

Members present

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

1. OPENING OF MEETING

Procedural: A. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 7:32 PM

Lauren Berman:

- Welcomed Valerie, Melissa and Maureen, Board Trustees, Celeste Paerels and Melissa Shandroff, student trustees and community members attending
- Acknowledged students, employees and family members of both students and employees fighting COVID or in quarantine, the Board is thinking of all and wishing for a speedy recoveries
- After the Board of Education meeting on December 21, 2020 trustees have heard from many in the community regarding the conduct of trustees during the meeting:
 - The board shares in those concerns and has had many internal discussions to address what occurred
 - It is expected that any community member that seeks to participate in Board of Education Meeting will do so respectfully and appropriately and trustees are held to the same standards
 - This is not an attempt to stifle opinions or ignore a minority viewpoint, no one should make the public discourse surrounding the governance of the district hostile
 - Each individual trustee is responsible for their own conduct, moving forward the board pledges to address any conduct of the membership head on
 - The board commits to the Hastings community to be cognizant of its role to lead by example and to address any person in the community, parents, students, administrators, employees and each other with the respect and the courtesies for the good of all

Information: B. Announcements

Valerie Henning-Piedmonte:

- Thanked Lauren and the Board for their statement
- Welcomed and acknowledged student STEM leader, Celeste Paerels, who competed in the Regeneron Science talent search, she will be presenting her project to the board this evening
- Today Group 1B, which school employees belong to, can begin registering for the COVID-19 vaccine
- The option for Hybrid students to switch to a fully remote option has been extended until January 29th. To switch to fully remote option, please notify assistant principal to make sure that attendance is recorded accurately
- Current Students participating in full remote learning model:
 - Hillside 22%
 - FMS 35%
 - HHS 47%
- Echoed Lauren Berman's well wishes to faculty and staff who are recovering from COVID or have family members affected
- We have two employees who are hospitalized, get well cards can be left with Facilities Dept. or with Maureen Caraballo, Melissa Szymanski or Valerie Henning-Piedmonte
- 2021-2022 School Calendar is being developed, continued discussions around additional holidays, anticipates the draft calendar will be presented to board at the second Board meeting in February
- Provided a brief overview of new guidance from the Westchester Department of Health regarding contact tracing and New York State Department of Health regarding quarantine period
- New guidance also references life after the vaccine, children under the age of 16 will not be vaccinated
- Highlighted the importance that children maintain social distancing, wear masks, use shields and barriers and that children are sitting in assigned seats on the buses for contact tracing purposes and determining who needs to quarantine
- Discussed Lower Hudson Education Coalition and some of the advocacy items the Superintendents are working on:
 - Foundation aid had decreased, leading to challenges at school districts particularly those who had a lot of unintended expenses from COVID
 - Formula used for foundation aid doesn't reflect updated demographics, increased cost of living in Hudson Valley or regional costs associated with Special Education
 - COVID expenses, currently not getting additional funding for covid related expenses
 - Community members can also participate in this advocacy by writing local or state legislators
 - Information will be made available about the Lower Hudson Valley Education Coalition for interested community members

Information: C. Administrative Comments

Melissa Szymanski:

Theatre

- The 7th and 8th Grade performance of Annie Jr. will be released on January 22, 2021. The link will be found on our District website under Announcements and information will be included in the Hastings Daily. Congratulations to all who have been involved in bringing this production to life.

Culturally Responsive Sustaining Education Pedagogies

- [Dr. Detra Price-Dennis](#) joined Chair Council last week as we continue professional learning around culturally responsive pedagogies. Group members shared questions they have about the Culturally Responsive Sustaining Education (CR/SE) Framework, synthesized the key ideas outlined in the document, and revisited the grounding principles. Detra emphasized the critical nature of considering sociopolitical context, sociocultural context, and asset-based perspectives when selecting resources. She posed reflection questions for the group to consider around curriculum and resources that will inform the group's next steps.

K-12 Mathematics Committee

- The K-12 Mathematics Committee met last week. The session focused on a data inquiry of artifacts provided by teachers and leaders within cross-building breakout groups. The purpose of the work was to deepen understanding of the Standards for Mathematical Practice and how they look vertically as students are moving through the system, examine how they are brought to life through our leadership and teaching practices, and consider opportunities to enhance student learning. Members of the committee used a protocol as they engaged in the analysis and discussion of artifacts.

Maureen Caraballo:

- Will provide her comments later during her discussion of both the Finance Committee Meeting and Capital Project Update

Information: D. Student Report

Sabine Hinkaty:

- Winter Track and Boy's Swimming Seasons are underway
- The Student Union has completed a first draft of the School Honor Code, and considering a having a student board to combat cheating
- Students took a survey having to do with the school climate at Hastings, there seemed to be confusion as to whether the questions were to be answered more generally or as to school in 2020, the questions seemed more suited for a year without a global pandemic

Sophia Mainiero:

- Regarding student survey:
 - For students who are full remote a good portion of the questions did not apply, so they were unsure how to answer
 - Not sure how accurate the results of the survey will be or if it will represent the current school climate
- Students have found it hard to focus on school work the past week after violent break in at the capitol and the tense political climate
- Student Union sold and distributed over 100 candy grams
- National Art Honor Society art boxes are being sold, you can find more information about purchasing in this week's Hastings Happenings and on Facebook which includes google form
- Seniors are meeting tomorrow to discuss graduation speakers and start planning a prom

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Information: A. Public Comment

No Public Comment

3. PRESENTATIONS [Press Release](#)

Presentation: A. Up in Smoke: Recent Influences on Adolescent E-cigarette Usage

Valerie Henning-Piedmonte:

- Expressed her excitement to hear that Celeste placed in the STEM Regeneron Competition
- Stated it is a testament to the work that Ms. Shandroff has been doing with the science department and developing student interest

Melissa Shandroff:

- Introduced Celeste as was one of 300 students chosen nationwide as the Regeneron Talent Search Competition semi-finalist, one of the most competitive of the competitions that her students enter
- Celeste was awarded a \$2000 scholarship and an opportunity to be named one of 40 finalists in the competition with a chance at a \$250,000 scholarship for college
- Most proud of Celeste for working on her project independently with little guidance from her or and her mentor, the work is really truly her own, and a testament to Celeste's abilities

Celeste Paerels:

- Presented her project Up in Smoke: Recent Influences on Adolescent E-cigarette Usage, from the The Regeneron Science Talent Search, detailing her research and findings

[View Presentation](#)

Lauren Berman:

- Thanked Ms. Shandroff for bringing Celeste and Celeste for her detailed presentation and noted that the research will be helpful to the community

Valerie Henning-Piedmonte:

- Thanked Ms. Shandroff for her leadership in the science department and helping her students develop a passion for science through research to solve real world problems

Melissa Szymanski:

- Congratulated and thanked Celeste for her presentation and taking us through the process of her research

- Thanked Melissa Shandroff, always pleasure to partner with her and to see her wonderful leadership both the students and department

Jodie Meyer:

- Thanked Celeste for her presentation and noted that it was a pleasure to her her interest in research
- Thanked Melissa Shandroff for her mentorship and all the work she has done in the science department and getting students involved and participating in competitions

Silvia Robles:

- Appreciated the professionalism and clarity of the information shared by Celeste
- Both as a member of the Board of Education and a parent she feels that Celeste has done a great service to our community

4. 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 Alison Andrus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: B. Placement and/or Services for CSE and CPSE

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Committee on Special Education and the Committee on Preschool Special Education, the Board of Education accepts the classifications and arrangements for the placement and/or services.

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

5. PERSONNEL

Action: A. Appointments

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

Motion by Silvia Robles, second by Alison Andrus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: 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

Action: 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 Doug Sundheim, second by Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: D. Resignation

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

Motion by Alison Andrus, second by Jeremy Galland.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

6. 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

Motion by Jeremy Arnon, 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

Report: A. Policy

Valerie Henning-Piedmonte:

- NYSBBA Audit is attached to the agenda as a reference
- Currently looking at any new or missing policies that we need to include in our policy book

- Following up on a few recommendations of policies that were red-lined or edited
- Valerie will be speaking with legal counsel and plans to bring forth more policies for review on our February board meeting

Report: B. Finance

Maureen Caraballo: [Finance Committee Presentation](#)

- Meeting focused on budget and around state aid and projections for the future
- In February we should have a proposed budget to present to the Board
- Valerie mentioned earlier the advocacy around foundation aid, during the meeting they discussed the various types of aid we receive, how we have not been fully funded and looking at what our strategy will be if there is a reduction in funds, are we going to balance our budget by making reductions
- Encouraged community to join Budget 101 meeting this Thursday and stated there may be additional sessions held in the future

Jodie Meyer:

- Asked if there was any possibility to get money refunded for COVID expenses

Maureen Caraballo:

- Still not clear on what the federal government may or may not be doing to assist the states
- If we have the majority of our funding secure for next year, that is our main concern now

Jeremy Galland:

- Asked as we watch property taxes revenue go up, with a change in the tax rate, is that because we built in changes for upcoming teachers contract

Maureen Caraballo:

- Tonights discussion was about strategy
- The budget to be presented in February will be a lower number
- We will have to build money into the budget for the upcoming contracts
- Slides were for illustration purposes, and rolled in many expenses we encountered this year that we hope to not have next year

8. OLD BUSINESS

Information: A. Construction Project Update

Maureen Caraballo:

- The construction project at Hillside will receive bids on Wednesday, January 13th and will be reviewed
- Based upon feedback feels we will be in a position to make recommendations at the following board meeting and hopes to begin work during the February break
- The replacement windows at Hillside as part of the reconstruction project will be completed over the next month
- The design for the Middle School Auditorium is being finalized, hopes to present the overall scope of work being done at the next board meeting
- Following this the designs will be submitted to the state for approval

9. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT

Information: A. Second Public Comment

No Public Comment

10. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

Information: A. Comments

Silvia Robles:

- Wanted to acknowledge Business Item #3, the contribution received from Joel Dean Foundation, Inc., expressed her appreciation for their generous award that will support our students

Allison Andrus:

- Expressed her well wished to Ms. Spirelli and all those affected by COVID

11. ADJOURNMENT

Action: A. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

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