

Hastings-on-Hudson Regular Board of Education Meeting (Monday, February 22, 2021)

Generated by Melissa DeLaBarrera on Tuesday, February 23, 2021

1. OPENING OF MEETING

A. 6:30 PM - Call to Order - Expected motion to move into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

Members Present:

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

Meeting called to order at 6:32 PM

Motion to move into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

Motion by Alison Andrus, second by Doug Sundheim.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

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

Members present

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

Lauren Berman:

- Noted that Jodie Meyer would not be present this evening

C. Announcements

Dr. Henning-Piedmonte:

- School Re-Opening Committee Meeting on March 4th, 2021, 4:30-5:30pm to discuss students returning to school 5 days a week
- Congratulated Gina Bellavia on her tenure recommendation which is on the agenda
- George Latimer continues to advocate for more vaccines - as of now 23% of staff have still not received their first shot
- Current remote instruction participation rate: HES - 8%, FMS 60%, HHS 51% - extended the remote only option to hybrid families through February 26th

Andrew Wendol:

- Presented the Resolution to the Resolution for Participation in High-Risk Sports: Hastings High School (Fall Sports Season II Sports of Varsity, JV, & Modified Volleyball & Varsity & Modified Football and Spring Season Sports of Varsity, JV, & Modified Boys Lacrosse for any student in grades 7 through 12) to be voted on in the Business portion of the meeting.

Doug Sundheim:

- Asked about how different districts are approaching rapid testing

Andrew Wendol:

- Some districts are looking into rapid testing
- Not reliable and under the advice of our medical director, not the way to go at this time

Dr. Henning-Piedmonte:

- Communication received from the NYS Dept. of Education last week, noted that the surveillance tests should not be targeting athletes, they are intended to be used in the event the district was within one of the micro cluster zones
- If we were to test, we would have to test 10% of the district's overall population

Allison Andrus:

- Asked about double masking recommendation from CDC

Andrew Wendol:

- Has not heard of any school district doing this at this time, a mask is required at all times, a double mask would make it difficult to breathe during activity

Dr. Henning-Piedmonte:

- Added that there has been no guidance from NYS Dept. of Health to shift from our current mask protocol

D. Administrative Comments:

Melissa Szymanski:

- Reserving her comment for the Math Committee Update presentation

Maureen Caraballo:

- Reserving her comments for the Construction Update

E. Student Report

Sabine Hinkaty:

- February break was very relaxing and at the same time very quick
- Students are beginning to figure out what courses they want to take next year
- The band and the orchestra are currently in the process of creating recordings of their pieces since they cannot have concerts or competitions
- The spring musical has an interest meeting this week

- The Affinity Group has opened up submissions for a mural surrounding the theme of multiculturalism

Sophia Maniero:

- Lately, the school building has been empty, official numbers state that 50% of high schoolers are in, but from being in the school she noted that 50% are not in. One student stated "it is more isolating to be in person, than at home"
- Difficult to engage in class discussion when you're one of the only students in school and there are 20 students at home
- Expressed her extreme disappointment in Ms. Forman's resignation, stated that she was by far one of the best teachers in the middle school during the pandemic and she really hopes that this resignation is perceived as a big loss to the administration

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Public Comment

Adrian Forman: (Resident of Hastings of over 11 years & teacher)

- Became a teacher because she wanted to be part of what she saw her kids being part of when they were in school at Hastings
- Wanted to read the resignation letter she sent to Jennifer Spirelli on February 17, 2021, as the letter posted on the agenda is not the letter she wrote, nor a letter she approved

Lauren Berman:

- Reminded Ms. Forman to refer to Board Policy, which states that public comment cannot include personnel matters or address personnel directly as part of the meeting and stated that if she wishes to use the remainder of her time to make a public comment that does not pertain to her personnel matter, she may do so.

Adrian Forman:

- Continued to say that at this time the district has censored her speech without her permission because they do not like the point of view she has about censorship in the district
- Students have made themselves heard, 8th-grade students have written directly to the administration regarding free speech and the right to express themselves and be heard, and they have not received a response from the administration, overall
- Called the lack of response to the 8th graders by the highest leaders in the district reprehensible and inexcusable, if that is their definition of leadership, she strongly disagrees and stated she is fortunate to be in a position to say she won't be a part of it

3. PRESENTATIONS

A. Science Research

Adam Oppenheimer, Hastings High School Student, shared his presentation, "An Investigation of Blazar Jet Variability through an Analysis of Ton 599" which placed second in his regional room at the Westchester-Rockland Junior Science and Humanities Symposium in January.

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. Adam will be moving on to compete at the Upstate JSHS competition sponsored by SUNY Albany in March.

[Click here to view presentation.](#)

B. Math Committee Update

Melissa Syzmanski shared a presentation on behalf of the K-12 Mathematics Committee which aims to improve mathematics outcomes and support for particular groups of students where performance disparities have persisted.

[Click here to view presentation. \(Video of Presentation\)](#)

4. BUSINESS

A. Business Items

Jeremy Galland:

- Wanted it noted on the record that he would be voting NO on Item #9 (FMS Racial Equity Day, proposal)
- He is concerned about our expenses and while racial equity is a huge priority in our country, our state, and our schools right now, this is not something he plans to move forward with at this time
- He feels we have a commitment to our community to acknowledge our budget increases and this is an item that we can pass on this year

1. E2E Exchange, LLC, invoice.
2. John Hamilton, Fire Inspection, invoice.
3. CSI, Computer Systems Integrators, Inc., quotation.
4. CSI, Computer Systems Integrators, Inc., Master Support Services Agreement.
5. Tax Certiorari Settlement-55 Main Street Associates v. Town of Greenburgh.
6. Revenue Report for January 2021.
7. Expenditure Report for January 2021.
8. Amendment to Employment Agreement with Superintendent Dr. Henning-Piedmonte.
9. FMS Racial Equity Day, proposal.
10. SW Boces, Participation in Cooperative Bids.
11. Budget transfers.

12. Behavior Analysts of Oregon, contract.
13. Stipulation of Settlement.
14. Warrants.
15. 2021-2022 Quad school transportation, contract.

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the business items #'s 1-8 and 10-15.

Motion by Jeremy Arnon, second by Doug Sundheim.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: 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 items #9.

Motion by Jeremy Arnon, second by Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

No: Jeremy Galland

B. Placement and/or Services for CSE and CPSE

CSE: 11276, 7535, 7756, 9027, 7703, 7619, 11759

CPSE: 12073, 11856

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.

Motion by Silvia Robles, second by Alison Andrus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

C. Resolution for Participation in High-Risk Sports

Andrew Wendol presented the below resolution for approval from the board:

Hastings High School: Fall Sports Season II Sports of Varsity, JV, & Modified Volleyball & Varsity & Modified Football and Spring Season Sports of Varsity, JV, & Modified Boys Lacrosse for any student in grades 7 through 12

WHEREAS, Section I of the New York State Public High School Athletics Association (NYSPHSAA) has determined to commence the sport 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: Fall Sports Season II Sports of Varsity, JV, & Modified Volleyball & Varsity & Modified Football and Spring Season Sports of Varsity, JV, & Modified Boys Lacrosse for any student in grades 7 through 12 for any student in grades 7 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 sport 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 contain the inherent risk factors associated with participating in these sports and transmission of COVID-19; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent of Schools and the Athletic Director are currently obtaining COVID-19 rapid testing of student-athletes and coaches as an additional measure of COVID-19 Safety Protocols in these sports; 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 Arnon, second by Jeremy Galland.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

5. PERSONNEL

A. Appointments

1. Schedule B appointments as per attached spreadsheet. [SCHEDULE B REPORT FOR 2020-2021](#)
2. Debra DeAngelis, appoint to part-time position of school monitor, effective February 23, 2021.
3. Victoria Kelter, appoint to .8 Regular Substitute/Leave Replacement in Physical Education at Farragut Middle School effective February 23, 2021. Certifications held: Physical Education-Initial, Health Education-Supplementary.

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

Motion by Alison Andrus, second by Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

B. Amendments

1. Thomas Corveddu, rescind Teacher Aide Leave Replacement appointment, return to School Monitor position.
2. Jaime Bragg, Elementary 1-6 teacher at Hillside Elementary School, amend Salary Schedule from BA Step 3 to MA, Step 3, \$70,990 (pro-rated), effective March 1, 2021.
3. Lissette Aldebot, Per Diem Substitute teacher district-wide, amend appointment to Permanent Building Substitute teacher at Farragut Middle School effective February 23, 2021.

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

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

C. Leaves of Absence

1. Mark Richardson, Cleaner at Hastings High School has requested a leave of absence as follows: New York State COVID Paid Sick Leave (NYCPSL) January 4, 2021-January 15, 2021. He returned to work on January 25, 2021.
2. Susan Day, Secretary to School Principal at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: EPSLA November 9, 2020-November 20, 2020 and FMLA with pay November 23, 2020-December 18, 2020. She returned to work on December 21, 2020.
3. Kristin Scobie, Teacher Assistant at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: New York COVID Paid Sick Leave January 5, 2021-January 15, 2021. She returned to work on January 19, 2021.

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

Motion by Alison Andrus, second by Jeremy Arnon.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

D. Resignations

Jeremy Galland:

- Commented that we could have allowed the resigning teacher to read her letter, and we should have allowed her letter to be posted on our board agenda. He also stated that he knows this is not the consensus of the entity of the board of trustees.
1. Michael Cabrera, school monitor, end of employment, last day worked February 11, 2021.
 2. Adrian Forman, 1.0 ELA Regular Substitute/Leave Replacement at Farragut Middle School has informed us of her resignation effective March 5, 2021.

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

Motion by Jeremy Arnon, second by Doug Sundheim.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

E. [Tenure Recommendation](#)

1. Recommendation to approve tenure in the Special Education area for Gina Marie Bellavia, a Special Education teacher in Farragut Middle School, effective March 1, 2021. Certifications held: Students with Disabilities Grades 5-9 - Professional, Generalist in Middle Childhood Education Grades 5-9 - Professional.

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the following Tenure Recommendation.

Motion by Silvia Robles, second by Jeremy Arnon.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: 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

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

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Construction Project Update

Maureen Caraballo presented an update on construction at Hillside Elementary School to the Board. Mobilization of work took place over the winter break, including preparation and site clearing activities. This week the work will continue with rock chipping and removal, delivery of construction trailer and installation of temporary power, installation of gravel for roadway, and the continuation of electrical work.

[Click here to view presentation.](#)

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed 2021-2022 School Calendar

The District calendar for the 2021-2022 school year was presented to the Board.

- The board discussed the start of school dates and how to adjust the calendar in order to start after Labor day, if possible, as well as noting additional religious holiday's on our calendar to be inclusive

9. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Second Public Comment - NO COMMENTS

10. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

A. [Comments](#)

Lauren Berman:

- Commented that the positive changes - students choosing courses for next year, kindergarten registration, construction project underway and the new reopening committee make her optimistic.

Jeremy Galland:

- For the record he believes that at our prior meeting the board represented an opinion that was not accurate
- At our prior meeting we were going to be voting on a split spending plan and implied that we were following the appropriate path to move forward
- Based on recent emails from our council that was possibly a misrepresentation, and we were wise to push off voting on a \$24,900 RFP

Dr. Henning-Piedmonte:

- Clarified that there were two different proposals from one company, noted that we followed our district policy with regard to putting forth the proposal for the first part, and given the dollar amount it did not require an RFP
- The second part of the work had not started and there was no RFP issued for it because there was not even a proposal put forth to the Board, so there was no impropriety related to the second proposal

Lauren Berman:

- Believes that Valerie has clarified and the Board of Education did not take action on that item, the Board did not propose anything to the public and there was no motion to move forward with that proposal

Maureen Caraballo:

- Added that first part did not violate our policy which is why it was originally on our draft agenda, but it had been removed from the agenda by the time the meeting occurred

11. ADJOURNMENT

A. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Jeremy Arnon, second by Alison Andrus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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