



**Hastings-on-Hudson  
Regular Board of Education Meeting  
Wednesday, May 4, 2022**

---

**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 6:00 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) Tenure Recommendations; 2) The employment history of a particular person.

- Called to order at 6:11 PM by Doug Sundheim, President

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

Motion by Alison Andrus, 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

- Prior to moving the Public Hearing Maureen Caraballo said a few words to honor and acknowledge the life of Lois Vigada a long-time employee who recently passed away. She shared some words on the impact she had on the district and expressed what a tremendous loss this is for all that work here. A moment of silence was held in honor of Lois.

**2. PUBLIC HEARING ON SCHOOL BUDGET**

A. Public Hearing 2022-2023 School Budget

- Public Hearing opened at 7:42 PM
- No public present to make comments

**3. OPENING OF PUBLIC MEETING**

A. Appointment

1. Ellen Driscoll, appoint to .6 Latin language regular substitute/leave replacement at Hastings High School. MA, Step 11, \$97,105 (to be pro-rated) effective August 30, 2022 for the 2022-2023 school year. Certification held Latin 7-12 - Professional, Latin 5-6 extension - Professional.

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

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

#### 4. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

##### A. District Highlights

Dr. McKersie:

- Proposed budget up for vote on May 17th great work by members of the Board, Communications Workgroup, PTSA/SEPTA, and Interim Communications associate, Budget Newsletter will be going out Friday or Monday the latest
- Budget Forum thanks to PTSA/SEPTA will be held in the Library and live-streamed on May 11th
- The budget FAQ has been revised and will be updated on the website
- Some members of the board will meet virtually tomorrow with the lead external partner for the Portrait of a Hastings Learner and hopefully, that appointment will go through at the end of May
- Passion Project: Our advanced French and Spanish students presented their projects in either Spanish or French language with a translator for those who needed translation, it was remarkable
- Seven HHS juniors have been named National Merit Commended Scholars by the College Board: Emilia Anderson, Catherine Cho, Isabella DePreist-Sullivan, Emila Franco, Noa Hart, Liam Painter, Gus Renzin
- Senior Internships start on May 16th
- Hillside Nature Walks will begin again after a two-year hiatus
- Upcoming FMS Concerts: 5th & 6th grade Spring Concert on May 10th and 7th & 8th grade Spring Concert on May 12th
- Last night the village trustees voted to support the Mayor's Climate Youth Council. Mia Christie and Aynsley Zamore, sophomores have joined with the mayor to launch this initiative. Council will be comprised of Hastings High School Students who will work on climate improvement projects.
- Poetry Challenge: 10 wonderful and diverse poems will be put out digitally on Friday
- Next week HASP has it's Graduation

##### B. Covid 19 Update

Dr. McKersie:

- Rates up to about 10-11 a day
- Wearing a mask to support those who wish to wear them
- Still taking COVID very seriously and continuing with our mitigating factors, masks remain optional
- The main thing is to stay home if you are not feeling well
- Flu has been a larger issue the past few weeks

#### 5. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

##### A. Report from Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction

Melissa Szymanski:

- The April Chair Council session focused on hearing from the chairpersons about their perceptions of the recent Tri-State Consortium visit to Hastings, finalizing review of the Curriculum Review Cycle, and designing a unified, articulated job description for the chairperson role. Thus far, there is alignment on expectations related to communication, collaboration, and managerial tasks. The May Chair Council session will focus on job-related indicators related to curriculum.
- The most recent Diversity Committee session included (a) a review of State and local indicators associated with year one of the district's diversity, equity and inclusion plan, (b) a brief recap of the purpose and agenda of the last few committee sessions, (c) ongoing work on the teacher toolkit, (d) an update on diversity recruitment efforts, (e) an update on the PTSA Internal Working Group's (IWG) philosophy statement on Incidents of Bias, and (f) an update on the Facing History and Ourselves HEF grant.
- High school administrators, social studies department chairperson Greg Smith, Jeanette Kocur and I have been exploring the opportunity for Hastings High School students to be eligible for the new New York State Seal of Civics Readiness. Just prior to the break, we met together to investigate the requirements associated with this option in order to begin the application process for the district. Our next meeting will take place tomorrow.
- We have entered our final STAR Renaissance academic diagnostic screening window of the school year for students in grades K-8, which will close on May 31. For two weeks following the screening window, our educators will have the opportunity to examine student score reports before the parent reports are released.
- The Panorama SEL diagnostic screening window opened recently and will close on May 20. This survey will be taken by students across grades K-12.

- At our recent K-12 Mathematics Committee Session, teachers participated in a fishbowl reflection of our collaborative lesson study process. We debriefed the AB Calculus lesson taught by Dr. Stephens with our discussion grounded by the data that faculty observers collected during the observation process. Each observer used a different lens; interventionist, response to challenge and struggle, mathematical mindset, and questioning and discussion. The Hastings rubric helped our process of unpacking the lesson and student response to it, particularly in the areas of challenge and struggle and the nature of mathematics.
- With the retirement of Dr. Helen Pashley, we issued an RFP to identify a new science consultant to partner with the district in support of continued alignment efforts. Melissa Shandroff and I ultimately identified Liz Mirra as the successful candidate. Professional learning with Liz began last week. Living environment teachers worked with Liz last Monday and, through Melissa Shandroff, reported that it was incredibly helpful. Extensive positive feedback came from the elementary school teachers, who began working with her last Tuesday. Robin Farrell, Hillside STEAM teacher reported that teachers said it was the best professional development of the year. They were able to create assessments aligned to the new standards and pacing calendars that could immediately be used. It was shared that Liz is a master facilitator, a strong listener, and incredibly knowledgeable, including knowledge of the standards and what could be happening in the classroom to support them. Finally, Robin reported that teachers felt “burnt” at the end of the day, though in a good way.

## B. Report from Business Official

Maureen Caraballo:

- Hillside will be opening by the end of the month, we are in the final stages of the required inspections that need to take place in order to gain the certificate of occupancy for the space
- MS Auditorium: We will have use of the space in June will inform the board once we have a date and will plan opening ceremonies
- Revisiting shifts that will happen in Hillside, other spaces that need to be reconfigured to come back into compliance
- Working with architects on a 5-year master plan, hoping to make a recommendation at the upcoming board meeting.
- At last count 14 people moving classrooms this year
- Called to the Boards attention the drainage work related to the damage from Hurricane Ida. Working with the village and FEMA, connected to this is item number 11 in business items. Additional site drainage at Hillside.
- Will be putting district safety plan on District Website - required every year to be put on the website for 30 days. Will go on either Monday or Tuesday of next week. There will be a public hearing in June on the safety plan.

## 6. STUDENT REPORT

### A. Student Report

Sabine Hinkaty:

- Varsity baseball was 4 & 0 last week
- Softball team is currently 8 & 4 and is ranked 4th in their class
- Softball team senior game is set to happen on May 12
- Senior internships start the week after next, some examples of internships include teaching assistant at Hillside, Blogs for food reviews, volunteering, a clothing sale, and editing the HS literary magazine
- College bound seniors have made their final decisions
- The Student Union is helping plan the School Olympics on May 18

Gus Renzin:

- Was in a couple of Ms. Vigada's classes in elementary school she was incredible and so kind, will be missed
- Passion Project was an incredible event, varying projects from Spanish Unemployment research to cooking, movie trailers, and musical performances
- The girls track team won the Croton relays, quite a few PR's
- For the first time the school got together to celebrate all the Spring Teams in a Spring Pep rally last Friday
- Sophomore Like Cizweski was nominated for the low HUD's baseball player of the week, came in 2nd place

## 7. PUBLIC COMMENT

### A. Public Comment

- No public comment

## 8. BUSINESS

### A. Business Items

1. Budget Transfer.
2. Approve the use of tax certiorari reserve to increase budget in the amount of \$51,496.14.
3. Resolution appointing Dr. Andrew Levin as a School District Medical Consultant.
4. Stipulation of Settlement.
5. Open Systems Metro, installation and labor of new blue strobe lights for the district, quote.
6. Scarsdale Public Schools, Contract for Health Services.
7. Revenue report for March 2022.
8. Expenditure report for March 2022.
9. Impartial Hearing Officer, appointment for case #572268.
10. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education does hereby move to approve the following:  
WHEREAS, the Ardsley Union Free School District ("Ardsley") has made available to public school districts located in Westchester County its Student Out-of-District and Summer Transportation through a provision in the bid specifications permitting "piggybacking" as well as a resolution of the Ardsley Board of Education authorizing participation in the Student Out-of-District and Summer Transportation on the same terms and conditions as the contract with Ardsley; and  
WHEREAS, said transportation contract was bid in accordance with Education Law Section 305(14);  
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Hastings on Hudson Union Free School District determines that the contract cost for the Student Out-of-District and Summer Transportation is appropriate and will result in cost savings to the District; and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education requests authorization from Ardsley to piggyback onto Ardsley's Student Out-of-District and Summer Transportation Contract with Royal Coach for the 2022-2023 school year on the same terms and conditions as the contract with Ardsley; and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the Board President to execute a contract with Royal Coach as well as any documents and forms required by the New York State Education Department to facilitate approval of the contract.
11. Whitestone Associates Engineering & Geology NY, PLLC, Hillside Elementary School Improvements, revised proposal.
12. Campanella Fence, barrier gate at new Hillside entrance, proposal.
13. Approve Hastings Administrators Agreement.
14. 2020-2021 Internal Audit Report and District Responses.

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 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. 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:

CSE: 11865, 12251, 11817

CPSE: 12375, 12077, 12377

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 Damaris-Lois Lang.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

## 9. PERSONNEL

### A. Appointments

1. Maria Rafaela Pimentel Ramos, appoint to Cleaner, Step 1, \$44,725 effective May 5, 2022.

2. Isaiah Blum, appoint to per diem substitute teacher at Farragut Middle School effective upon verification of NYSED fingerprint clearance.

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

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. Amendments

1. Kelly Cavallo, Elementary K-6 regular substitute/leave replacement at Hillside Elementary School, amend appointment salary with current teacher contract. MA, Step 2, \$68,733 effective August 30, 2022 for the 2022-2023 school year.
2. Kamillah Dawkins, Assistant Principal at Farragut Middle School, amend appointment salary due to approved HAA contract, MS AP Step 7, \$140,163 effective July 1, 2022.
3. Michele Keefe, Office Assistant at Hillside Elementary School, amend appointment from 10-month Office Assistant to 11-month Office Assistant effective July 1, 2022.

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

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. Marisa Barbara, Elementary K-6 teacher at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL April 7, 2022-April 8, 2022. She returned to work on April 19, 2022.
2. Gina Bartolini, Math teacher at Farragut Middle School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL April 5, 2022-April 8, 2022. She returned to work on April 19, 2022.
3. Devita Cruz, Social Studies teacher at Farragut Middle School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL January 24, 2022-January 28, 2022. She returned to work on January 31, 2022.
4. Joseph Epstein, Special Education teacher at Farragut Middle School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL April 19, 2022-April 22, 2022. He returned to work on April 25, 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. Benjamin Glassman, English Language Arts teacher at Hastings High School has provided notification of resignation effective June 24, 2022.

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, Doreen Bucher

## 10. MINUTES

## A. Approval of Minutes

- Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of April 19, 2022.

RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of April 19, 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

## 11. POLICIES

### A. First Read

- Alex gave a brief overview of the policy being presented for first read.
- Dr. Lang added that counsel provided some more legal clarification to the policy.

Policy for First Read:

- Policy 2120.2 Voting

## 12. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Proposed 2022-2023 BOE Meetings - First Review

Dr. McKersie gave a brief overview of the proposed Board of Education Tuesday night meetings and the reasoning for the switch.

Board discussed the possibility of adding Budget Work sessions and introducing them in the fall with more intense budget sessions in the spring.

Dr. McKersie suggested reviewing the recommended BOE meeting topics in advance and having one meeting a month have no presentations, etc. just items that need to be voted on to allow for more time for the board to work and focus on budget planning.

Dr. Lang suggested utilizing the Finance Committee meeting as a way for all Board members to have a work session around the budget.

## 13. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT

### A. Second Public Comment

- No public comment

## 14. AGENDA REVIEW

### A. Agenda Review

- Dr. McKersie reviewed the agenda topics for the next three meetings.

## 15. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

### A. Comments

Doreen Bucher:

- Teacher appreciation week, acknowledged 3 teachers on the board and our teachers.
- Petition going around by some people in the town to ban gas leaf blowers. Two students dealing with the Mayor. Irvington school district has banned gas leaf blowers and only have electric. Curious if we could look into that for our schools. Electric is so much quieter for the students. If the town bans it we will have to but will be healthier for the students in terms of air they breathe and noise.

Dr. Lang:

- Regardless of what petitions are going on would wish that we don't mix the two together. Would rather we decide what we want to do as a district. Anything put on as a political platform becomes messy, would rather steer clear of what the village does and make the choices based on what we feel is best for our students.

## 16. ADJOURNMENT

A. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Damaris-Lois Lang, 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

*Melissa DeLaBarrera*

**Submitted by:**

**Melissa DeLaBarrera**

**District Clerk**