



**Hastings-on-Hudson  
Regular Board of Education Meeting  
Tuesday, March 7, 2023**

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**Members present**

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

**1. OPENING OF MEETING**

A. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:33 PM by Alex Dal Piaz, President

**2. PRESENTATION**

A. [Budget Overview and Non-Instructional Budget](#)

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

[Click here to view the slideshow presentation](#)

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

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

A. Public Comment

[Click here to view video of public comments](#)

1. Rayhan Alam-Ahmad - 61 James Street - commented on the school calendar
2. Afreen Alam - 61 James Street - commented on the school calendar
3. Marit Haahr - 161 Mt. Hope Boulevard - commented on the school calendar
4. Deanna Barenboim - 765 N. Broadway - commented on the school calendar
5. Dorothy Neagle - 19 Terrace Drive - commented on the school calendar
6. Amy Nichols - 35 Mt. Hope Boulevard - commented on the school calendar
7. Chhavi Kumar - 8 Riverpointe Road - commented on the school calendar
8. Caitlin Chang - 95 Euclid Avenue - commented on the school calendar
9. Ira Nivarthi - 160 High Street - commented on the school calendar
10. Jesse Patel - 109 Lincoln - commented on the school calendar
11. Sashi Nivarthi - 160 High Street - commented on the school calendar

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

A. Adopt School Calendar 2023-2024

Dr. McKersie gave an overview of the calendars being presented for consideration, the Board shared their thoughts and after a thorough discussion agreed to vote on a modified version of Option #2 of the School Calendar. Modified the first

day of school to September 5th instead of September 6th and add a day off on April 10 for Eid al-Fitr.

[Click here to view school calendar discussion](#)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education adopt the 2023-2024 School Calendar with modifications.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Silvia Robles, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Maureen Lennon-Santana

No: Jeremy Galland, Doreen Bucher

## 5. STUDENT REPORT

### A. Student Report

Gus Renzin and Elianna Carvalho, Student Liaisons  
Student Report

#### **Olympics:**

This week is the High School Olympics. Each will battle against the others for athletic, intelual, and creative supremacy. Events will take place after school and will include Tug of War, Chess, Art, Basketball, Volleyball, Just Dance, Dodgeball, Monopoly, and Rap Battle. Let's year olympics were super fun, with the rap battle going down as one of the most memorable moments in (at least our short period) of Hastings High School history. It's going to be exciting to see who comes out victorious in 2023.

#### **Assembly:**

Yesterday the organization Sweethearts and Heroes redefined bullying, mental health, and the power of hope in an assembly for the entire high school. The tag team of Tom Murphy, former UFC fighter, and Rick Yarosh, an Iraq War veteran, taught high school students how to identify bullying which is intentional, repeated, mean, and directed at someone who perceives themselves as smaller and weaker. They explained the five buttons of bullying, teaching students how to change their perspective and take action against bullies. Yarosh inspired students with the story of his recovery after being badly burned when his Bradley was hit by an IED, and Murphy both educated and amused with skits focused on acting as a hero, rather than a bystander.

#### **Something Rotten:**

Rehearsals for the school musical *Something Rotten!* have begun. The super talented cast has started learning the hysterically funny musical numbers of the show as well as begun to learn some choreography. Rehearsals take place in the high auditorium, middle school auditorium, and band room. The amazing director, Laurie Walton and musical director, Bob Walton, are leading the charge as Hastings students prepare to put on yet another fantastic performance.

#### **Fiddle Concert:**

This past Thursday, the high school orchestra performed alongside Jermemy Kittel and his fiddle band. The concert, which took place in "The Loft at Farragut" (which Mr. Day believed was a much cooler name for the posters than "The Middle School Auditorium"), was a sweeping success that demonstrates our district's continuing excellence in the arts. After listening to the band, audience members were treated to a collaboration between Kittel and the HHS Orchestra, which featured some amazing solos by Miles Levine, Sofia Eliasi, and, of course, Jasper Zimmerman. Congrats to Mr. Day, The Music Boosters, and the Entire Orchestra for putting on such a great show!

#### **Passion Project:**

Last week, students in Señor Lopez's level 5 spanish class (the highest spanish offered at HHS) presented their Projectos de Pasiòn in the Cafeteria. Projects ranged from cooking latin american cuisine, to explorations of hispanic artists, to the creation of a short telenovela. Level 4 students were also in attendance to serve as translators for the numerous parents, teachers, and other students who came to view the projects and support our level 5 students. Congratulations to them and to Señor for making the night happen!

## 6. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

### A. Update & District Highlights

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

**Priority District Updates**

I provide a series of updates, largely in chronological order.

Portrait of a Hastings Learner

The Portrait of a Hastings Learner process continues apace. Please reference the [Mid-Year Report of the State of the HOH Schools](#) to review our journey and upcoming steps.

The Mid-Year Report will be an agenda item for the March 14, 2023 BOE Meeting. We moved it from tonight's BOE Meeting to allow ample time tonight for the Proposed Budget Presentation and deliberations on the Proposed 2023-24 Calendar.

Eighth Grade Parent Night: HS Registration Process

On March 1, the Counseling Department hosted a transition night for families of incoming Hastings High School ninth graders with topics that included high school graduation requirements, the registration process and timeline, course offerings and selection sheets, and high school programs/culture.

HS World Language Passion Project

Hastings High students hosted their annual Passion Project event in the cafeteria last Thursday evening, March 2. More information and photos will be shared in an upcoming *Hastings Happenings* and on our Facebook page.

Hastings Welcomes Kittel & Co for Special Performance featuring HHS Orchestra

Hastings' Music Department welcomed a special guest artist, [Jeremy Kittel](#), along with his trio, [Kittel & Co.](#), to work with Hastings High School's string players on fiddle-style playing. A special performance featuring the trio and the HHS orchestra was held Thursday, March 2 in the newly-renovated Farragut Middle School auditorium. Mr. Kittel is a Grammy-nominated violinist who specializes in an exciting fusion of Celtic, classical, and jazz music.

Hastings Theatre Program: Fifth Grade's *Seussical Jr.*

On Friday, March 3 and Saturday, March 5, Farragut Middle School's fifth graders performed their production of *Seussical Jr.* in the Hastings High School Auditorium. *Seussical Jr.* is a story of friendship, loyalty, and love, in which, against all odds, Horton and Gertrude join forces to save the Whos, free Horton, and restore peace and unity to the Jungle of Nool. Teaching the power of being unique, and the importance of fighting for your beliefs, the show was a huge success with a packed audience. Hastings Youth Council also organized a food drive at Friday's show with all proceeds benefiting the Hastings Food Pantry. Stay tuned for a behind-the-scenes look into the cast and crew rehearsal and performance in this week's *Hastings Happenings* (3/9).

"Ali Marpet Way" – Unveiling Ceremony

On Saturday, March 4, in the Cochran Gym, an Unveiling Ceremony was held to honor Hastings alumnus Ali Marpet for his outstanding accomplishments as an NFL player. In coordination with Village leaders, the walkway to Reynolds Field has been renamed the "Ali Marpet Way." Students, staff and community members came to meet Marpet and brought their Hastings gear to get signed. Photos of the event will be shared in an upcoming *Hastings Happenings* and on our Facebook page..

SEPTA/HHS Transition Night

Last night, March 6, SEPTA, in a partnership with Hastings High School, hosted a transition night for incoming ninth grade students with IEPs. Families of incoming ninth graders had the opportunity to learn about their child's IEP transition into high school, the importance of self-advocacy and self-determination, understanding the role of resource

rooms in high schools, the changes to the continuum of service from middle school to high school, credit accumulation, foreign language exemptions, testing accommodations, and program modifications.

### Hillside's Annual March Madness Tradition - Kicked Off Yesterday, 3/6

March Madness, an annual tradition at Hillside Elementary School, kicked off yesterday, March 6. This year, the tournament will focus on recently published children's literature. Students will be reading and voting on a section of the bracket during Library classes. Each class will take part in March Madness by reading some of the books in the bracket and voting weekly in class. More information was provided in the latest *Hastings Weekly*.

### Sweethearts & Heroes Program – Connecting HHS and HES – 3/6 & 3/7

The [Sweethearts & Heroes Program](#), an innovative anti-bullying program, was in Hastings the past two days thanks to a generous grant from the [Hastings Education Foundation](#). Yesterday, the full high school participated in a powerful, interactive assembly, moving from the extreme consequences of bullying to hopeful ways to ensure social and emotional wellness for students. Today, grade specific assemblies were held at Hillside, followed by sessions in classrooms connecting elementary students with high school mentors as trainers. The assemblies and materials were tailored with great care to be developmentally appropriate and highly sensitive relative to the varying cognitions and emotions of our younger versus older students. The upcoming *Hastings Happenings* will provide a full story on the remarkable two days. (A press release on the two days in Hastings is available [here](#).)

### 2023 Spring Interscholastic Athletics Season

Important information, dates and coach contacts have been shared in the *Hastings Weekly* regarding the upcoming spring athletics season. [Click here](#) for a direct link to the season's introductory letter from Drew Wendol.

### **Significant Upcoming Events**

I would like to raise up several upcoming events, which have been noted in the *Hastings Weekly* and on the District website. I note three events, along with links to explanatory flyers and materials.

- [The Lion King KIDS \(Fourth Grade Musical\) - Thursday, 3/9 and Friday, 3/10 at 7:00 p.m. in Hillside's Multi-purpose Room](#)
- [Winter Varsity Athletes & Coaches Sports Banquet - Friday, 3/10](#)
- [SEPTA's Fourth Annual Trivia Night - Saturday, 3/11](#)

## **7. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

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

Presented by Melissa Szymanski, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction

#### Hillside Mathematics

The Hillside Mathematics Committee, along with two members of the 5th Grade team, went on site visits to see two mathematics curriculum resources in action with students and to speak with teachers about their lived experiences with adopting and implementing the resource. The mathematics committee debriefed the site visit experiences and Hillside teachers agreed to pilot lessons with students to inform their upcoming decision-making.

#### Computer Science & Digital Fluency

Leslie Accardo, our partner from the Lower Hudson Regional Information Center, met with Sorin Mihalcescu, HHS computer science and mathematics teacher, and Ivan Espinosa, FMS computer science teacher to raise awareness about the new New York State Computer Science and Digital Fluency Standards. At the high school level, they reviewed the "heat map" that Sorin has been working on with Melissa Szymanski and discussed ways to enhance alignment to the new standards. At the middle school level, they reviewed a scope and sequence document, identifying areas that were already being implemented.

Additionally, the technology "lead learners" group came together with Leslie and Melissa to plan for the facilitation of district-wide faculty meetings in March and April to introduce the new standards.

Please reference the *Mid-Year Report of the State of the HOH Schools* within the *Report from Superintendent* for additional information on ongoing, districtwide curriculum efforts.

## **8. BUSINESS**

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

1. HMB Consultants, LLC, proposal for the development of bid specifications for Food Service Management Contract Renewal.
2. BOCES Cooperative Bid 2023-2024.
3. Budget Transfer.
4. Warrants.
5. Simone Levine, FMS 5th Grade Musical, invoice.
6. Revised Merger Letter of Intent, Girls Flag Football.
7. Expenditure and Revenue Reports for January 2023.
8. SWBOCES Co-Ser 555 Amendment, Tri-State Consortium 2022-2023 Membership dues & In-district Visit Team Training: December 5-6, 2022.
9. Stipulation of Settlement.
10. Boces Broome-Tioga cross contract for Board Docs 2023-2024 services.
11. Katheryn Russell-Brown and Michelle Meadows, Hillside Racial Equity Day - Author Visit, invoice.
12. Ron's Trucking Corp., estimate.
13. Star Interpreting & Translating, Inc., exam interpreters proposal.
14. Hastings Police, security for basketball games, invoice.
15. Josh Govier, videographer for Lion King Kids, invoice.
16. Lou Del Bianco, Live show for 2nd Grade on June 12, 2023 "Out of Rushmore's Shadow", invoice.

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

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

### B. [Placement and/or Services for CSE and CPSE](#)

CSE: 10922, 12346, 11374, 11060, 11059

CPSE: 12593, 12589, 12431, 12590

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.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

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

### A. Appointment

1. Gordon Macdonald, Per Diem substitute teacher, appoint to .8 FTE Physical Education Regular substitute teacher BA Step 1, \$60,154 (to be pro-rated) and .2 FTE Permanent Building substitute teacher at Hillside Elementary School effective March 1, 2023-March 23, 2023. Certification held: Physical Education - Initial.
2. Jasmin Morais, Per Diem substitute teacher appoint to 1.0 FTE Special Education Regular substitute teacher at Farragut Middle School, MA, Step 1, \$66,558 (to be pro-rated) effective March 8, 2023-June 20, 2023. Certifications held: Students with Disabilities (Grades 1-6) - Initial, Childhood Education (Grades 1-6) - Initial, Students with Disabilities (Birth-Grade 2) - Initial, Early Childhood Education (Birth-Grade 2) - Initial.

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

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

### B. Amendments

1. Janet Lyons, Special Education teacher at Hastings High School/Farragut Middle School has amended her leave of absence as follows: FMLA with pay January 20, 2023-March 3, 2023. Her return to work date is March 6, 2023.
2. Jacklyn Correa, Special Education teacher at Hastings High School has amended her leave of absence as follows: Paid medical leave of absence December 1, 2022-February 7, 2023, FMLA with pay February 8, 2023-April 4, 2023, Paid Medical Leave April 5, 2023-April 19, 2023, Unpaid Parental Leave April 20, 2023-May 19, 2023. She will return to work on May 22, 2023.
3. Amend Hastings High School/Farragut Middle School Special Education coverages (internal) to effective date January 20, 2023-March 3, 2023:

Period 1-SS 8 ICT (FMS)	Joe Epstein	.2 FTE
Period 4-ENG 10 ICT	Josh Blum	.2 FTE
Period 6-LRC 10	Britney Stampfl	.2 FTE
Period 7-ENG 10 ICT	Jan Melillo	.2 FTE
Period 8-LRC 10	Robyn Royal	.2 FTE

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

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

### C. Retirement

1. Janet Lyons, Special Education teacher at Hastings High School/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 Silvia Robles, second by Damaris-Lois Lang.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

### D. Resignations

1. Katelyn Pinto, Per Diem substitute teacher has provided notification of resignation effective February 13, 2023.
2. Veronika Aleiner, Latin & French teacher at Hastings High School has provided notification of resignation effective June 24, 2023.

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

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: 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 February 7, 2022.

RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of February 7, 2022.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

## **11. POLICIES**

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

Policy presented for First Read:

- Policy No. 5421 - Concussion Management

## **12. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT**

### A. Second Public Comment

- No public comment

## **13. AGENDA REVIEW**

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

Dr. McKersie highlighted important topics to be discussed during the upcoming meetings:

March 14

- Inclement Weather Days
- Mid-Year Report

March 28

- Budget Presentation
- Facilities Update

Flagged for the End of the Year

- May 23: Tenure Recognition with reception before Regular Meeting
- June 20: Retiree Recognition with reception before Regular Meeting

## **14. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS**

### A. Comments

[Click here to view Board of Education Comments](#)

Dr. Lang - Commented on the concern Jeremy Galland raised regarding total school days and instructional time. Also, noted that with Budget season upon us wanted to let the community know that we're all stiving towards consensus.

Doreen Bucher - Commented regarding the Housing Compact in the Governor's budget, a lot of community members are concerned about it. Encouraged the public to look into it.

Silvia Robles - Acknowledged Mr. Day and the HS Musical Department for their concert and HS Mr. Lopez and students for the Passion Project

Jeremy Galland - Commented on the school gift received on Saturday - Ali Marpet donated his official SuperBowl trophy to the District.

## 15. ADJOURNMENT

### A. [Adjournment](#)

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

*Melissa DeLaBarrera*

**Submitted by:**

**Melissa DeLaBarrera**

**District Clerk**