



**Hastings-on-Hudson
Regular Board of Education Meeting
Monday, April 4, 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 6:15 PM - It is expected that a motion will be made to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Collective Bargaining.

- Meeting called to order by Doug Sundheim at 6:36 PM

Motion to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Collective Bargaining.

Motion by Alison Andrus, second by Doreen Bucher.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Not Present at Vote: Damaris-Lois Lang

- Public portion of meeting began at 7:44 PM

2. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

A. District Highlights

Dr. McKersie:

- Urges the community to find and read his Friday update letter where he highlights the amazing accomplishments of the Science Research Program, featuring 14 students. One student, Charlotte Rubin, is heading to the national level.
- This weekend some 60 elementary, middle, and HS students performed at the New York State School Music Association Festival.
- PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Support Program) is up and running again at the Middle School.
- Boys Varsity Basketball team and Coach Bob DelleBovi gain major recognition for a Sportsmanship Award.
- This is National Poetry Month, has put a poetry challenge out to the community approved by the English chair.
- Today was a day of solidarity organized by the HTA. Staff wore HTA shirts on the solidarity day in honor of the Memphis sanitation workers' strike.

B. Covid 19 Update

Dr. McKersie:

- Fortunately, we are running zeros. In Westchester and particularly in Hastings we are doing very well.
- We have continued distributing tests, last week we sent out 7000 test kits.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Report from Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction

Melissa Szymanski:

- K-12 Mathematics Committee: Lesson Study

Using a Mathematical Mindset Rubric to anchor outcomes for students, members of the K-12 Mathematics Committee began a lesson study process. The first of a series of job-embedded lesson study sessions happened on Thursday. Greg Stephens, Mathematics Department Chairperson, volunteered to host within his AB Calculus class and was joined by 2 high school mathematics teachers, a teacher from the elementary school, and me. One teacher remarked about how she had never had the opportunity to observe one of her colleagues teach before. Another remarked about the culture of the classroom, wondering how she might be able to replicate the engagement of students and their willingness to take risks and make mistakes. The next mathematics committee session will be dedicated to debriefing the lesson, with discussion grounded in student work and concrete observations.

- Proposed English Electives

Gerard Marciano, HHS English teacher, will be retiring from the district at the end of the year. Historically, he has taught 2 electives: Theatre Arts and 60s Culture. We are interested in shifting these electives to the two electives outlined below instead. The first, Building a Better Bookshelf: Literacy in the 21st Century has developed from discussions with Jenice Mateo-Toledo about opportunities to enhance access to culturally responsive texts. This class is also intended to elevate student choice and voice in what they are reading. The second, Speak for Yourself: The Art of Communication will support students with the practical skill of communication, including public speaking. No vote is required for these proposed electives, however we wanted to be sure to notify the Board. The recommended shift in these electives has no budgetary or FTE implications.

- Proposed Electives:

- *Building a Better Bookshelf: Literacy in the 21st Century (Grades 10-12)- One semester - ½ Unit*

In this course, students will discuss what it means to be well read in the context of our time, and with the help of their teacher, they will develop a syllabus based on the idea of "literary diversity": texts representing a wide range of literary genres, written in a variety of locations within and outside this country and across and historical periods, presenting a diverse set of authors, characters, and experiences.

- *Speak for Yourself: The Art of Communication (Grades 10-12) - One Semester - ½ Unit*

Having the ability to communicate well comes in various forms these days; whether it's engaging in dialog via the comment section of a website or creating a long-form podcast, one commonality remains: the necessity for coherent, cogent presentation. In this course, we'll study the art of speaking well, speaking with confidence and speaking so others listen and want to engage with our ideas. To do this, traditional speeches, TedTalks, podcasts and social media posts will serve as our textbook. No experience required; the desire to grow and to work encouraged.

B. Report from Business Official

Maureen Caraballo:

- Highlighted item #5 under Business Items. Which is a proposal for stormwater drainage management at Hillside with local engineer Ray Hyland.
- This came up as a result of Hurricane Ida. Maureen has been working with the Village, as well as engineers and architects to come up with a feasible option that is being presented in the proposal.

4. STUDENT REPORT

A. Student Report

The following student report was submitted by Sabine Hinkaty and Gus Renzin and read by Doug Sundheim:

Unfortunately, we could not be here tonight, but we would like to provide some updates as high schoolers look forward to break this week.

- Many seniors will be spending their spring break traveling to college admitted students days, in the hopes it will help them decide on the school they want to attend in the fall.
- Local scholarships for seniors were due this past Friday. The seniors who submitted applications for scholarships spend a large portion of last week perfecting their submissions.
- The spring sports teams started having games this past week! Varsity softball is 2-0 so far, and pitcher Catie Cho threw a no-hitter in their season-opener against Alexander Hamilton. Sophomore Luna Israel from

varsity softball and freshman Jackson Acree from varsity baseball both hit home runs for their respective teams during their games on Thursday.

- The Badminton Tournament was a lot of fun for all those involved! Juniors Luca Forrest and Julien Amsellem won the first place prize, and seniors Stella Stephens and Ford Zamore came in second place. There were about 25 teams, and each person paid \$5 to participate. The money raised is going to the Student Union.
- The Student Union recently discussed possible activities for this year's Olympics, which are happening in May right after AP exams are over.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Public Comment

- No public comment

6. PRESENTATIONS

A. Athletics Update

Andrew Wendol, Director of Health, Physical Education & Athletics presented the following Athletics Update to the Board:

[Click here to view the Hastings Athletics Spring 2022 Update presentation slides](#)

[Click here to view the Hastings Athletics Spring 2022 Update presentation video](#)

B. Budget Review

William McKersie, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools and Maureen Caraballo, Business Official presented the following Budget Review to the Board:

[Click here to view the Budget Review Presentation slides](#)

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

Dr. Lang:

- Thanked the leadership team for the clarity and transparency, it has been very helpful.
- As a faculty member, teacher, and administrator at the same time, she highly values and cherishes public education respects and appreciates the hard work of the administration.
- The presentation helped in understanding the cost-saving measures for the Assistant Director and more importantly the promise of not only continued trajectory and enriching all the programs.
- Knows each individual person, even Board members, even though they think differently - at the heart of it want to support our students.

Alison Andrus:

- In regard to the SPED concerns regarding the position, the ICT-certified teacher is still full-time in the classroom.
- Teacher Assistant's time is more focused work with students, positive changes in their duties.
- Wanted to remind people regarding the Bond, it was noted how behind we were on spending per student. Many SPED spaces were not up to the mandated size until the bond was passed, more space now.
- So many benefits come to the district through the bond.

Doreen Bucher:

- Added in addition to all the additions in the bond there were things that needed to be done, including boiler and roof.

Alex Dal Piaz:

- As comparable as our district is to Irvington, number of students, and substantial equivalency between what we offer, we operate with 25% lower budget.
- Likes the idea of the local internal program review and having a support structure within SPED so that we are spending strategically.

Jeremy Galland:

- Presentations are right on and very helpful. Very tough budget.
- The community has a very simple binary decision, drivers are well explained.
- Benefits and salaries are 78% of our budget.

- Pushes back on the Board not developing a budget.

Silvia Robles:

- We are a high-performing district retaining that status requires investment.
- As far as SPED services, that's an obligation and what we need to do in order maximize the potential of all students.
- From her perspective doesn't know what we can do when all we want to offer costs money. Most music, art, athletic offerings, etc. cost money.
- In previous years we have taken things away but had to bring them back due to community outcry.

Doug Sundheim:

- The level of clarity and conviction for the budget you put together speaks volumes to the level of critical thought.
- Portrait of a Learner, when it comes down to it it's hard to set priorities as a community, commends the administration for taking that on.
- Very sensitive to what is added and cut. These programs cost money. We have to be really careful about what we put in and what we take out.
- Motivated by the 3-year numbers.
- Publicly commended Maureen.

7. BUSINESS

A. Business Items

1. Lou DelBianco, Live Show at Hillside - "Around the World", invoice.
2. Approve a budget adjustment to increase the General Fund Budget \$30,977.17 for the ESSER/GEER Funding.
3. LHRIC, Installment Purchase Agreement.
4. Second Amendment to Triton Construction Manager.
5. Ray Hyland, Stormwater Engineering Services, proposal.
6. Change Order No. G2, W.J. Northridge Construction Corp.
7. Change Order No. G3, W.J. Northridge Construction Corp.
8. Brown Coach Charter, contract.
9. Change Order No. 01-97, Red River.
10. John Barry, playing acoustic and electric guitar in HS musical Footloose, invoice.
11. Justin Fischer, playing keyboards and conducting in HS musical Footloose, invoice.
12. Russ Nyberg, playing drums and percussion in HS musical Footloose, invoice.
13. Mike Rubino, playing reeds in HS musical Footloose, invoice.
14. Budget Transfer.
15. A Plus Tutoring, contract.

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, 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: 11062, 11876

CPSE: 12221, 12220

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 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

8. PERSONNEL

A. Appointments

1. Kelly Cavallo, appoint to 1.0 FTE Elementary K-6 leave replacement at Hillside Elementary School for the 2022-2023 School Year. MA, Step 2. Certification held: Childhood Education (Grades 1-6).
2. Alyssa Scarpelli, appoint to School Monitor at Farragut Middle School effective April 5, 2022.
3. Denia Freiberg, amend her appointment as Permanent Building substitute teacher at Hillside Elementary School to March 9, 2022-April 1, 2022.
4. Ashley Brown, appoint to Student Observer at Hillside Elementary School for approximately 5 hours in April 2022.
5. Updated Schedule B appointment requests as per attached spreadsheet. (Enc)

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

Motion by Alexander Dal Piaz, 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

B. Leaves of Absence

1. Kristen Calle, English as a New Language teacher at Hillside Elementary School has amended her leave of absence as follows: FMLA with pay March 11, 2022-April 1, 2022. Her return to work date is April 4, 2022.
2. Suekhee Choi, Teacher Aide at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL March 10, 2022-March 18, 2022. She returned to work on March 21, 2022.
3. Elyssa Sperber-Bloom, Psychologist at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: FMLA with pay February 21, 2022-April 18, 2022, FMLA without pay April 19, 2022-May 13, 2022, Parental Leave May 16, 2022-May 31, 2022. Her return to work date is June 1, 2022.
4. Lori Mackay, Speech Pathologist at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL March 24, 2022-March 30, 2022. She returned to work on March 31, 2022.
5. Mikhail Garcia, Cleaner at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL January 3, 2022-January 7, 2022. He returned to work on January 10, 2022.
6. Lior Fishman, Speech and Language Pathologist at Hillside Elementary School/Farragut Middle School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL March 22, 2022-March 28, 2022. She returned to work on March 29, 2022.

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the following leaves of absence.

Motion by Alexander Dal Piaz, 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

9. MINUTES

A. Approval of Minutes

- Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of March 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 March 21, 2022.

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, Doreen Bucher

10. POLICIES

A. First Read

Alex Dal Piaz:

- Briefly explained the policies being presented for first read and the policies the committee is recommending to rescind and have those philosophies shared elsewhere instead of a policy.
- With regard to Policy 8505, he noted that this needed to be addressed because there are numerous families who have overdue balances.

Policies for First Read:

Policy 8505 - "Charging" School Meals and Prohibition Against Shaming
Policy 2210 - Annual Organizational Meeting

Policies Recommended for Rescission Memo:

Policy No. 2112 - Principles for School Board Members
Policy No. 2240 - Superintendent-Board of Education Relations

11. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2021-2022 School Calendar Adjustment

The Board briefly Board discussed the recommended Adjustment to Emergency Closure Days for the 2021-2022 school year and agreed to table it for the next meeting.

12. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Second Public Comment

- No public comment.

13. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

A. Comments

Doreen Bucher:

- The other day at approximately 1 pm she received an email from her daughter on a gmail account that her friend created for her. She is concerned as to how and why she was able to create a gmail account at school, during class time. Raised the issue of computers in the classroom and how their usage is being monitored.

Dr. Lang:

- Publicly recognized that parents are very happy with the after 3 pm extra school time kids are having - it has been very helpful.

14. ADJOURNMENT

A. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Damaris-Lois Lang, 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

Melissa DeLaBarrera

Submitted by:

Melissa DeLaBarrera

District Clerk