



**Hastings-on-Hudson
Regular Board of Education Meeting
Monday, September 13, 2021**

Members Present:

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

Meeting called to order at 7:33 PM

1. OPENING OF MEETING

A. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order by Alison Andrus, Vice President at 7:33 PM.
- Alison advised that Board President, Doug Sundheim would be unable to attend the meeting.

2. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

A. Update

Dr. McKersie:

- Covid-19 Update
 - Percentage rate of fully vaccinated staff is above 86%, with the vaccination percentage among staff working directly with students over 95%.
 - Advised that based on guidance from NY Dept. of Health, NY Dept. of Ed and CDC you can now avoid quarantine if vaccinated and wearing a mask.
- School Opening Update
 - Doing walkabouts as a way to see things as Interim Superintendent, seeing student sports and looking to see arts and theater as well.
 - Reynolds Field received a lot of damage as a result of tropical storm Ida, Maureen will provide an update.
 - Maureen has been working to address the issues with transportation in collaboration with the other districts involved, there is currently a bus driver shortage and Maureen will provide more details in her update.

B. District Highlights

Melissa Szymanski:

- Hastings High School
On behalf of Lou Adipietro, "Hastings High School opened its doors on September 1st and welcomed 534 students to in-person instruction. There was a happiness that was infectious. Our seniors welcomed students back in the lobby with fanfare and then it was back to business. Lou Adipietro shared, "Our staff and students were thrilled to be back and in-person. You could see all of the smiles from behind their masks. It was an awesome day!"
- Farragut Middle School
On behalf of Jennifer Spirelli, "Farragut Middle School opened their doors on the first day of school to 517 students 5th through 8th graders. It was a rainy morning but no one seemed to mind the rain. Students were eager to see their teachers and meet up with friends. These past few days of school teachers and students have been

participating in getting to know you activities and team bonding challenges. Jennifer Spirelli shared, 'At the heart of FMS are the enduring relationships and bonds which our faculty and staff build with our students, their families.'

- Hillside Elementary School

On behalf of Amy Cazes, "Hillside School is happy again as our 562 students returned to a full day of school. Students have been engaged in getting to know you activities, building community, and learning routines and procedures. The joy of elementary school is evident- the hum of interactive learning in classrooms, the cheers from collaborative group success, and the laughter outside during lunch and recess as friends reunite and new friends are made. Amy Cazes shared, 'Our theme this year is We all put our different pieces together to make something stronger and more beautiful. There's no doubt that we will build something amazing this year with our hard-working students, dedicated staff, and supportive community.'

- I had the pleasure of kicking off the school year welcoming students at Hillside to the building. I did notice a few that cried, but the children were able to quickly reassure those parents. We look forward to a wonderful school year.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Report from Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction

Melissa Szymanski:

- Social Emotional Wellness

Jeanette Kocur, Director of School Counseling, and I have been working together on the monitoring and support of the social and emotional wellbeing of students throughout the K-12 system. We have begun logistical preparations for a screening process, which will entail the use of a series of questions administered through a Panorama Education resource. Jeanette is also in the process of arranging for Mental Health First Aid training for teachers and aides. This training is designed to help members of the faculty recognize students in distress and to understand what to do to support them in the moment. Finally, I met with Laura Sullivan, Director of Special Education, around providing Crisis Prevention and Intervention training for teachers and aides.

- Universal Screener

We are preparing to administer the STAR Renaissance Universal Screener in the elementary school and middle school during a window of assessment that spans the last weeks of September and early October. Grades K-9 Teachers of Mathematics and ELA, Special Educators, MTSS providers, MTSS Team Members & ENL Teachers participated in a training around the use of this resource during our second Superintendent's Conference Day. The focus areas of the workshop included (a) understanding what the assessments are, why they should be administered, and how they are different from other assessments, (b) understanding how the resource assessment scale connects student performance with learning progressions, resources, standards, and other scores, (c) strategies for administering the screener with fidelity, and (d) exploring data.

- Middle School Mathematics

The implementation of Big Ideas is underway in Grades 6-8 in middle school. The teachers and I worked closely together to ensure that all Big Ideas resources were in hand and that all manipulative kits arrived in the rooms. There is good positive energy about starting the year with a great curricular resource in hand. Thank you to Christian Fadul, our incredible network administrator, for all of the support with the accompanying digital resources.

- We have a science research update from Melissa Shandroff:

In August, two students from the Science Research class had their work published in the journal, Developmental Cell. Anya Van Hoogstraten (Class of 2019 and currently at Yale University) and Ivy Mininger (Class of 2020 and currently at Boston College) both worked in the lab of Dr. Samuel Sidi at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai New York. The article titled, "[FANCI Functions as a Repair/Apoptosis Switch in Response to DNA Crosslinks](#)" was published on August 9, 2021. Anya and Ivy contributed to the work, which helped to "describe a mechanism by which cells decide their fate, repair or self-removal, after DNA damage. The mechanism relies on the ability of a DNA repair effector, to engage an apoptotic device in a manner exclusive with its repair activity."

B. Report from Business Official

Maureen Caraballo provided the following updates:

- Transportation Update

- Transportation Snapshot-Hastings

- In District Transportation-Approximately 574 students
- Out of District Transportation-Approximately 75 students going to 37 different schools.

- Shared Transportation Service Model with Ardsley, Dobbs, Irvington and Edgemont.
 - Transportation Challenges 2021
 - New Interim Director after unexpected retirement of long serving Director
 - Assistant Director left right before departure.
 - Countrywide driver and monitor shortage due to COVID pandemic.
 - Routes have not had drivers and caused extended bus times
 - Current Issues and Timeframe to Resolve
 - Three out of District Runs are still without drivers- these students will be added to existing runs in the next few days if drivers cannot be found. Unfortunately, this will extent other runs and transportation time for our students. Parents have been transporting.
 - Eagle Hill Route-remove 2 students and route onto other run. This is in process. This should be in place later this week.
 - Tech Center runs will begin tomorrow.
 - In-District issues should be resolved by end of week including, students who were not routed and siblings that had not been on same run.
 - In-district bus stops need to be re-evaluated for safety reasons. This will begin next week.
 - Post operations analysis
 - Improve communication with parents and ability to reach someone at transportation.
 - Secure an Assistant Director of Transportation and possibility increase staffing.
 - Work with Quad-partners on increasing drivers amongst staff. Ardsley currently has custodian drivers.
 - Revisit plan to increase bus purchases amongst Quad partners.
- Ida Storm Damage
 - Reynolds Field Track - drainage damaged, track covered in mud, dirt and debris
 - Reynolds Field Track Retaining Wall - damaged, will need to be replaced, will require drainage repair
 - Reynolds Field Sidewalk - entire sidewalk damaged
 - Reynolds Field Culvert - entire pipe cracked in half and will have to be replaced in its entirety
 - Reynolds Tennis Courts - top coat significantly damaged and will need to be redone
 - Timeline
 - Super Storm Ida- Wednesday, September 1st.
 - Site evaluation by Facilities Director September 2nd.
 - Insurance Claim filed September 2nd.
 - Site began to be secured by Facilities Department
 - Engineers and Architects called to provide site evaluation
 - Local Field, Track and Tennis Contractors called to prepare quotes on repairs to site
 - Multiple visits from Engineers, Contractors and Insurance September 3rd-September 13th
 - FEMA visited site week to document damage
 - Clean up and next steps
 - Cleanup began week of September 13th at tennis courts
 - Contractor to begin cleanup of track and fencing September 14th
 - Further evaluation by Insurance will be needed
 - Reopen Reynolds Field for sporting events-anticipated September 18th
 - Reopen tennis -September 15th and basketball courts-September 18th until contractor mobilizes
 - Insurance coverage notification by October 1st
 - Contract with Contractor to begin repairs-estimated time of repairs 3-4 months
 - Contact FEMA for any expenses not covered by Insurance carrier
- COVID Update
 - Covid Vaccination requirements
 - Weekly testing for unvaccinated staff and contractors operating on school grounds
 - Currently approximately 45 staff and contractors will need weekly testing
 - Testing to be performed by nursing staff 5 days per week.
 - Nurses will assign testing times and days to unvaccinated staff.
 - Tests have been ordered and are expected to arrive next week.
 - Testing to begin September 27th.
 - Covid Testing Update
 - NYSDOH Commissioner's Determination on COVID-19 testing in schools (released September 2, 2021) Westchester County Department of Health. This includes mandated testing for unvaccinated staff.
 - District is partnering with Westchester County to perform surveillance testing with a partner Quadrant.
 - Quadrant will provide surveillance testing materials and a representative to collect once a week. Day to be determined by Quadrant.
 - Covid Testing Update

- Gateway/Baseline testing will continue as originally planned. Any student, teacher, or staff who consents, regardless of vaccination status, can receive a baseline test during your district's/school's initial testing event(s).
 - District only receives a specific number of tests based on population.
 - Offer unvaccinated students weekly testing (parental consent required)
 - Information will be going out in the next week to parents.
 - Test a random sample of consenting unvaccinated and/or vaccinated teachers, students, and staff weekly
 - Districts are responsible for tracking which students, teachers, and staff are vaccinated and unvaccinated to implement the above model(s).
- Capital Update
 - Hillside Addition Project
 - All structural steel has been installed
 - Roof for addition near completion
 - Foam Insulation and exterior walls are being installed.
 - Building should be closed up in the next month.
 - Pergola and glass cawall are being fabricated and will be installed in late October.
 - Interior work to begin in late October.
 - Substantial completion end of February.
 - Final completion March 2022.
 - Rooms in existing building will be accessible late February 2022.
 - Remainder of building to be opened in March 2022.
 - Cafeteria operation will not begin until September 2022.
 - Possible lite cafeteria shuttle opening in April-May 2022.
 - Graduation will be in Cafetorium June 2022.
 - Farragut Music Suite
 - Full abatement and reconfiguration of room completed
 - New lighting for space including new service installed
 - New acoustical ceiling began last week and will be completed by end of September.
 - New flooring to begin in October
 - New expanded musical storage to be installed mid-late October
 - New recording studio storage to be installed mid-October
 - New teachers space installed in mid-October
 - Space to be reopened November 1
 - MS Auditorium
 - Bids to be awarded September 13th
 - Mobilization on site starting September 15th
 - Final substantial completion by March 1, 2022
 - Reopening of space for students and staff week of March 7, 2022

4. STUDENT REPORT

A. Student Report

Sabine Hinkaty:

- Seniors had an exciting 1st day of school, many came to school early to decorate the lobby, play music and show of their school spirit.
- Seniors wore the senior shirts they tie-dyed and decorated on the 1st day.
- Varsity boys and girls soccer both won their first games on Friday, girls team won 6-2 vs. Haldane and the boys team won 2-0 vs. Rye Neck.
- Girls tennis beat Dobbs Ferry 3-2 on Friday.
- Peer leadership fall retreat began this afternoon.
- First Student Union meeting of the year will be held on Wednesday morning, to discuss goals, a club fair for Monday the 20th, and fundraising ideas.

Gus Renzin:

- Field hockey beat Rye Neck 1-0 on Friday.
- Junior Player Sarah Weinstein was nominated for a field hockey player of the week award.
- Cross Country team first meet girls came in 3rd.
- Early morning for high school band and orchestra began this week.
- Volunteers from Project Share went to houses around the community to help after the flooding from Hurricane Ida.
- Modified sports started today.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Public Comment

Marci Ponagai:

- Commented on the Eagle Hill transportation issue.
- Read a letter that was emailed to the Board regarding said issue.
- Noted that it has affected her sons ability to participate in after school sports, as he is not arriving home in time to make practice.

Thomas Kenney:

- Commented on the Eagle Hill transportation issue.
- Thanked Maureen for her hard work and effort and progress to remedy the situation.
- Noted that Eagle Hill bus route times have been significantly altered from past years.
- Respectfully requesting revised bus schedule especially pick-up times.

6. BUSINESS

A. Business Items

1. Addition to Summer Help staff for Building and Grounds Department, Christian Anacassis, effective July 6, 2021 through August 31, 2021.
2. BOCES Contract for Cooperative Educational Services for school years 2021-2026.
3. Home Care Therapies LLC dba Horizon Healthcare Staffing, Clinical Staffing Agreement.
4. BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to enter into an agreement with the Westchester County Department of Health for purposes of conducting COVID-19 testing during the 2021-2022 school year, consistent with requirements issued or to be issued by the New York State Department of Health.
5. HHS English Department Professional Learning, Bard Institute for Writing and Thinking, proposal.
6. Theatre Audio Request, Sound Associates, Inc. and Denise Hills Audio Consulting, quote.
7. Coach for Transitioning Administrators, Educational Learning Corporation, contract.
8. Warrants.
9. July 2021 Revenue and Expenditure Reports.
10. City School District of New Rochelle, piggyback on bid with Window Repairs Systems, Inc., proposal.
11. Award Contract G to W.J. Northridge Construction in the amount of \$896,000.
12. Award Contract M to S & O Construction Services Inc. in the amount of \$289,957.
13. Award Contract E to Healy Electric in the amount of \$464,000.
14. Current Events in the Classroom, 2021-2022 school year, proposal.

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: 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: 10493, 11310, 11522, 11895, 11014, 11713 11697, 7703, 10534, 10591

CPSE: 12221, 12220, 12273, 12261

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

7. PERSONNEL

A. Appointments

1. Diana Lane, appoint to 1.0 FTE probationary Elementary K-6 teacher at Hillside Elementary School, MA, Step 2, \$68,733 effective August 30, 2021. Probationary period August 30, 2021-January 15, 2025 (due to prior Leave Replacement). Tenure date: January 16, 2025. Certifications held: Childhood Education Grades 1-6 - Professional, Students with Disabilities Grades 1-6 - Professional.
2. Christine Samuel, appoint to 1.0 FTE probationary Elementary K-6 teacher at Hillside Elementary School, MA, Step 8, \$87,651 effective August 30, 2021. Probationary period August 30, 2021-August 29, 2025. Tenure date: August 30, 2025. Certification held: Childhood Education Grades 1-6 - Professional.
3. Please appoint the following Farragut Middle School Special Education teachers an additional .2 FTE to cover a vacancy effective August 30, 2021-October 12, 2021: Gina Maria Bellavia, Seanna O'Donnell, Caryn Hecht, Joseph Epstein, Britney Skultety.
4. Updated Returning Substitute list as per attached spreadsheet.
5. Updated Schedule B appointments as per attached spreadsheet. (MS Support Team Coordinator - amend stipend on spreadsheet)
6. Melissa Shandroff, appoint to an additional .1333 to take on additional Science Department responsibilities at Hastings High School effective August 30, 2021 for the 2021-2022 school year.
7. Jeanette McCaughey, appoint to 1.0 FTE Speech and Language Pathologist Regular Substitute/Leave Replacement at Farragut Middle School/Hastings High School, MA, Step 4, \$75,038 effective September 27, 2021-March 1, 2022. Certification held: Speech and Language Disabilities - Professional.

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

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

B. Amendments

1. Jenice Mateo-Toledo, amend salary column to previous column: MA+75, \$135,505.
2. Walterson Martins Filho, Teacher Aide, amend hours from 1.143 FTE (8 hours) to 1.00 FTE (7 hours) as of August 30, 2021.
3. Nicholas Macri, Deputy Treasurer, Chief Information Officer (CIO) for the 2021-2022 school year, amend stipend from \$13,500 to \$14,045.
4. Devin Nunez, Teacher Assistant, amend from Column 1A (10 months) Step 2 to Column 1B (10 months) Step 2, effective August 30, 2021.

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

Motion by Jeremy Galland, second by Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

C. Leaves of Absence

1. Maria Rudolph, English teacher at Hastings High School has requested a leave of absence as follows: FMLA with pay July 26, 2021-September 19, 2021. Medical leave of absence with pay September 20, 2021-October 11, 2021. Parental leave without pay October 12, 2021-October 29, 2021. She will return to work on November 1, 2021.
2. Alison McArdle, Speech and Language Pathologist at Farragut Middle School/Hastings High School has requested a leave of absence effective August 30, 2021-March 1, 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 Damaris-Lois Lang.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

D. Resignations

1. Scarlett Cajas, school monitor, resignation effective July 1, 2021.

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

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

8. MINUTES

A. Approval of Minutes

Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of August 23, 2021.

RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of August 23, 2021.

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

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. BOE Meeting Topics 2021-2022: Draft Update

Dr. McKersie:

- Provided a brief overview of the BOE Meeting topics spreadsheet.
- More topics will be added after Board Working Session to discuss Board goals.
- The goal is to finalize the plan by October 12th.
- Noted that the following scheduled topics may need to be adjusted, November 22nd - SEL Learning Impact of Covid 19 and December 6th - DEI Update.

B. BOE Meetings - In Person or Virtual

- The Board discussed the option to meet virtually as opposed to in person.
- Each member shared their thoughts and reasoning behind their preferences.
- The majority of the Board is in favor of continuing to have in person meetings.
- Board remains open to revisiting the topic should the need arise.

10. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Second Public Comment

- No Public Comment

11. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

A. Comments

Jeremy Galland:

- This year may be different, we already have a lot on our plates with COVID management, adjustments, the budget, construction projects and insurance claims, should let our principals adjust how they see fit.

Alexander DalPiaz:

- Commented that he would like to revisit the transportation issue topic in the near future.

Alison Andrus:

- Thanked Dr. McKersie for recognizing the hard work of staff.

Doreen Bucher:

- Asked if we are designing windows that open in Hillside. Hopes the students will continue to eat outside even post COVID.

Dr. Lang:

- Commented regarding Ida repairs and asked if Dobbs Ferry using materials that are superior to ours since we are finding ourselves using Dobbs Ferry facilities after storm. Maureen noted it was location.

Doreen Bucher:

- Suggested creating a cohort of HS science students interested in studying Climate Change. Gus noted they are in the process of doing that.

Silvia Robles:

- Commented that it is rewarding to hear Dr. McKersie give words of affirmation and acknowledgment of all the hard work going on behind the scenes.

12. ADJOURNMENT

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Motion by Silvia Robles, second by Alexander Dal Piaz.

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

A. Adjournment

Melissa DeLaBarrera

Submitted by:

Melissa DeLaBarrera

District Clerk