



**Hastings-on-Hudson
Regular Board of Education Meeting
Tuesday, June 20, 2023**

Members present

Doug Sundheim
Silvia Robles
Damaris-Lois Lang
Doreen Bucher
Maureen Lennon-Santana

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Call to Order at 5:00 PM - it is expected that a motion will be made to move into Executive Session for the purposes of: 1) Discussion of the amendments to the District-Wide Safety and Emergency Management Plan; 2) HTA Grievance Hearing.

Meeting called to order at 5:02 PM:

- Motion to move into Executive Session for the purposes of: 1) Discussion of the amendments to the District-Wide Safety and Emergency Management Plan; 2) HTA Grievance Hearing.

Motion by Silvia Robles, second by Doug Sundheim.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Doug Sundheim, Silvia Robles, Alexander Dal Piaz, Maureen Lennon-Santana

2. PUBLIC HEARING AT 7:30 PM

A. [Public Hearing on the District-Wide Safety and Emergency Management Plan](#)

Public Hearing opened at 7:50 PM by Doreen Bucher

No public comments

3. OPENING OF MEETING

A. [Retirement Recognition](#)

Recognition of 2022-2023 School Year Retirees:

Educators

- Joshua Blum, English teacher at Hastings High School, *33 years*
- Christine Geller, Math teacher at Hastings High School, *32 years*
- Ava Lambert, Special Education teacher at Hastings High School, *37 years*
- Janet Lyons, Special Education teacher at Hastings High School, *19 years*
- Michael Rubino, Music teacher District-Wide, *32 years*
- Joseph Willie, Science teacher at Hastings High School, *13 years*

Teacher Assistant

- Adele Gorman, Teacher Assistant at Hillside Elementary School, *22 years*

Secretarial/Clerical

- Nancy Gagliardi, Secretary to High School Principal, *20 years*

- Franziska Goodman, Confidential Secretary to Superintendent, *21 years*
- Alexine Hollocou, Special Education Services, Office Assistant, *17 years*

Custodial

- Carlos Castaneda, District-Wide Senior Custodian, *38 years*
- Marie Frederique, District-Wide Cleaner, *18 years*

B. [Board of Education Recognition](#)

Recognition of Non-Returning Board of Education Trustees:

- Doug Sundheim - *Member Since 2016*
- Jeremy Galland - *Member Since 2020*

Recognition of Non-Returning Student Liaison:

- Gus Renzin - *Member Since 2021*

C. [FMS Interim Principal Appointment](#)

1. Scott Wynne, appoint to Interim Principal at Farragut Middle School, \$196,089 effective July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024. Certifications held: School District Leader-Professional, School Building Leader-Professional, Mathematics 7-12-Permanent.

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

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Doug Sundheim, Silvia Robles, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana

D. [Review & Adoption of 2023-2024 Emergency Plans](#)

1. Approval of District Wide Safety and Emergency Management Plan.

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the District Wide Safety and Emergency Management Plan.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Doug Sundheim, Silvia Robles, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. [Public Comment](#)

1. Susan Patricia Cooper, 378 Warburton - Re: Senior Citizen Exemption - asking the Board to reconsider opting in as some other districts have done.
2. Samadhi Poy, 405 Warburton (FMS Student) - Re: Requesting current events for all middle school students, tech classes for 6th graders, longer lunch periods, and bathroom passes instead of signing in to use the bathroom.

5. PERSONNEL

A. [Resignations](#)

1. Jennifer Spirelli, Principal of Farragut Middle School has provided notice of resignation effective June 30, 2023.
2. Maryse Santini, .4 FTE French teacher at Hastings High School has provided notice of resignation effective June 30, 2023.

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

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Doug Sundheim, Silvia Robles, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana

B. [Retirement](#)

1. Louis Adipietro, Principal at Hastings High School has provided notice of resignation for the purpose of retirement effective July 30, 2023.

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

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Doug Sundheim, Silvia Robles, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana

C. [Appointments](#)

1. Alexis Comerford-Jones, .8 FTE Elementary K-6 teacher at Farragut Middle School, appoint to an additional .2 FTE Special Education teacher for the 2023-2024 school year. Probationary period August 29, 2023-August 28, 2027. Tenure date: August 29, 2027. Certifications held: Childhood Education 1-6 - Professional, Students with Disabilities 1-6 - Professional, English Language Arts 7-12 - Professional.
2. Vilmarie Feliciano, appoint to 1.0 FTE Special Education teacher at Hastings High School/Farragut Middle School, MA Step 2, \$70,810 effective August 29, 2023. Probationary period August 29, 2023-August 28, 2027. Tenure date August 29, 2027. Certifications held: Students with Disabilities 7-12-Generalist - Initial, Social Studies 7-12 - Initial.
3. Madeline Casalino, appoint to 1.0 FTE English Language Arts Leave Replacement at Farragut Middle School, MA, Step 1, \$67,556 effective August 29, 2023 for the 2023-2024 school year. Certification held: English Language Arts 7-12 - Initial.
4. Christian Anacassis, re-appoint to summer help in Buildings and Grounds.
5. Suraj Kodali, re-appoint to summer help in Buildings and Grounds.
6. Jack Phelan, re-appoint to summer help in Buildings and Grounds.
7. Salvatore Puoti, re-appoint to summer help in Buildings and Grounds.
8. Will Silverstein, re-appoint to summer help in Buildings and Grounds.
9. Malik Smith, re-appoint to summer help in Buildings and Grounds.
10. Matthew Williams, re-appoint to summer help in Buildings and Grounds.
11. Fernando Cueto, appoint to summer help in Buildings and Grounds effective June 23, 2023.
12. Louis Adipietro, appoint to Interim Principal at Hastings High School, \$240,877, prorated, effective August 1, 2023-June 30, 2024. Certifications held: School District Administrator-Permanent, Business and Distributive Education-Permanent, Special Education-Permanent.

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

Motion by Doug Sundheim, second by Damaris-Lois Lang.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Doug Sundheim, Silvia Robles, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana

D. [Leaves of absence](#)

1. Catherine Merchant, Teacher Assistant at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: FMLA with pay June 6, 2023-July 21, 2023. She will return to work for the 2023-2024 school year.

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

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Doug Sundheim, Silvia Robles, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana

6. STUDENT REPORT

A. [Student Report](#)

Elianna:

- Watching the seniors do their internship stuff

On Monday the 12th (which feels like centuries ago) seniors came in to do presentations on their internships. They presented to classes in the high school on the highlights of their internships as well as what they have learned while also giving advice for picking internships for future students.

- Finals

Past two weeks have been finals. Students have been coming into the building for their final exams and regents.

Students are excited for the summer! And for the school year to come!

Gus:

- Congratulations to our two metro award winning juniors. Emma Gelman for her incredible graphic design on the paybill, and Elianna Carvalho winning most outstanding female identifying comedic performer. The metro awards are incredibly prestigious and students from 56 high schools in Westchester, Rockland, Orange, and Bergen counties compete. It's both an amazing accomplishment for those two individuals, but also demonstrative of our schools continuing success in the arts.
- Graduation is this Thursday. Forecasts are looking a little iffy, but regardless of whether it takes place in the Cochran Gym or on the Berk Estate, it will be a great night.
- Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of the board.

Introducing your next board liaison, Kaii Dirksen. Kai has a diverse set of experience that I think will do a great job completing Elianna's and bringing you all a really nice picture of what is going on in the Hastings Student Body. They are an instructor at Broadway Training Center, teaching assistant at Temple Beth Shalom, and work at the Refill Room, a popular small business in town.

7. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

A. Update & District Highlights

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

Priority District Updates (Largely in Chronological Order)

Seventh Graders Get a Letter from the President & First Lady

After a few months of studying the creation and foundations of the United States government, seventh graders in Devita Cruz's social studies class wrote essays proposing two amendments to the Constitution. The top 10 students who composed the strongest arguments for change were chosen to have their essays mailed to local Congressman Jamaal Bowman. A second set of essays mailed to the White House received a letter of response from President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden. The students chosen were: Niamh Lynch, Jason Kass, Akansha Muthukrishnan, Emma Boudrias, Tabitha Smith, Christian Pinero, Ella Tadmor, Maria Arnon, Rory McKinnon, and Eli Sundheim. [Click here](#) to read the letter from the White House.

Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony Unveils New Learning Commons Space at Hillside

With the snip of a pair of oversized scissors, Hillside Elementary School's newest addition opened on Monday, June 12, in a virtual ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by students, staff and families across the district. The addition, called the Learning Commons, includes a collaborative makerspace and library with comfy, functional areas for students and teachers to explore books and other resources. [Click here](#) to watch a video of the ceremony, including photos of the new space, featured in the 6/15 Hastings Happenings.

Second Graders Get a Taste of Tuscany at Harvest on Hudson

The second grade visited Harvest on Hudson this week, a favorite among Hastings residents and out-of-towners alike. Second grade team leader Dianna Clarke and teachers Michelle Campbell and Dana FinSmith organized the trip, with help from Trish Liberatore, sister of Harvest's owner, Angelo Liberatore, and mother of second grader Juliana Liberatore. [Click here](#) to watch a short video featured in last week's *Hastings Happenings*.

Kindergarten Moving Up Ceremony

Congratulations to Hillside's Kindergarteners, who are on their way to first grade in September. They were honored on Thursday, June 15, in a Moving Up Ceremony in the Multi-Purpose room—complete with cheering and waving family members, wonderful singing by the students, and dotina teachers and staff. Look for a photo montage of the event in the final *Hastings Happenings* of the school year (6/27).

Hastings High School's Community Scholarship & Award Night

On Thursday evening, June 15, Hastings High School held its Annual Community Scholarship & Award Night. Hastings Alumni Association awarded a total of \$33,750 in scholarships for 21 Hastings High School students. Nancy Gaaliardi, who will be retiring this year, deserves a standing ovation for her careful and expert stewardship of the scholarships and awards program over many years.

- [Click here](#) to view a video segment from the event. The official program will be included in Thursday's H.S. Graduation Ceremony (6/22).
- The Graduation Ceremony will take place at Burke Field at 6:00 p.m.* For those that cannot attend in person, [click here](#) for the live stream link. This link will be active once the ceremony begins.
 - *NB: If it rains, the location will be Cochran Gymnasium (decision to be made Wednesday).

FMS Grecian Festival (Grade 6)

As part of their Ancient History unit, Farragut Middle School's sixth grade learned about ancient Greece in their social studies class this past month. Exploring the Parthenon and participating in plays about ancient Greek mythology were just a few of the exciting things they were able to take part in while discovering the ancient civilization. The unit culminated with the annual Grecian Festival on Friday, June 16, where students competed on teams for the top spot with some knowledge-based challenges. Stay tuned for more information, including photos, in the upcoming *Hastings Happenings* (6/27).

Hillside Field Day

Hillside Elementary School celebrated the end of their school year with a field day on Friday, June 16, facilitated by Hillside's Physical Education team. Students in all grades hit the open field for some physical activity and some friendly challenges. They competed on color-coded teams while participating in sack races and problem-solving activities, all while cheering on their classmates and their school for one last time before summer sets in. A photo montage of the day will be included in the final *Hastings Happenings* of the school year (6/27). For more context, [here](#) is the Field Day schedule. Kudos to the Hillside Physical Ed team for a superb, action-filled day—managed carefully to not let rain or thunder diminish the joy.

Annual 8th Grade Career Day

Today, eighth grade students at Farragut Middle School participated in Career Day. This is the culminating unit in the Home & Career Skills class. The learning experiences achieved in the program are: heighten awareness of the world of work, assure students that all school subjects are necessary for a productive, successful career, raise awareness of the fact that all careers are important to our society, and provide insight into the personal goals and values necessary to inform career choices. [Click here](#) to view the brochure, which includes a list of the speakers and presenters. More information and photos will be included in the next *Hastings Happenings* 6/27.

Hastings Indoor/Outdoor Track & Field - New Record Holder Ceremony

Today after school, the Hastings Athletic Department featured a Hastings Indoor/Outdoor Track & Field New Record Holder Ceremony in the Cochran Gym. With a total of 14 new broken records by our student-athletes, there was much to celebrate. [Click here](#) for a list of the new record holders.

"We are extremely proud to honor the accomplishments of these student-athletes," said Athletic Director Drew Wendol. "They put in a ton of hard work and their dedication paid off!"

The 2023 Oneirata, Hastings High School's Literary Magazine

Hastings High School recently released its literary magazine *Oneirata*, an annual end-of-year tradition that began in 2005. "Oneirata" is a derivation of the Greek word "oneira", meaning "dreams". [Click here](#) to read the magazine.

National School Public Relations Association Awards

The district's Communications Consultant, Jackie Saviano, recently won two awards at the National School Public Relations Association Awards (NSPRA) for Publications and Digital Media Excellence.

1. **Excellence in Writing** for her article on [Racial Equity Day with the Innocence Project](#), and;
2. **Merit Award** for the [March 16th Hastings Happenings](#).

Jackie shared the following reflection: "This recognition means a lot to me, and inspires me to continue to do my best work. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to achieve this during my time here in Hastings."

End-of-Year Events & Logistics

Important Information for Graduating Seniors

[Click here](#) for important updates on end-of-year events for graduating seniors, also included in the *Hastings Weekly*.

Final Two Day Highlights for Everyone

Wednesday, 6/21

- Arts Extravaganza (Grade 8)
- Moving Up Ceremony (Grade 4)
- Senior Graduation Rehearsal

- Senior "Clap Out" at Hillside
- FMS Recognition Night ([Livestream Link Here](#)), 6:00 p.m.
- 8th Grade Recognition Night ([Livestream Link Here](#)), 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, 6/22

- Last Day of School for All Students & Staff
- Hastings High School Graduation, 6:00 p.m. at Burke Estate* ([Live-stream Link Here](#))
 - *NB: If it rains, the location will be Cochran Gymnasium (decision to be made Wednesday).

Friday, 6/23

- Regents Rating Day

8. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Report from Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction

Presented by Melissa Szymanski, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction

Portrait of a Hastings Learner

Recent curriculum work has been heavily focused on the development of action plans for two of our Portrait of a Hastings Learner action steps; (1) an advisory-like opportunity to support SEL and students' sense of belonging and (2) a community charter around behavioral expectations. Two faculty teams worked on developing 18-month action plans for each of these goals. The session began with students presenting focus group data from students in grades 7-12. Teams then generated concrete action plans, using the student feedback to inform the design process. The purpose of each of the action steps was also clearly articulated. Melissa will be working with the administrators to determine implementation timelines and measures of success. These draft action plans will then be reviewed by the leadership team during the summer retreat and shared back with the action plan development teams for final review in the fall. Two additional action plans will be developed over the summer around the other two action steps associated with the Portrait; enhanced authentic learning opportunities (including interdisciplinary units/lessons) and restorative practices.

Special Education Advisory Committee

The special education advisory committee met to finalize a series of action plans they have been developing over the course of the school year. Final feedback was provided and a review of the associated timelines for each action step took place. The action plans will be presented at this evening's Board of Education meeting, along with an update on the committee's work since the fall. Implementation has already begun for a faculty capacity-building pilot around analyzing and using data to inform instruction.

Diversity Committee

This week, the final Diversity Committee meeting of the school year was held. Updates were provided and a decision was made about committee goals for next year. It was decided that some members would collaborate on the development of a toolkit for parents and others would work together to create educational assemblies for heritage months.

5th Grade Mathematics

Recently, we were joined by a representative from Big Ideas to prepare for a 5th grade pilot of Big Ideas resource for the 2023-2024 school year. Training was focused on the elements of the resource, navigating the online Dynamic Learning platform, and answering teachers' questions. Follow-up work will occur over the summer to solidify implementation agreements and plan for the first unit of study.

9. PRESENTATIONS

A. [Special Education Advisory Committee](#)

Presented by Tesfa Stewart, Erin Dolan, Adele Gorman, Emily Kehoe and Amanda Kupillas

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

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

B. [Future Steps - Class of 2023](#)

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

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

10. BUSINESS

A. [Business Items](#)

1. Stipulation of Settlement.
2. AP Macroeconomics, purchase of new textbook: Krugman's Macroeconomics for the AP Course [Fourth Edition] 2023 Margaret Ray; David Anderson.
3. Budget Transfer.
4. Stipulation of Settlement.
5. City School District of New Rochelle, Contract for Health and Welfare Services.
6. Union Free School District of the Tarrytowns, Contract for Health and Welfare Services.
7. Warrants.
8. e2e Exchange Agreement, to approve E-Rate services.
9. Increase Non-Resident tuition rates for the 2022-2023 school year by 4.19%.

2022-2023	2023-2024
Grades K-6, \$20,354	Grades K-6, \$21,207
Grades 7-12, \$22,717	Grades 7-12, \$23,669

10. PNWBOCES, Cross Contract for Local Live TV/Event Production.
11. Flourishing Minds Applied Behavioral Analyst P.C., Student Behavioral Support for Hillside, proposal.
12. Be it resolved, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves to increase the balance of the RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTION RESERVE FUND, in an amount not to exceed \$750,000.
13. Be it resolved, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves to increase the balance of the LIABILITY RESERVE FUND, in an amount not to exceed \$600,000.
14. Be it resolved, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves to increase the balance of the TAX CERTIORARI RESERVE FUND, in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.
15. Be it resolved, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves to increase the balance of the TRS RETIREMENT RESERVE FUND, A SUB-RESERVE OF THE RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTION RESERVE FUND, in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.
16. Approve the use of Reserve for Liability Claims, to increase the budget in the amount of \$175,000 for a Special Education Settlement.
17. Hastings Administrators' Association side letter agreement.

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

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Doug Sundheim, Silvia Robles, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana

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 2022-2023 school year:

CSE: 12300, 11824

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 2023-2024 school year:

CPSE: 12549, 12593, 12083, 12084, 12376, 12354, 12427, 12429, 12585, 12420

CSE: 11239, 11905, 11914, 11497, 12579, 11926, 11888, 11279, 11373, 11915, 12363, 11768, 7756, 7757, 11393, 10505, 11552, 11934, 11148, 12575, 11998, 11561, 12077, 9046, 11601, 12293, 12014, 10950, 11876, 11490, 12061, 11647, 11516, 11059, 11060, 11793, 11824, 12362, 12241

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 Doug Sundheim.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Doug Sundheim, Silvia Robles, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana

11. MINUTES

A. [Approval of Minutes](#)

1. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of June 6, 2023.

RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of June 6, 2023.

Motion by Damaris-Lois Lang, second by Doug Sundheim.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Doug Sundheim, Silvia Robles, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana

12. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Second Public Comment

- No public comment

13. AGENDA REVIEW

A. [Agenda Review](#)

July 11th Re-Organizational Meeting & Regular Meeting:

- 5 Year Facilities Plan Presentation
- State of the District End of the Year Update
- Meeting dates and times for next year

14. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

A. [Comments](#)

Silvia Robles: Recognized Jeremy Galland, although she didn't always agree with him she never doubted his commitment and the priority that he puts on the schools and serving the community.

Maureen Lennon-Santana: Congratulated all the retirees and gave a shout-out to Mr. Blum retiring English teacher who her daughter noted helped her and her friends with college essays and took a lot of the stress out of the college prep process.

Dr. Lang: Commented on the Senior Citizen Exemption that Ms. Cooper raised in her public comment today. Noted that many community members have shared that concern and she hopes the Board will look into this and see the best we can do for our senior citizens.

Doug Sundheim: Thanked Patrick Theodule for his dedication to the district. Thanked Melissa Szymanski and the administration for the work on The Portrait of a Hastings Learner and for creating a good foundation to drive forward good growth in the years to come.

Doreen Bucher: Thanked the student for making a public comment about not having enough time for lunch. She has heard this complaint often and from her own children, and hopes this can be added to the agenda and addressed next year. Thanked Jeremy and Doug for all their insights.

15. ADJOURNMENT

A. [Adjournment](#)

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Doug Sundheim, second by Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Doug Sundheim, Silvia Robles, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana

Melissa DeLaBarrera

Submitted by:

Melissa DeLaBarrera

District Clerk