

## **Hastings-on-Hudson Regular Board of Education Meeting (Monday, February 8, 2021)**

*Generated by Melissa DeLaBarrera on Wednesday, February 10, 2021*

### 1. OPENING OF MEETING

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

#### **Members present**

Jeremy Arnon, Lauren Berman, Silvia Robles, Alison Andrus

#### **Called to order at 6:31 PM by Lauren Berman, President**

Motion to move into Executive Session to discuss tenure recommendation.

Motion by Silvia Robles, second by Alison Andrus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Lauren Berman:

- Welcomed Board Trustees, Dr. Valerie Henning-Piedmonte, Maureen Caraballo, Melissa Szymanski and guests Battelle for Kids

Procedural: C. Announcements

Valerie Henning-Piedmonte:

- School Re-Opening committee will have its first meeting March 4th - 4:30-5:30PM
  - Ensuring vaccination for employees and personnel that are interested in being vaccinated
  - Review safety protocols
  - Surveillance testing for school reopening - access to rapid testing and cost
  - Social distancing, desk partitions, etc.
  - Many districts are targeting for reopening after Spring break
  - Factoring in remote option for families that for personal reasons need to have their children work from home
  - Committee is open to faculty, staff, and community members who are interested
- Thanked our County Executive George Latimer for his advocacy to make more vaccines available
- Wished everyone a happy Mid-Winter recess which begins next week, and reminded all to continue to follow the same precautions, so we don't have an outbreak upon returning
- Thanked Jeff Korchinski and Mike Nicholson from Battelle for Kids for joining this evening to present to the Board
- Thanked Andrew Wendol for joining to introduce the Resolution for High-Risk Athletics

Information: D. Administrative Comments

Melissa Szymanski:

#### K-12 Mathematics Committee

The K-12 Mathematics Committee convened last week. The focus of the session was to engage in an inquiry within building-based breakout groups that was anchored in student work. Overarching purposes associated with this learning experience include deepening the group's shared vision of mathematics, strengthening analysis of student work, enhancing inquiry orientation, and determining instructional strategies to support at-risk learners. Members of the committee submitted portfolio pieces prior to the session where they outlined how they knew a student was struggling, gave a description of the lesson, including the student learning objective, provided a student work sample, indicated what the student said or did to indicate difficulty, and shared the questions and interactions that took place with the student. Members of the committee then engaged in a modified consultancy protocol where they supported each other around understanding opportunities to promote learning and instructional strategies.

#### Science Research

The following science research update from Melissa Shandroff is worthy of recognition and celebration:

"On Saturday, January 30th, Hastings Science Research students competed at the virtual Westchester-Rockland Junior Science and Humanities Symposium. The students each presented a 12-minute PowerPoint of their research project to a panel of judges. Students competed at either the local or the regional level with students at the regional level having the opportunity to move on to compete at Upstate JSHS in March.

Hastings students who participated in the competition were Leib Bendersky, Chloe Caraballo, Adin Dowling, Bryce Jacobs, Jasper Lincoln, Sara Makulec, Benna McDermott, Sammy Muench, Adam Oppenheimer, Kaylee Oppenheimer, Celeste Paerels, Jacob Prisament, Atri Ray, and Naomi Van Hoogstraten.

Adam Oppenheimer placed second in his regional room where he presented his project, "An Investigation of Blazar Jet Variability through an Analysis of Ton 599." Adam will be moving on to compete at the Upstate JSHS competition sponsored by SUNY Albany in March. Celeste Paerels placed first in her local room with her project, "Up in Smoke: Recent Influences on Adolescent E-Cigarette Usage." Placing 5th in their regional rooms were Sammy Muench who presented, "Twenty Years of the National Football League: Playoff Predictions and What Makes Teams Win" and Atri Ray with "The Hunt for the Elusive Intermediate Black Holes."

Congratulations to all of the Hastings students for their dedication and commitment to their research projects!"

Information: E. Student Report

Sophia Maniero:

- Academic Challenge Team - at their last competition the A team placed 2nd in their division and the B team placed 1st in their division, there is another countywide tournament this weekend
- Environmental Club is hosting workshops about endangered species for elementary schoolers this week
- National Art Honor Society is teaming up with the Hasting's Chapter of Amnesty International to host a music and art night to raise money for medical aid for innocent civilians in the Armenia/Azerbaijan conflict
- This Wednesday the Peer Leadership Program is having parents/guardian night where parents will get to join their students in the Peer Leadership meeting

## 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Information: A. Public Comment

1. Lisa Eggert Litvin:

- Commented regarding the strategic planning presentation and possible vote
- Asked if we can vote without having put the work out for multiple bids or an RFP, suggested the Board consult with legal counsel
- Concerned the cost of the provider is high (between \$60-80k), other districts use less expensive resources
- 13 positions were cut last year, feels the cost for the strategic planning would be better spent replacing one of the two world language positions cut last year
- Concerned with the time of starting strategic planning, facing a budget that may be over the CAP, starting a construction project, students falling behind and suffering emotionally with depression and isolation, and managing a district during a global pandemic
- The community needs district to focus on these matters and not take on extra tasks like creating a portrait of a graduate through strategic planning

## 3. PRESENTATIONS

Presentation: A. Battelle for Kids

Lauren Berman:

- Introduced guest speakers from Battelle for Kids
- Noted that since she joined the Board 3 years ago they have had the goal of articulating a district-wide vision through strategic planning
- Pleased that we are at the point of beginning this phase of growth and definition that will come to be a district-wide strategic plan
- The process brings the community together around our students and helps us collectively define K-12 goals for the educational experience we want for all students to be successful

Dr. Henning-Piedmonte:

- Addressed the concern about not issuing an RPT, although legal counsel did inform us that our process was above board, whenever we receive feedback it is important to address
- We are moving forward to issue an RFP for both segments of the work, one is The Portrait of a Graduate work which we are planning to start in March and will bring forth that contract at the March 10th meeting
- An RFP will also be issued for the second phase of the work which is planned for September
- We certainly want to make sure that we are responsive, and we don't want to compromise it in any way by not addressing some of the concerns that were brought forth
- Noted that it has been a longstanding priority to the Board to develop a vision for the school system, all three schools K-12
- The objective is to provide a positive and enriching educational environment for all students in Hastings

Presented by Jeff Korchinski and Mike Nicholson

- [VIEW PRESENTATION HERE](#)

Presentation: B. Budget Overview

Presented by Valerie Henning-Piedmonte and Maureen Caraballo

- [VIEW PRESENTATION HERE](#)

Important Dates:

- Superintendent's Detailed Budget Presentation: March 10th and 22nd, 2021
- Board Adoption of the 2021-22 Budget: April 21, 2021

- Budget and Trustee Vote: May 18, 2021

#### 4. BUSINESS

##### Action: A. Business Items

1. Warrants.
2. Revenue report for December 2020.
3. Expenditure report for December 2020.
4. SW Boces, re-certification training for administrators, contract amendment.
5. H2M Architects & Engineers, proposal for a bathroom addition construction drawings.
6. Perkins Consulting Group, LLC, proposal.
7. White Plains City School District, contract for Health and Welfare Service.
8. Hastings Administrators Association, side letter.
9. CSEA Hastings Association of Office and Auxiliary Personnel Unit, side letter.
10. CSEA Hastings Custodial Unit, side letter.
11. Pimental Murals, proposal.
12. Hi Tech Air Conditioning Service, Inc., contract H for Hillside Elementary School Addition and Renovations.
13. J & M Heating and Air Conditioning, Inc., contract P for Hillside Elementary School Addition and Renovations.
14. Fran Corp. dba All Bright Electric, contract E for Hillside Elementary School Addition and Renovations.
15. Con-Tech Construction Technology, Inc., contract C for Hillside Elementary School Addition and Renovations.
16. APS Contracting Inc., contract G for Hillside Elementary School Addition and Renovations.

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

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

Abstain: Jodie Meyer

##### Action: B. Resolution for Participation in High-Risk Sports

###### Resolution for Participation in High-Risk Sports

Hastings High School: JV & Varsity Boys Basketball, JV & Varsity Girls Basketball, & Varsity Ice Hockey for any student in grades 9 through 12

WHEREAS, Section I of the New York State Public High School Athletics Association (NYSPHSAA) has determined to commence the sports seasons of certain sports that are considered high risk for exposure to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Section I and the NYSPHSAA has made this determination based upon orders of Governor Cuomo and guidance from the New York State Department of Health; and

WHEREAS, the New York State and local County Departments of Health has provided information regarding health and safety for student-athletes and coaches participating in these sports; and

WHEREAS, there is an expressed interest from student-athletes in fielding teams in certain of these sports; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Hastings-on-Hudson UFSD hereby approves the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and the Athletic Director to offer the following high-risk sports at Hastings High School: JV & Varsity Boys Basketball, JV & Varsity Girls Basketball, & Varsity Ice Hockey for any student in grades 9 through 12 subject to adherence to any and all guidance issued by the New York State and County Departments of Health and Section I and/or NYSPHSAA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that seven & eight grade students who otherwise would meet the Athletic Placement Process testing (APP) eligibility requirements to participate in interscholastic sports will be permitted to participate in these high-risk sports offerings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent of Schools and the Athletic Director are directed to ensure that each student-athlete has express permission to participate in these sports from their parent and/or guardian and that such notification contains the inherent risk factors associated with participating in these sports and transmission of COVID-19; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any sports offered by the District shall be suspended should the Hastings High School move from its hybrid learning model to an all-remote model due to COVID-19 concerns.

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accept the Resolution for Participation in High-Risk Sports.

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

#### 5. PERSONNEL

##### Action: A. Appointments

1. Matthew Adipietro, Physical Education teacher at Farragut Middle School has requested an administrative internship through CUNY Lehman with Health and Physical Education teacher Emily Kehoe for the 2020-2021 school year.
2. Schedule B appointment requests as per attached [spreadsheet](#).
3. Daniela Cocucci, appoint to Per Diem substitute teacher district-wide effective February 9, 2021.
4. Francisco Clemente, appoint to evening Cleaner at Hillside Elementary School effective February 9, 2021.
5. Mikhail Garcia, appoint to evening Cleaner at Hillside Elementary School effective February 9, 2021.
6. Joanne Duncan, appoint to the position of School Monitor district-wide effective February 9, 2021 for the 2020-2021 school year.
7. Alyssa Santiago, appoint to the position of School Monitor district-wide effective February 9, 2021 for the 2020-2021 school year.
8. Natalie Schirone, appoint to the position of School Monitor district-wide effective February 9, 2021 for the 2020-2021 school year.
9. Constance Liberatore, appoint to the position of Teacher Aide, 11 months, Column 1A, Step 5, \$35,109, effective February 8, 2021.

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

Amendments (Appointments)

1. Diana Lane, 1.0 FTE Elementary K-6 Regular Substitute/Leave Replacement at Hillside Elementary School. Amend appointment as follows: October 1, 2020-April 21, 2021.
2. Christopher Lembo, Math teacher at Hastings High School, amend appointment of additional .2 FTE to cover a leave of absence effective December 14, 2020-February 28, 2021.
3. Gina Raus, Math teacher at Hastings High School, amend appointment of an additional .2 FTE to cover a leave of absence effective December 18, 2020-February 28, 2021.
4. Steven Yurek, Math teacher at Hastings High School, amend appointment of an additional .2 FTE to cover a leave of absence effective December 14, 2020-February 28, 2021.
5. Janet Lyons, 1.0 FTE Special Education teacher at Hastings High School, amend appointment dates for an additional .2 to cover a leave of absence as follows: September 8, 2020-June 25, 2021.
6. Kathleen Shenefield, English Regular Substitute/Leave Replacement, amend her appointment at Hastings High School to cover a leave of absence as follows: February 1, 2021-June 25, 2021, English .8 FTE and Building Substitute .2.
7. Trisha Scaringella, 1.0 FTE Regular Substitute/Leave Replacement at Hillside Elementary School. Amend her appointment as follows: September 15, 2020-April 30, 2021 (Approximately).
8. Constance Liberatore, Temporary Office Assistant-Automated Systems, end of temporary appointment effective end of work day, February 5, 2021.
9. Thomas Corveddu, amend appointment to Teacher Aide Leave Replacement at Hillside Elementary School effective February 9, 2021 for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year.

Amendments (Leaves of Absence)

1. Chadia Madera, 1.0 FTE ENL teacher at Farragut Middle School/Hastings High School rescind FMLEA December 14, 2020-December 23, 2020.
2. Daniel Brownstein, 1.0 FTE Science teacher at Farragut Middle School requests an amended leave of absence as follows: Medical Leave of Absence February 25, 2021-April 13, 2021.
3. Kim Smith, 1.0 FTE Math teacher at Farragut Middle School requests an amended leave of absence as follows: Parental Leave of Absence February 1, 2021-February 26, 2021. She will return to work on March 1, 2021.
4. Katharine Magnatta, 1.0 FTE Elementary K-6 teacher at Hillside Elementary School requests an amendment of leave of absence as follows: Medical Leave January 7, 2021-April 20, 2021. Her return to work date is April 21, 2021.

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

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

Action: C. Leaves of Absence

1. Adele Gorman, Teacher Assistant at Hillside Elementary School requests a leave of absence as follows: EPSLA November 15, 2020-November 27, 2020, FMLA with pay November 30, 2020-February 5, 2021, Medical Leave February 8, 2021-March 7, 2021. Her return to work date is March 8, 2021.
2. Margaret Tummolo, School Monitor/Aide at Farragut Middle School requested a leave of absence as follows: New York State COVID Paid Sick Leave of Absence January 11, 2021-January 15, 2021. Her return to work date was January 19, 2021.
3. Alison Guiney, 1.0 FTE Psychologist, School Psychologist district-wide requests a leave of absence as follows: New York State COVID Paid Sick Leave of Absence from January 25, 2021-January 29, 2021.

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

Action: D. Resignation

1. Robert Corter, .8 Regular Substitute/Leave Replacement in Physical Education and .2 Permanent Building Substitute at Farragut Middle School has provided his letter of resignation effective February 5, 2021.

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

Motion by Silvia Robles, 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 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

Report: A. Facilities

Presented Maureen Caraballo

[VIEW PRESENTATION HERE](#)

Maureen Caraballo:

- Update from the facilities committee meeting and capital bond projects:
  - Hillside roof - work completed
  - Farragut boiler - work completed
  - Farragut roof - 90% complete
  - Farragut cornice - expected summer 2021

## 8. OLD BUSINESS

Information: A. Construction Project Update

- Construction Project Update was provided within the Facilities presentation presented by Maureen Caraballo.

## 9. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT

Information: A. Second Public Comment

### 1. Andy Zimmerman:

- Commented regarding Battelle presentation, was reviewing their website, not sure if they are the right people to do the work for us
- They want us to figure out what we want to do as a school district, they seem to have a definite point of view about it and that's shown on their website contrasting the more old fashion values
- Feels like we already have a lot of communication and collaboration and working together as a team within our district already
- Doesn't feel that much has changed - we need rigorous challenging math skills, English reading and writing skills which will still be relevant in the future

### 2. Joshua Saltzman - Hillside Parent:

- Commented on Battelle presentation - found it very abstract and vague, open to learning more about it
- Is there anywhere we can see a more substantive work product of Battelle other than the slide presentation?
- Parents in survival mode, perhaps not as open to this kind of process right now - at the elementary level the basic social and emotional needs are not being met
- Until we see kids in school full time it's hard to consider even participating in the process, doesn't seem like now is a good time
- Also concerned with the expense at this time

## 10. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

Information: A. Comments

Jodie Meyer:

- Thinks Joshua Saltzman's statement that parents are in survival mode is very relevant
- The relentlessness for everybody, dealing with COVID for almost a year makes it hard
- Highlighted some positives that has come out of Hasting's and bring pride to our community:

- o Ali Marpet playing in the Superbowl
- o Kate Burner serving as the Deputy of Communications Director for President Biden
- o Courtney Gilliam being the first female doctor to be vaccinated at Seattle's Children's hospital, she will be the graduation speaker this year

Jeremy Arnon:

- Commented on Battelle for Kids feels the two public comments were valid and made fair points
- Has concerns regarding the process, yet agrees that we do need to have a Strategic Plan
- Would like to see one or two other organizations to compare with Battelle, was not sold on Battelle's presentation
- Feels we really need to have a strategic plan, doesn't think we need to hold off on it, but we should consider other organizations
- Understands everyone's concern financially, but feels if this is something we should have done 5 years ago he doesn't see why it shouldn't be something we do now

Jeremy Galland:

- Board and our Administration needs to consider a worst-case scenario still when it comes to federal aid and not bank on estimates
- The administration did it so well last year at being conservative, yet we still had to go into reserve funds, we were able to make expenditures on COVID
- We cannot sustain a model where we are using reserves, what we can control is our current initiatives
- If students are not vaccinated by September would like to be able to spend \$100,000 on 3 sided clear barriers, we will not be able to do that by adding programs for \$80,000
- The administration is preparing for a difficult budget, we represent more than just students and families with student's but the community as well and every tax increase hurts

Doug Sundheim:

- The budgets continue to evolve and to Jeremy's point we need scenarios, and that is where we did really well last time
- Thinks strategic planning is really important, it is hard for an organization or community to be successful without having a clear alignment of where you're going
- Likes the idea of getting the kids more involved, we need to continue to pursue a strategic plan, but in his opinion, we can wait until next year to do this

Valerie Henning-Piedmonte:

- We will pause on the RFP until the board feels it is the right time to move forward

Lauren Berman:

- Values the opinions that people brought forward, shared her enthusiasm at the outset for both the process and time
- Feels this was a very positive meeting for several reasons, setting the stage of entertaining the thought of moving forward with a strategic planning process
- Found the construction update invigorating, that was a plan that has been pushed through despite COVID
- It is disheartened to hear the misgivings people have about the timing of Battelle, the reasons are valid, and she has listened and trusts that Valerie has vetted the field of providers in terms of expertise
- Has heard from Valerie and Maureen that it would be reversible at approximately 40% through a contract with both parties, which is another incentive to work with this particular consultant
- Pointed out her eagerness is rooted in the fact that our students deserve so much from our system, without the common vocabulary to guide us as a community toward real achievement we are really not providing all we can to our kids
- Hopes we can continue the conversation after the break to find other opportunities in the field of strategic planning

Valerie Henning-Piedmonte:

- Stated that if everyone is not on board to engage in the work, we are not there yet and should not waste our resources engaging in this further

## 11. ADJOURNMENT

Action: A. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Jodie Meyer, second by Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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