



**Hastings-on-Hudson
Regular Board of Education Meeting
Tuesday, May 23, 2023**

Members present

Doug Sundheim
Jeremy Galland
Silvia Robles
Alexander Dal Piaz
Damaris-Lois Lang
Doreen Bucher
Maureen Lennon-Santana

1. OPENING OF MEETING

A. [Call to Order](#)

Meeting called to order at 7:34 PM by Alex Dal Piaz

C. [Tenure Recommendations](#)

1. Jaime Bragg. Recommendation to approve tenure in the area of Elementary K-6 for Jaime Bragg, First Grade teacher at Hillside Elementary School, effective August 28, 2023. Certification held: Childhood Education 1-6 - Professional. (Enc)
2. Amanda Peisel. Recommendation to approve tenure in the area of Elementary K-6 for Amanda Peisel, Fourth Grade teacher at Hillside Elementary School, effective August 28, 2023. Certifications held: Childhood Education 1-6 - Professional, Early Childhood Education Birth - Grade 2 - Professional, Literacy Birth-6 - Professional. (Enc)
3. Linda Tam. Recommendation to approve tenure in the area of Elementary K-6 for Linda Tam, Fourth Grade teacher at Hillside Elementary School effective November 9, 2023. Certification held: Childhood Education 1-6 - Professional. (Enc)
4. Eric Day. Recommendation to approve tenure in the area of Music for Eric Day, Music teacher at Hastings High School/Farragut Middle School effective August 28, 2023. Certification held: Music - Professional. (Enc)
5. Faye Barenfeld. Recommendation to approve tenure in the area of Science for Faye Barenfeld, Science teacher at Hastings High School, effective October 8, 2023. Certifications held: Chemistry-7-12 - Initial, Biology 7-12 - Initial, General Science 7-12 - Initial. (Enc)

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

Motion by Silvia Robles, second by Jeremy Galland.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Doug Sundheim, Jeremy Galland, Silvia Robles, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana

2. STUDENT REPORT

A. [Student Report](#)

Gus Renzin and Elianna Carvalho, Student Liaisons
Student Report

Gus:

First off, the HHS music concert was last Thursday night and it was a massive success. There were some amazing performances by the band, orchestra, sinfonia, jazz band, chorus, and madrigals. The man responsible for so many of these beautiful pieces is getting his tenure tonight, so I just want to extend a big thank you to Mr. Day on behalf of the entire Hastings Music community.

Some more big news on the performing arts front: The high school's production *Something Rotten!* Was nominated for 2023 Metropolitan Theater Awards! On Monday, Hastings High School's production of *Something Rotten!* received five nominations for the 2023 Metropolitan High School Theater Awards, putting it in the running with 55 other schools across Westchester, Bergen, Rockland and Putnam counties. The Metro Awards shine a spotlight on exceptional musical theater productions, talented young actors and actresses and creative teams who take to the stage every spring. Hastings walked away with five nominations! The musical number "We See the Light" was nominated for Outstanding Production Number, Sander Markley was nominated for Outstanding Performance in a Supporting Male-Identifying Role, Emma Gelman was nominated for Outstanding Achievement in Graphic Design, Vivian Smith was nominated for Outstanding Student Technical Achievement for costume design and Elianna was nominated for Outstanding Comedic Performance by a Female-Identifying Performer.

So as I mentioned, seniors are officially on their internships. Projects vary from working at the hardware store, to going on and documenting long backpacking trips, to volunteering with advocacy groups and political organizations. This is an amazing period for seniors to get some real world experience and, hopefully, to get a little bit of rest before college. For everyone else in the building, it offers a respite from the antics of 140 stir-crazy 18 year olds.

Elianna:

As Gus mentioned, the seniors are out of the building on internships. It is honestly such a strange feeling to have their entire grade not in the building. Everyone misses them so much. The Monday after the seniors left the junior class representatives started a new tradition. During lunch all the juniors filed into the courtyard to be met with a surprise ice cream sundae truck. The courtyard was decorated with green and gold decoration, music was blasting, and all the students were enjoying their ice cream. The festivities were a way of welcoming the juniors into their new position as the oldest students in the building.

Academic Field Day

This past Wednesday was an academic field day in the high school. A way for students to have a day to relax from their busy schedules. Each student got to select three workshops to attend in the morning out of a very wide selection. Classes ranged from a workshop on puzzles to one on ballroom dancing. I know Ms. Barenfeld taught a super fun workshop about learning to stitch wounds, by practicing on bananas. This day gave students an opportunity to learn something new and see their teachers in a new light, as each workshop was taught by a teacher in the high school. In the afternoon, all the students watched the movie "Free Solo" in the auditorium. It was a super fun day and we are super grateful to the school for putting it together.

And I wanted to give a brief update on some of the work being done with students for Portrait of a Hastings Learner:

- The junior student union representatives led focus groups with each from grade in the high school as well as the 7th and eighth grade to gain input on how to incorporate the action steps the portrait of a Hastings learner put together into student life.
- We gained a lot of positive feedback some of the which included a desire for students to talk more about current events within the classroom and the possibility of incorporating a way for highschooler to enter the courageous conversation classes in the middle school and talk about the environment in the high school and inform the middle schoolers on the "dos and don'ts of high school"
- And this is something we talked about at the last board meeting, with a sort of student to student learning.

3. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

A. [Update & District Highlights](#)

- On June 6 the Board and community will be presented with a detailed update on FMS from Jennifer, Kamillah, Jenice Mateo-Toledo and Tesfa Stewart. They will present on both near term and long term work underway at

FMS. They will talk about communications, next steps and where it is all going and provide an opportunity for the Board to ask questions.

- Dr. McKersie has been meeting with groups of FMS parents, FMS team coordinators, team leaders and faculty.

[Click here to view the Superintendent report](#)

4. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Report from Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction

Presented by Melissa Szymanski, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction

Special Education Advisory Committee

Members of the Special Education Advisory Committee are in the process of meeting with the faculty of each building to share the process and outcomes they have been involved in since July 2022. This process has already taken place at the high school. Committee members also shared information about the professional learning pilot focused on data analysis that will be launched over the summer as a result of their work. The committee is in the process of gathering feedback on areas of need, also related to data analysis, which will serve to inform differentiated professional learning for the future.

We are now working to create a series of draft action plans related to the change ideas that the group identified through their ongoing improvement science process. Each action plan is structured to include the goal, action steps, purpose, resources, timeframe, success metrics, and progress evaluation. Draft action plans will be brought to the final special education advisory committee meeting for review and final input. A pilot will be launched in June 2023 to enhance capacity in data analysis, one of the goals identified through the work.

Physical Education

The physical education team met with district-level administrators to delve more deeply into adaptive physical education instruction for students with gross motor challenges, one of the recommendations coming out of the curriculum review cycle process. The department discussed assessment methodologies that could be used to identify students' strengths and areas of need.

Portrait of a Hastings Learner Focus Group Debrief

Grade level representatives from the high school student union have been facilitating POHL student focus groups. The student representatives provided Melissa Szymanski with a talking point sheet with a summary of feedback related to each of the four recommended action steps. Students presented the feedback and discussion ensued. This feedback will be critical for our next step, which will be to assemble action step subgroups and develop action plans. Students have offered to come speak to the subgroups to provide an overview of the student input.

Facing History and Ourselves

Our final Teaching for Equity and Social Justice professional learning session for the 22-23 school year took place last week. The session focused on the history of race and educational inequities. Embedded in the session was work around the NYS Culturally Responsive Sustaining Education Framework. We are very grateful to HEF for this opportunity.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Public Comment

- Dr. Lang commented on racial equity issues

[Click here to view Dr. Lang's comments](#)

B. Adjournment to Executive Session

Motion to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation and personnel matters, the employment history of certain people.

Motion by Silvia Robles, second by Doreen Bucher.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Doug Sundheim, Jeremy Galland, Silvia Robles, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana

Public Meeting resumed at 9:55 PM

6. BUSINESS

A. [Business Items](#)

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education does hereby move to approve the following:

WHEREAS, the Hastings on Hudson Union Free School District ("Hastings") Bid for Student Athletic and Field Trip Transportation that was opened on March 14, 2023 included a provision permitting piggybacking on such contracts by public school districts located in Westchester, Rockland and Putnam Counties, on the same terms and conditions as the contract with Ardsley;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Hastings on Hudson Union Free School District hereby authorizes public school districts located in Westchester, Rockland and Putnam Counties to piggyback on the Hastings Bid and the Contract with Academy Bus Company, Inc. for Student Athletic and Field Trip Transportation in accordance with the provisions of Section 4.1.1 of the Bid, upon receipt of a resolution of the Board of Education of the interested public school district requesting participation in such transportation contract.

2. Recommendation to accept bid from Con-Tech Construction Technology, Inc., for HS/MS sidewalk replacement.
3. Expenditure and Revenue Reports for March 2023.
4. Warrants.
5. The Learning Shop, Inc., Contract for Services for the 2023-2024 School Year.
6. HTA of New York, Contract for Services for the 2023-2024 School Year.
7. Impartial Hearing Officer, appointment for case #599519.
8. 2023-2024 Professional Development Plan.
9. 2023-2024 Interscholastic Athletic Merger Paperwork (Girls Swimming, Boys Swimming, Ice Hockey, Wrestling and Football).
10. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby certifies the results of the May 16, 2023 School Budget Vote & Trustee Election as set forth on the attached Official Tally of the 2023-2024 School Budget Vote and Board Trustee Election. In accordance with these results, the Board of Education hereby certifies that Proposition 1 - Budget was approved and that Theresa McCaffrey and Jodie Meyer have been elected to serve on the Board of Education for three-year terms beginning on July 1, 2023.

OFFICIAL TALLY OF THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE & BOARD TRUSTEE ELECTION

PROPOSITION NUMBER ONE – 2023-2024 BUDGET

Shall the Board of Education of the Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District, Town of Greenburgh, NY, be authorized to expend the sums set forth in the 2023-2024 Annual Budget in the total amount of \$57,609,700 and to levy the necessary tax therefore?

Yes: 1262

No: 330

VOTE FOR UP TO TWO MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (3-year terms ending 6/30/2026)

Jeremy Galland - 695

Kai MacMahon - 639

Theresa McCaffrey - 816

Jodie Meyer - 746

11. Stipulation of Settlement.

12. LHRIC 2023-2024 - Request for Services Agreement.
13. Federal Food Service Program Bid, Award to Compass Group, USA, Inc. dba Chartwells.
14. PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP, Cost Proposal for Professional External Auditing Services.
15. Budget Transfer.
16. H2M, Proposal for Hillside Elementary School Interior Alterations.
17. Project Lead the Way, 2023-2024 Engineering and Gateway Participation invoices.
18. Darkness to Light Training invoices.
19. 2023-2024 School Tax Warrant.
20. Expenditure and Revenue Reports for April 2023.
21. Contract for educational services with Hendrick Hudson School District.
22. Contract for educational services with Hendrick Hudson School District.
23. HTA Side Letter.

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, Jeremy Galland, Silvia Robles, Alexander Dal Piaz, 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: 10663, 12567, 11049, 11504, 10655,12293

CPSE: 12606, 12603

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:

CSE: 11310, 7602, 12444, 11733, 10208, 10309, 11865, 10129, 10242, 12344, 11856, 12251, 11406, 11716, 10182, 11055, 10542, 11898, 7662, 11759, 10359, 11906

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 Maureen Lennon-Santana, second by Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Doug Sundheim, Jeremy Galland, Silvia Robles, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana

7. PERSONNEL ([CONSENT](#))

A. Appointments

1. Matthew Halfond, appoint to 1.0 FTE Special Education teacher at Hastings High School, MA, Step 8, \$90,300 effective August 29, 2023. Probationary period August 29, 2023-August 28, 2027. Tenure date: August 29, 2027. Certifications held: Students with Disabilities Grades 7-12 - Generalist - Professional, English Language Arts 7-12 - Professional.
2. Austin Hills, appoint to 1.0 FTE Physics teacher at Hastings High School, MA+30, Step 8, \$96,791 effective August 29, 2023. Probationary period August 29, 2023-August 28, 2027. Tenure date: August 29, 2027. Certifications held: Physics 7-12 - Professional, School Building Leader - Initial.
3. Jasmin Morais, appoint to 1.0 FTE Special Education teacher at Hillside Elementary School, MA, Step 1, \$67,556 effective August 29, 2023. Probationary period August 29, 2023-August 28, 2027. Tenure date: August 29, 2027. Certifications held: Students with Disabilities Grades 1-6 - Initial, Childhood Education Grades 1-6 - Initial, Students with Disabilities Birth-Grade 2 - Initial, Childhood Education Birth-Grade 2 - Initial.
4. Updated Schedule B appointment requests. ([Enc](#))
5. Kristina Caruso, appoint to Student Intern in Physical Education effective May 24, 2023-June 22, 2023.
6. Chloe Caraballo, appoint to School Monitor at Hillside Elementary School effective May 24, 2023.

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

Motion by Silvia Robles, second by Jeremy Galland.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Doug Sundheim, Jeremy Galland, Silvia Robles, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana

B. Resignations

1. Maria Roditis, part-time School Nurse at Hillside Elementary School, has provided notification of resignation effective May 5, 2023.
2. Claudia Alfonso, World Language (Spanish) teacher at Hastings High School has provided notice of resignation effective August 4, 2023.
3. Meredith Fichman, Earth Science teacher at Farragut Middle School has provided notice of resignation effective June 22, 2023.
4. Jaslyn Delgado, School Monitor at Hillside Elementary School, has provided notification of resignation effective May 22, 2023.

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

Motion by Silvia Robles, second by Jeremy Galland.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Doug Sundheim, Jeremy Galland, Silvia Robles, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana

C. Amendments

1. Jason Bernbach, amend dates of Social Studies Regular Substitute coverage at Farragut Middle School. Amended dates are March 6, 2023-May 12, 2023. He returned to Permanent Building substitute teacher at Hastings High School on May 15, 2023 for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year.
2. Joan Paradis, amend her leave of absence as follows: FMLA with pay March 7, 2023-May 10, 2023. She returned to work on May 11, 2023.
3. Sarah Stern, amend probationary period of English Language Arts teacher at Hastings High School due to extended leave replacement as follows: August 29, 2023-December 22, 2026. Tenure date: December 23, 2026.
4. Una Mullen, School Nurse at Hillside Elementary School, amend appointment from 11-month to 10-month position effective July 1, 2023.
5. Elizabeth Eugenio, School Monitor, amend appointment to Teacher Aide, Column IA, Step 1, effective May 24, 2022.

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

Motion by Silvia Robles, second by Jeremy Galland.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Doug Sundheim, Jeremy Galland, Silvia Robles, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana

D. Leaves of Absence

1. Claudia Alfonso, World Language (Spanish) teacher at Hastings High School has requested a leave of absence as follows: FMLA with pay April 26, 2023-June 22, 2023. (Enc)

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 Jeremy Galland.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Doug Sundheim, Jeremy Galland, Silvia Robles, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana

8. MINUTES

A. [Approval of Minutes](#)

1. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of May 2, 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 2, 2023.

Motion by Jeremy Galland, second by Doreen Bucher.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Doug Sundheim, Jeremy Galland, Silvia Robles, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. [World Language International Trip Proposal](#)

The Board reviewed and briefly discussed the [World Language International trip proposal](#). It was presented as a discussion item only, as the proposal met the requirements of the current travel policy and does not require Board approval.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. [Policy](#)

- The Policy Committee gave the Board an overview of the three policies being presented for first read and highlighted the changes that were discussed and revisions that were made during the policy committee meeting and the items they wanted feedback from the full board on.

11. POLICIES

A. [First 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

The Board reviewed the revisions to the three policies. They had a thorough discussion regarding the revisions and agreed to bring the three policies forward for a second read at the June 6, 2023 BOE meeting.

12. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Second Public Comment

- No public comment

13. AGENDA REVIEW

A. [Agenda Review](#)

June 6th:

- Executive Session on Collective Bargaining
- Science Research Presentation
- FMS Update

June 20th:

- 5:15 PM Executive Session to discuss unrepresented staff salaries
- 5:45 PM Executive Session on Security
- Public Hearing on Security Plan

July 11th:

- Annual Organizational Meeting time TBD

14. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

A. [Comments](#)

- Alex Dal Piaz: Thanked Melissa Szymanski for the work being done with the Physical Education Review in the Curriculum Review Cycle.
- Jeremy Galland: Commented on the tenure candidates, it starts with our principles and their excellent hiring choices, which speaks to our district's success.

15. ADJOURNMENT

A. [Adjournment](#)

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Doug Sundheim, Jeremy Galland, Silvia Robles, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana

Melissa DeLaBarrera

Submitted by:

Melissa DeLaBarrera

District Clerk