



**Hastings-on-Hudson
Regular Board of Education Meeting
Monday, December 6, 2021**

Members present

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

Meeting called to order at 8:02 PM

1. OPENING OF MEETING

A. Call to Order

- Call to Order at 6:35 PM

Motion to move into Executive Session for the purposes of 1) Discussion of Pending Litigation for Particular Students; 2) Discussion of a Personnel Matter, and 3) Discussion of Collective Bargaining regarding HTA Contract Matter.

Motion by Jeremy Galland, second by Alison Andrus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Not Present at Vote: Damaris-Lois Lang

- Public Meeting called to order at 8:02 PM by Doug Sundheim

2. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. McKersie:

District Highlights

- HHS Yiddish Club held their first ever Hannakuh Celebration last week, teaching the meaning and importance of the holiday to club members of all faiths.
- FMS Sensory room is now open to all students - thanked the Hastings Education Foundation for making that possible.
- HHS Student Union is holding a talent show this Friday in conjunction with Hastings Police Dept. with prizes from local businesses.
- The 5th Year Celebration of the HHS Soccer Team - tribute sign mock-up [here](#). Thanked the Mayor and Village leadership for moving that along.
- Per Westchester County District Attorney all districts in County are being asked to send a statement to all families regarding Gun Safety on December 14th, noted that the District is ahead of this and has scheduled an Executive Session on December 20th to address safety issues.

COVID-19 Update:

- George Latimer, Westchester County Executive will be declaring a State of Emergency solely to give him the flexibility to make decisions and take certain actions.
- We are seeing an uptick in infections in the County, however, hospitalizations are down. Vaccinations, masking, physical distancing, and staying home if you are not feeling well will help, we just need to monitor these things carefully.

- Because our numbers are up (we currently have 18 students in quarantine), Maureen has been working with nursing staff, if the County allows us we will institute the Test to Stay and we are going to stay with reduced quarantine length as long as we can.
- Vaccinations clinics - we know that will go well for us. Many of the students have gone for vaccinations.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Report from Business Official

Maureen Caraballo:

- Budget 101 is scheduled for January 12, in preparation for our budget season, there will be possible follow-up sessions based upon interest. These sessions are helpful as we head into the budget season as it helps people understand how the budget is built and some of the factors that go into it.
- Construction Update - shared progress photos of the work being done at Hillside.
[Click here to view Progress Pictures 12/6/2021](#)

4. STUDENT REPORT

A. Student Report

Sabine Hinkaty:

- Talent show this Friday in the auditorium at 7 pm - the show will feature many different performers and exciting prizes.
- High School winter concert next week on the 16th - will feature many complex and intricate pieces.
- Varsity boys basketball got their first win of the season this afternoon against Palisades Prep.
- Student Union coming up with ideas for a possible Spirit Week the week before break.
- Seniors who applied early decision and early action to various colleges are going to start receiving admissions decisions within the next few weeks and into January.
- Student Union looking to implement a mask recycling program in the High School - the program is a way for students to dispose of their masks in a more environmentally friendly way.
- Senior Class is starting their Tea Center this week all proceeds will go towards the Senior Prom to be held at Harvest on Hudson in June.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Public Comment

- No Public Comment

6. PRESENTATIONS

A. Social Emotional Learning

- Jeanette Kocur, Director of School Counseling and Melissa Szymanski, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction presented the following Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Presentation to the Board.

[Click here to view slide presentation](#)

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

B. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Update

- Jenice Mateo-Toledo, Ed.D, Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator and Melissa Szymanski, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum & Instruction presented the following Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Update - Presentation to the Board.

[Click here to view slide presentation](#)

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

Dr. Lang:

- Read a statement she prepared regarding neuroscience as it applies to colorism.

[Click here to view Dr. Lang's statement](#)

7. BUSINESS

A. Business Items

1. Budget transfers.
2. Warrants.
3. HTA Side letter.
4. Tucker Lecture Series, Dorothy Wickenden - Speaker, contract.
5. CSEA Side Letter.
6. Stipulation of Settlement.

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 Alexander Dal Piaz.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

B. Placement and/or Services for CSE and CPSE

- CSE: 11286, 12267, 12298, 11674, 10917
- CPSE: 12263

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 Alison Andrus, second by Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

8. PERSONNEL

A. Appointments

1. Dulcibelle Cabrera, appoint to part-time School Monitor position effective December 7, 2021.
2. Appoint Beth Habermann to Hearing Officer Coordinator for the 2021-2022 school year at a stipend of \$1,500.
3. Updated Schedule B appointment requests as per attached spreadsheet.
4. Kristen Allan, appoint to Student Observer at Hillside Elementary School effective December, 2021.
5. Walterson Martins Filho, appoint to Student Teacher in the Hastings-on-Hudson School district effective January, 2022.
6. Reshma Naraine, appoint to Per Diem substitute teacher district wide effective December 7, 2021 for the 2021-2022 school year.
7. Julia Serret, appoint to Per Diem substitute teacher district wide effective December 7, 2021 for the 2021-2022 school year.
8. Shavon Anderson, appoint to Per Diem substitute teacher district wide effective December 7, 2021 for the 2021-2022 school year.

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the appointments Items 1-8.

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

9. Kenneth Cotrone, Ed.D. appoint to Interim Assistant Principal at Farragut Middle School, MS AP, Step 11, \$133,298 effective December 20, 2021 for the 2021-2022 school year. Certifications held: School Building Leader - Professional, School District Leader - Professional, English 7-12 - Professional.

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

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

B. Resignation

1. Anil Edward, Assistant Principal at Farragut Middle School has provided notification of resignation effective December 17, 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 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. Susan McNaney, Special Education teacher at Hillside Elementary School has provided notice of resignation for the purpose of retirement effective July 1, 2022.

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

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

D. Leave of Absence

1. Raquel Reid-McFarlane, Teacher Assistant at Farragut Middle School has amended her leave of absence as follows: FMLA with pay August 30, 2021-November 19, 2021. Medical Leave with pay November 22, 2021-December 13, 2021 and Medical Leave without pay December 14, 2021-March 24, 2022. She will return to work on March 25, 2022.
2. Kenneth Cotrone, Ed.D. has requested a leave of absence from his English Language Arts position at Farragut Middle School to assume the position of Interim Assistant Principal at Farragut Middle School as follows: Leave of Absence (unpaid) December 20, 2021-June 30, 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 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

9. MINUTES

A. Approval of Minutes

- Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of November 22, 2021.

RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of November 22, 2021.

Motion by Doreen Bucher, 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

10. POLICIES

A. Second Read

- Policies for Second Read:
 - Policy 1500 - COMMUNITY USE OF DISTRICT FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT AND LABOR

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education adopt policy 1500.

Motion by Damaris-Lois Lang, 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

11. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Second Public Comment

1. Jen Ito - emailed the following comment which was read by District Clerk:

I was a bit disturbed to see the SEL survey results from Asian students.

"In grades 6-12...

-Asian students are reporting supportive relationships less favorably than multiracial students and those with confidentiality protected. -Multiracial students are reporting self-management more favorably than Asian students.

-Asian students are reporting positive feelings less favorably than all students and those with confidentiality protected.

-Asian students are reporting emotion regulation less favorably than students of other races.

-Asian students are reporting school climate less favorably as compared to all other groups of students.

-Asian students are reporting sense of belonging less favorably as compared to multiracial, White, and all students."

Are there plans on steps to take to specifically address this cohort of students (especially in light of the goals under the CRSE framework) and investigate further what is going on with this group?

Thank you for a very enlightening assessment of our students.

12. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

A. Comments

Dr. Lang:

- Asked if our position on public comments is something we need to discuss in public.

Dr. McKersie:

- Noted that we are currently silent on allowing emails. Given that we are doing business in public the commenter should be present and public, but this can be further looked at during the Policy Committee meeting.

Doug Sundheim:

- Clarified that we never took public comments from anyone who was not present at the meeting. Last year we took write-ins during our Zoom meetings or allowed people to speak during the Zoom meeting and we could see them on the screen. Additionally noted that anyone can write to the Board at any time.

Dr. Lang:

- Expressed that for the sake of equity and with the advancements in technology she feels we should consider allowing write-ins, she would like the Policy Committee to work through the public comment issue, also thinks it is something the Communication Committee can look at.

Silvia Robles:

- Noted that because we have reverted to being in person, the Board Policy that we have regarding comment presumes that people are coming in person.

13. ADJOURNMENT

A. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Alexander Dal Piaz, second by Doreen Bucher.

Final Resolution: Motion Failed

Not Present at Vote: Doug Sundheim, Jeremy Galland, Silvia Robles, Alison Andrus, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher

Melissa DeLaBarrera

Submitted by:

Melissa DeLaBarrera

District Clerk