



**Hastings-on-Hudson
Regular Board of Education Meeting
Tuesday, October 24, 2023**

Members present

Silvia Robles
Alexander Dal Piaz
Damaris-Lois Lang
Doreen Bucher
Maureen Lennon-Santana
Jodie Meyer
Theresa McCaffrey

1. OPENING OF MEETING

A. [Call to Order](#)

- Meeting called to order at 6:08 PM

2. AUDIT REPORT

A. [Audit Report](#)

- Jeffrey C. Shaver, Partner, PKF O'Connor Davies, Accountants and Advisors presented the results of the audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. The audit had positive results, including a clean opinion on the financial statements and no material weaknesses in internal controls. They also received a clean opinion on compliance with major federal programs.

[Click here to view the Audit Report Powerpoint Presentation](#)

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

3. STUDENT REPORT

A. Student Report

- Student Liaisons, Elianna Carvalho and Kai Dirksen, were not present at the meeting. They provided a written report for the record.
 - [Click here to view Student Report](#)

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Public Comment

- No public comment

5. PRESENTATIONS

A. [SPED Advisory Committee Update](#)

- Tesfa Stewart, Assistant Director of Special Education provided the Board with an update on the Special Education Advisory Committee's progress. The committee's main goal is to improve the self-efficacy of students with IEPs. They discussed the importance of using data to inform their decision-making and support students effectively. The committee has undergone training and plans to transition into quarterly coaching sessions after completing their professional learning. They received positive feedback on their initial sessions, indicating strong support for their work. The committee also emphasized the need for dedicated time and resources to continue

their efforts. They outlined their goals for the upcoming school year. The committee's work is aimed at empowering students and improving their outcomes.

[Click here to view the Special Education Advisory Committee slide presentation](#)
[Click here to view the video presentation and discussion](#)

B. [FMS Advisory Pilot Update](#)

- Scott Wynne, Farragut Middle School Interim Principal provided the Board with an update on the upcoming advisory program at the middle school. He provided details about the program's schedule, structure, curriculum, and communication efforts. The program will start on Thursday, October 26 and run for 24 sessions, from 2:45 to 3:15 every Thursday. The program will be separate for seventh and eighth graders, with two sections for each grade level supported by various teachers and volunteers from the high school. The curriculum will focus on wellbeing, belonging, and other relevant topics using a resource called Character Strong. The program will also include restorative community circles.

[Click here to view FMS Advisory Update](#)
[Click here to view the video presentation and discussion](#)

6. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

A. [Update & District Highlights](#)

- Dr. McKersie briefly highlighted some items from his written report. He emphasized the focus on supporting students and staff, particularly in light of international events involving Israel and Hamas. He highlighted the success of The Clark Commemoration Project and the collaboration between the town and school community. The efficient organization of assemblies, pre-work, and post-work contributed to the event's success.

[Click here to view Superintendent Report](#)

- Dr. Lang emphasized the need for unity among the board members despite differing viewpoints on sensitive topics related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. She highlighted the emotional nature of the issue and the importance of approaching it with empathy and understanding and stressed that while discussions may appear intense during board meetings, they are all working together towards a common goal of supporting the community.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. [Report from Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction](#)

- Dr. Szymanski provided high-level highlights from her written report. These highlights included a high school AI faculty meeting facilitated by Model Schools partner, Leslie Accardo. A special education event focused on Preparing for College with an IEP/504, updates on committee creation, pop-ups, and brochure work related to The Portrait of the Hastings Learner, and information about Chair Council's October session, where collaboration with other districts on AI initiatives was discussed.

[Click here to view Administrative Report](#)

B. [Report from Business Official](#)

- Maureen Caraballo mentioned that our architects and engineers are conducting a preliminary analysis regarding potential building additions. She noted that we are still in the early stages of this process and expects to provide a more detailed presentation to the board after further analysis. She also mentioned a tentative Facilities Committee meeting in early November with a follow-up to the Board to discuss the feasibility of potential additions.

8. BUSINESS

A. [Business Items](#)

1. Warrants.
2. CRP Sanitation, service contract for compost collection.
3. Hastings Compost Services LLC, service contract for compost collection, rescinded.
4. September 2023 Revenue and Expenditure reports.

5. Resolution to amend the per diem rates, effective October 23, 2023, to substitute teachers for the 2023-2024 school year as follows:

Permanent Substitute Teacher:

- i. \$150/day without benefits
- ii \$150/day plus single health coverage for two (2) Permanent Certified District Wide Substitutes

Substitute Teacher:

- i. \$140/day without benefits, except that, should a Substitute Teacher replace the same incumbent teacher for a period of twenty (20) consecutive school days or more, the prorated daily rate shall be based upon the Teacher's salary schedule (Step 1 of BA, MA, or DR line, whichever is appropriate).
- ii. \$175/day without benefits, should the Substitute Teacher be a retiree from the Hastings on Hudson UFSD.

6. Approve Audit Report for year ending June 30, 2023, and District Responses.
7. HTA Revised Side Letter - FMS Instructional Hours.
8. CSEA Custodial Unit - Stipend Side Letter.
9. Hastings Administrators Association Side Letter.
10. 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 Doreen Bucher.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Silvia Robles, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana, Jodie Meyer, Theresa McCaffrey

B. [Placement and/or Services for CSE and CPSE](#)

RESOLVED, that upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and the Committee on Special Education, the Board accepts the classifications and arrangements for the placement and/or services for the 2023-2024 school year:

CSE: 11497, 7286, 12728, 12014, 12599, 11758

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 Jodie Meyer, second by Damaris-Lois Lang.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Silvia Robles, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana, Jodie Meyer, Theresa McCaffrey

9. PERSONNEL (CONSENT AGENDA)

A. [Approve Consent Agenda](#)

Resolution: RESOLVED, to approve agenda items 9B through 9F as contained on the Consent Agenda for this meeting.

RESOLVED, to approve agenda items 9B through 9F as contained on the Consent Agenda for this meeting.

Motion by Jodie Meyer, second by Theresa McCaffrey.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Silvia Robles, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana, Jodie Meyer, Theresa McCaffrey

B. Appointments

1. Ashleigh Addarich, appoint to Per Diem substitute teacher effective October 20, 2023 for the 2023-2024 school year.
2. Lisa Stokes, appoint to Per Diem substitute teacher effective October 20, 2023 for the 2023-2024 school year.
3. Schedule B appointment requests as per attached spreadsheet. ([Enc](#))
4. Hastings Teachers Association Personnel, appoint to the position of 7th and 8th grade Advisory program instructors for the 2023-2024 school year:

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Barbara Richman | Gina Bellavia |
| Steve Yurek | Vilmarie Feliciano |
| Dennis Kiely | Colleen Walker |
| Lauren Sanfilippo | Ezra Elliot |
| Kenneth Cotrone | Joseph Epstein |
| Steven Lopez | Britney Stampfl |
| Joan Paradis | Jill Ochacher |
| Emily Kehoe | Victoria Kelter |
| Julienne Sullivan | |

Alternate: Jonathan Riss

5. Merita Zherka, appoint to the position of part-time School Monitor, effective October 23, 2023.
6. Rosanna Zappavigna, appoint to the position of part-time School Monitor, effective October 25, 2023.
7. Kevin McCarthy, Custodian, appoint to the position of Daytime Farragut Custodian Supervisor, for the 2023-2024 school year.
8. Nicolette Frattellone, appoint to Per Diem substitute teacher effective October 25, 2023 for the 2023-2024 school year.
9. Caroline Martinez, appoint to Per Diem substitute teacher effective October 25, 2023 for the 2023-2024 school year.
10. Alexa Masucci, appoint to Per Diem substitute teacher effective October 25, 2023 for the 2023-2024 school year. In addition, please appoint to 1.0 FTE Regular Substitute/Leave Replacement at Farragut Middle School, MA, Step 1, \$67,556 (to be pro-rated) effective approximately December 1, 2023-February, 2024. Certifications held: Childhood Education Grades 1-6 - Initial, Students with Disabilities Grades 1-6 - Initial.
11. Aleksandra Chomiak, appoint to Per Diem substitute teacher effective October 23, 2023, for the 2023-2024 school year.

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

RESOLVED, to approve agenda items 9B through 9F as contained on the Consent Agenda for this meeting.

Motion by Jodie Meyer, second by Theresa McCaffrey.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Silvia Robles, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana, Jodie Meyer, Theresa McCaffrey

C. Amendments

1. James Adamo, amend appointment date for an additional .2 FTE Spanish position at Farragut Middle School to be effective August 29, 2023-December 15, 2023.

2. Francesca Hagadus, amend appointment date for an additional .4 FTE Spanish position at Farragut Middle School to be effective August 29, 2023-December 15, 2023.
3. Katie Paz, amend appointment date for an additional .2 FTE Spanish position at Hastings High School to be effective August 29, 2023-December 15, 2023.
4. Anthony Scioscia, amend Regular Substitute appointment date at Farragut Middle School as follows: September 18, 2023-October 27, 2023.

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

RESOLVED, to approve agenda items 9B through 9F as contained on the Consent Agenda for this meeting.

Motion by Jodie Meyer, second by Theresa McCaffrey.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Silvia Robles, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana, Jodie Meyer, Theresa McCaffrey

D. Leave of absence

1. Laura Kravitz, Elementary K-6 teacher at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: FMLA with pay September 30, 2023-November 11, 2023, FMLA without pay November 12, 2023-December 23, 2023. She will return to work on January 3, 2024.

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

RESOLVED, to approve agenda items 9B through 9F as contained on the Consent Agenda for this meeting.

Motion by Jodie Meyer, second by Theresa McCaffrey.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Silvia Robles, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana, Jodie Meyer, Theresa McCaffrey

E. Resignations

1. Aleksandra Chomiak, Teacher Assistant, has provided notice of resignation effective October 20, 2023.

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

RESOLVED, to approve agenda items 9B through 9F as contained on the Consent Agenda for this meeting.

Motion by Jodie Meyer, second by Theresa McCaffrey.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Silvia Robles, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana, Jodie Meyer, Theresa McCaffrey

F. Terminations

1. Lori Grieve, School Monitor has been terminated effective October 27, 2023.

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

RESOLVED, to approve agenda items 9B through 9F as contained on the Consent Agenda for this meeting.

Motion by Jodie Meyer, second by Theresa McCaffrey.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Silvia Robles, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana, Jodie Meyer, Theresa McCaffrey

10. MINUTES

A. [Approval of Minutes](#)

1. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of October 11, 2023.

RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of October 11, 2023.

Motion by Doreen Bucher, second by Damaris-Lois Lang.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Silvia Robles, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana, Jodie Meyer, Theresa McCaffrey

11. OLD BUSINESS

A. [Senior Citizen Tax Rate](#)

- The Board discussed the senior citizens exemption and the impact of increasing the maximum income level eligible for senior citizens. The change in the exemption is meant to provide tax relief to senior citizens in the community. Various aspects of the exemption, such as the income thresholds and how it affects property taxes, were discussed.

RESOLVED, that this resolution authorizing increases pursuant to the authority of chapter 558 of the laws of 2021 shall take effect immediately and abatements granted thereunder shall apply as of the Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District taxable status date as of 2025 assessment year.

Motion by Maureen Lennon-Santana, second by Jodie Meyer.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Silvia Robles, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana, Jodie Meyer, Theresa McCaffrey

12. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Second Public Comment

- No public comment

13. AGENDA REVIEW

A. [Agenda Review](#)

November 7th:

- Firefighter Tax Exemption
- Adopt Budget Calendar

November 20th:

- Budget Work session

14. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

A. [Comments](#)

- Silvia Robles raised a question about vocational classes and their availability to students. She mentioned that in the past, students had the opportunity to take classes such as cosmetology, automotive, HVAC, and ambulatory care in Valhalla. She sought clarification on whether these classes were still available for students. Melissa Szymanski, in response, explained that these classes are still offered, and determinations are made based on student interest and scheduling in terms of programs.
- Doreen Bucher added that when she was in school, students had the option to choose between regular high school and vocational school in the 8th grade. She mentioned that these programs covered various trades.
- Dr. Lang inquired whether this vocational school option was available for all school levels or just in high school, to which it was clarified that the programs started in the 11th grade.

15. ADJOURNMENT

A. [Adjournment](#)

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Silvia Robles, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana, Jodie Meyer, Theresa McCaffrey

Melissa DeLaBarrera

Submitted by:

Melissa DeLaBarrera

District Clerk