



**Hastings-on-Hudson
Regular Board of Education Meeting
Tuesday, April 19, 2022**

Members present

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

1. OPENING OF MEETING

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: 1. Collective Bargaining; 2. Personnel Matter regarding Early Retirement; 3. Personnel Matter regarding Farragut Middle School Assistant Principal candidate.

- Meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM by Doug Sundheim, President

Members Present: Doug Sundheim, Alison Andrus, Jeremy Galland, Alex Dal Piaz, Silvia Robles

Motion to move into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing: 1. Collective Bargaining; 2. Personnel Matter regarding Early Retirement;
3. Personnel Matter regarding Farragut Middle School Assistant Principal candidate.

Motion by Alison Andrus, second by Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

- Public session opened at 7:34 PM

C. Appointment

1. Kamillah Dawkins, appoint to Assistant Principal, Farragut Middle School effective July 1, 2022. MS AP, Step * Salary *. Probationary Period July 1, 2022-June 30, 2026. Tenure Date July 1, 2026. Certifications held: School Building Leader-Professional, Social Studies - (Grades 7-12)-Professional. (Enc)

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

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

2. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

A. District Highlights

Dr. McKersie:

- Noted that it is a signature moment for Hastings to have Ms. Dawkins's talent. Over 90 candidates applied for the position, through a very thorough and competitive process. Enthused to have someone of her caliber

want to work in Hastings.

- Family University will begin tomorrow from 6-9 PM it will be virtual.
- All this week Hillside Elementary students are celebrating Earth Week with a variety of activities finding ways to be good citizens of the planet.
- About 50 Spanish and French level 5 students will be presenting their Passion Projects to level 2 students, family faculty, and the community next Thursday night.
- High School musical footloose coming up this weekend, with performances on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.
- High School AP Art Show will be held Wednesday in Lloyd library.
- The high school's Academic Challenge Team will be hosting the Westchester Regional Competition here next Saturday.
- High School Spanish Teacher Steven Lopez will be presenting at the Powerful Educators Spring Conference on Saturday. Mr. Lopez will use a novel that he's written as an example of work.
- The Poetry Challenge deadline will be extended to the end of the month. Poems will be shared digitally in early May.
- Interviewed three potential candidates to be the partner for the Portrait of a Hastings Graduate/Learner. More information will be provided to the Board as it will be a Board choice.

B. Covid 19 Update

Dr. McKersie:

- Daily counts continue- today's count stretches over 11 days, we are up to about 17 or 19.
- Still doing much better than areas around us, certain areas reinstating mask mandates.
- Made it clear that the NYS Dept. of Ed and Westchester Dept. of Health have given no indication of changing any of our procedures or policies. Masks remain optional.
- As of late March we have reopened schools for visitors in a planned way and having in-person meetings, noted there are times virtual meetings work just as well as in person, those can be a way of convenience for families.

3. STUDENT REPORT

A. Student Report

Sabine Hinkaty:

- During the break many seniors visited colleges; many universities held admitted student's days with the hopes of influencing students to enroll.
- For Seniors internship forms are due this Friday. After that everything will have their internship plans in place.
- Pep Rally this Friday, April 22nd, in celebration of the Spring Sports Teams.
- The softball team will be having their Senior Day on Friday at Hillside Field. A ceremony will be held prior to the game. The game starts at 4:30 PM.
- Level 5 Language students will present their Passion Projects at the exhibition next Thursday, April 28th.
- AP exams coming up and anxiety around that is starting to build.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Public Comment

Nikki Weinstein:

- Speaking on behalf of more than 70 parents concerned about the 5th grade for next year being reduced by one section - spoke in favor of smaller class sizes and adding a 6th section to the grade. Noting that statistically smaller class sizes are associated with better academic and social-emotional outcomes and that in an overburdened classroom, attention goes to the neediest students.

5. BUSINESS

A. Adoption of the 2022-2023 School Budget

Resolved, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education adopts the 2022-2023 budget.

The Board of Education approves that the District Clerk place the following proposition on the voting machine for the Annual Meeting on May 17, 2022:

"Shall the Board of Education of the Hastings on Hudson Union Free School District, Town of Greenburgh, NY, be authorized to expend the sums set forth in the 2022-2023 Annual Budget in the total amount of \$55,821,718 and to levy the necessary tax therefore?"

Discussion:

Jeremy Galland:

- Expressed his concern that the budget is still larger than he is comfortable supporting.
- The proposal that our Board is about to send to our community to vote on is going from \$52 million to a little bit under \$56 million.
- Believes it breaks the expected trust of our residents, some who have kids, some who don't have kids, everybody who supports our schools.

Alex Dal Piaz:

- When you look at the 4 million, we are very clear that two-thirds of this is from pre-existing obligations; one-third represents the bond that was passed, and the other third is statutory increases in the teacher's contract, which again were part of previous budgets.
- The issue is the lack of a commercial base that helps us pay for it.
- We have a substantially equivalent district to Irvington and we do it for \$12 million less a year.

Silvia Robles:

- Will vote to support the budget. Coming off of COVID and an era during which we had students experience so much loss from not having been in the school setting, our students are lucky to be served by a full body of staff.
- When looking at what Bill and Maureen provided it is rooted in what the building leaders believe offers the best opportunities to our student body.
- We do have a responsibility to offer our students the best of what is available so they can go out and be full academic participants in the next phase of their education.
- The justification for the higher numbers have been presented and it also aligns with the philosophy set at the beginning of the year.

Alison Andrus:

- Will be voting to support the budget for the reasons Alex and Silvia already mentioned.
- The administrative team worked very hard to find any possible efficiencies and did what they could to bring numbers down without impacting programs.
- As Sylvia mentioned, coming out of COVID it seems like a time that we would not want to take away any programs.
- Justifications are out there and a lot of material is online, it has been a very transparent process.

Doug Sundheim:

- It's a big number and there is no way around that fact.
- The administration looked at a variety of questions and what it is going to take to deliver the kind of quality education that we're looking for in our district.
- Important to look at rolling budgets over time.
- Hesitant as a board member to make cuts in a single year operationally, that will be hard to introduce back later in the subsequent years.
- The FAQ document will be available online for the public to view and read the rationale as to why decisions were made.
- Will be voting yes.

Dr. Lang:

- Thanked Administration for hard work and knows that some of the decisions that have been made are because we are striving to make Hastings a district that will maintain its stellar academic standards.
- This increase seems to be peculiar for Hastings in comparison to others in Westchester & Putnam.
- Thinking of the residents, and ownership affordability, concerned this will add to the burden the community is already feeling.
- Knows the needs of the community and is going to vote no because she knows the hardship it will cause the community. Feels she should probably abstain since she cannot find a solution either way.

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the board adopt the 2022-2023 school budget.

Motion by Alison Andrus, second by Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Doug Sundheim, Silvia Robles, Alison Andrus, Alexander Dal Piaz

No: Jeremy Galland, Damaris-Lois Lang

B. Business Items

1. Change Order No. E3, All Bright Electric.
2. Greenburgh Central School District, Health Services invoice and contract.
3. Approve the use of tax certiorari reserve to increase budget in the amount of \$4,669.61.
4. CPSE and CSE appointments for the 2012-2022 school year.
5. Gloria Page, Art Horizons Inc., Workshop Service Agreement.

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

C. Placement and/or Services for CSE and CPSE

CSE: 11310, 11127, 10489, 11495, 10755, 11856, 11876, 7703, 11350, 11059

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 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

6. PERSONNEL

A. Appointments

1. Hank Gilman, appoint to Per Diem substitute teacher in the Farragut Complex effective April 20, 2022 for the 2021-2022 school year.
2. Rachel Margalit, appoint to Student Observer at Hillside Elementary School effective June 1, 2022-June 15, 2022.

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

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

B. Amendment

1. Jennifer Spirelli, Farragut Middle School Principal, amend probationary period due to prior conferred tenure. Amended probationary period: July 1, 2020-June 30, 2023.

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

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

C. Leaves of absence

1. Jamie Nedwick, Library Media Specialist at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: Parental leave for the 2022-2023 school year. She will return to work for the 2023-2024 school year.
2. Nicole Seicol, School Psychologist at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYS CPL February 1, 2022-February 10, 2022. She returned to work on February 11, 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 Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

7. MINUTES

A. Approval of Minutes

- Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of April 4, 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 4, 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

8. POLICIES

A. Second Read

Alex Dal Piaz:

- Noted that we went over the content of these changes at the last meeting and nothing has changed since then, gave a brief update of each.

Policies for Second Read:

Policy 8505 - "Charging" School Meals and Prohibition Against Shaming (Enc)

Policy 2210 - Annual Organizational Meeting (Enc)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education adopt Policy Nos. 8505 and 2210.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

9. OLD BUSINESS

A. 2021-2022 School Calendar Adjustment

Dr. McKersie:

- Reviewed the summary memo regarding the recommended adjustment to Emergency closure days for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Noted the additional analysis that was prepared and that the side letter has been attached.

Melissa Szymanski:

- Provided clarification as to why June 23rd would not be a viable option since there is an exam that day, June 24th is regents grading day, as long as we have met requirements the Board could vote to make June 24th a non-work day for staff.

RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education vote to adopt the adjustment to the 2021-2022 school year calendar.

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

10. NEW BUSINESS

A. BOCES Budget Vote

1. SWBOCES 2022-2023 administrative budget \$12,517,761.

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the board approve the 2022-2023 Estimated Administrative Budget for the Southern Westchester Board of Cooperative Education Services.

Motion by Silvia Robles, second by Jeremy Galland.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

B. BOCES Board Trustee Vote - Robert Johnson

RESOLVED, that one vote be cast for Robert Johnson to serve as a trustee on the Southern Westchester Board of Cooperative Educational Services for the time period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025.

Motion by Silvia Robles, second by Jeremy Galland.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

C. BOCES Board Trustee Vote - Lynn Frazer-McBride

RESOLVED, that one vote be cast for Lynn Frazer-McBride to serve as a trustee on the Southern Westchester Board of Cooperative Educational Services for the time period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025.

Motion by Silvia Robles, second by Jeremy Galland.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

D. BOCES Board Trustee Vote - Dr. Joan Weber

RESOLVED, that one vote be cast for Dr. Joan Weber to serve as a trustee on the Southern Westchester Board of Cooperative Educational Services for the time period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025.

Motion by Silvia Robles, second by Jeremy Galland.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

11. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Second Public Comment

- No public comment

12. AGENDA REVIEW

A. Agenda Review

- Review topics for upcoming Board of Education Meeting

Dr. McKersie:

- Reviewed upcoming topics - noted that we need to make a change to the tenure recommendations on the Executive Session to remove the principals from the Executive Session.

13. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

A. Comments

Dr. Lang:

- Hoping that we would continue to try the best that we can as a district to work along with all stakeholders to try to help all our kids in the way that we want to.
- Also hoping that we continue to strive towards collaboration in some of the very difficult situations that come up, and hopefully, when there are suggestions and opinions they remain as opinions and suggestions so that we can have all the voices in trying to deliberate all these issues.

Jeremy Galland:

- Likes the sound that our next meeting is in May. The administrators, principals, and teachers have been working long days and long hours.

14. ADJOURNMENT

A. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

Melissa DeLaBarrera

Submitted by:

Melissa DeLaBarrera

District Clerk