



**Hastings-on-Hudson
Regular Board of Education Meeting
Monday, January 10, 2022**

Members present

Doug Sundheim
Silvia Robles
Alison Andrus
Alexander Dal Piaz
Damaris-Lois Lang
Doreen Bucher
Jeremy Galland (arrived at 7:40 PM)

Meeting called to order at 6:35 PM

1. OPENING OF MEETING

A. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 6:35 PM by Doug Sundheim, President

Members Present: Doug Sundheim, Alison Andrus, Doreen Bucher, Damaris-Lois Lang, Alexander Dal Piaz, Silvia Robles

Motion to move into Executive Session for the purpose of contract negotiations.

Motion by Alison Andrus, second by Damaris-Lois Lang.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

- The public portion of the meeting began at 7:45 PM, Doug Sundheim announced that the meeting was previously called to order at 6:35 PM when the Board moved into Executive Session.

2. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

A. District Highlights

Dr. McKersie:

- Oliver Fuchs, Hastings Senior, was named as one of these top 300 scholars in The Regeneron Science Talent Search. Oliver has won a \$2000.00 scholarship and has the chance to be chosen as a finalist in the Science Talent Search competition. If chosen, he would receive an additional \$25,000 and the chance to win up to \$250,000.
- Josh Thigpen, Hastings Senior, has been nominated for LOHUD High School Boys Basketball player of the week.
- Maureen Bassman has been named Athletics Secretary of the Year for Section One Athletics.

B. Covid-19 Update

Dr. McKersie:

- Provided updated data on the COVID 19 numbers in Westchester County
- Superintendents across Westchester County actively advocating for the following changes:
 - Required quarantine length shifting from 10-days to five days for students (it already is five days for essential workers, including educators);

- o Contact Tracing modifications (the Governor and NYSDOH just announced changes, but said it would be up to each LHD--in our case WCDOH);
 - o Consistent "Return to School Protocols" across the state;
 - o Increased vaccination and booster access;
 - o Increased capacity for frequent testing, using Rapid and PCR tests.
- Test-to-Stay has been very successful. Also noted is that some of the tests provided by the state are due to expire in January. Working with Maureen to identify those tests and how to distribute them to be used.
- Addressed the small number of families that have requested their children be permitted to attend school remotely due to medical reasons. The district is working closely with medical advisors and public health experts. Very few children qualify to not be in school. Also noted is that any remote learning is now live-streamed and not interactive.
- Praised and thanked the nursing staff for all their hard work and asked that we all do what we can to support them as they are working tirelessly. The decisions they make are based on state and county guidance and they are caught in the middle.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Report from Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction

Melissa Szymanski:

- The Technology Plan development process has continued. Prior to the break, Maureen and I began to draft the physical plan using the input of the committee. Last week, we finalized the parent focus group and student focus group participants. Focus group participants were initially solicited through a survey pushed to the high school student distribution group and the broader Hastings community. 10 students and 28 parents expressed interest in participating. 7 students and 7 parents from the list of those who indicated interest were selected using a random number generator. These focus groups will convene tomorrow afternoon. To inform the plan development, we also reviewed feedback provided by the faculty through a survey that was sent prior to the recent break.
- The Tri-State Steering Committee has been meeting on an ongoing basis to continue working on logistics for the March Tri-State visit. At the most recent meeting, the team began to identify individuals for interviews within faculty stakeholder groups.
- DEI Efforts: Positive Press for Hastings - The Rivertowns Enterprise published an article on December 17th celebrating Hastings' efforts in the area of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. We are very happy to be positioned as regional leaders in this area.
- The Regeneron Science Talent Search announced their list of the top 300 scholars in their 2022 competition. Regeneron STS "recognizes and empowers the most promising young scientists in the U.S. who are creating the ideas and solutions that solve our most urgent challenges." Hastings student, Oliver Fuchs, was named as one of these top 300 scholars. Ollie's project is titled, "Examining the Associations between Historical Redlining Maps and Asthma Emergency Department Visits Across New York City." Ollie wins a \$2000.00 scholarship and has the chance to be chosen as a finalist in the Science Talent Search competition. If chosen, he would receive an additional \$25,000 and the chance to win up to \$250,000. STS finalists, the top 40 in the nation, will be announced on January 20, 2022. There were 1805 students who applied to the talent search this year.

B. Report from Business Official

Maureen Caraballo:

- Presented an update on the Hillside addition to the Board, sharing the most recent progress photos - [click here to view the presentation](#).
- We will kick off our official budget season with a Budget 101 session on Wednesday, January 26th at 7 p.m.
- This is an effort to boost participation and engage more residents in the budget discussions. During this session, some of what will be covered include details of how our budget is developed, including the constraints, mandates, contractual obligations, and other parameters that go into school financing. We will review historical trend data for Hastings as well as look at what we project for the coming years. An informed and active group of residents can make a difference, and we hope that this session provides an opportunity for many to become involved. A blast for the budget 101 will be sent this week as well as a reminder in the coming week. We hope people will be able to attend, but those who may not be able to attend will be putting the information on our website.

4. STUDENT REPORT

A. Student Report

Sabine Hinkaty:

- Two snow days last week were exactly what students needed during high stress period.

- Next few weeks will be busy with midterms, final tests and papers due before the upcoming exam period.
- Students experiencing a high level of anxiety surrounding COVID concerns, more students have opted into Surveillance testing.
- Josh Thigpen has been nominated for LOHUD's Boy's Basketball player of the week, he was perviously named MVP when Hastings won the section title in early 2020.

Gus Renzin:

- Boys basketball team beat our rival Dobbs Ferry last week.
- Track 2022 Lead Championships were yesterday, the girls team won and boys got 3rd place. With a ton of great performances by Emmett McGrath, Caitlin Thomas, Celia Silverstein, Pat Maloney, Noah Angoff and Jacob Ciszewski.
- Wanted to further acknowledge Olliver Fuchs, he has witnessed how hard he has been working on his project. This incredibly prestigious award and already a huge success.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Public Comment

- No public comment

6. PRESENTATIONS

Melissa Szymanski provided a Curriculum Review Cycle Update to the Board.

[Click here to view slide deck of presentation](#)

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

7. BUSINESS

A. Business Items

1. Revenue and Expenditure Reports for November 2021.
2. City of Love, LLC Assembly and Family Concert, invoice to be paid using HEF speaker series grant.
3. Talking Eyes Media, proposal - honorariums to be paid using HEF speaker series grant, movie to be paid using Race Matters funds.
4. Joe Pimentel, FMS School Mural, proposal to be paid using HEF grant.
5. Impartial Hearing Officer, appointment for case #567969.
6. Impartial Hearing Officer, appointment for case #567968.
7. Impartial Hearing Officer, appointment for case #567968.
8. Donation of labor and materials for trophy case to be built near Cochran Gym from Hastings High School Alumni Association.

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 Silvia Robles.

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:

CPSE: 12357

CSE: 11239, 11677, 11916, 12323, 11150, 10968, 12338, 10633, 12293, 11725, 7645, 11516, 11763, 11177

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, Alison Andrus, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher

8. PERSONNEL

A. Appointment

1. Brendan O'Sullivan, appoint to .8 Physical Education teacher at Farragut Middle School, MA, Step 1, pro-rated to \$52,459 effective January 24, 2022. Certifications held: Physical Education - Professional, Health Education - Initial.

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

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

Motion by Alison Andrus, 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

B. Amendment

1. Joseph Lopez, Permanent Building Substitute at Hastings High School, amend appointment to Teacher Aide Computer Lab, at Farragut Middle School/Hastings High School, Column 1A, Step 3 effective January 3, 2022.

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

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

Motion by Alison Andrus, 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

C. Resignations

1. Dulcibelle Cabrera, School Monitor, has provided notice of resignation effective close of business December 23, 2021.
2. Gerald Goodman, School Monitor, has provided notice of resignation effective close of business December 22, 2021.
3. Daiana Naydenova, School Monitor, has provided notice of resignation effective close of business November 24, 2021.
4. Francisco Pozo-Schmidt, School Monitor, has provided notice of resignation effective close of business December 23, 2021.
5. Joseph Lopez, Permanent Building substitute at Hastings High School has provided notice of resignation in order to accept the Teacher Aide Computer Lab position at Farragut Middle School/Hastings High School effective close of business December 23, 2021.

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

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

Motion by Alison Andrus, 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

D. Leaves of Absence

1. James Adamo, Spanish teacher at Farragut Middle School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL January 3, 2022-January 5, 2022. He returned to work on January 6, 2022.
2. Jada Dickens, Math Interventionist at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL December 1, 2021-December 3, 2021 and December 7, 2021-December 15, 2021. She returned to work on December 17, 2021.
3. Eszter Fejer-Kui, Elementary K-6 teacher at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL December 6, 2021-December 13, 2021. She returned to work on December 14, 2021.
4. Meredith Fichman, Science teacher at Farragut Middle School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL December 22, 2021-December 23, 2021. She returned to work on January 3, 2022.
5. Fiona Lazar, Teacher Assistant at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL December 6, 2021-December 17, 2021. She returned to work on December 20, 2021.
6. Stacey Sharick, Elementary K-6 teacher at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: FMLA with pay December 9, 2021-February 22, 2022, FMLA without pay February 3, 2022-March 2, 2022, Parental leave of absence March 3, 2022-June 30, 2022.
7. Geoffrey Terilli, Custodian at Farragut Complex has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPL December 29, 2021-January 7, 2022. He returns to work on January 10, 2022.
8. Wendy White, School Counselor at Hastings High School has requested a leave of absence as follows: January 3, 2022-January 4, 2022. She returned to work on January 5, 2022.

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

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

Motion by Alison Andrus, 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. MINUTES

A. Approval of Minutes

- Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of December 20, 2021.

RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of December 20, 2021.

Motion by Alexander Dal Piaz, 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

10. POLICIES

A. Second Read

- Policies presented for Second Read:
 - Policy No. 1130 - Media Relations
 - Policy No. 4315 - Curriculum Areas in Conflict with Religious Beliefs

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education adopt policy nos. 1130 and 4315.

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

11. NEW BUSINESS

A. Cast Vote - NYSBBA Area 10 Director Election

The candidates running for the position of Area 10 Director are:

- Sheryl Brady, White Plains
- Deborah Gatti, North Rockland
- Frank Hariton, Ardsley

Motion that the Board of Education of the Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District hereby cast their vote for Frank Hariton, to fill the unexpired term of Peggy Zugibe on the New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA) Board of Directors representing Area 10 for 2021-2022 and authorizes the District Clerk to execute any documents consistent with this motion.

Motion by Jeremy Galland, 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

12. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Second Public Comment

- No public comment

13. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

A. Comments

Alison Andrus:

- Thanked Dr. Szymanski for the presentation and all her work on the Curriculum Review Cycle, it is such a big step for our district and the community that has been created around learning a little more formally.

Alexander Dal Piaz:

- Expressed his personal gratitude to the whole district for how much work is going on and how smoothly things are running internally.

Jeremy Galland:

- Glad to hear Dr. McKersie talking about separating the contact tracing role from the principals and nurses so that they can get back to working on the other aspects of their educational job.

Doreen Bucher:

- Regarding the tests expiring in January - thanks so much for figuring out ways in which you can distribute to the community since it is extraordinarily frustrating now for people to get tests.

14. ADJOURNMENT

A. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Alexander Dal Piaz, 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

Melissa DeLaBarrera

Submitted by:

Melissa DeLaBarrera

District Clerk