

1. OPENING OF MEETING

Action, Procedural: A. 5:30 PM-Call to Order- Expected motion to move into Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations

Members present

Doug Sundheim, Jeremy Arnon, Silvia Robles, Alison Andrus

Meeting called to order at 5:32PM by Silvia Robles, Vice President

Expected motion for the Board of Education to move into Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations.

Motion by Jeremy Arnon, second by Doug Sundheim.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Doug Sundheim, Jeremy Arnon, Silvia Robles, Alison Andrus

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

Members present

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

Meeting called to order at 7:33 PM by Silvia Robles, Vice President. Noted that Lauren Berman, Board President would not present this evening.

Procedural: C. Announcements

Valerie Henning-Piedmonte:

- Congratulations to the cast and crew of the Farragut Middle School production of Annie - exceptional job!
- NYSSBA email announcing the Board of Regents has petitioned the US Dept. of Education to suggest that the testing program for Elementary, Middle and High School students does not take place this Spring. Valerie included a link that was in the NYSSBA email in her email to faculty and staff which gives them an opportunity to respond to or email their own thoughts, concerns or suggestions, will also include the link in the Hasting's Daily for community members who may be interested in sharing their comments. The Board of Regents is expected to make a decision in February.
- This morning in a conversation with County Executive George Latimer, he announced he will be advocating for getting more vaccines for school workers. So many are waiting to get their first vaccine and others have had their appointments cancelled, due to shortage, he will be working to get school workers vaccinated sooner, rather than later.
- Governor announced that certain high-risk athletic programs and sports eg. wrestling, will be under the jurisdiction of the Westchester County DOH to decide if they are permitted to begin in February - not a decision school districts will be making. Our Athletic Director, Drew Wendol shared this information with the community today.
- Tomorrow will be a remote instruction day due to the weather forecast. Additional information will be shared tomorrow night with regard to Wednesday.

Information: D. Administrative Comments

Melissa Szymanski:

Civics

I would like to recognize and congratulate a number of Hastings students who were recently selected for Civics Unplugged fellowships: Liam Shanley, Marin Diz, Bianca Arnon, Isabella DePreist-Sullivan, Isabelle Aiken, Kaylee Oppenheimer, Bee Herbstman, and Benjamin Seto Glick. As an additional bright spot, Hastings High School has the largest number of accepted applicants among the 500 upcoming participants worldwide! Congratulations and thank you, future leaders! Thank you to Board Trustee, Doug Sundheim, for putting Civics Unplugged and the fellowship opportunity on our radar, and to Greg Smith and the social studies department for helping to promote interest amongst students.

Civics Unplugged is an organization that is committed to promoting democracy. It has worldwide opportunities where students can engage in learning together as a cohort and also determining specific projects they are interested in working on so they have a built in network. Provides the opportunity for students to make a difference, take action, make change and cultivate initiative and leadership.

Doug Sundheim added that the selected students actually run the organization, adults help supervise. A lot of older high schoolers and recent grads are helping to run the actual organization as well.

Theatre

The 7th and 8th Grade performance of Annie Jr. was released on Friday night. The link will be found on our District website under Announcements. Congratulations to all who have been involved in bringing this production to life.

Athletics

HHS graduate Ali Marpet, class of 2011, will be playing in the Super Bowl as the starting left guard of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers!!

Culturally Responsive Sustaining Education Pedagogies

A focus on culturally responsive instruction continues to be ongoing. Thank you to the administrative teams at all three buildings, who have been instrumental with faculty meetings to support learning anchored in the Culturally Responsive

Sustaining Education Framework. Special thanks to the EDC (Elementary Department Coordinators) at Hillside, who have been directly involved in supporting their colleagues.

Racial Equity Learning Day

The Hastings High School Racial Equity Learning Day will take place on the 27th. This day is designed for faculty members and students to learn alongside each other. Speakers will include Dr. Detra Price-Dennis, Yolanda Sealey-Ruiz, and Kevin Richardson. Areas of focus will include a) media, equity and social change, b) archaeology of the self and c) knowing and making use of your rights. Thank you to the design committee for a strong collaboration.

Curriculum, Teaching, and Learning Thought Group

Last week, the Curriculum, Teaching, and Learning Thought Group convened for our January meeting. The purpose of the session was to continue to establish the connection between what children learn in school and what they will need for life, work, and the future of learning in an ever-changing world. Tom Hatch, community member and professor at Columbia University, facilitated a portion of the session. Under his guidance, the group explored what it takes to develop common purposes for learning.

Maureen Caraballo:

As expected, Governor Cuomo released his Executive Budget Proposal this week and, depending on the amount of aid received from the federal government, is constructed with two possible courses of action: (1) NY State expecting at least \$6 billion in additional funding from a future federal COVID relief package and, (2) should the federal government allocate \$15 billion in funding. Based on these two scenarios, Maureen is constructing different budget/tax rate budget proposals. The State released aid runs with the projections assuming federal relief. For the \$6 billion federal funding scenario, Governor Cuomo indicated there would be a need to raise revenue through taxes, cut spending (including educational spending), and issue debt. In addition to the reductions in spending, the \$6 billion plan includes numerous policy proposals, some of which were included in previous Executive Budget proposals, many of which school districts find unfavorable. In particular, the consolidation of expense-based aids into a single-block grant, removing the current reimbursement process is very problematic for Hastings. This would basically cap the amount of aid we would receive on expense-based aids, such as BOCES reimbursements. In the second scenario, the State receiving \$15 billion in federal funds, school district withholdings would be fully restored. There would also be an additional \$3.8 billion in education aid in the overall proposed budget, although it is unclear how those additional dollars would be allocated. With COVID-19 pandemic costs, many high needs schools may be in need of additional dollars in order to withstand huge budget cuts.

Technology

The Technology Team is working with Go-Guardian, the computer software purchased to allow parents greater control over their children's internet use. In the coming weeks and prior to the product's rollout, the District will provide parental information sessions including newly developed opt-in forms for parental consent and to acknowledge Go-Guardian software use. Many Districts have been using this software successfully for years, including Dobbs Ferry.

Information: E. Student Report

Sabine Hinkaty:

- Students looking forward to hearing the perspective from speakers on Wednesday's Racial Equity Learning day
- This Friday marks the end of the second quarter of the academic year, signifies the beginning of the last semester of High School for graduating seniors
- Student Union continues to have meetings discussing how to further benefit student life, representatives focusing on a potential new honor code

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Information: A. Public Comment

- No Public Comment

B. Moment of Silence to acknowledge the loss of family members of faculty and staff:

Valerie Henning-Piedmonte:

- Thanked Lauren Berman and Silvia Robles for thinking about faculty and staff who have lost family members. In an effort to acknowledge and honor those lost to COVID or other reason, Valerie read the names of faculty/staff as well as the names of their lost loved ones followed by a moment of silence.
 - Jon Riss, Music Teacher at FMS/HHS, lost his grandmother Ruth Kelder
 - Eryn Reigner, Hillside, lost her sister Cristina Contardo
 - Joe Epstein, Special Educator at FMS, lost his uncle Alan Miller
 - Nate Morgan, Art Teacher at Hillside, lost his friend Patrick
 - Nick Macri, Deputy Treasurer and Chief Information Officer in the Business Office, lost his mother Fannie Macri
 - Maria Cocucci, Counseling Office at HHS, lost her dear friend Joseph Appi
 - Joseph Dekams, Assistant Principal at Hillside, lost his father-in-law Frank Ruggiero
 - Maria Gunther, teacher at Hillside, lost a dear friend Ed Doty
 - Michele Gentile, Kindergarten Aide at Hillside, lost her mother-in-law Julia Marie Gentile
 - Maria Garcia, Custodian at FMS, lost her brother and nephew Miguel Ignacio Garcia and Miguel Angel Garcia
 - Trina Weitman, HHS Math Department, lost her father Herbert Sobel
 - Valerie Henning-Piedmonte, lost her step-sister Sandra MacDougall
 - Melissa DeLaBarrera, District Clerk and Secretary to Melissa Szymanski, lost her father Jose DeLaBarrera
 - Caroline Atanacio, Social Studies teacher at HHS, lost both of her aunts Amalia Fernandez and Milla Mallari

Silvia Robles extended condolences on behalf of the Board of Education

3. BUSINESS

Action: A. Business Items

- Jeremy Arnon asked Maureen Caraballo for a brief overview of the contracts listed
- Maureen Caraballo:
 - Tonight the board is voting on five separate contracts all related to the Hillside Project, divided into the areas of General Contracting, Civil, HVAC, Plumbing and Electric, as required by NYS Law. Contractors being recommended to be awarded the project are the lowest bidders and have gone through a vetting and interview process
 - Regarding the Hillside project, these awards represent a total of \$8,350,000
 - Contract alternatives that are reflected in the recommendations
 - the use of green concrete in constructing parts of the building and addition, this recommendation came as result of a request by the Village, as part of their Sustainability Initiative in Hastings
 - Work to begin the Saturday that begins our February break
- Doug Sundheim asked Maureen to provide the top line of where we were hoping to come in on the project and the delta
- Maureen Caraballo indicated the dollar amount in the bond they did not want to exceed was \$8,800,000.00, the project came in at \$8,350,000.00, which allows for unforeseen or additional expenses that may be incurred.
- Doug Sundheim suggested it would be helpful for the Board to get regular updates to provide status of the project
- Maureen Caraballo advised that once the project begins, the contract manager will be joining different board meetings to provide updates with both the budget and progress of construction project

Alison Andrus asked for more information regarding the Science Professional Learning that Melissa Szymanski secured with a grant from the Winthrop Teacher Center

Melissa Szymanski provided a brief overview of the proposal:

- This is work that was started last year, interrupted by the onset of the pandemic, it is a continuation of a multi-year process to strengthen our alignment
- Helen Pashley, is very deeply connected at the state level and keyed into shifts that are coming programmatically from the state around curriculum and the assessment program

1. Warrants.
2. Kevin Richardson, speaker series contract, fee covered by HEF grant.
3. Eastchester Union Free School District, contract.
4. Recommendation to award the Contract G to APS Contracting Inc. for a total base bid and alternates G-10 and G-11 for a contract price of \$5,305,000.
5. Recommendation to award the Contract P to J & M Heating and Air Conditioning, Inc. for a total base bid for a contract price of \$422,000.
6. Recommendation to award the Contract C to Con-Tech Construction Technology Inc. for a total base bid and alternates C-1 and C-3 for a contract price of \$914,110.
7. Recommendation to award the Contract H to Hi Tech Air Conditioning Service Inc. for a total base bid of \$871,000.
8. Recommendation to award the Contract E to All Bright Electric for a total base bid and alternates for a contract price of \$838,000.
9. Class Creator software annual subscription in the amount of \$660.
10. Science Professional Learning, proposal.

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

Motion by Jeremy Galland, second by Jodie Meyer.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

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

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 2020-2021 school year:

CPSE: 11806

CSE: 10180, 11279, 7605, 11909, 11374, 10464, 7698, 11490, 7703

RESOLVED, that upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and 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 for the 2020-2021 school year.

Motion by Doug Sundheim, second by Alison Andrus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

4. PERSONNEL

Action: A. Appointments

1. Elizabeth Dowling, appoint to per diem substitute District wide effective January 26, 2021.
2. Matea Shuto, appoint to per diem substitute District wide effective January 26, 2021.
3. Schedule B appointment requests as per attached spreadsheet.
4. Justin Caraballo, appoint to Per Diem Substitute/School Monitor district-wide effective January 26, 2021.
5. Joseph Willie, 1.0 FTE Earth Science teacher, appoint to an additional 80 minutes per 6 day cycle at Farragut Middle School/Hastings High School effective February 1, 2021-June 28, 2021.

6. Briana Toledo, appoint to School Monitor district-wide effective January 26, 2021.
7. Nicholas Toledo, appointed to School Monitor district-wide effective January 26, 2021.

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

Motion by Jeremy Galland, second by Doug Sundheim.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: B. Retirements

1. David Felberbaum, Elementary K-6 teacher at Hillside Elementary School has provided notice of retirement effective July 1, 2021.
2. Sandy Lutzker, Speech therapist at Hillside Elementary School has provided notice of retirement effective July 1, 2021.

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

Motion by Jeremy Galland, second by Alison Andrus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: C. Resignations

1. Donna Gillispie, LPN, resignation from part-time school nurse position, last date worked will be January 26, 2021.

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

Motion by Jodie Meyer, second by Jeremy Galland.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: D. Amendments

1. Fatima Cunha, Juliana Dal Paz and Christine Smith, temporary Teacher Aides, effective 1/13/2021 to 6/25/2021, \$19.85 per hour.
2. Rafael Rosner-Katz, amend his appointment as follows: .2 FTE Science Regular Substitute/Leave Replacement, BA Step 1, at Hastings High School effective January 19, 2021-January 21, 2021.
3. Robyn Royal-Horn, Special Education teacher at Hastings High School, amend her appointment to .6 FTE effective February 1, 2021-June 30, 2021.

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

Motion by Jeremy Galland, second by Doug Sundheim.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Action: E. Leave of Absence

1. Cheryl Jett, Teacher Aide at Hastings High School, requests a leave of absence as follows: EPSLA from December 9, 2020-December 11, 2020. She returned on December 14, 2020.

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

Motion by Alison Andrus, second by Jeremy Galland.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Jodie Meyer, Doug Sundheim, Jeremy Galland, Jeremy Arnon, 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 January 11, 2021.

Motion by Doug Sundheim, second by Jeremy Galland.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

6. OLD BUSINESS

Information: A. Capital Update

Maureen Caraballo:

- Gave most of the update earlier when speaking about the contracts
- Once contracts are approved, commencement of work is planned to begin the Saturday before February break
- This information will be communicated to the public and neighbors living in the area, work schedule will be Monday through Saturday 7am to 8pm
- Meetings being held with building administration to make sure all are aligned in the schedule, contractors are accustomed to working in school during times when school is in session
- Received 60% estimate for auditorium work, at upcoming board meeting we will present the designs we are looking to submit to the state
- Will be sharing photos along the way to show the progress of the work at Hillside

7. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT

Information: A. Second Public Comment

Jan Melillo:

- Commented on County Executive Latimer's offer to try to find doses of vaccines for teachers. She had scheduled her vaccine appointment and it was cancelled due to short supply. Very disappointing, hopes that the County Executive will be able to deliver on that help.
- Regarding the sharing of information about COVID cases within the buildings, as a teacher in the HS for personal and professional reasons, she would like to be made aware more quickly when there are situations involving positive cases throughout the district.

8. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

- No Comments from the Board

9. ADJOURNMENT

Action: A. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Alison Andrus, second by Doug Sundheim.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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