



**Hastings-on-Hudson
Regular Board of Education Meeting
Tuesday, September 12, 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 6:03 PM
 - Doreen Bucher arrived at 6:04 PM
 - Dr. Lang arrived at 6:13 PM
 - Jodie Meyer arrived at 6:31 PM

2. PRESENTATIONS

A. Clark Commemoration Project

Natalie Barry, President of Hastings Historical Society and Hasting's Historical Society Sub-Committee Eddie Crawford, Jennifer Ito and Caitlyn Chang presented the Drs. Mamie and Kenneth Clark Commemoration Project to the Board.

[Click here to view the slide presentation](#)

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

B. 2022-23 Educational Climate Presentation

Melissa Szymanski, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum & Instruction presented the 2022-2023 Educational Climate Presentation to the Board.

[Click here to view the slide presentation](#)

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

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Public Comment

- No public comment

4. STUDENT REPORT

A. [Student Report](#)

Elianna:

- I just want to open by saying I am extremely excited about the local recognition for the Clarks because my grandmother actually worked for them as a child psychologist at the northside center for child development. So I want to thank you all.

- It is the second week of school and students and teachers are getting back into the flow of the school year! I would say that students have entered this fall season with high spirits and enthusiasm although coming back after summer is never the easiest process. On the first day of school the seniors crowded the lobby and staircase by the main entrance blasting music, all wearing our senior shirts. Then all the seniors ran through the hallways in our first day senior tradition, screaming and shouting through all of the hallways.
- Clubs are very slowly starting to meet again, with club officers and advisors planning for the club fair! Next Wednesday, September 20th during lunch clubs will set up stations in the courtyard for students to peruse all the club tables and sign up for any and all they are interested in. The freshmen are allowed to go out to the club fair a few minutes before everyone else before it gets crowded with the student body.
- This morning all the seniors had our beginning of the year college meetings! It is crazy that I am talking about this because I feel like I was just hearing Gus explain all of this. Seniors went to different rooms for the meetings depending on their guidance counselors. Our amazing counselors made sure everyone was signed into common app and naviance and they walked us through the entire process, emphasizing that they are always there if we need them. I want to give a special thanks to Ms. Shaw, Ms. White, Ms. Quigley, and Ms. Kocur for their support and help through this process.
- Peer Leadership is in full swing! As per usual, we have been meeting every lunch period and the group has really been getting closer together, playing various games that we will later play with our freshmen. Tomorrow we leave for our PL retreat to the Taconic Outdoor Education Center! We leave tomorrow around 3:30 and come back around 2:30 on Friday. We will be doing bonding exercises as well as going on a rope course! I'm super excited!
- Yesterday the National Honors Society had their first meeting of the year to discuss what tutoring and volunteering will look like for the next year. Ms. Rudolph and Ms. Barenfeld talked about many service opportunities including volunteering at Back to School Night which for the high school is on Thursday, September 21st.
- College Rep Visits started this week for Juniors and Seniors. Yesterday a representative from the University of Southern California came in and today's rep visits were from Mount Holyoke, Marist College, and College of the Holy Cross.
- And now to welcome my new co - Kai.

Kai:

- The high school theater interest meeting was this past Thursday, and many students from each grade arrived to participate on and offstage. We have a very exciting theater season planned for this year including the fall play, the playwrights festival, the high school one acts, and the spring musical. Currently, the theater department is putting on the fall play: One Man Two Guvnors, directed by Rachel Wineberg. It is a slapstick physical comedy that reminds us to laugh at the absurdities in life and continue forward. Auditions were yesterday, and callbacks happened earlier this afternoon. The show goes up at the end of October - a short rehearsal process, but our amazing cast, crew, and directing team always manage to present a fun and successful show!
- The fall sports teams began practices over the summer, but as of last week the season has officially begun! A HUGE congratulations to Charlotte Mainiero of our girl's Varsity soccer team, who was nominated as Lohud's player of the week. We look forward to a great season from all our teams!
- This Monday was the High School's moment of silence to remember those lost in the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Principal Adipietro came over the loudspeaker at 8:46 yesterday morning and described the sequence of events that occurred that day. Each class remained silent through his talk and in the minute following, out of respect to those who lost their lives for our country.
- The Student Union had their first meeting last Wednesday, in which we planned out dates for pep rally and homecoming, as well as other school-wide events. Everyone is looking forward to some awesome school spirit!
- The Junior student government is beginning to meet about preparations for Junior formal! There is an open-attendance meeting tomorrow during lunch to discuss themes and other parts of the formal. All are welcome to present and we can't wait to hear everyone's great ideas!
- All grade levels are having their code of conduct meetings this and next week! Each grade level has a conference with staff on the code, and the new Freshmen had their orientation meeting on August 31st to discuss adapting to life in the highschool.

5. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

A. [Update & District Highlights](#)

Superintendent Report
9.12.23 BOE Meeting
William S. McKersie, Ph.D.

Priority District Updates

School Opened Smoothly

We are pleased by the overall smooth opening to the 2023-24 school year. If you have not already done so, please read the [Superintendent's Community Update \(Friday Letter\) on 9.8.23](#) for a summary of the opening week, including a free-verse poem based on words heard across the district and photo montages of each school. Please also take a moment to review the important technical information in the letter regarding safety and security.

For this school year, the *Superintendent's Community Updates* will come out every other week (instead of weekly). Of course, time-sensitive information from the Superintendent will be shared promptly—we will not wait for the next Friday letter.

Portrait of a Hastings Learner

Throughout the school year, opportunities will be provided for learning and engagement as we implement the *Portrait*. Dr. Melissa Szymanski will provide a significant report on Action Plan Development at the September 27, 2023 BOE Meeting. Updates will continue to be shared through the *Hastings Happenings*, and on the dedicated [POHL page](#) on our website.

District Code of Conduct Review – Underway Through October 11, 2023

To repeat an update from the last BOE meeting, we are in the process of reviewing the *District Code of Conduct* for annual revision. Posted on the Website, on the page dedicated to the *District Code of Conduct*, is a [memorandum outlining the review process](#). We advise all interested parties to read the memorandum carefully as a guide for reviewing the current *District Code of Conduct* and to be aware of next year's review plans. Please note in the memorandum the links to the school-specific *Discipline Code for Students*, which are the guiding frameworks for student behavior in the 2023-24 school year.

Parallel to this annual district-wide process, each building has opened the year by introducing its specific Discipline Code for Students. For instance, at various times last week, Hillside building leadership hosted Welcome Back assemblies for each grade level to teach students about the [Hillside Discipline Code](#) and the importance of following rules. An article about the assemblies will be shared in Thursday's *Hastings Happenings* (9/14). Administrators and teachers will reinforce and refresh the expectations throughout the year, especially by raising up examples of dignified and respectful behavior.

September 11, 2021 Observation

Across the district, we observed a moment of silence on Monday morning in recognition of 9.11. With age-appropriate statements, each school paid its respects to the victims of 9.11 and honored the "heroes of that tragic and heartbreaking day, who emerged from every corner of society."

Drs. Mamie and Kenneth Clark Commemoration Project

We are pleased to be part of a path-breaking "town-down" (Village-District) partnership to honor an essential piece of Hastings history, which has had a nation-wide impact. The BOE will hear tonight from Hastings residents (Eddie Crawford, Caitlin Chang and Jennifer Ito), who have been instrumental in designing and launching a Village and District program this fall to commemorate the life-changing work of Drs. Mamie and Kenneth Clark. The [presentation is posted with the BOE Agenda for the meeting](#). District leadership for the multi-phase project has come from Grea Smith and Dr. Jenice Mateo-Toledo, which will include a series of activities for students this fall. Key events include:

- September-October – An exhibit about the Clarks to be displayed in the HHS Lobby, before moving to the Hastings Historical Society through fall 2024;
- October 12-13, 2023 – A visit by Minnijean Brown-Trickey, of the Little Rock Nine, who lived with the Clarks in Hastings in the late 1950s, to speak with students;
- October 14 – Unveiling Ceremony for the Clarks' Street Sign (signifying the co-naming of a portion of Mount Hope Blvd as "Drs. Mamie and Kenneth Clark Way") at the James Harmon Community Center from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

In addition, Dr. Szymanski has organized a special educational session for students in grades 5-12 on *Brown v. Board of Education*, which was substantially shaped by the research of Drs. Kenneth and Mamie Clark. On Tuesday, September 26, at 7:15 p.m., the district will host a session via Zoom for families and students in grades 5-12 to learn about the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* court case. Participants will learn about the role Drs. Kenneth and Mamie Clark played in one of the most important court cases in the 20th century. A Park Ranger from *Brown v. Board of Education National Historical Park* (Topeka, KS) will explain how legal segregation began in America and how Drs. Kenneth and Mamie Clark were able to provide evidence that led to the desegregation of public schools and influenced the Civil Rights Movement.

The presentation will last 40 minutes, with 15 minutes for a Question-and-Answer Session. To RSVP, please [click here](#). To join the Zoom, please [click here](#). When prompted, enter the passcode: 866068.

This information is also available on the district calendar of the website and in the *Hastings Weekly*.

Hillside's Back-to-School Night

Let me expand a bit on what I shared last week about Hillside's Back-to-School Night, which was hosted on Thursday evening, September 7. Each classroom shared two identical presentations, which allowed parents with multiple children at Hillside to meet the teachers. In addition, parents were invited to visit the Hillside Gallery in the Big Gym, where special area teachers, support service providers, and Hastings community groups were available to answer questions about their respective programs. All in all, it was a great learning opportunity for families.

Back-to-School Night for Farragut Middle School is Thursday, September 14, and Hastings High School steps up with Back-to-School Night one week later on Thursday, September 21. Each school is communicating with families about the respective programs.

PTSA Back-to-School Meet & Greets

Last week, the PTSA held Meet & Greets at Hillside's Back-to-School Night and at Saturday's Hastings Farmers Market. This week and next week, PTSA Meet & Greets will be held at FMS's Back-to-School Night (9/14) and the HHS's Back-to-School Night (9/22). Hastings logo wear will be available for purchase.

Spirit-Wear Fridays

For the third year running, we encourage all students and staff to wear Hastings spirit gear on Fridays. It could be polos, t-shirts or sweatshirts. From all we hear, the day of Hastings pride has been a plus for students and staff alike. No matter the Friday, I am in my Hastings gear, even when attending regional superintendent meetings.

Technical Updates

To assist families in settling back into the school routine, below is a list of important resources, which we are sharing again, yet in one location:

- [2023-24 Whom to Contact List](#)
- [Inclement Weather Procedures](#)
- [An Update from the Health Office](#)
- [District Emergency Information Guide \(Parents/Families\)](#)
- [District Emergency Information Guide \(Students/Staff\)](#)

Media Opt-Out Form

All families, please complete the [Media Opt-Out Form](#) by Friday, 9/29, if you DO NOT want your child's photograph to appear in any of Hastings' school publications for the 2023-24 school year. This includes print and digital newsletters, videos, social media channels such as Facebook and Twitter, and the Yearbook. The link to the form was also provided in the *Hastings Weekly*, and in the summer mailings.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

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

Commemorative Events: Street Renaming & Brown v. BOE

The Hastings Historical Society has been working on a series of commemorative events and plans, which is outlined in an update they shared this week:

In April of 2023, a subcommittee of the Hastings Historical Society was formed. The team has come up with a series of commemorative events and plans, which are outlined below. In December of 2022, three Hastings residents – Caitlin Chang, Eddie Crawford, and Jennifer Ito – came to the Historical Society to say that more could be done to honor the Clarks. The trustees of the Historical Society agreed wholeheartedly, and, in April of 2023, a subcommittee of the Hastings Historical Society was formed. The team has come up with a series of commemorative events and plans, which are outlined below.

Phase 1 will co-name a portion of Mount Hope Blvd. as "Drs. Mamie and Kenneth Clark Way." Hastings Mayor Niki Armacost and the Village Board of Trustees adopted the street sign proposal on February 23rd and will fund this phase of the project.

This summer the Hastings Public Library has put together a series of discussions, lectures and films about the fascinating people who were connected to the couple, many of whom visited the Clarks' home in our village; these included James Baldwin, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Jackie Robinson. For more info on this library program, [click here](#).

The Historical Society is preparing an exhibit on the Clarks and their accomplishments, which will be on display in the high school lobby in mid-September. The panels will move from the high school, with an expanded set of exhibit materials, to the Observatory Cottage in November, and will be available for public viewing until the fall of 2024.

Other related events for the student body, including a speaker, are planned for this fall.

Phase 2 involves the creation and installation of permanent outdoor signage related to the Clarks. We hope to have three panels completed and installed by the end of 2024, which is the 70th anniversary of the Brown vs. Board of Education decision. The cost of this phase is estimated to be approximately \$12,000.

Please help us fund this worthy project! We have expenses in connection with the exhibit, as well as those related to bringing in the speaker planned for Phase 1. More significantly, we need donations to fund Phase 2.

For more detailed info on this project, go to our website under [Special Campaigns](#).

To donate to the Clark Commemoration Project, go [here](#). All donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

Jenice Mateo-Toledo and Greg Smith have been instrumental in their planning process, particularly around the school-based component. Additionally, Melissa Szymanski has been running a parallel process to design a learning session for Hastings families and students in grades 5-12 to teach about Brown v. BOE. This has been designed to coincide with the street renaming. This learning session will focus on Brown v. BOE and the impact that Hastings residents Drs. Kenneth and Mamie Clark had regarding the landmark court case. Melissa traveled to Topeka Kansas over the summer and met with Nick Murray, Brown v. BOE Division Manager for Interpretation, Education, and Visitor Services, to plan the session. Following is the notification blurb that was sent to the community about the upcoming learning session, which will take place via Zoom on September 26th at 7:15pm:

Learn about the role two local residents of Hastings had on one of the most important court cases in the 20th century. A Park Ranger from Brown v. Board of Education National Historical Park in Topeka, KS will explain how legal segregation began in America and how Drs. Kenneth and Mamie Clark were able to provide evidence that led to the desegregation of public school, jumpstarting the modern Civil Rights Movement.

The presentation will last for 40 minutes with 15 minutes for a question and answer session.

Superintendent's Conference Days

We were delighted to welcome our faculty and staff on August 29th with a series of three Superintendent's Conference Days designed by the Professional Learning Community. Highlights from these days include Crisis Prevention and Intervention (CPI) Training for select faculty members, Safety and Emergency Response Training by Altaris, and Darkness to Light Training, the latter of which is focused on recognizing and preventing childhood sexual abuse. Additionally, all members of the faculty must complete the following mandated, self-paced training modules: Digital Security and Protection, DASA/Code of Conduct, Homeless Students, Mental Health Awareness, Sexual Harassment, Student Data Privacy (Education Law 2-d), and Workplace Violence. Also embedded within Superintendent's Conference Day was time for Melissa and Greg Smith to meet with the Social Studies Department to begin planning for the 23-24 curriculum inquiry work. This was a productive and generative session, which will serve to inform the work ahead.

B. Report from Business Official

Maureen Caraballo, Business Official

- Updated the Board on the challenges with transportation.

7. BUSINESS

A. 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: 12567, 10824

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 Silvia Robles, 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. Business Items

1. Stipulation of Settlement.
2. Approve contract with Hendrick Hudson Central Central School District for ESY Educational Services.
3. Approve proposal from H2M architects + engineers to provide architectural services as attached.
4. Ardsley Union Free School District, school year transportation contracts.
5. Ardsley Union Free School District, summer transportation contracts.
6. Warrants.
7. Royal Coach, summer transportation contracts.
8. Royal Coach, transportation contracts.
9. Be it resolved, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves to increase the balance of the CAPITAL RESERVE FUND, in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.

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 Theresa McCaffrey.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

8. PERSONNEL (CONSENT AGENDA)

A. [Approve Consent Agenda](#)

RESOLVED, to approve agenda items 8B through 8E as contained on the Consent Agenda for this meeting.

Motion by Damaris-Lois Lang, second by Maureen Lennon-Santana.

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. Updated Returning Building Substitute spreadsheet with the addition of Anthony Scioscia.
2. Updated Schedule B spreadsheet. (Enc)
3. Nicholas D'Amelio, appoint to position of Cleaner, Column IA, Step 1A, effective September 5, 2023.
4. Yolanda Polanco, appoint to position of Cleaner, Column IA, Step 1A, effective September 5, 2023.
5. Michael Limitone, appoint to position of School Monitor, effective September 11, 2023.
6. Maximilian Bratescu, appoint to position of School Monitor, effective September 6, 2023.

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

RESOLVED, to approve agenda items 8B through 8E as contained on the Consent Agenda for this meeting.

Motion by Damaris-Lois Lang, second by Maureen Lennon-Santana.

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. Pascale Halal, has rescinded their appointment as School Monitor.
2. Yolanda Polanco, has rescinded their appointment as School Monitor.
3. Suekhee Choi, Teacher Assistant at Farragut Middle School, amend appointment to 6.5 hours per day, effective September 11, 2023.

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

RESOLVED, to approve agenda items 8B through 8E as contained on the Consent Agenda for this meeting.

Motion by Damaris-Lois Lang, second by Maureen Lennon-Santana.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

D. Resignations

1. Joseph Hartman has resigned his position as incoming Permanent Building substitute teacher at Farragut Middle School for the 2023-2024 school year and Assistant Football Coach effective August 30, 2023.
2. Devin Wortman has resigned his position as incoming Per Diem substitute teacher for the 2023-2024 school year effective August 29, 2023.

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

RESOLVED, to approve agenda items 8B through 8E as contained on the Consent Agenda for this meeting.

Motion by Damaris-Lois Lang, second by Maureen Lennon-Santana.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

E. Leave of absence

1. Raquel Reid-McFarlane, Teacher Assistant at Farragut Middle School has requested a leave of absence as follows: FMLA with pay August 15, 2023-September 8, 2023. FMLA without pay September 11, 2023-October 10, 2023. She will return to work on October 11, 2023.

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 8B through 8E as contained on the Consent Agenda for this meeting.

Motion by Damaris-Lois Lang, second by Maureen Lennon-Santana.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

9. MINUTES

A. [Approval of Minutes](#)

1. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of August 29, 2023.

RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of August 29, 2023.

Motion by Theresa McCaffrey, 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

10. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Second Public Comment

- No public comment

11. AGENDA REVIEW

A. [Agenda Review](#)

Review topics for upcoming Board of Education Meeting:

- POHL Update at next meeting

12. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

A. Comments

- [Click here to see Board of Education Comments](#)

13. ADJOURNMENT

A. [Adjournment](#)

- Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Silvia Robles, second by Maureen Lennon-Santana.

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