



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

Members present

Doug Sundheim
Jeremy Galland
Silvia Robles
Alison Andrus
Alexander Dal Piaz
Doreen Bucher
Damaris-Lois Lang (arrived at 7:36 PM)

1. OPENING OF MEETING

A. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 7:34 PM by Doug Sundheim, Board President

2. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

A. Covid 19 Update

Dr. McKersie:

- The number of active cases has dropped dramatically, hospitalization and fatalities are also dropping.
- Superintendents in the region are advocating for a sensible way to not have masks.
- Governor to make a decision regarding masks in schools, hopefully by early March.
- Concerns with masks are more of an adult issue and not a student issue.
- If masks come off, we may see quarantines go back up.
- Will COVID positive staff/students returning after 5 days have to mask?
- If the mandate goes away what does Hastings do? There is a lack of willingness to go into mandate at a local level, however, it will be up to local Boards to determine metrics.
- NYSDOH modified requirements for age-eligible athletes can return to school under test-to-stay, and can participate in extracurriculars, but not in a competition.

B. District Highlights

Dr. McKersie:

- Hastings High School National Honor Society connected with underprivileged children in Cameroon, through their artwork in cooperation with a nonprofit group, the Memory Project.
- 7th and 8th-grade One Acts are set to be held this Friday.
- 6th, 7th, and 8th graders read to Hillside Elementary students as part of their expressive reading class.
- Hillside's 4th-grade safety patrol is holding a coat drive for the local non-profit Family to Family.
- Met with Melissa Shandroff to discuss the Science Research program, would like to bring more of those scholars forward to present their projects to the Board.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Report from Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction

Melissa Szymanski:

- Last week, we hosted Racial Equity Week throughout the district. Each building designed a day that provides opportunities for students to consider, at the developmentally appropriate age and grade levels, how racial equity affects our world. The days were designed with input from diverse stakeholders such as

administrators, teachers, students, staff, and community members. Thank you to Dr. Jenice Mateo-Toledo for her leadership in the planning process and in bringing these programs to fruition.

- The theme at Hastings High School was "Environmental Justice: Think Locally - Act Locally." Students engaged around environmental justice issues that are currently impacting Westchester County, especially lower-income communities and low-income members of wealthier communities. "The Sacrifice Zone," a thirty-minute film was shown, which was followed by guest speakers who answered questions and provided context to the film. Educators then led classroom discussions, activities, and action-oriented workshops.
- The theme at Farragut Middle School centered on understanding the ubiquity of media in our daily lives and its impact on race equity and social justice. Students participated in various learning activities throughout the day and listened to a panel discussion on representation and the media.
- The theme at Hillside Elementary School was "Never Too Young for Justice." City Love led an engaging, developmentally appropriate assembly to build community across our differences, talk about race, hope, equity, and belonging.
- The speakers were funded through the HEF Speaker Series grant. The movie viewing was funded by the Race Matters Committee.

B. Report from Business Official

Maureen Caraballo:

- The music suite has opened since the last board meeting, students and teachers are now able to use the space, still waiting on the remainder of furnishings to come in.
- Hillside currently working with village leadership and local landscape architects to consider making some changes to walkways at Hillside to eliminate flooding. There will be a proposal for modifications of some of the original plans at Hillside to be presented to the Board for approval.

4. STUDENT REPORT

A. Student Report

Sabine Hinkaty:

- The band and orchestra had their first rehearsals in the newly renovated music suite. The space is more organized, each student gets an assigned locker for their instrument.
- The band has started rehearsing a piece composed by Hastings High School Student Jasper Zimmerman.
- The Language Department has an interest meeting tomorrow after school to introduce the process of earning New York State's Seal of Biliteracy.
- Boys and girls basketball teams are finishing the regular season with impressive records.

Gus Renzin:

- The track team had their last regular season meet this weekend.
- Senior Tim McNulty broke the 55 hurdles record for the school, we also have runners going to state qualifiers.
- JSHS was fully virtual because of COVID - award ceremony will be held tonight.
- The wrestling team just finished their season they did very well.
- As far as COVID from students' perspective anxiety is down, with very few cases, looking forward to spring sports and summer and the idea of being outside with masks down.
- Project Share had their first Midnight Run in two months, delivered about 300 meals, clothing, and toiletries to homeless folks on the Upper West Side. Shared that Oscar Hayes, a Sophomore engaged in a special conversation with a homeless man in Spanish and learned the man was from Peru where Oscar had spent six weeks last summer.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Public Comment

Jodie Meyer:

- Thanked students for their great report. Came to say she misses being part of the Board, special thanks to old board members for their time and dedication.
- Welcomed new board members. Commended the Board's ability to work alongside Bill.
- Welcomed Bill and noted that communication has been incredible and very transparent, he has brought leadership and healing to the organization.

6. PRESENTATIONS

A. Preliminary Budget 2022-2023

Maureen Caraballo, Business Official presented the 2022-2023 Preliminary Budget to the Board.

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

Dr. McKersie suggested the Board submit their questions within a week, answers will either be provided verbally at the next board meeting or in writing and posted publicly.

B. State of the District Mid-Year Update

Dr. McKersie presented his Mid-Year report on the state of the Hastings on Hudson School District to the Board.

- [Click here to view the Mid-Year Report](#)
- [Click here to view the presentation and discussion](#)

7. BUSINESS

A. Business Items

1. Superintendent's Conference Day professional learning, proposal.
2. Approve the use of tax certiorari reserve to increase budget in the amount of \$11,288.38.
3. Budget Transfer.
4. HTA side letter.
5. HTA side letter.
6. Contract for educational services with Hendrick Hudson School.
7. Contract for educational services with Hendrick Hudson School.
8. Contract for educational services with Scarsdale Public Schools.
9. Budget Transfer.
10. John Hamilton, Fire Inspection, invoice.
11. Almstead Tree, Shrub and Lawn care, agreement.
12. Maguette Camara, Spring Dance at Hastings Middle School, invoice.

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 Education, the Board accepts the classifications and arrangements for the placement and/or services for the 2021-2022 school year:

CPSE: 11907, 12360, 12231

CSE: 10493, 7672, 11286, 10115, 12105, 11196, 11393, 10539, 12030, 12007, 12238, 11050, 10534

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 Doreen Bucher.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Not Present at Vote: Alison Andrus

8. PERSONNEL

A. Appointments

1. Appoint the following FMS teachers to Tier 3 Math Supports, .2 FTE for each, effective January 10, 2022-June 23, 2022: Joan Felipe-Grade 6, Christopher Lembo-Grades 7 & 8, Stephen Yurek-Grade 5.
2. Appoint Brendan O'Sullivan, .8 FTE Physical Education teacher at Farragut Middle School, appoint to .2 FTE Per Diem Substitute district-wide effective January 27, 2022.
3. Appoint Katherine Yurek to School Monitor district-wide effective February 8, 2022.

4. Appoint Elizabeth Zuch as per diem Psychologist February 7, 2022-February 18, 2022 and .8 FTE Psychologist leave replacement February 28, 2022-May 31, 2022.
5. Appoint Amanda DeLaBarrera to Substitute Clerical Assistant, \$22.00/hr. effective February 8, 2022.
6. Appoint Sofia Pannone to 1.0 FTE district-wide school psychologist regular substitute/leave replacement, MA, Step 12, \$100,272 (to be pro-rated), effective March 1, 2022. Certification held: School Psychologist-Permanent.
7. Updated Schedule B appointment requests as per attached spreadsheet. (Enc)

B. Resignation

1. Charles Ntumba, Teacher Aide at Farragut Middle School has provided notice of resignation effective February 11, 2022.

C. Leaves of Absence

1. Patricia Chibbaro, Health Office Clerical Assistant at Farragut Middle school has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL January 12, 2022-January 14, 2022. She returned to work on January 18, 2022.
2. Erin Dolan, Special Education teacher at Hastings High School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL January 18, 2022-January 20, 2022. She returned to work on January 21, 2022.
3. Michele Gentile, Teacher Aide at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL December 20, 2021-December 23, 2021. She returned to work on January 3, 2022.
4. Nicole Josiger, Reading teacher at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: FMLA w/pay January 3, 2022-January 31, 2022. She returned to work on February 1, 2022.
5. Kevin McCarthy, Custodian at Farragut Middle School/Hastings High School, amend his leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL January 3, 2022-January 10, 2022 (6 days due to custodian schedule). He returned to work on January 11, 2022.
6. Erik Addison, Teacher Aide at Farragut Middle has requested a leave of absence as follows: Unpaid Leave of Absence February 7, 2022-February 18, 2022. He will return to work on February 28, 2022.
7. Nidia Ferrara, Teacher Aide in the Copy Room has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL January 3, 2022-January 5, 2022. She returned to work on January 6, 2022.
8. Stacey Sharick, Elementary K-6 teacher at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: Unpaid Parental Leave for the 2022-2023 School Year. She will return for the 2023-2024 school year.

9. MINUTES

A. Approval of Minutes

- Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 24, 2022.

RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 24, 2022.

Motion by Silvia Robles, second by Doreen Bucher.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Not Present at Vote: Alison Andrus

10. POLICIES

A. Second Read

The following policies were presented for second read:

Policy No. 0105 - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the District.

Policy No. 2110 - School Board Legal Status

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

Motion by Alexander Dal Piaz, second by Doreen Bucher.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Not Present at Vote: Alison Andrus

11. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Second Public Comment

- No public comment

12. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

A. Comments

Dr. Lang:

- Wants community to know that the new Board members have brought forth the Communications and Engagement committee to help with the coexistence of the community and the schools as a whole.

Jeremy Galland:

- Raised concerns over the preliminary budget with a 6 1/2% increase. The challenge for the Board will be to look where there is flexibility and consider trade-offs. Does not feel that 6 1/2% growth represents what the community is willing to handle.
- In future meetings would like to discuss class size, raising class sizes, pulling back on technology, out-of-district bussing, professional learning expenses, and new programs.

Doreen Bucher:

- Agrees with Jeremy that the amounts seem high as well. As a new board member would like to know what the historicals are.
- Also asked for an update on the Star Assessment reports.

Melissa Szymanski:

- Noted there will be one more administration of the Star Assessment.
- Results will now be available in eSchool, thanks to Adriana Beaudreault, Data Coordinator who worked so hard to get that up and moving.
- There will also be a final Learning Impact Presentation to the Board of Education.

Alexander DalPiaz:

- Added in terms of the Budget that the North Star process adds value behind the numbers and will give the community a better understanding of why the numbers exist.

13. 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, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher

Not Present at Vote: Alison Andrus

Melissa DeLaBarrera

Submitted by:

Melissa DeLaBarrera

District Clerk