings Daily today.

2. National Art Honor Society's Student Charity Art Auction

The National Art Society's Student Charity Art Action will take place at the end of next week. Stay tuned for more information in *Hastings Daily*.

3. Holiday Celebrations

Please look for more information about district happenings over the next couple of weeks, including holiday celebrations, to be sent through the *Hastings Daily* and our other communications channels.

8. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Report from Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction

Melissa Szymanski, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction
Administrative Report

World Languages

As indicated in the November Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment newsletter, the World Languages department has continued curriculum inquiry work, with a focus on the interpersonal communication mode. Session activities included discussion around changes/revisions to the new standards, calibration exercises, and reflection. Calibration exercises were grounded in student work; performance assessments involving either speaking or writing. Members of the World Languages faculty took turns walking the group through the assessment, which was followed by conversation about how and why the work was either "Developing," "Meeting Expectations," or "Exceeding Expectations" based on the Quarter 1 Proficiency Target for that level. Common rubrics assisted in the collective assessment process.

Chair Council

Department Chairpersons and Administrators met together for their November Chair Council meeting. "New business" agenda items included the professional development plan and addendum, field trip protocol, college recommendations, midterms and the protocol for proposing new courses.

Computer Science and Digital Fluency

The Computer Science "Lead Learner" team met with Leslie Accardo from LHRIC, to continue their efforts to understand the new NYS Computer Science and Digital Fluency standards. The session included a review of the State's vision for the Computer Science and Digital Fluency Standards, a review of the 5 key concepts and all sub concepts included in the standards and a review of how the standards are organized. The group also unpacked the Digital Literacy standards and Impacts of Computing standards and began making connections to instruction.

Hillside Mathematics Committee

The Hillside Mathematics Committee has continued their Phase I inquiry work. The focus areas for the most recent session included an exploration of the NY State Next Generation Standards for Mathematical Content (current grade taught, grade before, and grade after), a crosswalk between the practice standards, mindset indicators and research-based beliefs and values generated from previous committee sessions and the Eureka teacher guidebook, a data dive (student work samples, local assessment data, and State assessment data), and consideration of other mathematics resources used regionally. Moving forward, the group will be inviting resource vendors in to learn more about other programs.

9. BUSINESS

A. Business Items

1. Merged Ice Hockey, Mount Pleasant Ice Cats, team overnight trip.
2. LHRIC 2022-2023 request for services agreement.
3. SWBOCES Co-Ser 555 Amendment, 2022-2023 Superintendent's Network Membership - Tri-State Consortium.
4. Memorandum of Agreement with the Hastings Teachers Association.
5. Warrants.
6. Salary Advancements for the 2022-2023 school year, corrected spreadsheet.

7. Recommendation for the disposal and write-off of Oak Charging Station (Tag # 20111084) from Hastings High School.
8. Increase Non-Resident tuition rates for the 2022-2023 school year by 4.68%.

2021-2022	2022-2023
Grades K-6, \$19,445	Grades K-6, \$20,354
Grades 7-12, \$21,702	Grades 7-12, \$22,717

9. Gillian Husovsky, Production Manager Consultant Contract - 6th Grade Musical February 2023.
10. Approve the use of Reserve for Liability Claims, to increase the budget in the amount of \$100,000 for a Special Education Settlement.
11. Stipulation of Settlement.
12. Lou Del Bianco, Make a Good Choice program for Kindergarten and First Grade at Hillside.
13. Franziska Goodman, Salary Increase 2022-2023.
14. PNWBOCES Co-Ser 512 Cross Contract, Cornell University - Legal Issues in the Workplace.

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 Maureen Lennon-Santana.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

B. Placement and/or Services for CSE and CPSE

CSE: 11733, 11405, 11374, 11900, 10591

CPSE: 12579, 12577, 12429, 12585

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 Jeremy Galland, second by Damaris-Lois Lang.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

10. PERSONNEL (CONSENT AGENDA)

A. Appointments

1. Jaime Rubino, appoint to Student Observer at Hillside Elementary School during January, 2023.
2. Updated Schedule B request spreadsheet. (Enc)
3. Kristen Carrasquillo, appoint to 1.0 FTE Special Education teacher at Hillside Elementary School, MA, Step 13, \$104,967 (to be pro-rated), effective January 3, 2023. Probationary period January 3, 2023-January 2, 2027. Tenure date January 3, 2027. Certifications held: Students with Disabilities (Grades 1-6) - Professional, Childhood Education (Grades 1-6) - Professional.
4. Jasmin Morais, appoint to Per Diem substitute teacher district wide effective January 3, 2023 for the 2022-2023 school year.
5. Appoint Hastings High School Special Education coverages effective December 1, 2022-May 22, 2023 as follows:
 - Period 1 - Maryann Heckhaus - .2 FTE
 - Period 2 - Erin Dolan - N/A
 - Period 4 - Ava Lambert - .2 FTE
 - Period 6 - Stephen Sullivan - .2 FTE
 - Period 9 - Erin Dolan - .2 FTE
 - Period 1 - Caryn Hecht - .1 FTE

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

Motion by Jeremy Galland, second by Doug Sundheim.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

B. Amendments

1. Jared Conwisar, Per Diem Substitute district wide, amend appointment to Permanent Building Substitute teacher at Hillside Elementary School effective December 7, 2022 for the 2022-2023 school year.
2. Anthony Scioscia, Per Diem Substitute district wide, amend appointment to Permanent Building Substitute teacher at Farragut Middle School effective December 12, 2022 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 Jeremy Galland, second by Doug Sundheim.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

C. Leaves of Absence

1. Jacklyn Correa, Special Education teacher at Hastings High School has requested a leave of absence as follows: Medical Leave of Absence December 1, 2022-February 21, 2023 (approximately, FMLA to follow). She will return to work on May 22, 2023.
2. Caryn Hecht, Special Education teacher at Farragut Middle School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYCSPL November 14, 2022-November 18, 2022. She returned to work on November 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 Doug Sundheim.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

11. MINUTES

A. Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of November 21, 2022.

RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of November 21, 2022.

Motion by Doreen Bucher, second by Jeremy Galland.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

12. POLICIES

A. Second Read

Policies for Second Read:

Policy 2325 - Videoconferencing - revised

Policy No. 2310 - Regular Meetings

Policy No. 2340 - Notice of Board Meetings

Policy No. 2360 - Minutes

- Tabled for the next meeting, need to clarify with Counsel the issue of a quorum and the possibility of a virtual quorum if everyone discloses their location and opens it to the public.

13. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Second Public Comment

- No public comment

14. AGENDA REVIEW

A. Agenda Review

Review topics for upcoming Board of Education Meeting:

December 20:

- Policy discussion - discuss the response from Suzanne Volpe, vote on policies
- Removed Budget discussion, moved to January 10

January 10:

- Budget Work Session
- SPED 101
- Class size (historical class size discussion)

15. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

A. Comments

- No Comments

16. ADJOURNMENT

A. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 9:26 pm

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Melissa DeLaBarrera

Submitted by:

Melissa DeLaBarrera

District Clerk