



**Hastings-on-Hudson  
Regular Board of Education Meeting  
Thursday, June 9, 2022**

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**Members present**

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

A. Call to Order at 5:00 PM - It is expected that a motion will be made to move into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing the following personnel matters: 1) The employment history of a particular person; 2) Collective Bargaining.

- Meeting called to order at 5:13 PM by Doug Sundheim

Motion to move into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing the following personnel matters: 1) The employment history of a particular person; 2) Collective Bargaining.

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

**2. PUBLIC HEARING ON SCHOOL BUDGET**

A. Public Hearing 2022-2023 School Budget

- 6:15 PM Public Hearing was opened
  - No Public Comment

**3. OPENING OF MEETING**

A. Announcements

Dr. McKersie:

- Noted the end of the year celebrations that are noted in the upcoming events and the highlighted items related to the Budget Revote.

**4. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT**

A. District Highlights

Dr. McKersie:

- Student Board Liasons for next year: Guz Renzin and Elianna Carvallho. Dr. McKersie then briefly went over the process for the selection of Student Board Liaisons.
- National Honor Society Inductees last night had 70 inductees, the largest group.
- Prom held last night at Harvest on Hastings.

- Hillside ribbon cutting.
- Unveiling of the sign.
- Melissa Szymanski also highlighted the Hillside concert.

## 5. PUBLIC COMMENT

### A. Public Comment

Samadhi Poy - 4th grader at Hillside:

- Has been noticing a lot of students throw away unopened food at lunch.
- For the past two weeks, she has been collecting the food and giving it to the Food Pantry.
- Wanted to bring it to the attention of the Board to see if this could be a district-wide effort to collect the food that is being thrown away to help the hungry.

## 6. PRESENTATIONS

### A. Curriculum Review Cycle Development

- Melissa Szymanski, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction presented the following Curriculum Review Cycle Development to the Board.

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

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

### B. Hastings Education Foundation - Presentation of Grants

Kimberly Meisner, Co-President of HEF presented the following nine (9) grants:

For Hillside:

- A Nod to The Past, A Look Towards the Future. Spearheaded by Debbie Troop, this new 9-day program from Arch For Kids will give all 4th grade students the opportunity to be architects and engineers in training, examining the growth of New York over the past 5 centuries, and working to build and create 3D replicas of buildings and homes from the times of Native Americans all the way into a future of their own imagining.
- Better Understand Fellow Citizens Around the World. Dianna Clarke will be working with The Red Trunk Project to enhance the curriculum of our second graders. As they learn about their own local communities—rural, suburban, and urban—they will now be able to explore similarities and differences with the lives of children in a more distant community--Oaxaca (Wa-ha-ca), Mexico—through a big trunk full of cultural artifacts, currency, musical instruments, videos, photos, and more.
- The Hillside Mural Project. This grant from Ross Abrams, Jenice Mateo-Toledo, Amy Cazes, and Michael LaRocco builds on the wonderful success we've had with this project at the high school and at FMS. By inviting students to brainstorm and collaborate on a new mural for Hillside, they will have the chance to engage in important conversations around celebrating diversity and creating inclusion through public spaces, in addition to getting their hands messy and seeing their collective work transform a part of their school building into something amazing.

For FMS:

- Project Lead The Way. Last year, Melissa Szymanski brought this very exciting, rigorous, and innovative science program to Hastings through a grant with HEF. The current facilitator of this course will be leaving the district, so this smaller grant will fund the training of a new teacher to facilitate it going forward.
- Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration: Broadway's Place in Mainstream Music Today. James Adamo and Jenice Mateo-Toledo are expanding on our district's celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month by bringing in the incredibly talented Andres Forero, a Tony, Grammy, and Emmy-award winning drummer and musician who has played on Broadway for In The Heights, Hamilton, and much more, as well as in music festivals and teaching programs throughout the world. His visit will provide all our middle school students a unique opportunity to become inspired and learn new perspectives on the world through music and Broadway.

For FMS and the High School:

- Programming Club Grant. The Programming Club was started by 5 students last year, with Marc Rosner their supervisor. These students worked hard to plan and demonstrate their commitment, and now they have a successful club of 30 members who meet weekly in the Science wing, learning and teaching coding and working on exciting projects together. This grant will enable them to invest in computer hardware and

software appropriate for and dedicated to this work, as the individual Chromebooks they have been using are a very rudimentary environment for programming.

For Hastings High School:

- The MiniOne Gel Electrophoresis System. Gel electrophoresis is an important biotechnology that is used in genetics labs. In AP Biology and the genetics elective, these labs are meant to allow students to compare DNA between specimens. However, the current system in place is clunky, often error-ridden, and takes the teachers a lot of pre-class time to even set up. The MiniOne system, brought in by Christina Gagliardi, will allow students to complete the set up themselves and run the labs smoothly and to completion within an 80 minute class block, enhancing their understanding of both the technology behind gel electrophoresis, and the scientific data obtained from it.

For Hillside and the High School together:

- The Sweethearts and Heroes Program. Juliann Snyder from Hillside and Jeanette Kocur from the high school are excited to bring in this highly regarded anti-bullying program focused on building empathy and compassion, and teaching our students to promote bystander empowerment through leadership roles. There is also a wonderful mentoring component to this program, which will train and empower our high school students to visit Hillside classrooms to teach and support younger students' empathy and leadership in the face of bullying.

For the DISTRICT:

- Facing History and Ourselves. Facing History and Ourselves is an organization that provides professional learning, resources, and support to educators, using history in a way that unites equity, social emotional learning, and civics. Melissa Szymanski and many key members of the Hastings faculty are excited to be launching a partnership with this organization, specifically their professional learning option: Teaching for Equity and Justice. This program will involve multiple workshops, follow-up meetings, and curricular resources for our faculty on issues including history, race, and educational equity; critical consciousness for equity-based work; building teacher efficacy and student agency, and more. Our Superintendent has partnered with this organization very successfully in the past; they have a top quality staff and a great record, and we are thrilled to be able to fund this grant in service of our districts commitment to implementing the strongest possible diversity, equity, and inclusion policies and practices.

## C. 2022-2023 Contingent Budget

Dr. McKersie:

- Introduced the contingent budget and what the ramifications would be for the district should the budget fail again.

Maureen Caraballo:

- Presented the list of reductions under the contingent budget and provided a brief overview of how the Leadership Team and Administration determined the reductions.

Melissa Szymanski:

- Highlighted the themes that are in the Professional Learning reductions.

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

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

Dr. Lang:

- Repeated to be clear, speaking for herself, the "NO" vote by Board members was for different reasons.
- Shared that when she voted no, it was a very contemplative process for her. The no vote was for redirecting resources to teacher skills and student learning.
- Wanted to make it very clear that a contingent budget is not the way for this District.
- Asked the collective Board to start these discussions early to allow the board to go through each of the line items.
- Asked the community to do their homework to understand how the board operates.

## 7. BUSINESS

## A. Business Items

1. NFL 2021 Super Bowl High School Honor Roll Grant - Youth K-6 Boys & Girls Football program.
2. The Giants Foundation 2021 Club Matching Youth Football Grant - Girls High School Flag Football 2022 Spring Pilot League.
3. U.S. OMNI & TSACG Compliance Services, Inc., services agreement reinstatement.
4. Broadway Training Center, HS Musical Footloose set rental, invoice.
5. Sheela Chari, Multicultural Book Fair: Author Visit, invoice.
6. Appoint Election Inspectors for June 21, 2022, School Budget Revote: Kathy Soderstrom as Chairperson, Brian Allen, Christopher Costello, Linda Johnson, Richard Martin, Cornelius Roach, Lisa Westerfield, David Agosto.
7. Appoint Board of Registrars for June 14, 2022, in-person registration: Kathy Soderstrom, Brian Allen, Christopher Costello and Debbie Klein.
8. 2022-2023 Professional Development Plan.
9. University at Albany, agreement.
10. Public Schools of Tarrytown Health Services, invoice.
11. Stipulation of Settlement.

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

Not Present at Vote: Doreen Bucher

## 8. PERSONNEL

### A. Appointments

1. Brian Marello, appoint to 1.0 FTE Special Education teacher at Farragut Middle School, MA Step 3, \$71,877 effective August 30, 2022. Probationary period August 30, 2022-August 29, 2026. Tenure date August 30, 2026. Certifications held: Students with Disabilities, Grades 7-12 Generalist - initial, Social Studies Grades 7-12 - initial, Social Studies Grades 5-6 extension - initial.
2. Chiara Tarricone, appoint to Student observer at Hillside Elementary School in June, 2022.
3. Jasmin Morais, appoint to Student teacher at Hillside Elementary School September 7, 2022-November 1, 2022 and Farragut Middle School November 2, 2022-December 23, 2022.
4. Julie Sullivan, appoint to 1.0 FTE English as a New Language teacher at Farragut Middle School, MA, Step 4, \$75,038, effective August 30, 2022. Probationary period August 30, 2022-August 29, 2026. Tenure date August 30, 2026. Certification held: English to Speakers of Other Languages-Initial.

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

Not Present at Vote: Doreen Bucher

### B. Amendment

1. Elizabeth Zuch, School Psychologist, amend her appointment as .8 FTE Per Diem substitute at Hillside Elementary School, DR Step 18, \$136,170 (pro-rated) through the end of the 2021-2022 school year.
2. Joseph Lopez, Clerical Teacher Aide at Farragut Middle School, amend appointment from 10 month to 12 month effective July 1, 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

Not Present at Vote: Doreen Bucher

### C. Retirement

1. Susan Day, Secretary to the Principal, Hillside Elementary School, has provided notification of resignation for the purpose of retirement effective August 19, 2022.

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

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

Not Present at Vote: Doreen Bucher

#### D. Resignation

1. Walterson Martins Filho, Teacher Aide at Farragut Middle School has provided notice of resignation at the end of the 2021-2022 school year.

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

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

Not Present at Vote: Doreen Bucher

#### E. Leaves of Absence

1. Joanna Barolas, Teacher Aide at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL May 23, 2022-May 26, 2022. She returned to work on May 31, 2022.
2. Adriana Beaudreault, Data Coordinator District Wide has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL May 17, 2022-May 20, 2022. She returned to work on May 23, 2022.
3. Larry Cerretani, Special Education teacher at Farragut Middle School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL May 18, 2022-May 20, 2022. He returned to work on May 23, 2022.
4. Deborah D'Antona, Teacher Aide at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL May 11, 2022-May 20, 2022. She returned to work on May 23, 2022.
5. Robin Farrell, Elementary K-6 teacher at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL May 12, 2022-May 17, 2022. She returned to work on May 18, 2022.
6. Dennis Kiely, Physical Education teacher at Hastings High School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL May 6, 2022-May 12, 2022. He returned to work on May 13, 2022.
7. Lisa Levine, Elementary K-6 teacher at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL May 31, 2022-June 2, 2022. She returned to work on June 3, 2022.
8. Alison McArdle, Speech and Language Pathologist has requested a leave of absence as follows: FMLA without pay for August 30, 2022-June 30, 2023. She will return for the 2023-2024 school year.
9. Jocelyn Perez, School Counselor at Farragut Middle School has amended her leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL May 17, 2022-May 18, 2022 (2 additional days). She returned to work on May 19, 2022.
10. Sharon Quigley, School Counselor at Hastings High School has requested a leave of absence as follows: May 25, 2022-May 26, 2022. She returned to work on May 31, 2022.
11. Melissa Szymanski, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL May 25, 2022-May 26, 2022. She returned to work on May 31, 2022.
12. Linda Tam, Elementary K-6 teacher at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL May 6, 2022-May 17, 2022. She returned to work on May 18, 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

Not Present at Vote: Doreen Bucher

## 9. MINUTES

### A. Approval of Minutes

- Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of May 23, 2022 and the Special Meetings of May 24, 2022 and May 26, 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 23, 2022 and the Special Meetings of May 24, 2022 and May 26, 2022.

Motion by Alexander Dal Piaz, second by Alison Andrus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Not Present at Vote: Doreen Bucher

## **10. NEW BUSINESS**

### A. Discussion of Possible 10-Minute Change to Hillside Start and Time

Dr. McKersie:

- Introduced Michael LaRocco to present their idea on an earlier start time for the upcoming school year.

Michael LaRocco:

- Shared teacher's time to collaborate as a group - teachers currently have 15 minutes before and 15 minutes after school which doesn't allow for much time to collaborate, coming into the fall they want to make sure they are providing time to the teachers to collaborate, proposing a shift of 10 minutes. A 10-minute earlier start, students would arrive at 7:40 instead of 7:50, and instruction to begin at 8:20 instead of 8:30.

Melissa Szymanski:

- Added the reasoning for allowing for more collaborative time for planning. For the faculty, there would be no shift in start times. Would also eliminate the need for sub-coverage in many cases.

Dr. McKersie:

- Clarified that the start time as noted in the contract for teachers can be anywhere between 8 and 8:30 therefore there is no change to the start time for the teachers.

## **11. POLICIES**

### A. Second Read

Policy for Second Read:

- Policy 2120.2 Voting

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education adopt Policy 2120.2.

Motion by Jeremy Galland, second by Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Not Present at Vote: Doreen Bucher

## **12. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT**

### A. Second Public Comment

- No public comment

## **13. AGENDA REVIEW**

### A. Agenda Review

Review topics for upcoming Board of Education Meeting

Dr. McKersie:

- June 22nd final BOE Meeting of the Year - there will be an Executive Session on the Public Safety, Jason Swart will be present for the Executive Session and will have Retirement Recognition, State of the District End of the Year Report, and Future Steps.
- July 14th will be the Annual Organizational Meeting, followed by a Regular Meeting of the board, we will also need to have an Executive Session to discuss the unrepresented employee raises.
- BOE Meeting dates will be shifted to Tuesday nights for the 2022-2023 School Year.

## **14. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS**

## A. Comments

Dr. Lang:

- Expressed that she is going to miss Alison very much. Alison helped guide her, liked her gentleness and firmness. Wants the community to know she was instrumental in the communication piece.

Alison Andrus:

- Commented on the budget from 1998-2007 we didn't have an increase less than 5.94. It actually went up to 11.13 on year. So for those years, the increases were quite large.
- It is difficult but feels good about the fact that we are taking care of our buildings and making classes the right size.
- Explained the Professional Learning within the district, while there is occasional tech training, what the district has tried to do is hire people who are much more hands-on such as Gravity Goldberg, who has been with the elementary school for several years.
- She works not just in a big group, she is with people one on one in classrooms, collaborating and giving feedback, so the work we are paying for is really sustained meaningful work.

## 15. ADJOURNMENT

### A. Adjournment

- Motion to move into Executive Session to discuss Collective Bargaining.

Motion to move into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing collective bargaining.

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

Not Present at Vote: Doreen Bucher

*Melissa DeLaBarrera*

**Submitted by:**

**Melissa DeLaBarrera**

**District Clerk**