



**Hastings-on-Hudson
Regular Board of Education Meeting
Tuesday, May 2, 2023**

Members present

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Call to Order at 6:30 PM - It is expected that a motion will be made to move into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing the following personnel matters: 1) Tenure Recommendations; 2) The employment history of a particular person.

Meeting called to order at 6:37 PM

Motion to move into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing the following personnel matters: 1) Tenure Recommendations; 2) The employment history of a particular person.

Motion by Doug Sundheim, second by Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

2. PUBLIC HEARING

A. [Public Hearing 2023-2024 School Budget](#)

No public comment

3. OPENING OF MEETING

A. [Announcements](#)

Upcoming Events & Dates of Interest:

- NYS Math Tests - FMS
Wednesday, May 3 · 8:30 – 10:30am & Thursday, May 4 · 8:30 – 10:30am
- NYS Math Makeups - FMS
Monday, May 8 · 8:00 – 9:00am & Tuesday, May 9 · 8:00 – 9:00am
- SEPTA 4th to 5th grade Transition
Monday, May 8 · 6:30 – 7:30pm

- HASP Graduation Ceremony
Wednesday, May 10 · 10:00 – 11:30am

- In-Person Voter Registration
Wednesday, May 10 · 4:00 – 8:00pm

- BOE Candidates Forum
Thursday, May 10 · 7:00 – 8:00pm

- HES Family Dance Night
Wednesday, May 10 · 5:00 – 6:00pm

- Senior Class Trip to Bronx Zoo
Thursday, May 11

- PTSA/SEPTA Sponsored Budget Forum
Tuesday, May 9 · 6:30 – 7:30pm

- Senior Internships Begins
Monday, May 15

- MS/HS Art Show
Monday, May 15 & Tuesday, May 16

- **Annual Budget Vote & School Board Election**
Tuesday, May 16 · 7:00am – 9:00pm (Cochran Gym)

- High School Academic Field Day
Wednesday, May 17

- FMS Grade 7/8 Spring Concert
Tuesday, May 16 · 7:00 – 8:00pm

- Incoming Grade 5 Parent Meeting
Thursday, May 18 · 6:30 – 7:30pm

- Policy Committee Meeting
Thursday, May 18 · 5:30 – 6:30pm

- HHS Spring Concert
Thursday, May 18 · 7:00 – 8:30pm

- HHS PTSA/SEPTA Parent Meeting
Tuesday, May 23 · 6:30 – 7:30pm

- FMS Grade 5/6 Spring Concert
Tuesday, May 23 · 7:00 – 8:00pm

4. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

A. Update & District Highlights

Presented by William McKersie, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools

[Click here to view Superintendent Report](#)

5. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Report from Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction

Presented by Melissa Szymanski, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction

Hillside Mathematics Committee

The Hillside Mathematics committee convened to develop implementation agreements for Reveal, and to support their teams to organize the various resources that have now arrived at the building. Amy and I have scheduled a call with Reveal to plan next steps for introducing the instructional resources and training the K-4 faculty.

Computer Science & Digital Fluency Standards

The April 19th faculty meeting was dedicated to building awareness of the New York State Computer Science and Digital Fluency (CSDF) standards. This meeting was planned by the technology lead learners group with consideration of faculty feedback from the March information session.

The faculty meeting was a work session with the purpose of highlighting initial perceptions of how we are currently working with the CSDF standards.

Using [the standards progression](#), faculty reflected on their own grade level/ content area. They then completed a series of digital workbooks to identify the CS & DF standards that are (a) taught and well covered by all with specific examples (green), (b) unsure / inconsistent (yellow), (c) not covered at all (red).

Professional Learning Committee

The Professional Learning Committee met late last month and this afternoon to continue work on the State required Professional Development Plan and design a draft of the fall 2023 Superintendent's Conference Days.

POHL Student Focus Group Preparation

This month, representatives of the high school student union met with me to plan for student focus groups. The purpose of the focus group is to gather input on how to make what the action step planning committee designed come to life. Each focus group will include 5-6 students across each grade level, across grades 7 through 12, and will be conducted during the month of May. During the focus group planning session, students outlined the focus group purpose, agenda, content, and flow. Together, we also discussed facilitation techniques.

Also this month, with the support of Jackie Saviano and Chris Yerkes, the POHL Infographic was finalized. Please find the final version [here](#). We are very excited that it has made its debut! Special thanks to high school student Maximilian Dodziuk, for the logo design.

Targeted Monitoring Review

Hastings was chosen for a Targeted Monitoring Review by NYSED. Our team worked together to gather and submit evidence that correlates with 62 required indicators related to our Title funding. Last Thursday we were notified of an "approved" status. No further action is required.

B. Report from Business Official

Presented by Maureen Caraballo, Business Official

Fireman Exemption

As you may have read there was an article regarding the fireman's exemption in the Enterprise. The article stated that the exemption would result in a shift of between 1.25-1.5 percent of an increase if the board were to adopt the exemption. Please note, the reporter will be making a correction to those numbers as he added a 1 percent to each. At an upcoming meeting in June, I will bring the financial information to the board so you can discuss the topic further.

State Aid

The State Aid numbers have been approved and as we planned, there is a significant increase in the amount we receive this coming fiscal year. Currently, our numbers include an allocation for preschool that we have thus far been unsuccessful in finding partners to use the funding allocated to us. We will again look to issue an RFP in hopes we will be able to utilize these funds. The challenge continues to be the maximum amount we are allowed to spend on each child. The number is based on a Statewide number that is not sufficient in this area.

6. STUDENT REPORT

A. [Student Report](#)

Gus Renzin and Elianna Carvalho, Student Liaisons
Student Report

Music Trip:

This past weekend the high school band, chorus and orchestra went on their overnight music trip to Hershey Park for the Music in the Parks Competition. Friday afternoon, students arrived in Pennsylvania where the Orchestra and Band each performed two adjudicated pieces for judges. The performances were then followed by a fun night at Dave and Busters. Saturday morning the Choir performed, followed by a day at Hersheypark! At the end of the day before heading back to Hastings, students attended the awards ceremony. The HS band placed in Fourth and both the Orchestra and Choir placed 1st in their divisions. Huge congratulations to all the musicians at the high school and a special thanks to our chaperons and, of course, amazing music teachers Mr. Riss and Mr. Day.

AP Week:

All this week and next week are AP week! Students are busy working and studying for their tests. Huge thanks to all our teachers who stay after school to help students through these sometimes stressful times. Good luck to all those taking tests!

Civil Rights with Mr. Smith:

This past Thursday, April 27th, students in Mr. Smith's SUPA American History class attended a discussion on Civil Rights at the Hastings Public Library facilitated by Mr. Smith, librarian Regina Kelly and Thomasina Hutchins, a literary professor at SUNY Purchase. **Where else but Hastings is a veteran social studies teacher going to voluntarily lead a community event in a town where he doesn't even live?** Participants came prepared having read a few articles on the evolution of the Civil Rights movement and then took part in a truly enlightening discussion. A conversation amongst the multi-generation group sparked when the question of "How do we define racism" was asked. Thank you Mr. Smith for a lovely evening.

Musical:

The weekend of the 21st and 22nd was the High School's production of Something Rotten! It was absolutely amazing and I can say from personal experience, a lot of fun! ... Thanks to all those who were in attendance including Dr. McKersie and Dr. Szymanski.

Senior Decision Day: May first was decision day for seniors! 12th graders wore merch from their chosen post-graduate path or college and celebrated the enormous accomplishment. Although some decisions may change over the coming months as students get off waitlists, the majority of the class of 2023 is set in its path for the next four years.

Athlete Signing Day: Yesterday was Signing day for our 8 student athletes planning to bring their talent to college teams. Big congratulations to Anna Thomas who will be running track and cross country at Wesleyan, Catie Cho, who will be playing softball at Wellesley, Michaela Ross, who will be on the soccer team at Rochester Polytechnic, Michal Scholz who will be swimming for the University of Rochester, Noah Angoff, who will be running for Colorado College, Rob Kennedy, who will play football for Hartwick College, Sal DiLeo who will pitch for Suny New Paltz's baseball team, and Zeke many, who will be playing soccer at Colorado College.

On Science Research:

More than 60 current sophomores requested to take Ms. Shandroff's science research course, so since there are limited class spaces, they will be required to submit applications to the course detailing their interests, academic passions, and goals for the next two years. This interest is a great sign for the science research program, and it indicates that HHS students will keep producing novel research and bringing home the bacon at major science fairs in the coming years.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. [Public Comment](#)

Megan Spana, parent of 6th grader FMS, commented regarding the events on March 22nd and how they were handled. Read the following statement:

To begin, this "bathroom incident" had ableist and racist implications, but tonight, I want to focus on the racial component. Let's be clear, because a racial slur was used, the "incident" is actually a hate crime.

First, the administration's actions and communications need to be consistent. Although they promised "no tolerance" and "emphatic condemnation" of bigotry, there was no harsh punishment for the students involved, and the student body was not unequivocally told that FMS does not tolerate hate.

Second, on March 23rd, the students involved in the video were reprimanded and should have been sent home from school immediately that day in order to protect the victims. The administration and the Board of Education didn't deem this infraction, this hate crime, as "serious" enough to set aside the policy requiring a 24-hour waiting period while parents are notified. How was this not "serious?" The administration and the Board of Education need to define "serious" in their policies and prioritize the rights of victims.

Third, the administration needs to explicitly condemn hatred. Middle school students are not given an unambiguous anti-racism message by lessons, speakers and similar events. The lack of decisive action has given bullies the confidence to continue making monkey noises in the hallways and even say n-word derivatives directly to the Black students.

Lastly, our school district has a reputation for inclusivity, but recent events show otherwise. It is shameful that the new school budget does not even include a DEI administrator's position. The bare minimum response to a hate crime is the creation of this position.

In conclusion, The Board of Education and the administration need to hold students accountable, ensure all students feel safe, and take definitive anti-racist action for the future.

8. BUSINESS

A. [Business Items](#)

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

WHEREAS, the Ardsley Union Free School District ("Ardsley") has made available to public school districts located in Westchester County its Student Out-of-District and Summer Transportation through a provision in the bid specifications permitting "piggybacking" as well as a resolution of the Ardsley Board of Education authorizing participation in the Student Out-of-District and Summer Transportation on the same terms and conditions as the contract with Ardsley; and

WHEREAS, said transportation contract was bid in accordance with Education Law Section 305(14);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Hastings on Hudson Union Free School District determines that the contract cost for the Student Out-of-District and Summer Transportation is appropriate and will result in cost savings to the District; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education requests authorization from Ardsley to piggyback onto Ardsley's Student Out-of-District and Summer Transportation Contract with Royal Coach for the 2023-2024 school year on the same terms and conditions as the contract with Ardsley; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the Board President to execute a contract with Royal Coach as well as any documents and forms required by the New York State Education Department to facilitate approval

of the contract.

2. Resolution to approve Stipulation of Agreement.

3. Scarsdale Public Schools, Contract for Health Services.

4. Warrants.

5. Current Events in the Classroom, 2022-2023 school year, proposal.

6. Ceceilyn Miller Institute for Leadership and Diversity in America, FMS Assembly and Workshop, proposal.

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, 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, the Board accepts the classifications and arrangements for the placement and/or services for the 2022-2023 school year:

CSE: 11733, 12344

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: 11422

CPSE: 12604

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.

Motion by Doug Sundheim, 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

9. PERSONNEL ([CONSENT AGENDA](#))

A. Appointments

1. Valeria Dyman, appoint to 1.0 FTE Mathematics teacher at Hastings High School, MA, Step 5, \$80,548 effective August 29, 2023. Probationary period August 29, 2023-August 28, 2027. Tenure date: August 29, 2027. Certifications held: Mathematics 7-12 - Professional, Physics 7-12 - Initial. (Enc)

2. Maryse Santini, re-appoint to .4 FTE French teacher at Hastings High School, MA, Step 9, \$93,556 (to be pro-rated), effective August 29, 2023 for the 2023-2024 school year. Certifications held: French 7-12 - Permanent, Spanish 7-12 - Permanent. (Enc)

3. Sarah Stern, appoint to Per Diem substitute teacher district wide effective May 10, 2023-June 21, 2023. (Enc)

4. Appoint Hastings High School World Language internal coverages effective 5/3/23-6/12/23 as follows:

Period 3 - Spanish 3	Steven Lopez	.2 FTE
Period 4 - Spanish 2	Katie Paz	.2 FTE
Period 6 - Spanish 1	Steven Lopez	(Transfer from Sr. Class after 5/12 APs)
Period 8 - Spanish 2	Andrea Bromberg	.2 FTE
Period 9 - Spanish 3	Steven Lopez	(Transfer from Sr. Class after 5/12 APs)

5. Appoint Hastings High School Special Education internal coverages effective 5/11/23-5/25/23 as follows:

Period 1 - Humanities 9	Seanna O'Donnell	.2 FTE (thru 5/19/23)
Period 2 - WHII ICT	Joseph Epstein	.2 FTE
Period 3 - LRC 10	Janet Lyons	.2 FTE
Period 4 - LRC 10	Jan Melillo	.2 FTE
Period 7 - LRC 10	Britney Stampfl	.2 FTE
Period 8 - WHII ICT	Robyn Royal	.2 FTE

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

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

B. Amendments

1. Jessica Greco, Clerk at Hillside Elementary School, amend appointment from 11-month to 12-month, Column 1C, Step 8, effective June 1, 2023.
2. Maryanne Heckhaus, amend her Special Education leave of absence coverage at Hastings High School as follows: December 1, 2022-May 10, 2023.
3. Sarah Stern, English Language Arts Regular Substitute/Leave Replacement at Hastings High School, amend her appointment as follows: August 30, 2022-May 9, 2023. She will be appointed as Per Diem substitute teacher May 10, 2023 for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year.

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

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

C. Leave of Absence

1. Maryanne Heckhaus, Special Education teacher at Hastings High School has requested a leave of absence as follows: May 11, 2023-May 30, 2023. She will return to work on May 31, 2023.

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

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

10. MINUTES

A. [Approval of Minutes](#)

1. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of April 18, 2023.

RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of April 18, 2023.

Motion by Doug Sundheim, 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

11. NEW BUSINESS

A. [WPSBA Budget and Nominating Committee Slate](#)

1. 2023-2024 WPSBA Nominating Committee Slate of Officers/Directors and Budget Ratification.

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the 2023-2024 WPSBA Nominating Committee Slate of Officers/Directors and Budget Ratification.

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

12. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT

A. [Second Public Comment](#)

Megan Spana - Commented that the announcement that was made addressing the recent racist incident was too vague.

13. AGENDA REVIEW

A. [Agenda Review](#)

- Next meeting 5/23 - Tenure Recognition

14. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

A. Comments

[Click here to view Board Comments and Discussion](#)

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**