



**Hastings-on-Hudson  
Regular Board of Education Meeting  
Monday, December 20, 2021**

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**Members present**

Jeremy Galland  
Silvia Robles  
Alison Andrus  
Alexander Dal Piaz  
Damaris-Lois Lang  
Doreen Bucher

Meeting called to order at 7:53 PM

**1. OPENING OF MEETING**

A. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 6:38 PM by Alison Andrus, Vice President

Motion to move into Executive Session for the purpose of a security update.

Motion by Alexander Dal Piaz, second by Doreen Bucher.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Not Present at Vote: Jeremy Galland

- Public Meeting called to order at 7:53 PM by Alison Andrus
- Alison announced that Doug Sundheim, Board President would be unable to join this evening

**2. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT**

A. District Highlights

Dr. McKersie:

- Hillside's 1st grade put together donation boxes for children in need in coordination with The Pajama Project an area not-for-profit organization
- Hillside kicked off their Winter Spirit Week on Friday, Farragut Middle School also has a spirit week going on this week.
- Hastings Alternative School Program held its second field trip last week going ice skating.
- Hastings High School Student Union in collaboration with the Hastings Police Department put on a talent show with great talent all around, including from the police department.
- Winter Concert was held on Thursday with incredible pieces from all the various groups.
- Recognized brand new National Board Certified teacher, Steven Lopez.

## B. Covid-19 Update

Dr. McKersie:

- Omnicron seems to be affecting us greatly - during the Monday morning Superintendents Zooms w/Latimer it was noted that cases have doubled in the county, issues of hospitalization are not keeping pace with that.
- There are no plans for the state or county to take any drastic actions. We are doing all we can to be in school, the only thing that will affect our ability to remain open is staff being infected, as we are seeing that vaccinated individuals are coming up positive.
- Our infection numbers are low - keeping track of the numbers day by day. Will be evaluating numbers every morning with Principals.
- We are one of the few Districts in the area to begin the Test-to-Stay program - thanks to Maureen and the nursing staff it has started off well.

Maureen Caraballo:

- Acknowledged and thanked nursing staff - the first day of the Test-to-Stay program, ran incredibly smooth.
- In addition to administrators, nursing staff and clerical support have been working diligently on contact tracing, committed to insuring having as many students in school.
- There may be an ability to bump up the capacity of tests if need be.
- We also have a weekly Surveillance Testing program run by Westchester County that is available to students and staff.

## 3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

### A. Report from Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction

Melissa Szymanski could not be here this evening due to an out of town family emergency and asked Maureen Caraballo to read the following report on her behalf:

- Chair Council met earlier this week, with a focus on continued preparations for the March Tri-State visit and received an update on the Curriculum Review Cycle work occurring within the context of the Professional Learning Committee. The department chairpersons and administrators provided updates on how the logistical preparations were going. The group then solidified shared definitions related to vocabulary within the essential questions linked to the visit, including systemic communication, professional community, student success, and collaboration. The group then discussed and identified interview participant groups. They then reflected on Standard 7 of the Professional Standards for Educational Leaders (PSEL) to consider Hastings' areas of strength and need. Finally, they learned more about the Curriculum Review Cycle Development process.
- The Professional Learning Committee has been diligently working to design a Curriculum Review Cycle. We are currently in the process of identifying the phases of our Hastings cycle and determining formatting. Additional information about the Curriculum Review Cycle will be shared with the Board of Education in the New Year.
- Maureen and I are currently on target with the process and timeline outlined in the Technology Plan Development Process/Timeline document that was recently presented to the Board of Education. We have been meeting with the technology committee and our thought partners from LHRIC to draft goals and action items. Last week, a faculty survey was sent to gain input to apply to COVID-related questions in the State survey and an interest form was sent to determine student and parent focus group, participants.
- Onboarding of FMS Assistant Principal: Jennifer Spirelli and I have been working closely together to support Ken Cotrone's onboarding as the new assistant principal of Farragut Middle School. A number of trainings have already been arranged, including:
  - Lead Evaluator of Teachers (APPR)
  - Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)

- Restorative Practices
  - Crisis Prevention and Intervention (CPI)
  - DASA Coordinator
  - Regional Forum for Assistant Principals, and Testing Coordinator
- Additional STAR Renaissance training, both for Ken and for the K-8 faculty has also been arranged.

#### B. Report from Business Official

Maureen Caraballo updated the Board on the Hillside addition project and shared progress photos:

- [Click here to view the Hillside Addition Progress photos](#)

### 4. STUDENT REPORT

#### A. Student Report

Sabine Hinkaty:

- The talent show and Winter concert were successful.
- High School is having a Holiday Spirit day on Thursday - students can wear pajamas or holiday-related outfits.
- Congratulated Senor Lopez on his National Board Certification.
- Seniors have started to get early college decisions and Juniors getting into college mode, there was an official college meeting last week.
- Girls basketball - Paige Martin was the MVP of the Briarcliff Tournament.

Gus Renzin:

- Shared some of the student feelings regarding COVID, many are pretty anxious about COVID, there is a lot of worry about holiday plans being canceled and getting their families sick.
- Students want an option to go remote, which he personally does not agree with. Doesn't know how much of that is people wanting an early break as opposed to genuine concerns.

### 5. PUBLIC COMMENT

#### A. Public Comment

- No public comments.

### 6. SPECIAL REPORTS

#### A. Communications Update

Dr. McKersie provided an update on the communications committee.

- Briefly outlined the components of the Communications Update Memo.
- Within the document, you will find the entire combined survey results, staff, and family.
- Draft communications plan shaped by some of the findings from the survey.
- Lastly, the Who to Contact When document should be finalized by January 4th.

[Click here to view the Communications Update Memo](#)

## B. Transportation Update

Maureen Caraballo provided the Board with a Transportation Update.

[Click here to view the Transportation Update presentation](#)

## 7. BUSINESS

### A. Business Items

1. Textbook request: Precalculus: Graphical, Numeric, Algebraic, Demana, et al.
2. Richard Smith, invoice for piano tuning.
3. Approve the use of Reserve for Liability Claims, to increase budget in the amount of \$40,000 for a Special Education Settlement.
4. Warrants.
5. H2M Architects and Engineers, Change Order No. E1 and Change Order No. G1.
6. Ardsley UFSD, Tuition Contract.
7. Almstead Tree, Shrub and Lawn Care, agreement.
8. The Russell Gabay Memorial Scholarship discontinued due to depletion of funds.
9. LHRIC, Renaissance Professional Learning, proposal.
10. Impartial Hearing Officer, appointment for case #567490.
11. Joel Dean Foundation, Inc., contribution.
12. RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District is considering entering into a License Agreement as well as a Lease Agreement that allows access to and use of a portion of the roof of Hillside Elementary School for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of a solar system (the "Proposed Action"); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District has reviewed the anticipated components, phases and aspects of the Proposed Action; and

WHEREAS, the Proposed Action consists of routine activities of educational institutions, including expansion of existing facilities by less than 10,000 square feet of gross floor area within the meaning of 6 NYCRR § 617.5(c)(10) and installation of solar energy arrays on an existing structure that is not on the National or State Register of Historic Places or within a district that is listed in the National or State Register of Historic Places or been determined to be eligible for listing on the State Register of Historic Places within the meaning of 6 NYCRR § 617.5(c)(15); and

WHEREAS, the Proposed Action qualifies as a Type II action as defined in the Regulations promulgated by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and known as the State Environmental Quality Review;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District hereby determines that the Proposed Action is a Type II action pursuant to Sections 617.5(c)(10) and/or 617.5(c)(15) of the Regulations of the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (6 NYCRR § 617.5[c][10], [15]) and that no further environmental review is required.

13. RESOLUTION TO APPROVE LICENSE AGREEMENT AND ROOFTOP SOLAR LEASE WITH 120 LEFURGY SOLAR LLC  
WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District seeks to benefit its local community by entering into a License Agreement and Rooftop Solar Lease with 120 Lefurgy Solar LLC for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of a solar system on a portion of the roof of Hillside Elementary School that will supply solar generated electrical energy to the power grid of the local electric utility; and  
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District hereby determines that a certain License Agreement between the School District and 120 Lefurgy Solar LLC that principally provides access to and use of a portion of the rooftop of Hillside Elementary School by 120 Lefurgy Solar LLC for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of a solar system is in the best interests of the Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District, is for a fair market license fee and that the areas being exclusively licensed to 120 Lefurgy Solar LLC are not currently needed for School District purposes; and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District hereby determines that a certain Rooftop Solar Lease between the School District and 120 Lefurgy Solar LLC with respect to a certain portion of the roof of Hillside Elementary School for a term of ten (10) years, which term will commence when the installation of the solar system that is the subject of the above-referenced License Agreement is substantially complete, operational, capable of generating and delivering electrical energy to the power grid of the local electric utility and is authorized by the local electric utility to deliver electric energy to its

power grid, is in the best interests of the Hastings-on Hudson Union Free School District, is for fair market rental value and the premises being leased are not currently needed for School District purposes; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District hereby approves and authorizes the Board President to execute the above-described License and Lease Agreements between the School District and 120 Lefurgy Solar LLC as well as to execute any other documents necessary to effectuate such License and Lease Agreements.

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 Doreen Bucher.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: 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:

CPSE: 12354, 12261, 12014, 12351

CSE: 10480, 12338, 11071, 10926

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

## 8. PERSONNEL

### A. Appointments

1. Michele Keefe, Clerk, promotional, probationary appointment to Office Assistant-Automated Systems, 10 months, Column III, Step 3, effective December 10, 2021.
2. Shaun Mullen, appoint to Per Diem substitute teacher district-wide effective December 21, 2021 for the 2021-2022 school year.
3. Bailey McGillian, appoint to Permanent Building substitute teacher at Hillside Elementary School effective upon verification of fingerprint clearance through the 2021-2022 school year.
4. Gerard Marciano, appoint to .2 FTE short-term ELA leave replacement at Farragut Middle School effective December 21, 2021-January 21, 2022 (approximately).
5. Beth Rudd, appoint to .6 FTE short-term ELA leave replacement at Farragut Middle School effective December 21, 2021-January 21, 2022 (approximately).
6. Janell Casado, appoint to School Monitor at Farragut Middle School effective December 21, 2021.
7. Victoria Kelter, .8 Physical Education teacher at Farragut Middle School, appoint to 1.0 FTE Physical Education teacher at Hastings High School, MA, Step 2, \$68,733, effective December 21, 2021. Probationary period December 21, 2021-December 20, 2025. Tenure date: December 21, 2025. Certifications held: Physical Education-Professional, Health Education-Supplementary.
8. Updated Schedule B appointment requests as per the attached spreadsheet.

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

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

## B. Retirements

1. Lisa Royce, Secretary to School Administrator, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective January 4, 2022, last date of work will be January 3, 2022.

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

Motion by Alexander Dal Piaz, second by Doreen Bucher.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

## C. Resignation

1. Alison Guiney, district-wide Psychologist has provided notice of resignation effective close of business day, January 7, 2022.

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

Motion by Doreen Bucher, second by Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

## D. Leave of Absence

1. Walterson Martins-Filho, Teacher Aide at Farragut Middle School, has requested a leave of absence as follows: Unpaid leave of absence January 3, 2022-April 27, 2022 to perform student teaching. He will return to his position on April 28, 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: 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 6, 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 6, 2021.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

## 10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### A. Facilities

Alexander Dal Piaz and Maureen Caraballo briefly summarized the topics discussed during the Facilities Committee Meeting:

- Surveyed damage from the storm in September and discussed the complexities of plan mitigation.

- Reviewed the mockups for finishings in the FMS auditorium, trying to make it a bright happy place.
- Discussed long-term space planning and utilization.
- Sidewalk additions and additional parking to accommodate staff.
- Bond and Solar update

[Click here to view Facilities Committee Report](#)

## **11. POLICIES**

### A. First Read

Dr. McKersie:

- Outlined the redlines by District Counsel on the following policies and opened the floor up for any questions regarding the revisions.
- There were no questions from the Board - the policies will move forward to the 2nd read at the next BOE meeting.
- Noted that the committee is still deliberating on the DEI policy.

Policies presented for First Read:

Policy No. 1130 - Media Relations

Policy No. 4315 - Curriculum Areas in Conflict with Religious Beliefs

## **12. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT**

### A. Second Public Comment

- No public comment.

## **13. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS**

### A. Comments

Dr. Lang:

- Thanked the Team, feels like there has been a lot of progress and they have been very productive.
- Acknowledged the Student Liaisons, feels they are fine leaders, and wanted to publicly recognize their input and all they bring to the table.

Alexander Dal Piaz:

- Raised the idea that we will all have to deal with COVID come January.
- Noted that in Denmark 83% of the Omnicron cases were in fully vaccinated people, so wanted to note that we are going to have a very different situation.
- Also, mentioned that in South Africa - this week they discontinued contact tracing and quarantine because they didn't think it was worth it so it's going to get more complex as we move forward.

Doreen Bucher:

- To Alex's point, she feels the game-changer as far as dealing with COVID is not going to be vaccines but rather treatment options.

## **14. ADJOURNMENT**

### A. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

*Melissa DeLaBarrera*

**Submitted by:**

**Melissa DeLaBarrera**

**District Clerk**