

## **Hastings-on-Hudson Regular Board of Education Meeting (Wednesday, September 30, 2020)**

*Generated by Melissa DeLaBarrera on Thursday, October 1, 2020*

### **Members present**

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

### **Meeting called to order at 7:54 pm**

#### 1. OPENING OF MEETING

Action, Procedural: A. 6:30 PM - Call to Order - Expected motion to move into Executive Session to discuss confidential personnel matters.

Expected motion for the Board of Education to move into an Executive Session to discuss confidential personnel matters.

Motion by Jeremy Galland, second by Alison Andrus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Jeremy Galland, Jeremy Arnon, Lauren Berman, Silvia Robles, Alison Andrus

Information: B. 7:30 PM - Regular Board of Education Meeting - Public portion opens.

7:54pm Lauren Berman called meeting to order

Action: C. Appointment - District Clerk

Information, Procedural: D. Announcements

Valerie spoke about the decision to close the schools due to positive cases at FMS. Contract tracing underway with Westchester County Health Dept. Decision to close school was Superintendent's. the Westchester County Health Dept. does not make the decision to close. Buildings will be deeply cleaned and disinfected Thursday and Friday. Will provide update on Friday regarding contact tracing.

Information: F. Student Report

Sabine Hinkaty - in person overall more ideal learning environment. Happy to be back in semi-normal school format, students still struggling with underlying anxiety of global pandemic, consistency in learning environment regardless of virtual or in person will alleviate stress

Sophia Mainiero - difficult to focus virtually for 7 hours a day, multiple hours of homework assignments, assignments take longer. Leaving no down time for students. Requests grading leniency. Flex Wednesdays are helpful as catch up day. Issue with teachers sending homework notifications after school hours for work due the following day. Should be posted during school hours and mentioned

#### 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Information: A. Public Comment

1. Jennifer Maloney - Parent of 7th, 8th, 11th graders, pediatrician & immunologist. Concerned social distancing is not happening. Urges administration to continue to proceed cautiously, listen to concerns of staff and maintain transparency, providing information as soon as possible.

2. Afreen Alam - son in Hillside. Concerned with teacher turnover. Urges to keep teachers on board, suggests allowing them to teach remotely to maintain stability.

3. Nick Mottern - 82 year old Hastings Resident - Urges board to delay construction at schools until we are on the other side of Covid.

4. Alex Janofsky - re: today's emergency closure, did not meet the criteria for closing laid out in the reopening plan. We need a clear and consistent process regarding school building closures.

5. Daphne Shih - parent of two fully remote students. Grading and remote learning, stressful. Too much screen time. No consistent presentation from teachers across the board as far as work and assignments.

6. Tim Cerino - parent of 10th grader - statistician. Provided statistics of probability of arrival of cases in our schools. Moves fast probability is 11,000 times higher than probability of fire or school shooting combined.

7. Iris Arno - served on school board for 9 years. Speaking on behalf of herself and 6 former BOE Presidents - referenced letter sent the BOE urging to pause construction at Hillside.

8. Kira Gritsman - parent of 2 children at FMS. Speaking on behalf of teachers increased risk factors, suggesting they should be granted accommodations to teach remotely, reducing the need to hire substitutes.

9. Lisa Litvin - former BOE President. Noticed no replacement for Public Relations role - that role should be replaced. Urged BOE to halt construction work for Hillside addition. Please explain why the rush forward?

10. Alexander DalPiaz - parent of 6th and 9th grader. Suggests we revisit enforced health gate keeping such as temperature checks, symptom checks in addition to parental attestations.

11. Andy Zimmerman - issue with staff members on leave or otherwise not working. Concerns among staff for their health and feels perhaps their concerns have not been adequately taken into account. Most experienced, knowledgeable teachers are out - suggests finding a way for them to work remotely.

12. Lisa Constadt - mother of 11th grader. Flexibility is necessary with plan. Consider allowing teachers to work remotely.
13. David Zwiig - Asks the BOE to ask the Administration for a detailed accounting of how the full emergency shutdown took place today for 2 positive cases. Flex Wednesday has zero instruction - feels students are missing too much instructional time on Wednesdays. In support of all in full time - suggests we follow the model of Bronxville, Armonk, Chappaqua who are succeeding with an all in model.
14. Amy Nichols - parent of 2 fully remote students. Concerned about number of leaves and early retirements. Suggests teachers should be allowed to teach remotely.
15. Ione Shih - 10th grade student at HHS. Full remote student. Heard from in school students that social distancing is very difficult and is causing anxiety. Urges staff to put more energy into making sure social distancing is adhered to.
16. Janine Melillo - Concerned about Hybrid Model and social distancing. Addressed concerns for health risk to children.
17. Nick Baker - suggests specified guidelines that parents can rely on regarding shutdowns.
18. Melissa Jean Miller - parent of a non-verbal 6 year old and 5 year old. Regarding today's emergency shut down: Does not feel it was safe to put children on a bus without prior notification to parents. School needs a thought out year plan that considers parents regarding school closing. Liability to the district to send child home without contacting parent.
19. Miriam Budin - resident of Hastings - re: Hillside School Project - should be put on hold.
20. Catherine Gellas - parent of 8th grader at FMS - against all in model being considered after what has happened this week. Concerned about trauma to children who become infected and can infect others.
21. Nina Segal - likes the idea of allowing teachers to teach remotely. Will take pressure off faculty, open more classes. Take pressure off administration to hire subs.
22. Sophia Wolf - considers it emotionally and socially harmful for students to be learning remotely. Needs a plan for future closures, thrown off base with today's emergency closing. If no plan, will pull son from district.
23. Brian Jacobs - parents should have the option for full in school instruction or remote. As per state guidelines we should be maximizing in school instruction. He is in favor of all in.
24. Kate Janofsky - in support of full time in school instruction. In favor of adopting comprehensive policy for emergency school closures.
25. Steven Seibert - sent letter to the BOE today - against construction project.

Doug Sundheim - Spring 2019 actual bond vote - close to a super majority. Bond to do work at Hillside, FMS and High School. Subsequent to that there was a Capital Reserve vote - that vote came in at a 7 vote margin.

### 3. BUSINESS

Action: A. Business Items

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

Motion by Jeremy Galland, second by Doug Sundheim.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: B. Placement and/or Services for CSE

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 2020-2021 school year.

Motion by Alison Andrus, second by Jeremy Galland.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

### 4. PERSONNEL

Action: A. Appointments

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

Motion by Doug Sundheim, second by Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: B. Amendment

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

Motion by Jeremy Galland, second by Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: C. Leave of Absence

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

Motion by Jeremy Galland, second by Doug Sundheim.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: D. Resignations

Comment by Doug Sundheim regarding resignations. Acknowledges everyone on the list who have had to make difficult decisions. Thank you for what you have done for the district.

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

Motion by Jeremy Galland, second by Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

## 5. MINUTES

Action, Minutes: A. Approval of Minutes

RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of September 14, 2020

Motion by Doug Sundheim, second by Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

## 6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report: A. Policy

Policy committee meeting that included Jeremy Galland, Melissa Szymanski, Lauren Berman as well as Franciszka Goodman.

Review an compliance audit that will be completed by end of October. Making sure policies are up to date.

Criteria for what we will be looking at, policies out of date, changes that have taken place, changes at state level.

Some policies they did look at - Promotion and Retention of Students, Employee Activities, Tutoring for Pay, Executive Sessions, Duties of the District Clerk.

## 7. NEW BUSINESS

Presentation: A. Capital Budget Update

Informational Presentation by Maureen Caraballo

Doug Sundheim: Please put together best set of assumptions to look at. Layout some numbers around the tax implications. We need to be real clear on actual numbers.

Jeremy Galland: Opinion as a new board member, long term capital plans need to continue. Moving forward need to find real annual saving in budget. Not the time to walk away from a well thought out capital plan.

Jeremy Arnon: Space issues are not going away - only getting worse. Likes current solution that keeps us within the current bond.

Lauren Berman: Looking forward to receiving information on tax implications. Compliance issues still a concern at Hillside. Some families not enrolling 5 year olds in Kindergarten due to pandemic. Will need space for them when they do enroll.

Presentation: B. COVID-19 Update

Informational Presentation by Maureen Caraballo

## 8. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT

Information: A. Second Public Comment

No comments from public.

## 9. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

### 10. ADJOURNMENT

Action: A. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Doug Sundheim, second by Alison Andrus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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