



**Hastings-on-Hudson
Regular Board of Education Meeting
Monday, October 25, 2021**

Members present

Doug Sundheim
Jeremy Galland
Silvia Robles
Alison Andrus
Alexander Dal Piaz
Doreen Bucher
Damaris-Lois Lang (arrived at 7:38PM)

Meeting called to order at 7:32 PM

1. OPENING OF MEETING

A. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 7:32 PM by Doug Sundheim, Board President

2. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

A. Public Relations & Communications Update

Dr. McKersie:

- Provided an update on public relations and communications. A survey is underway, there has been a fairly good response to the survey which the communications and board helped to revise, it has been kept open till the end of the week.
- Chris Yerkes, Jason Platzner and Fi Goodman are working to refine the Communications Protocol - a who to call when. Once the draft is ready it will be shared with the Communications Workgroup before being placed on the website.
- The website is being cleaned up and updated to be more current.

B. District Highlights

Dr. McKersie:

- Congratulated Hastings High School student Jasper Zimmerman who won the 2021 National Association for Music Education, Student Composers Competition, with his piece Going Places.
- Hillside Elementary School celebrated Unity Day last week, they are learning about the prevention of bullying and trying to make sure the environment is safe and healthy and focusing on their 4th-grade safety patrol.
- 2021 Budget Newsletter received an Award of Honor in the National School Public Relations Associations Contest, that award goes jointly to Jason Platzner and Chris Yerkes on behalf of the district.
- Friday there will be a Halloween parade at Hillside.
- Congratulated the 8th and 9th-grade baseball players that won over the weekend in The Greater Hudson Valley Baseball League Championships held in Danbury, CT.

Community Update:

- County Executives are advocating for testing instead of quarantining.
- Vaccinations will soon be made available for children ages 5-11, vaccinations would avoid any quarantining.
- The district may poll Hastings families to sense their likelihood to take advantage of the vaccine/

- Some communities are being pressed to stop wearing masks, however, we are not seeing any resistance or discomfort in Hastings, we work in groups and in tight quarters so we should keep masks on.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Report from Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction

Melissa Szymanski:

- Registration Process Protocol
The leadership team goals document that was recently shared during the Board of Education working session includes an action item related to enhancing our registration process, ensuring that data and information is precise. In partnership with the leadership team, Jenice, and Michele Porter, we finalized a protocol document that outlines the flow of information during the registration process, as well as explicitly defining associated roles and responsibilities. We are also looking into whether an online registration option for parents might be feasible, and awaiting pricing information before determining next steps.
- Request for Proposal (RFP)
The leadership team goals document that was recently shared also includes an action item related to a program review for inclusive practices at Hillside. Laura and Tesfa and I worked together to create the RFP document, which was also reviewed by Amy Cazes. Proposals will be due back to the district in November to allow time for responses. These responses will then be reviewed by administrators and teachers to determine who will be conducting the program review.
- Professional Learning Committee
The Professional Learning Committee to begin discussions about creating a Curriculum Review Cycle, as outlined in the document referenced in the recent Board of Education work session. During the meeting session, the team began exploring the purpose of a curriculum review cycle and investigating examples of cycles that exist in other districts.
- Technology Plan
Maureen and I have been working closely with the Lower Hudson Regional Information Center to develop a process/timeline for the State required Technology Plan development. An update on the process will be presented to the Board of Education on November 8th. Internal committee membership is in the process of being determined.
- Academic and SEL Screeners
We have encountered some technical challenges with our two diagnostic screeners. With the STAR Renaissance, our academic screener, the difficulty lies in synching the parent reports with eSchoolData so that families can view them. With Panorama, the SEL screener, we have encountered some challenges with rostering students to ensure that data can be disaggregated by special education, ELL, and economically insecure status. Michele Porter, data coordinator, and our LHRIC technology team have been working together to resolve both of these issues. Our hope is to be able to administer the SEL screener to students this week, as originally intended, and to have parent reports available as soon as possible.
- Congratulations to our very own Jasper Zimmerman. His submission, Going Places, for the 2021 National Association for Music Education (NAfME) Student Composers Competition, sponsored by the European American Musical Alliance (EAMA), was the winner.

B. Report from Business Official

Maureen Caraballo:

- The District is in the final stages of finalizing a potential solar project for the District. As you may know, the District has been pursuing a Solar project for approximately eight years. Initially, the District looked into a project in which we would own the panels through a lease purchasing agreement using federal incentives to make the financing work. Unlike private homes, schools and municipalities pay lower utility costs that are fixed by a Board that oversees rates for these entities. Although, this means that schools pay much lower costs for energy, it makes the financing and affordability of solar not as easy as it may seem. In order to have solar the District would not be in a position to increase cost but would be looking to either reduce or break even. Unfortunately, in the end the terms that would have been necessary for the District to enter into

would have in fact net an increase of cost to the District. Although we would save on energy the financing for the panels would be more than the savings. Fast-forward to 2020, the District was made aware of a program through Sustainable Westchester to partner with G & S Solar to rent roof space to install solar panels. The energy produced from these panels would return to the grid and be available for Hastings residents to opt into using. I am working with District counsel to finalize the terms and conditions that would allow the District legally to enter into a long-term agreement with the group. This week, after many revisions and proposals were able to come to terms with an agreement that will allow G & S to officially start their engineering process to fully confirm the number of solar panels that will be able to be installed on the property. At this point, once they have a final design and engineered plan, it will take another twelve months or so to gain the approval needed from New York State to proceed with the project.

- Unfortunately, due to some unforeseen timing issues, our new crossing guards were unable to be trained this past week. The police needed to assign personnel and this week turned out not to have worked. That being said, Dave and I have confirmed that the training on the new crossing guards will begin on Tuesday. The Village has been a great partner to us and we are happy to finally see the progress on this. I again want to acknowledge the amazing work of the PTSA working group who has been working to improve safety around schools and help with educating our families on the critical issues.

4. STUDENT REPORT

A. Student Report

Guz Renzin:

- Homecoming varsity beat Woodland and the Pep rally was a major success.
- High school clubs at homecoming had massive fundraising success and the new clubs are doing well with new memberships.
- Project share midnight run was a huge success. They delivered several hundred sandwiches to the city and tons of clothing and toiletries. They are now working hard to set up the Thanksgiving dinner in a remote and safe way.
- Planning for junior formal is in full swing and committees are trying to put together a talent show for the fall or early December.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Public Comment

- No public comment

6. BUSINESS

A. Business Items

1. Warrants.
2. Michael Vincent Iacofano, Audio Consultant invoice.
3. Matthew Talty, Sound Design and Guidance invoice.
4. Revenue and Expenditure Reports for September 2021.
5. Pearl Care Contract Addendum.
6. LHRIC, Day Automation proposal.
7. The Grit Ninja, LLC, contract.
8. Bronxville UFSD, contract.
9. Quality Evaluation & Psychology, Occupational, Physical & Speech Therapy Consulting Services, PLLC, contract.

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

Motion by Silvia Robles, 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: 10725, 11498, 10974, 11216, 9087, 11353, 10661, 10464, 7617, 12293, 12298, 10818, 10040, 7619

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 Jeremy Galland.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

7. PERSONNEL

A. Appointments

1. Updated Schedule B appointment request as per attached spreadsheet.
2. Updated returning previously appointed Substitute list.
3. Kenneth Peace, appoint to position of Cleaner, Column 1A, Step 2, effective November 1, 2021.
4. Anne Marie Fardo, appoint to part-time position of School Monitor, effective October 20, 2021.

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 Alexander Dal Piaz, 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

B. Amendments

1. Kenneth Cotrone, English Language Arts teacher at Farragut Middle School, amend probationary period due to prior conferred tenure. Amended probationary period: August 30, 2021-August 29, 2024.
2. Meredith Fichman, Earth Science teacher at Farragut Middle School, amend probationary period due to prior conferred tenure. Amended probationary period: August 30, 2021-August 29, 2024.
3. Alisa Kolenovic, English as a New Language teacher at Hastings High School, amend probationary period due to prior conferred tenure. Amended probationary period: August 30, 2021-August 29, 2024.
4. Christine Samuel, Elementary K-6 teacher at Hillside Elementary School, amend probationary period due to prior conferred tenure. Amended probationary period: August 30, 2021-August 29, 2024.
5. Lisa Amster, Teacher Aide, amend appointment to temporary Teacher Assistant, 10 mos, Column 1B, Step 1, effective September 1, 2021.
6. Erik Addison, School Monitor, amend appointment to Teacher Aide, Column 1A, Step 2, effective October 21, 2021.
7. Thomas Corveddu, School Monitor, amend appointment to Teacher Aide, Column 1A, Step 2, effective October 22, 2021.
8. Suekhee Choi, amend her appointment to Teacher Aide, Column 1A, Step 2, effective October 26, 2021.

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

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

Motion by Alexander Dal Piaz, 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

C. Leaves of Absence

1. Colette Smith, Elementary K-6 teacher at Farragut Middle School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPSL effective September 14, 2021-September 24, 2021. She returned to work on September 27, 2021.
2. Terry Franck, Groundskeeper, district wide, has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYSCPSL effective September 29, 2021-October 8, 2021. He returned to work on October 12, 2021.

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 Alexander Dal Piaz, 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. MINUTES

A. Approval of Minutes

- Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of October 12, 2021.

RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of October 12, 2021.

Motion by Jeremy Galland, 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. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Facilities

Facilities Committee Report presented by Facilities Committee Members.

Maureen Caraballo:

- Provided a brief overview of the discussions in the facilities committee meeting. They went over the five year facilities planning. How the district identifies and prioritizes work to be done within facilities, based on programmatic needs or changes in enrollment, need for more space, etc. Recommendation is to do a review of the Farragut Complex over the next year.
- Parking at both buildings still a concern that needs to be addressed. Looking to have architects revisit prior plans and discussed various ideas for adding additional parking for both buildings.

B. Policy

Policy Committee Report presented by Policy Committee Members.

Alexander Dal Piaz:

- Summarized the policy meeting that was facilitated by Dr. McKersie. Most of the time was spent reviewing the Code of Conduct and discussing the revisions, based on committee and community input and circling back with building leaders. No major substantive changes other than updating of language and adding of new definitions. Additional policies were reviewed, the committee discussed briefly and agreed to Suzanne Volpe's recommendations.

10. POLICIES

A. First Read

The following policies were reviewed and discussed by the Board.

- Policy 5300 - District Code of Conduct
- Policy 1235 - Taping of Conversations
- Policy 1420 - Objection to Instructional Materials

Dr. Lang:

- Asked the administrators to address the DASA aspect.

Dr. Mckersie:

- Recommended a DASA 101, followed by an overarching summary of what we know about disciplining patterns for the full board. Will discuss further at next meeting.

11. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Second Public Comment

- No Comment

12. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

A. Comments

Dr. McKersie:

- Pointed out the following revisions to the Board of Education meeting topics:
 - November 8 - DASA 101 Presentation
 - Noted the need to hold Executive sessions in November/December for the purpose of contract negotiations.

Dr. Lang:

- Updated the Board on the assignment from the Board Goals Work session on inquiry-based questions that should shape our goals.
- Focused more on defining board responsibilities instead of board goals.

Alexander Dal Piaz:

- Added to Dr. Lang's update that in their discussions for Board Goals they discussed the curriculum review cycle, forward-looking, larger topics, the guiding principle that defines our space.
- Congratulated the cross country team and commended their sportsmanship.

13. 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