

Hastings-on-Hudson Regular Board of Education Meeting (Friday, August 21, 2020)

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Members present

Jodie Meyer, Doug Sundheim, Jeremy Galland, Jeremy Arnon, Lauren Berman, Silvia Robles, Alison Andrus

A video of the meeting can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/A9WwQel9wPY>

1. OPENING OF MEETING

Action, Procedural: A. Call to Order - Expected motion to move immediately into an Executive Session at 4:30 PM
A motion was made to move into Executive Session to discuss a confidential personnel matter.

Motion to move into an Executive Session to discuss a confidential personnel matter.

Motion by Jodie Meyer, second by Alison Andrus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Jodie Meyer, Doug Sundheim, Jeremy Galland, Lauren Berman, Silvia Robles, Alison Andrus

Information: B. Public Session opens at 5 PM

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Information: A. Public Comment

Kate Janofsky: Thanked the Board for the opportunity to address them again on school reopening and that she has tremendous respect for the process and group. Community forums tremendously helpful. Following the announcement and decision for how schools will reopen, the district has made a commitment to reopen. What are the criteria to reopen? Plan, roadmap, benchmarks to get there.

Alex Janofsky: Expressed his support for full time in-person return to campus. More than 270 Hastings residents and parents have signed a petition in support of this goal. Agrees with Superintendent's recent statement that the goal is to re-open with all students on campus. The Superintendent's view is slightly different than the State's on guidelines to reopen.

Ronit Sukenick - When called on did not respond.

Sarah and Pietro Canetta (mailed in a comment): We wish to express our strong support for reopening Hillside Elementary as fully as possible this coming fall. We have supplied the rationale in a letter to the BOE sent earlier in August.

3. PERSONNEL [Save](#)

Action: A. Leave of Absence

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

Motion by Jodie Meyer, second by Doug Sundheim.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Jodie Meyer, Doug Sundheim, Jeremy Galland, Jeremy Arnon, Lauren Berman, Silvia Robles, Alison Andrus

Action: B. Appointments

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the appointment of Andrew C. Wendol as Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics

After a thorough recruitment process that included our current Director of Health, Physical Education, and Athletics, Jesse Merchant, culminating with an interview committee consisting of coaches, teachers, a member from our building and grounds team, parent representatives, a student, and administrators, the Superintendent was pleased to recommend Andrew (Drew) Wendol for the position of Director of Health, Physical Education, and Athletics. (full recommendation attached to agenda)

Motion by Jodie Meyer, second by Doug Sundheim.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Jodie Meyer, Doug Sundheim, Jeremy Galland, Jeremy Arnon, Lauren Berman, Silvia Robles, Alison Andrus

4. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT

Information: A. Second Public Comment

None

5. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

Superintendent Valerie Henning-Piedmonte congratulated Drew Wendol on his appointment.

The Board reminded the public that an FAQ has been posted on school reopening and people can also reach out to their building principals. The Superintendent mentioned a new Board Brief that will help in presenting answers to questions posed by the community.

S. Robles said she has had the pleasure of working with Mr. Jesse Merchant before he moves out in a couple of weeks, attests to the fact that he is humble, responsive and a genuine person. Have benefited from the positive impact he made. So looking forward to Mr. Wendol taking over this role as well.

J. Meyer also thanked Mr. Merchant for all that he has given, his heart and soul, gets it about sports and athletics, gives 150% to the students. Glad Drew is stepping in, but sad to see Jesse leave.

The Superintendent stated Mr. Merchant was deeply involved in reviewing the resumes for who would take over his role and thanked Jesse not only for that, but all the great work he has done. Stated he was a terrific educator and terrific leader.

J. Galland thanked Jesse and congratulated Drew. Spoke to the Public Comment section, thanked those for coming out and speaking. More clarity in September and October. The Board appreciates the residents' participation.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Action: A. Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 5:28 PM.

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Jeremy Galland, second by Jeremy Arnon.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Jodie Meyer, Doug Sundheim, Jeremy Galland, Jeremy Arnon, Lauren Berman, Silvia Robles, Alison Andrus