



**Hastings-on-Hudson
Regular Board of Education Meeting
Tuesday, June 6, 2023**

Members present

Doug Sundheim
Jeremy Galland
Alexander Dal Piaz
Damaris-Lois Lang
Doreen Bucher

1. OPENING OF MEETING

A. Call to Order at 6:30 PM - it is expected that a motion will be made to move into Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining.

1. Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM

Motion to move into Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

2. PRESENTATIONS

A. Science Research Presentations

Melissa Shandroff gave a brief overview of the [Science Research Program](#) before introducing her students who presented their research projects to the Board:

1. Sarah Korosi: "Factors Affecting Outcomes of Surgical Interventions for Occlusive Isolated Popliteal Artery Disease"
2. Julia Rotiroti: "Examining the Accumulation and Displacement of Toxic and Essential Metals in the Kidney, Heart, and Liver of Mice Exposed to E-Cigarette Aerosol"

[Click here to view the slide presentation of the above two projects](#)

3. Paul Sliker: "Utilization of Pyrogenic Carbon to Boost Decomposition of Matter and Microbial Activity in the Presence of Microplastics"

[Click here to view the video presentation of the Science Research Projects](#)

B. FMS Action Plan Update

Melissa Szymanski, Kamillah Dawkins, Jenice Mateo-Toledo, Tesfa Steward, Danielle DalCero and Jocelyn Perez presented the FMS Action Plan Update to the Board.

[Click here to view FMS Action Plan Update slide presentation](#)

[Click here to view the FMS Action Plan Update presentation and discussion.](#)

C. Curriculum Review Cycle Update

Melissa Szymanski, Ed.D., presented the Curriculum Review Cycle Update to the Board.

[Click here to view the Curriculum Review Cycle Update slide presentation](#)
[Click here to view the Curriculum Review Cycle Update presentation and discussion](#)

3. STUDENT REPORT

A. [Student Report](#)

Gus Renzin:

- Hi everyone, we're going to try and keep this super short so that Ms. Shadnroff and the Science Research crew will have plenty of time to give you guys a deep dive into the program.
- First off, the Spring Sports banquet tonight was a fantastic celebration of all the hard work that our student-athletes have put in over the course of the season. Big congratulations to the boys tennis, boys and girls lacrosse, baseball, softball, flag football, and spring track. Also big thanks to the booster club for making that happen.
- This is the last week of senior internships, so seniors are wrapping up their respective projects and preparing to give presentations to the juniors next monday on what they have accomplished.
- Huge congratulations to the 60 juniors who were inducted into the National Honor society last Thursday. It goes to show how academically talented and how dedicated to leadership and service our student body is that nearly half of the junior class would be given this prestigious recognition. It's also great for the community, since, starting next year, those 60 juniors will now be available for free tutoring for students ranging from grade 5-10. Thanks to Ms. Barenfeld and Ms. Rudolph for making all of this possible and pouring over the dozens and dozens of applications submitted by the junior class.
- Also big congratulations to the 24 juniors selected to be next year's peer leaders. Those juniors will be tasked with shepherding next year's class of freshman into the high school. It was a pleasure to be part of the selection process, and I am confident that this will be one of the best groups of PL's yet. The current 8th graders, and the entire high school community are lucky to have them. The current PL's will officially hand off the mantle to them on the PLinducation night on June 12th.
- Finally, (ending on a high note here) senior prom was last monday. I was actually not in attendance (I was backpacking with my dad in Washington state), but I heard incredible things. Seniors began by taking pictures at untermyer gardens where they were joined by friends and family members. They then met at the high school to board busses to the Glen Island harbour Club on the Long Island sound in New Rochelle. It was a great night with lots of good food, dancing, and excitement, and a fantastic celebration of all of our seniors' accomplishments. Thank you to Mr. Smith, Ms. Gagliardi, and all of the chaperones for making this possible.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

- #### A. Public Comment
- No Public Comment

5. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

A. Update & District Highlights

William S. McKersie, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools
Superintendent Report

Priority District Updates

FMS Next Steps

At tonight's BOE Meeting, you will receive a detailed update on the Action Plan for FMS. The presentation was posted in BoardDocs under the relevant agenda item ahead of Tuesday evening. Melissa Szymanski will lead the presentation, joined by Kamillah Dawkins, Tesfa Stewart, Jenice Mateo-Toledo and two counselors, Danielle DalCero and Jocelyn Perez. Tuesday evening, Jennifer Spirelli will be at the BOE Meeting for her new district, where they will be voting on her appointment.

The Action Plan will address several of the topics that have been discussed in this weekly confidential memo, including a partnership with ADL.

FMS Interim Principal Search

We are making excellent progress on the search for an Interim Principal for FMS. The posting closes on June 7, but we are giving early reads to submissions. I also have been working networks for suggested candidates. The combination of posting and outreach has generated over 30 applications, both from within the district and externally, including veteran educational leaders in the region.

Lynn Walker is managing the search. Please see her technical notes on the process:

- The goal is to have an Interim Principal in place by July 1, 2023.
- Timeline:
 - Position Posted – May 24, 2023 - June 7, 2023
 - Screening of Applicants by Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Business Official and Personnel Assistant to Select Candidates for Interviews – June 5-9, 2023
 - Advisory Committee Interviews Selected Candidates– June 12, 2023
 - Superintendent Interviews Final Candidate(s) – June 14-15, 2023
 - Superintendent Recommends Finalist to BOE – June 16, 2023
 - BOE Interviews Finalist (Executive Session) – June 16, 2023
 - BOE Votes to Appoint Interim FMS Principal (Public Vote) – June 20, 2023
- Advisory Interview Committee:
 - Chair – Lynn Walker
 - Administrators – Two HAA Representatives
 - Teachers –
 - One Grade 5th-6th Representative (selected by the Grade 5 & Grade 6 Team Coordinators)
 - One Grade 7th-8th Representative (selected by the Grade 7 & Grade 8 Team Coordinators)
 - One SPED Representative (selected by the Special Education Team Coordinator)
 - One Department Chair Representative (Special Areas- World Languages, Art, or Music)
 - Parents –
 - One General Education Representative (Selected by PTSA)
 - One SPED Representative (Selected by SEPTA)
 - One Support Staff Member (CSEA)
 - Assistant Superintendent – Observer

FMS Review

I have been conducting a series of roundtable discussions with FMS faculty, parents and students to better identify the best focus and approach to a review of FMS. The guiding question for my outreach is, "To get FMS to the next level of work with students, what do we need to be examining? What questions do we need to answer?" I am open ended in the "definition of work with students," prompting participants to consider any and all aspects of the student experience at FMS.

I met on May 23 and May 25 with two sets of parents, totaling nearly 20 individuals. PTSA and SEPTA identified the parents. These discussions were far ranging, open and constructive. I believe the effort is appreciated by the parents. I have enjoyed the process, so will be expanding out to other sets of parents. Melissa Szymanski is joining me in the parent roundtables.

While the school year is sprinting to a close, Jennifer and Kamilliah are identifying one or more sets of students for similar roundtables.

I will give details on what I have heard once I have completed all roundtable discussions.

2023 National Latin Exam Competition

2023 National Latin Exam results are in, and 30 Hastings students placed in the academic competition. A reception on May 24 celebrated all Latin students, with awards for those who placed. The National Latin Exam (NLE) is a national academic competition among Latin students in middle and high school. This year, over 100,000 Latin students from all 50 states and 13 foreign countries competed at their academic level in the NLE. Learn more about NLE [here](#). Latin teacher Ellen Driscoll registered all Hastings Latin students in January and administered the exam during class time in March. The World Language Department was generous to sponsor the registration fee for all students. Many thanks to Department Chair Katie Paz.

[Click here](#) for the list of students who received awards, scoring in the top percentage at their level and earning a national award. The awards are: *cum laude* (with honors), *magna cum laude* (with high honors), *maxima cum laude* (with very high honors - silver), and *summa cum laude* (with the highest honors - gold).

Career Day at Hillside

On Thursday, May 24, Hastings' sophomore class visited Hillside's kindergartners for Career Day. Organized by Director of School Counseling Jeanette Kocur, Hillside's School Counselor Juliann Snyder, and Kindergarten team leader Nina D'Amato, the event allowed our youngest learners to hear from their 10th grade mentors about their career goals. It was a day filled with engaging conversations with 2-3 high schoolers dedicated to each classroom. There was even "choice time", a chance for outdoor structured play, turn-taking, and teamwork. The high schoolers will be back for a similar event on June 14. "It was really heart-warming for the kindergartners to have this interaction with a student who has been through Hillside," said D'Amato.

The Big "Reveal" - Hillside Staff Begins Professional Development on Hillside's New Math Resource

Following a lengthy process of curriculum inquiry, professional learning, and site visits to other districts, the Hillside Mathematics Committee, made up of general education teachers, a special education teacher, a mathematics interventionist, and administrators unanimously selected *Reveal* as the new elementary mathematics resource. Implementation agreements have been developed, and last week, professional learning for the broader faculty took place. Stay tuned for more information as this work progresses.

Upcoming Events to Note

Important Information for Graduating Seniors

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

More Events to Note

- [June Spirit Week at Hillside - Monday, 6/5 - Friday, 6/9](#)
- [Spring Varsity Sports Banquet - Tuesday, 6/6](#)
- [Hillside's Night of the Arts - Tonight, Tuesday, 6/6](#)
- [Hillside Coffee with Counselors - Transition to FMS \(For 4th Grade Families\) - Wednesday, 6/7](#)
- HHS Science Symposium - Wednesday, 6/7 (7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.)
- [5th - 6th Grade Transition Night - Thursday, 6/8](#)
- [P-CoC Food Truck & Juneteenth Celebration - Sunday, 6/11](#)
- [8th Grade Career Day - 6/20](#)
- [8th Grade Recognition Night - 6/21](#)
- [PTSA-Sponsored Luncheon for Graduating Seniors - 6/21](#)
- High School Graduation - Thursday, 6/22

Stay tuned for more updates on important dates, end-of-year events and information in the *Hastings Weekly*.

Important School Calendar Info

- The last day of classes for all Hastings High School students is next Monday, June 12.
- Schools and offices will be closed on Monday, June 19, in observance of Juneteenth.
- The Last Day of School is Thursday, June 22.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Report from Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction

Presented by Melissa Szymanski, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction

Portrait of a Hastings Learner

We are in the process of assembling four teams to design concrete POHL action plans associated with each of the four action steps. This work is anticipated to take place as follows:

Tuesday, June 13th

Action Step: An advisory-like opportunity to support SEL and students' sense of belonging

Wednesday, June 14th

Action Step: A community charter around behavioral expectations

Thursday, July 20th

Action Step: Enhanced authentic learning opportunities, including interdisciplinary lessons/units

Tuesday, July 25th

Action Step: Restorative practices

Special Education Advisory Committee

We are in the process of finalizing a series of action plans related to the recommendations made by the Special Education Advisory Committee. Each action plan is structured to include the goal, action steps, purpose, resources, timeframe, success metrics, and progress evaluation. These draft action plans will be brought to the final special education advisory committee meeting for review and further input. Finalized action plans will be presented at the 6/20 Board of Education meeting, along with an update on the work.

7. BUSINESS

A. [Business Items](#)

1. Elementary School Mathematics Resource: Reveal Professional Learning, quote.
2. Appointment of Richard Kass Impartial Hearing Officer Case #597428.
3. Precise Translations, LLC, Georgian Interpreter for June Regents, quote.
4. LHRIC Data Services, implementation of the 2022-23 APPR, proposal.
5. Anti-Defamation League (ADL), FMS 6th Grade workshops, proposal.

6. U.S. OMNI & TSACG Compliance Services, Inc., Services Agreement reinstatement 2023-2024.
7. Warrants.
8. Folkore Urbano NYC, Farragut Middle School 5th grade workshop, invoice.
9. Budget Transfers.
10. PNW BOCES, Data Training Professional Learning, proposal.
11. Regulatory Compliance, pick-up and disposal of hazardous waste material, proposal.
12. CSEA Service Pay, side letter.
13. HTA Personal Leave, side letter.
14. HTA Athletic Trainer, memorandum of agreement.

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: Doug Sundheim, Jeremy Galland, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher

8. PERSONNEL ([CONSENT](#))

A. Appointments

1. Alexa Ramonetti, appoint to Per Diem substitute teacher district-wide effective June 7, 2023 for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year.
2. Samantha Manners, appoint to Per Diem substitute teacher effective September 5, 2023 to approximately September 30, 2023 and Elementary K-6 Regular substitute teacher approximately September 30, 2023-December 22, 2023, MA, Step 1, \$67,556 (to be pro-rated). She will return to Per Diem substitute teacher effective January 3, 2024 for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year.
3. Brendan O'Sullivan, re-appoint to .8 Physical Education teacher at Farragut Middle School, MA, Step 3, \$74,049 (to be pro-rated) for the 2023-2024 school year.
4. Alexis Comerford-Jones, re-appoint to .8 Elementary K-6 teacher at Farragut Middle School, MA, Step 3, \$74,049 (to be pro-rated) for the 2023-2024 school year.
5. Schedule B appointment requests as per attached spreadsheet. ([Enc](#))
6. Joseph Vaccaro, re-appoint to 1.0 FTE Earth Science leave replacement, MA+30, Step 11, \$106,536 at Farragut Middle School, effective August 29, 2023 for the 2023-2024 school year.
7. Lilly Leff, appoint as per diem substitute teacher district-wide effective June 7, 2023 for the 2022-2023 school year.
8. Douglas Friedman, appoint to 1.0 FTE Music Regular Substitute/Leave Replacement at Hillside Elementary School, MA, Step 1, \$67,556 effective August 29, 2023 for the 2023-2024 school year. Certification held: Music - Initial.
9. Michael Rubino, appoint to .6 FTE Music teacher at Farragut Middle School, MA+60, Step 18, \$136,679 (to be pro-rated) effective August 29, 2023 for the 2023-2024 school year. Certification held: Music - Permanent.
10. Patricia Chibbaro, appoint to position of Account Clerk, Column IIIA, Step 7, 12 months, effective June 7, 2023.

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

Motion by Jeremy Galland, second by Doug Sundheim.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

B. Amendments

1. Anthony Scioscia, amend appointment to Per Diem substitute district-wide effective June 7, 2023 for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year.
2. Christina Gagliardi, amend salary with additional assignment of .067 FTE for AP Biology in Hastings High School for the 2023-2024 school year.

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

Motion by Jeremy Galland, second by Doug Sundheim.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

C. Retirements

1. Nancy Gagliardi, Secretary to School Principal at Hastings High School has provided notice of resignation for the purpose of retirement effective July 1, 2023.
2. Michael Rubino, Music teacher at Farragut Middle School has provided notice of resignation for the purpose of retirement effective June 30, 2023.

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

Motion by Jeremy Galland, second by Doug Sundheim.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

D. Resignation

1. Patricia Chibbaro, Clerk, has provided notice of resignation, effective June 6, 2023.

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

Motion by Jeremy Galland, second by Doug Sundheim.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

9. MINUTES

A. [Approval of Minutes](#)

1. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of May 23, 2023.

RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of May 23, 2023.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

10. POLICIES

A. [Second Read](#)

Policies for Second Read:

1. Policy No. 5710 - School Safety and Educational Climate (SSEC) Reporting
2. Policy No. 0115 - Student Harassment and Bullying Prevention and Intervention
3. Policy No. 8130 - School Safety Plans and Teams

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education adopt policies.

Motion by Jeremy Galland, second by Damaris-Lois Lang.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

11. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Second Public Comment

- No public comment

12. AGENDA REVIEW

A. [Agenda Review](#)

- June 20th
 - 5:15 PM and 5:45 PM important discussion on Non-Represented Staff Salaries and meeting on security with Altaris and HPD.
 - Retiree Reception
 - Public Hearing on Security
 - SPED Advisory Committee Presentation
 - Future Steps
 - Five-Year Facilities Plan

13. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

A. [Comments](#)

Doug Sundheim: Acknowledged the work of Dr. Syzmanski and all who had a hand in creating the Portrait of a Hastings Learner. Rewarding to see all the work having been done and off to a good start.

Dr. Lang: Expressed her appreciation for Doug and the expertise that he brings to everything. He has been very helpful to her in getting her voice across in a better way.

14. ADJOURNMENT

A. [Adjournment](#)

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Jeremy Galland, second by Damaris-Lois Lang.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Melissa DeLaBarrera

Submitted by:

Melissa DeLaBarrera

District Clerk