



**Hastings-on-Hudson  
Regular Board of Education Meeting  
Monday, March 7, 2022**

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**Members present**

Doug Sundheim  
Jeremy Galland  
Silvia Robles  
Alison Andrus  
Doreen Bucher  
Alexander Dal Piaz  
Damaris-Lois Lang (arrived at 7:45 PM)

**Meeting called to order at 7:32 PM**

**1. OPENING OF MEETING**

A. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 7:32 PM by Doug Sundheim, Board President

**2. STUDENT REPORT**

A. Student Report

Sabine Hinkaty:

- Spring sports start next week.
- Seniors will be receiving final college admission decisions within the next month.
- Several students want to keep mask breaks even though school has made masks optional. Learned about the Serial-Position effect in psychology where you remember what was said first and last best, so breaking up the class with a break helps.

Gus Renzin:

- Congratulations to the basketball teams on their amazing job and a big turnout for all playoff games.
- Transition to mask optional has been really successful, people have been really compassionate in the way they are interacting with others.
- The Student Union response to the drug and alcohol survey: everyone was passionate and focused on coming thinking of solutions and eventually coming up with ways to help, such as creating more options for people to get involved in clubs and sports.
- Student Union working on School Spirit activities, badminton tournament, freshmen are hosting a grade-wide volleyball tournament and more sprint activities.

**3. PRESENTATIONS**

A. Budget Presentation

Dr. McKersie and Maureen Caraballo presented the 2022-2023 Preliminary Budget to the Board:

[Click here to view 2022-2023 Preliminary Budget](#)  
[Click here to view the presentation and discussion](#)

Dr. Lang:

- Raised clarifying questions regarding the line items to better understand what amount of money is directly connected to the Special Education programs, the role of the position of the additional Special Education Assistant Director, the professional learning involved, and the sustainability of the funding for this role.
- Stated on the record that the skill development of the teachers to support our students directly is very important to many members of the community, herself included.

Doreen Bucher:

- Asked for further clarifications on the shared and distinct responsibilities of the role.
- Requested that it be clarified to show what more could be done by the other directors with the addition of this role.

Jeremy Galland:

- Raised his concerns about the budget and whether the 6% growth is sustainable. He doesn't think 6% is what our community is expecting and we should look at other areas. Suggested looking at class sizes.

Alex DalPiaz:

- Raised the issue of the tax implications of the planned development project in Hastings village and how it would affect the school budget in future years.

Doug Sundheim:

- Suggested Maureen and Dr. McKersie run different scenarios such as higher class sizes and present those numbers to the Board for consideration.

Maureen Caraballo:

- Will work with Dr. McKersie on the scenarios requested, would like to run them by the Finance committee prior to bringing it to presenting them to the full Board.

#### **4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

##### **A. Public Comment**

Toby Linder:

- Commented on the proposed 2022-2023 School Calendar:
  - There has been a discussion on FB about the calendar, found the comments to skip Jewish holidays so someone could go away for Labor Day offensive.
  - For those who observe the second day of Rosh Hashana is an observation, not a celebration that can be skipped and therefore should not be removed, asked if the change be made this year that it not be a precedent.
  - Requested that no exams be given on any holidays.
  - Asked that Dr. McKersie not limit his clergy meetings to only those in Hastings.

#### **5. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **A. 2022-2023 School Year Calendar Review**

Board reviewed and discussed the draft 2022-2023 School Year Calendar.

Dr. McKersie:

- Pointed out the options memo that was sent to the Board earlier today.
- Suggests not having Easter Monday and says it is up to the Board to try to find the second day.

The Board discussed the options at length and shared their preferences as far as which days should be removed and which days should be shifted. Most were in favor of not having Easter Monday and frontloading the March Superintendent's conference day to September.

Doug Sundheim:

- Asked Melissa Szymanski to speak on the idea of frontloading the Superintendent's conference days.
- Also noted that if they were to vote in favor of these options this year that it should be made clear that this would not set a precedent.

Melissa Szymanski:

- Noted that regardless of when we have them - those days are filled with professional learning without having to pull teachers from a class or have coverage and more importantly it allows us to reach our instructional minute requirements.

Jeremy Galland:

- Suggested doing away with Easter Monday and moving from 4 Superintendent's Conference Days to 3.
- Feels that there is an imbalance that favors certain religious holidays with three Jewish holidays in September.

Dr. Lang:

- Does not support doing away with Easter Monday.
- Does not support taking away a Superintendent's conference day but that we need to be fair and equitable with the Religious Holidays.
- Stated for the record she is not saying we should take Superintendent Conference days away but is asking for consistency.
- We should keep record of holidays were are removing so that there is consistency and fairness and it is equitable across the Board.

Doreen Bucher:

- Likes the way the calendar is laid out this year. It only shows the days we are off, last year it showed some holidays and not others, even though we didn't have those days off, it was confusing.
- Likes the simplicity of this year's calendar. Noted that all those other holidays are celebrated and discussed in school.

Dr. McKersie:

- Addressed why the calendar is not constructed earlier - due to the NYS testing schedule and BOCES it has to be done in March.

## **6. BUSINESS**

### **A. Business Items**

1. Dr. Diane J. Goodman, Fundamentals of Racism Workshops, invoice.
2. HTA Side Letter, Service Pay.

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

Motion by Doreen Bucher, second by Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Not Present at Vote: Alexander Dal Piaz

### **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: 12085, 10541, 11926, 11915, 7757, 11552, 10182, 10591

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 Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Not Present at Vote: Alexander Dal Piaz

## **7. PERSONNEL**

### **A. Appointment**

1. Denia Freiberg, appoint as returning previously appointed substitute to Permanent Building Substitute at Hillside Elementary School effective March 9, 2022-March 21, 2022 (approximately).

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

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, Doreen Bucher

#### B. Resignation

1. Alysha Horstman, Art teacher at Hastings High School has provided notification of resignation effective June 30, 2022.

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

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, Doreen Bucher

#### C. Retirement

1. Deborah Martin, Teacher Aide at Hillside Elementary School has provided notification of resignation for the purpose of retirement effective June 30, 2022.

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

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, Doreen Bucher

#### D. Leaves of Absence

1. Maria Rudolph, English Language Arts teacher at Hastings High School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL February 14, 2022-February 18, 2022. She returned to work on February 28, 2022.
2. Margaret Tummolo, Teacher Aide at Farragut Middle School has requested a leave of absence as follows: FMLA with pay January 19, 2022-January 28, 2022. FMLA without pay January 31, 2022-February 11, 2022. She returned to work on February 14, 2022.
3. Melissa Vigada, Special Education teacher at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: FMLA with pay December 16, 2021-January 18, 2022. She returned to work on January 19, 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 Jeremy Galland.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

## 8. MINUTES

#### A. Approval of Minutes

- Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of February 28, 2022.

RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of February 28, 2022.

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

## 9. POLICIES

### A. First Read

Board reviewed the following policies presented for First Read:

- Policy 0101 - Gender Neutral Single-Occupancy Bathrooms
- Policy 1230 - Public Comment at Board Meetings
- Policy 2342 - Agenda Preparation and Dissemination

Dr. Lang:

- Reviewed the changes made to Policy 1230 - public comment should allow all public comments to remain open with priority given to agenda items.
- Also, asked Dr. McKersie about the public comment at Committee meetings and he noted that that would be a separate policy.

Dr. McKersie:

- There was also a question as to whether or not you need to be a resident to make a public comment, and you do not.

Doreen Bucher:

- Added the Gender Neutral policy is something we are already doing.

## 10. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT

### A. Second Public Comment

- No public comment.

## 11. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

### A. Comments

Jeremy Galland:

- Appreciates the discussion to review the calendar, well focused and well-led.

Doreen Bucher:

- To that point the community understands there is no perfect calendar.

## 12. ADJOURNMENT

### A. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Damaris-Lois Lang, second by Jeremy Galland.

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**