



**Hastings-on-Hudson  
Regular Board of Education Meeting  
Tuesday, March 28, 2023**

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**Members present**

Doug Sundheim  
Jeremy Galland  
Silvia Robles  
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 for the purposes of discussing: 1) a security update; 2) collective bargaining; 3) a personnel matter, the employment history of a particular person.

- Meeting called to order at 6:37 PM by Alex Dal Piaz
- Dr. Lang arrived at 6:50 PM

Motion to move into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing: 1) a security update; 2) collective bargaining; 3) a personnel matter, the employment history of a particular person.

Motion by Silvia Robles, second by Doug Sundheim.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Doug Sundheim, Jeremy Galland, Silvia Robles, Alexander Dal Piaz, Doreen Bucher

**2. STUDENT REPORT**

A. [Student Report](#)

Gus Renzin

*It's been a few busy weeks here at Hastings High School:*

- Organized by Sophomore Natatie Romeo and Hastings KIDS, the blood drive this past week organized was a total success. High School Students and Adults contributed to support the efforts of the Red Cross, so thank you so much to those who donated and those who facilitate this wonderful event
- Tomorrow the SUPA (Syracuse University Project Advance) American history class goes on a walking tour of the lower east side to sample different food throughout the tenements as they learn about NYC life in the 30s. The field trip comes after an intensive study of Michael Gold's *Jews Without Money*, a look at lower class immigrant life in New York City during the interwar period.
- Tomorrow students in the SADD (students against destructive decisions) club will be attending a virtual CODA youth summit where they talk with other students around the county about the organization's mission. CODA stands for co occurring disorders awareness and the harris project (which organized the event) is designed to help students who struggle with drug and alcohol problems as well as related mental health issue
- Thanks to all the incredible efforts of its Board of science research teachers (of which our very own Mrs. Shandroff is one), the Regeneron Westchester Science and Engineering fair was held not this past weekend but the one before at somers high school. Seniors in the science research program competed against more than 500 students from across Westchester and Putnam counties, presenting before a group of more than 300 highly qualified judges in various fields of science. At the awards ceremony last Thursday, every single Hastings student was honored, demonstrating the power of our program.

- Spring sports have started, and it's going to be an exciting season. Baseball, Softball, Boys and girls lacrosse, outdoor track, and boys tennis will all be competing on behalf of Hastings, and Elianna and I are excited to bring you whatever news we can get about their respective accomplishments in the next couple weeks.
- It's a big couple weeks both for juniors and seniors. Juniors are currently applying for membership to the national honor society, which performs important roles in supporting community service and educational support in Hastings, and for the peer leadership program which you already know supports incoming freshmen in their transition to high school. Admissions for both programs are competitive, so juniors are working hard putting together strong portfolios that show off all the hard work they're done so far in their high school career
- Speaking of admissions, regular decisions are currently coming out with many seniors getting into their top choices. It's an exciting (and a little scary) time, but we're lucky enough to have awesome guidance staff and teachers that are here to support us and help us navigate the process.

### 3. PUBLIC COMMENT

#### A. [Public Comment](#)

1. Marci Ponagai - Commented on the recent events and bullying in school
2. Libby Copeland -141 Farragut Avenue - read a statement behalf of Jen Destin regarding the manifestation of hate towards children of disabilities at FMS referring recent incident this past week
3. Marit Haahr - 161 Mt. Hope - Commented on the recent incidents of bias and to advocate for making the Coordinator of DEI an administrative position
4. Amy Nichols - 35 Mt. Hope - Commented in response to incident at FMS and in support of making the DEI coordinator position an administrative position
5. Dorothy Neagle - 19 Terrace - Commented on recent incident at FMS and in support of making the DEI coordinator position an administrative position
6. Marie Louise Miller 357 Farragut - read a statement on behalf of Afreen Alam 61 James street regarding the ongoing incidents in our middle school.
7. Laura Heisler Mitton - 45 Chesnut Drive - Commented on the incidents of bias, need for restorative justice practices and in support of making the DEI position an administrative position
8. Nanesha Nunez - 445 Broadway - Commented on the need for restorative justice practices and in support of making the DEI coordinator position an administrative one

[Click here to view Public Comment](#)

### 4. PRESENTATIONS

#### A. Proposed 2023-2024 Instructional Budget Presentation

William McKersie, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools and Maureen Caraballo, Business Official presented the proposed 2023-2024 Instructional Budget to the Board.

[Click here to view the 2023-2024 Instructional Budget slide presentation](#)

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

### 5. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

#### A. Update & District Highlights

***Superintendent Report***  
**William S. McKersie, Ph.D.**

#### **Priority District Updates**

Proposed 2023-34 Budget Update

We have created a **dedicated page** on the district website with tabs to include:

- School Budget Vote & School Board Election Information; and,
- The first major budget presentation from Business Official, Maureen Caraballo, at the March 7 BOE Meeting.

The second major presentation is at tonight's BOE Meeting (3/28) and is available in Board Docs. Please note: The budget sessions are public, visible virtually and are recorded, with locations and access explanations posted on the [BOE section of the website](#).

A 2023-24 Budget Forum, sponsored by PTSA/SEPTA, will be held on April 12th in Hillside's Multipurpose Room at 6:30 p.m. Submit your questions in advance using the form included in the [Hastings Weekly](#).

We will continue to share updates as we move through the budget process.

Below are important dates, most notably the Budget Vote & BOE Trustee Election on May 16, 2023:

- Superintendent's Detailed Budget Presentations: March 7th and March 28th, 2023
- BOE Budget Work Sessions As Needed: April 1-18, 2023
- Board Adoption of the 2023-24 Budget: April 18, 2023
- Public Budget and BOE Trustee Vote: May 16, 2023

#### Regeneron Westchester Science & Engineering Fair & Award Ceremony

On Saturday, March 18, HHS's Science Research students participated in the Regeneron Westchester Science and Engineering Fair at Somers High School. More than 550 students from 40 schools throughout Westchester and Putnam Counties participated in the fair. Students showcased their work through poster presentations, which were judged by local experts in the fields of life science, physical science, environmental studies, psychology and engineering. The awards ceremony was held at Somers High School on Thursday evening, March 23. All of the Hastings students who participated in the fair won awards:

- [Julien Amsellem](#): 3rd Place in the Category of Animal Science and the Bedford Audubon Award
- [Frances Canant](#): 4th Place in the Category of Animal Science
- [Luke Dunn](#): BASF Expanding Knowledge in Science Award
- [Lucca Forrest](#): 1st Place in the Category of Mathematics
- [Zeke Manly](#): 4th Place in the Category of Behavioral and Social Sciences
- [Zach Navarette](#): Environmental Perspiration Award
- [Gus Renzin](#): 3rd Place in the Category of Environmental Science and Today's Students, Tomorrow's Engineers Award
- [Julia Rotiroti](#): 3rd Place in the Category of Medicine and Health
- [Ione Shih](#): Honorable Mention in the Category of Neuroscience
- [Jonah Sills](#): 2nd Place in the Category of Environmental Science and the NASA Earth Science System's Award

#### Farragut Middle School's Top Five Geo Bee Finalists Advance to Hackley's Tri-State Regional Finals

This year, for the first time ever, Farragut Middle School is participating in Hackley's Tri-State Geo Competition against 16 other middle schools throughout the region. On Friday, March 17, students advanced from the preliminary round and participated in a live mock Geo Bee in the Blue Lecture Room. The top 12 semi-finalists have been narrowed down to the top five:

- 6th Grade: [Elias Perez-Costa](#)
- 7th Grade: [Jason Kass](#)
- 8th Grade: [Anthony Holder](#), [Theo McCabe](#), [Madeline Thomas](#)

These students will be invited to the Tri-State Regional Finals at Hackley School in Tarrytown on Sunday, May 21, to represent FMS in both individual and inter-school games.

#### Hastings High School Community Quiz Bowl Updates - Fundraiser on Thursday, 3/30

Spring is in the air, which means it's time for the Community Quiz Bowl. This year's fundraiser will be held this Thursday, March 30, at Hastings High School. The usual format will be followed.

#### Background

The most recent tournament was Saturday, March 4. The A Team, despite missing two of its best players, finished in third place, and the B and C Teams both won, each finishing first in their divisions. Westchester Tournaments are under the umbrella of Questions Unlimited. They provide the format and the questions for the competitions. The three National Championships in Michael Wilson's five years as Academic Challenge Team Advisor were all awarded by

Questions Unlimited. On January 7, Hastings High School held its First Annual Valley Cup. Organized by Junior Benny Feldman, with help from fellow Junior Owen Linder, there were 36 teams from 19 schools across the region who participated. In addition to the usual opponents from Westchester, there were teams from New Jersey, Long Island, Connecticut, and NYC, and we raised over \$1,400 for our team. After a busy year of competing and excelling, Hastings High School students have qualified for both of their National Tournaments! In May and June they will compete, as they have for the past five years, in the Questions Unlimited National Tournament. This tournament, previously held in Washington D.C., is now a virtual event. Over Memorial Day Weekend, Mr. Wilson will travel with Juniors Benny Feldman, Owen Linder, Hazel DePreist-Sullivan, and Jacob Goldman-Weztler to Atlanta for the NAQT National Tournament!

#### Prideworks Conference at Pace University

Hillside Principal Amy Cazes, and School Counselors Juliann Snyder and James Forcinito, recently gave a presentation at Pace University's Prideworks Conference about Hillside's collaborative success story with K-4 gender education, the school's vision and framework and tools to help other districts in the region. More information on the presentation and experience will be shared in this week's *Hastings Happenings* (March 30).

#### Farragut Middle School One Acts

On Friday evening, March 24, and Saturday evening, March 25, middle schoolers in Hastings Theatre Program had their production of *One Acts*. Stay tuned for this week's *Hastings Happenings* (March 30) for a behind-the-scenes video created by the cast and crew.

#### Hillside Hosts First-Ever "Discovery Kitchen" for March's National Nutrition Month

Beginning with March's National Nutrition Month, Hillside Elementary School hosted its first "Discovery Kitchen" event on Wednesday, March 22. With the help of Nicole Leote, a registered Dietician with Chartwells Dining Services, the events will reinforce nutrition initiatives. Extending beyond academics, they will engage students with fresh recipes, culinary demonstrations and tastings, and fun and informative nutrition education. Check out last week's *Hastings Happenings* (March 23) for a behind-the-scenes look into the event.

#### Final Reminder: Spring Recess – Friday, March 31 through Monday, April 10, 2023

Spring Recess is nearly here--but who's counting? Everyone should know by now that Spring Recess has been extended by two days (no school on Friday, March 31 through Monday, April 10). Please review [the updated calendar](#) and remind your family and friends of the changes--specifically, the additional school vacation days around Spring Break, Memorial Day Weekend and the last day of school being shifted from June 23 to June 22.

## **6. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

### A. Report from Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction

Melissa Szymanski, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction

#### Curriculum Review Cycle: Physical Education

Drew Wendol and I engaged in a pre-planning session and then met together with the physical education department to continue their curriculum work. The session began with teachers analyzing an "arc" template they created, which outlines units of study and skills progressions across all three buildings. Guiding questions for the session (below) framed a work session where teachers spent time enhancing the program. Enhancements include developing a kickball unit at Hillside, developing a basketball unit at Hillside, creating a fitness tracker for students as they move from one grade to the next (6-12), and augmenting the orienteering unit.

#### *Guiding Questions:*

- 1) *What do you notice as you look over the arc template?*
- 2) *Where are there strengths and opportunities for growth in each of the units?*
- 3) *What are our recommendations for improvement/ enhancement? (Could be structural or could be content related. We will discuss this more together)*

- 4) How do our recommendations align with the Portrait of a Hastings Learner?
- 5) How will we know our recommendations are successful?

### Curriculum Review Cycle: Mathematics

Jennifer Spirelli and I met with teachers of grade 6-8 mathematics, as well as a representative from the 5th grade team, to monitor and discuss the implementation of *Big Ideas*. The group shared successes and challenges, reviewed previously created implementation agreements and planned next steps together.

The Hillside Mathematics Committee met together to discuss *Reveal* resources and identify the materials needed for a successful implementation.

### Special Education Advisory Committee

Laura, Tesfa, and I have been planning for the April Special Education Advisory Committee meeting. The group will be prioritizing action steps and designing a pilot implementation for the priority area of focus identified by the committee. It is likely that this will be the academic goal of building capacity around use of data, based on previous input from the committee.

### Portrait of a Hastings Learner: Action Step Planning

The Action Step Planning Committee met together earlier this week with Judy Wilson to review, refine and prioritize the action steps related to each of the three goal areas created by the original core team. At this time, prioritized POHL initiatives include

- (1) an advisory-like opportunity to support SEL and students' sense of belonging, (2) Restorative Practices, (3) enhanced authentic learning opportunities, including interdisciplinary lessons/units, (4) a community charter around behavioral expectations.

## **7. BUSINESS**

### A. [Business Items](#)

1. Impartial Hearing Officer, appointment for case #597428.
2. White Plains City School District, contract for Health and Welfare Services.
3. Katonah-Lewisboro Union Free School District, contract for Health and Welfare Services.
4. Greenburgh Central School District, contract for Health and Welfare Services.
5. Gillian Husovsky, contract for Services as Production Manager, 7th and 8th Grade One Acts.
6. Elementary School Mathematics Resource - Reveal Math, proposal.
7. BMI Supply, Proposal for Hastings High School Auditorium Lighting.
8. Warrants.
9. Budget Transfer.
10. Impartial Hearing Officer, appointment for case #597671.
11. Expenditure and Revenue Reports for February 2023.
12. Memorandum of Agreement with the Hastings Teachers Association.
13. WD Excavation & Contracting, Agreement for Reynolds Field Drainage Repairs.
14. NYLAF Resolution to Join the Fund.
15. CSEA Custodial Unit, Closure Days - Side Letter of Agreement.
16. CSEA Custodial Unit, Vacation Days - Side Letter 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, Silvia Robles, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher

### 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: 11915, 12053, 11492, 12298, 12241  
CPSE: 12083, 12580, 12430

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: 10829, 12267, 12273

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.

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

## **8. PERSONNEL ([CONSENT AGENDA](#))**

### A. Appointments

1. Ellen Driscoll, re-appoint to .6 FTE Latin teacher, MA Step 12, \$103,303 (to be pro-rated) at Hastings High School for the 2023-2024 school year. Certifications held: Latin 7-12 - Professional, Latin 5-9 - Professional.
2. Colleen Walker, English as a New Language teacher at Hastings High School appoint to French Tutor at Farragut Middle School effective March 29, 2023-June 18, 2023.
3. Schedule B requests as per attached spreadsheet. ([Enc](#))
4. Gabriella Massari, request of 15 Special Education Observation Hours at Hillside Elementary with a start date of approximately March 28, 2023.

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

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

### B. Amendments

1. Jason Bernbach, Permanent Building substitute teacher at Hastings High School, amend appointment to Social Studies Regular substitute teacher, MA, Step 1, \$66,558 (to be pro-rated) at Farragut Middle School effective March 6, 2023-May 29, 2023.
2. Sarah Stern, English Language Arts Regular substitute teacher/Leave Replacement at Hastings High School, amend her appointment dates as follows: August 30, 2022-April 28, 2023.
3. Jessica Greco, Teacher Assistant at Hillside Elementary School, amend appointment to probationary position of Clerk, 11 months, Column 1C, Step 5, effective March 29, 2023.
4. Gordon Macdonald, .8 Physical Education Regular substitute teacher/.2 Permanent Building substitute teacher at Hillside Elementary School, amend his appointment dates as follows: March 1, 2023-April 11, 2023.

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

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

### C. Leave of absence

1. Joan Paradis, Social Studies teacher at Farragut Middle School has requested a leave of absence as follows: FMLA with pay, March 7, 2023-May 29, 2023. She will return to work on May 31, 2023.
2. Erica Williams, English Language Arts teacher at Farragut Middle School has requested a leave of absence as follows: Unpaid Leave of Absence July 1, 2023-June 26, 2024. She will return to work for the 2024-2025 school year.

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

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

## 9. MINUTES

### A. [Approval of Minutes](#)

1. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of March 14, 2023.

RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of March 14, 2023.

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

## 10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### A. [Finance](#)

Jeremy Galland reported that there is a Finance Committee slide deck related to transportation and reserves which will be shared out.

## 11. POLICIES

### A. [First Read](#)

Doreen gave an overview of the policies presented for first read.

Policies for First Read:

Policy No. 1900 - Parental Involvement

Policy No. 5151 - Homeless Students

Policy No. 8121.10 - Opioid Overdose Prevention Policy

## 12. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT

### A. Second Public Comment

- No public comment

## 13. AGENDA REVIEW

### A. [Agenda Review](#)

- Budget Work Session scheduled for April 11th at 6:30 PM

## 14. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

### A. [Comments](#)

Dr. Lang commented regarding FMS incident and bringing marginalized voices to the table.

Jeremy Galland commented regarding FMS incident and what the community was addressing. Board is aware there are many incidents, also commented on the proposed budget.

Doreen Bucher commented regarding FMS incident and bullying within the district and removing technology from the classroom.

[Click here to view Board Comments](#)

## 15. ADJOURNMENT

### A. [Adjournment](#)

- Motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

*Melissa DeLaBarrera*

**Submitted by:**

**Melissa DeLaBarrera**

**District Clerk**