



**Hastings-on-Hudson  
Regular Board of Education Meeting  
Monday, November 22, 2021**

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**Members present**

Doug Sundheim  
Jeremy Galland  
Silvia Robles  
Alison Andrus  
Alexander Dal Piaz  
Damaris-Lois Lang  
Doreen Bucher (arrived at 7:53 PM)

Meeting called to order at 7:33 PM

**1. OPENING OF MEETING**

A. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 7:33 PM by Doug Sundheim, President

B. Appointment of Superintendent

- Resolution to appoint Dr. William McKersie, as Superintendent of Schools.
- Employment Agreement.

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the board approve the appointment and contract of Dr. William McKersie as Superintendent.

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

**2. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. McKersie:

A. District Highlights

- Beauty and the Beast Jr. delightful performance by FMS 6th graders.
- FMS Thanksgiving Food Drive, Thanksgiving in a Bag distributed today to families in need.
- FMS hosting a wellness day on Wednesday to remind us of general wellness, both for mind and body.
- Paige Martin signed her National Letter of Intent last week to play Division 1 basketball for St. Francis College.
- Junior Anna Thomas placed 61st in the state overall in the cross country state championships.
- Dr. McKersie has begin informally dropping into HS classrooms, he continues guest reading to K-4 classes, and is having an active discussion with the Student Union regarding healthy activities - are students healthy?
- 5th anniversary of 2016 Boys Soccer Team winning State championship - Village Mayor and Trustees have agreed to put up signs as you enter Hastings.

B. Covid-19 Update

- Concern amongst superintendents as rates are on the rise.
- We will be running our own vaccination clinic for 5-11 year olds.
- Modified quarantine requirements - approved by state and county.

### C. Drug, Alcohol, and Vaping

- Addressed the topic of drugs, alcohol, and vaping.
- Stated his commitment to be open about it, talk about it and deal with it head-on.
- Noted that he has discussed with the entire leadership team and noted the importance of the community knowing that the administrators, staff, social workers, psychologists, counselors, coaches, musical directors, etc. care about healthy students and helping them make healthy decisions and choices.
- We will be sharing what we know as the Board sees fit periodically, in terms of usage rates (broadly defined, not individuals) as well as what are we doing? How do we know if it is working or not and how are we handling it discipline wise.

### Lou Adipietro

- Added that he shares Bill's sentiment. He is very transparent and shares with students and parents that we have a problem in Hastings. Vaping is currently the biggest issue.
- He and Melissa Hardesty patrol the bathrooms regularly and are working actively with the Youth Advocates Office, Joanne Reid, the Police Department, and Student Government.
- Discussed reviving YAP, open mic nights, etc. to give kids something to do on the weekends.
- Went over the disciplinary actions that are taken when students are caught vaping: Spend the day with either Principal or AP, online vape course, automatic referral to a drug and alcohol counselor (minimum of 3 mandated sessions).

## 3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

### A. Report from Business Official

Maureen Caraballo:

#### Budget Update

- The State released preliminary school aid runs that will be part of the state's 22-23 proposed spending plan. Currently, the aid runs reflect the commitment made earlier this year from Governor Hocol to fully fund the Foundation Aid formula to schools that have not been previously funded in past fiscal budgets. The phase-in of foundation aid, which began this fiscal year would continue to be phased in over the next two years. This would equate to approximately an additional \$500-\$600k in state aid a year for the next two budget cycles for Hastings. As we commence on our budget season with projected increases in both health insurance premiums as well as retirements system contributions, this will help address those increasing expenses.
- As we begin budget season, in addition to the scheduled budget presentations we will also be running Budget 101 sessions, date/s to be determined in January. These sessions are focused on budget development and allow for interactions with the community.

#### Construction Update

- The Hillside Construction continues to move on schedule. At this week's construction meeting it was reported that although there has been some additional lead time on items, it has not impacted our schedule thus far. The weather this fall has really cooperated with us so far. The building is nearly completely enclosed with the exception of glass that will be installed later this year.
- The MS Auditorium project is in full swing. Because the room is being used more as a learning and collaborative space, the design team has proposed an upbeat, colorful color pallet for the room. This project is also slated to be completed in March.
- The Music Suite will be reopened for "business" in December. We hope to have a ribbon cutting ceremony to commemorate the beautiful renovation that has taken place in the space.

## 4. STUDENT REPORT

### A. Student Report

Gus Renzin:

- Paige Martin is going to St. Francis to for Division 1 basketball.
- Anna Thomas placed 61st in states in Cross Country.
- Student Union working on the talent show for December, mask recycling program and new honor code.
- Winter sports have started.

- Project Share thanksgiving dinner, in spite of Covid restrictions, managed to make 1000 containers of apple crisp an unbelievable amount of cranberry sauce. Lists were overflowing so many people wanted to participate. Excited to hopefully have the real dinner next year.

## 5. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. Public Comment
- No public comment

## 6. PRESENTATIONS

A. Learning Impact of COVID-19 (2020-2021)

Melissa Szymanski, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction and Jeanette Kocur, Director of School Counseling presented the following Learning Impact of COVID-19 Presentation:

- [Click here to view presentation](#)

## 7. BUSINESS

A. Business Items

1. Warrants.
2. Revenue and Expenditure Reports for October 2021.
3. Landscape Unlimited, Inc., proposal.
4. Cathy Williams, Mathematics teaching and learning support, proposal.
5. Salary advancements for the 2021-2022 school year as attached.
6. Ardsley UFSD, Tuition Contract.
7. Approve the use of the Suffolk County Bid, for Commercial Instrumentation Services, an HVAC Contractor, to install Air Conditioning in the HS Cafeteria and Hillside Cafe.
8. Approve the use of the Byram Hills School District Bid, for HVAC On-Call Service.

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

Motion by Jeremy Galland, 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. 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: 12071, 11895, 10661 12292, 11511, 7703

CPSE: 11806, 11907

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 Damaris-Lois Lang.

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. Kelly Cavallo, appoint to 1.0 FTE Elementary K-6 Regular Substitute/Leave Replacement at Hillside Elementary School, MA, Step 1, \$65,574 (to be pro-rated) effective November 29, 2021 through the end of the 2021-2022 school year. Certification held: Childhood Education Grades 1-6 - Initial
2. Ypapanti Perselis, appoint to position of school monitor, effective November 23, 2021.
3. Kerry Ann Carey, appoint to the positions of School Monitor, 5 hours per day, and Clerical Substitute, effective December 1, 2021.
4. Updated Schedule B appointment requests as per attached spreadsheet.
5. Gerald Goodman, appoint to part-time School Monitor position effective November 29, 2021.
6. Francisco Pozo-Schmidt, appoint to part-time School Monitor position pending fingerprint clearance.

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

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

Motion by Alison Andrus, 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

#### B. Amendments

1. Charles Ntumba, school monitor, amend appointment to Teacher Aide, Column 1A, Step 1, effective November 15, 2021.
2. Benjamin Glassman, 1.0 FTE probationary English Language Arts teacher at Hastings High School as of December 1, 2021. Amend salary schedule to MA, Step 3, \$71,877 (to be pro-rated) effective December 1, 2021.
3. Amend 09/09/2019 Schedule B Side Letter for HASP Chair Pay to the correct Chair Pay amount of \$5,593 for the 2019-2020 School Year.

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

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

Motion by Alison Andrus, 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

#### C. Leave of Absence

1. Jamie Nedwick, Media Specialist at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: FMLA with pay October 28, 2021-January 3, 2022. Her return to work date is January 4, 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 appointments.

Motion by Alison Andrus, 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

#### D. Resignation

1. Michael Chappas, Physical Education teacher at Hillside Elementary School has provided notice of resignation effective end of day December 10, 2021.

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

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

Motion by Alison Andrus, 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

## **9. MINUTES**

### A. Approval of Minutes

- Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of November 8, 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 8, 2021.

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

## **10. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### A. Policy

Policy Committee Report:

- Maureen Caraballo gave a brief overview of Policy 1500 and noted that the only revision made was to remove the Inter Village Continuing Education because it no longer exists, and to add Project Share, because they're an outside organization that students internally are a part of, so we allow them to use our facilities at no cost. Policy 1500 is being presented for a first read tonight.

## **11. POLICIES**

### A. First Read

First Read:

Policy 1500 - COMMUNITY USE OF DISTRICT FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT AND LABOR

## **12. OLD BUSINESS**

### A. Board Goals

- Board discussed the 2021-2022 Hastings-on-Hudson Board Goals document and after some clarifying questions they agreed on the goals and will post the document to the website.

## **13. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT**

### A. Second Public Comment

- No comment

## **14. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS**

### A. Comments

Doreen Bucher:

- Apologized to Dr. McKersie for missing the vote, but wanted to state that if she were present she would have voted yes and is happy to have him.

Jeremy Galland:

- As it relates to goals so many things going in the right direction - thrilled that Dr. McKersie will be staying.
- Thinks the goal that is left is fiscal oversight. Feels district and community running into growth trap. Priorities and values will be on the line come April. His focus remains on budget growth for the community.

Alexander Dal Piaz:

- Seconded Jeremy's concern for budget growth.

## **15. ADJOURNMENT**

A. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

*Melissa DeLaBarrera*

**Submitted by:**

**Melissa DeLaBarrera**

**District Clerk**