

Members present

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

1. OPENING OF MEETING

A. Call to Order

- Virtual meeting called to order at 7:33pm by Lauren Berman
- Lauren Berman:
 - Welcomed Dr. Henning Piedmont, Melissa Szymanski, Maureen Caraballo, Board Trustees, presenters and public.
 - Reminded the public that the first public comment is for items on the evening's agenda and second public comment is for general questions and/or comments to the Board.
 - The Governor has extended availability for Boards of Education to meet remotely, after two incidents of Covid-19 in the district, we decided to reconvene remotely to limit the persons on premises in the district. Both NYS Dept. of Education and Dept. of Health recommend that schools limit the amount of people entering in and out of buildings.

C. Announcements

- Valerie Henning Piedmonte:
 - Thanked the Principals in recognition of National Principals Month (October), for their leadership, as it results in positive outcomes for learners, support for faculty and staff, hard work, and dedication to children and families of Hastings.
 - Announced new Public Relations and Communications Specialist - Jason Platnzer, Jason will be at the November 9 Board Meeting.
 - Thanked PTSA SEPTA and Hastings Education Foundation for their recent fundraising efforts.
 - Welcomed P-Coc (Parenting Children of Color)
 - Wednesday is the 2nd meeting of the Hastings Police Reinvention Committee which Valerie serves on. It is at 6pm and conflicts with the Superintendent's chat, which is every other week, Valerie will be canceling Superintendent Chat in order to attend the committee meeting.
 - Adele Daley of Healthy Kids Program - shared a flyer for those in need of childcare and affordable childcare - their cost is \$15/8 hour day. The program runs out of the Hudson River Museum, the flyer will be shared tomorrow morning so the parents can take advantage of that. Thanked Adele.
 - New York State Dept. of Health offered districts an opportunity to participate in the Snow Day Pilot program, an optional program that would have to be negotiated with the bargaining units. With the Snow Day Pilot initiative, school districts can use their current remote learning plan and convert those days into instructional days. Those days could then be used for vacation days or days off. We are not participating in the pilot program, so when we do have inclement weather, those are still regular snow days for us and not remote instruction days.

D. Administrative Comments

- Melissa Szymanski:
 - Thanked Greg Stevens - Mathematics Department Chair, for being an excellent partner and co-creating committee.

Mathematics Committee:

Last week, the K-12 Mathematics Committee met to continue our work. The purpose of our recent session was to deepen understanding around the Standards for Mathematics Practice and what the learning looks like at each developmental level. Together the group explored the first four practice standards. We explored three inquiry questions:

What does the practice standard look like in student engagement at the elementary, middle, and high school level?

What does the practice standard look like in students' products at the elementary, middle, and high school level?

What does the practice standard sound like at the elementary, middle, and high school level?

Hillside Writing Curriculum

Amy Cazes, Gravity Goldberg and Heather Frank, literacy consultants, and I met together to plan next steps for professional learning at Hillside in the area of writing. Priority areas of focus will be a) solidifying units of study with a lens on bringing them to life in a blended learning environment, b) understanding how to design and analyze assessments through the use of a common approach and a common tool, and c) using assessments to inform next steps for instruction.

Achieve 3000 Professional Learning

This past Flex Wednesday focused on training around Achieve 3000 for teachers of ELA, special education teachers, and ENL teachers in grades five through eight. Achieve 3000 has been brought in as a literacy resource to support student intervention and differentiated small group instruction.

Chair Council

The first formal Chair Council of the school year took place on October 19, 2020. A portion of the meeting was dedicated to a work session where the department chairs reviewed the curriculum synopses submitted by each of their departments. These synopses will be uploaded to the website once they have been given a final review by the administrators and their format has been aligned. Additional discussion focused on successes and challenges with assessment practices. This will be the primary area of focus for the next chair council.

- Maureen Caraballo:

- Solar Panels

Valerie, Joe and I met with representatives of the Community Solar Program, a group that is working with Sustainable Westchester to install solar panels on building rooftops that will provide electricity back to the grid. Unlike previous discussions the District has had with other solar panel companies, Community Solar would essentially lease space on our rooftops for installation of their solar panels. The energy generated from these panels would go back to the local grid for community consumption. However, Community Solar shared that they generally enter into a 25-year lease contract with the building's owner prior to installation. We are going to further review what options for solar there may be before locking the District into this type of long-term agreement.

- Technology

The Technology team are researching possible resources to help parents and staff monitor students' website use. The District currently uses lightspeed to filter content accessible to our students. Lightspeed has a new enhancement that the District will look into as well as another option, Go Guardian and Securely, which can assist both teachers and parents monitor and control access.

The Hillside deployment of chromebooks to students is ongoing. Our hope is that we will be able to provide any student or staff member a device as needed by mid-November.

E. Student Report

- Sophia Mainiero:

- Biggest news this week was Flex Wednesday's ending. One concern, the way it works Gold Group will always be in for an extra ACE and Green will be in for an extra BDF, so some people are concerned they might end up falling behind on ACE or BDF days.
- The Environmental Club had a beach cleanup and did some maintenance work in the woods last weekend.
- The Academic Challenge team has had 5 practices and their first big tournament is this weekend.
- The National Honor Society has begun tutoring and there are a ton of requests coming in daily for senior tutors.
- This week is stressful and exciting for seniors because college applications are all due November 1.

- Sabine Hinkaty:

- The Student Union is trying to find ways to create a friendly Green Team vs. Gold Team rivalry, the first way they are doing that is through this week's Spirit Week.
- Fundraising ideas that have been mentioned are a Batman Tournament, a drive-in movie night and a drive-through carnival.
- The Student Union intends to execute some of these ideas before the weather gets too cold.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Public Comment

- No Public Comment

3. PRESENTATIONS

A. Parenting Children of Color (P-CoC)

- Presentation by P-CoC:
 - Introductions:
- DaMaris-Lois Yamoah Lang (Co-Founder/President)
- Kristina Catalan (Co-Founder/Board Official)
- Vikki-Lynne Allen (Budget Director/serves on Governing Board)
- Karina Villalona (Communications Director)
- Kristina Catalan:
 - P-CoC is a Community Group composed of persons of color.
 - P-CoC's purpose is to work with families of color, as well as families who have children of color, advocate for families in the district.
 - Allow students of color to see themselves represented in the school curriculum, as well as the staff and faculty, impacts their self-esteem, desire to learn and participate in all areas of the district.
- Vikki-Lynne Allen:
 - P-CoC's Mission Statement is a group supporting ethnicity, cultural expression, fair treatment and education for persons of color.
- Karina Villalona:
 - P-CoC seeks to collaborate with the authorizing bodies of the community (Mayor and the Executive Board) as well as our school superintendent and the Board of Education, to address issues that impact Hastings residents, including students, and people of color in general.
- Damaris-Lois Yamoah Lang:
 - Engaging the general public in projects such as educational workshops to foster an understanding and also help the community.
 - Helping students unlearn norms that perpetuate discrimination and self-hate.
 - Provide support and create a sense of belonging among all residents.
- Vikki-Lynne Allen:
 - To support or join you can visit the website: p-coc.org

4. BUSINESS

A. Business Items

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the business items #1-8.

Motion by Jeremy Arnon, second by Jodie Meyer.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the business item #9.

Motion by Jodie Meyer, second by Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Abstain: Lauren Berman

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the business items #10-18.

Motion by Doug Sundheim, second by Jodie Meyer.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

B. Placement and/or Services for CPSE AND CSE

- No Placements

5. PERSONNEL

A. Appointments

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

Motion by Jeremy Galland, second by Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

B. Amendments

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

Motion by Jeremy Galland, second by Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

C. Leaves of Absence

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 Alison Andrus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

D. Retirements

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

Motion by Alison Andrus, second by Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

6. 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 October 14, 2020.

Motion by Jeremy Galland, second by Doug Sundheim.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Policy

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. Construction Project Update

- Presentation by Maureen Caraballo

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Revised 2020-2021 School Calendar

- School Calendar revised to reflect November 3rd as No School for Students to allow for a full day of Parent/Teacher Conferences

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the revised 2020-2021 School Calendar.

Motion by Jeremy Arnon, second by Alison Andrus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

B. Policy 1230 - Public Comment at Board Meetings

- Lauren Berman:
 - Board suggesting we limit public comments to a time limit similar to other area districts, to allow time for the Board to conduct business.
 - First public comment section to address agenda items.
 - Second public comment to address comments/questions to the Board.
- Doug Sundheim:
 - Suggested holding Public Hearings to address topics that require more dialogue.

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education adopt changes to Policy 1230.

Motion by Jeremy Galland, second by Jeremy Arnon.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Abstain: Jodie Meyer

C. Minutes - October 21, 2020 Policy Committee Meeting

- Valerie Henning-Piedmonte:
 - Policy Committee : Lauren Berman, Jeremy Galland, Franziska Goodman, Valerie Henning-Piedmonte, Melissa Szymanski
 - Melissa DeLaBarrera will be joining as note keeper, making sure any adopted changes are forwarded to NYSSBA and that our policies are up to date in Board Docs.

D. NYSSBA's Compliance Review

10. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Second Public Comment

- Dr. Lauren Jen:
 - Pediatrician and Hillside parent spoke to the Board to urge them to maximize efforts to move to in-person learning for our youngest learners who stand the most to lose.
- Norah Yamen:
 - 8th grader, created Flex Wednesday's video to give a voice and platform for students to stress their desire to keep Flex Wednesday's as it allows them time to catch up on work
- Veronica Aleiner:
 - spoke on behalf of keeping Flex Wednesday's - member of Remote Learning Committee.
 - The committee's recommendation was to improve and keep Flex Wednesdays.
 - Objects to the district canceling Flex Wednesday's against committee recommendations.
- David Skolnik:
 - Asked if Norah's video could be placed on the website to read - it was very effective.
 - not clear on what might be non-compliant
 - with the current situation, plans have changed, not aware of any review of the plans in the context of what we are dealing with.
 - Will the design serve our present purposes?
 - Will address further concerns to the Board regarding disruption of construction at Hillside.
 - Against the limit of public comments as the community needs to hear what each other has to say.
- Andy Zimmerman:
 - Agrees with video about Flex Wednesday's - very well done.
 - Does not agree with the limit on comments.
 - Hybrid is working better than expected.
 - Suggests allowing remote students to see and hear in-person students during Hybrid learning.
- Amy Nichols:
 - reiterated her support for hearing and prioritizing the views and opinions of our teacher's and administrators'.

11. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

A. Comments

- Doug Sundheim:
 - Biggest debate now is mode of schooling
 - In the short timeframe and taking so much feedback from so many sources we have acknowledge the level of complexity and exhaustion for the teachers and administrators he go in everyday

- Thanked all the teachers and administrators.
- Alison Andrus:
 - Thrilled about solar panelsLoved P-CoC presentation
 - The synopsis for different departments will be appreciated
 - Regarding Flex Wednesdays - saddened to hear a teacher say her opinion or the committee's opinion didn't matter. Everyone has to be heard and considered.
 - Suggested as a way to incorporate some teachers' ideas, allow time in the morning for teachers to collaborate and the rest of the day would be a learning time in school.
- Jeremy Galland:
 - Hybrid is our model changing the most - nice change to hillside
 - Flex wed being considered as a change to hybrid - role of crisis management is to try to optimize.
 - Melissa's flex wednesday clear
 - Hopes we continue to consider every month ways to optimize our hybrid model
 - All in is very unlikely and challenging for our schools, but hybrid continue to change

12. ADJOURNMENT

A. Adjournment

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