

Hastings-on-Hudson Regular Board of Education Meeting (Wednesday, April 7, 2021)

Generated by Melissa DeLaBarrera on Friday, April 9, 2021

1. OPENING OF MEETING

Members present

Jeremy Galland, Lauren Berman, Silvia Robles, Alison Andrus

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

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

Motion by Alison Andrus, second by Jeremy Galland.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

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 all to the Board of Education meeting, announced that meeting was called to order previously at 6:30 PM when the Board went into Public Session.

C. Tenure Recommendations

Amy Cazes presented her tenure recommendations for the following candidates:

1. John DeKams: Recommendation to approve tenure in the area of Assistant Elementary School Principal for John DeKams, the Assistant Principal at Hillside Elementary School, effective July 1, 2021. Certifications held: School District Leader-Professional, School Building Leader-Professional, Students with Disabilities (Grades 1-6)-Professional.

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the tenure recommendation for John Dekams.

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

2. Nicole Josiger: Recommendation to approve tenure in the area of Reading for Nicole Josiger, Reading teacher at Hillside Elementary School, effective August 31, 2021. Certifications held: Literacy (Birth-Grade 6)-Professional and Literacy (Grades 5-12)-Professional. Childhood Education (Grades 1-6)-Professional, Students with Disabilities (Grades 1-6)-Professional.

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the tenure recommendation for Nicole Josiger.

Motion by Alison Andrus, second by Doug Sundheim.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

3. Kaitlyn O'Sullivan: Recommendation to approve tenure in the area of Elementary K-6 for Kaitlyn O'Sullivan, First Grade teacher at Hillside Elementary School, effective August 29, 2021. Certifications held: Early Childhood Education (Birth-Grade 2)-Professional, Childhood Education (Grades 1-6)-Professional, Students with Disabilities (Grades 1-6)-Professional.

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the tenure recommendation for Kaitlyn O'Sullivan.

Motion by Silvia Robles, second by Jodie Meyer.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

4. Michael Chappas: Recommendation to approve tenure in the area of Physical Education for Michael Chappas, a Physical Education teacher at Hillside Elementary School, effective August 31, 2021. Certification held: Physical Education-Professional.

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the tenure recommendation for Michael Chappas.

Motion by Doug Sundheim, second by Alison Andrus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

5. Elise Malone: Recommendation to approve tenure in the area of Elementary K-6 for Elise Malone, Kindergarten teacher at Hillside Elementary School, effective August 31, 2021. Certification held: Early Childhood Education (Birth-Grade 2)-Professional.

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the tenure recommendation for Elise Malone.

Motion by Jeremy Arnon, second by Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Laura Sullivan and Tesfa Stewart presented their tenure recommendations for the following candidates:

6. Dana Finsmith: Recommendation to approve tenure in the area of Special Education for Dana Finsmith, a Special Education teacher at Hillside Elementary School, effective August 29, 2021. Certifications held: Childhood Education (Grades 1-6)-Professional, Students with Disabilities (Grades 1-6)-Professional.

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the tenure recommendation for Dana Finsmith.

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

7. Meghan Reina: Recommendation to approve tenure in the area of Speech and Hearing for Meghan Reina, Speech and Language Pathologist at Hillside Elementary School and Farragut Elementary School, effective August 31, 2021. Certifications held: Speech and Language Disabilities-Professional, English to Speakers of Other Languages-Professional, French (Grades 7-12)-Professional.

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the tenure recommendation for Meghan Reina.

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

8. Carmella Tedeschi: Recommendation to approve tenure in the area of Special Education for Carmella Tedeschi, Special Education teacher at Hillside Elementary School effective August 29, 2021. Certifications held: Childhood Education (Grades 1-6)-Professional, Students with Disabilities (Grades 1-6)-Professional, Literacy (Birth-Grade 6)-Professional.

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the tenure recommendation for Carmella Tedeschi.

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

D. Announcements

Valerie Henning-Piedmonte:

- This afternoon Valerie, Tesfa Stewart, Melissa Szymanski and Jeanette Kocur met with a group of HS students as part of the Time to Talk About Racism series - the conversation focused on the anti-Asian and Asian American violence occurring in the country.
- Monday, April 12: First day of our all-in return to school, thanked all faculty, staff and Board of Education for their tremendous effort in making it possible to get every student back into the building.
- Monday, April 12: Board of Education Work Session - 5:30-7:30 PM
- Tuesday, April 13: HHS SEPTA Community Conversation - 6:30-7:30 PM
- Wednesday, April 14: Superintendent & PTSA/SEPTA Chat 4:30-5:30 PM
- Monday, April 19: Petitions nominating candidates for the Board and for budget propositions must be received by 5:00 PM by the District Clerk, Melissa DeLaBarrera

E. Administrative Comments

Melissa Szymanski:

- Congratulated Jasper Zimmerman, 8th grader at Farragut Middle School who has received an award of Honorable mention in the 2020 Student's Composer's Competition held by the National Association for Music Education for his composition for reed quintet, Swing State.
- Congratulated the approximately 125 instrumental music students in grades 7-12 and the Hastings High School and Farragut Middle School music department on the release of Safe and Sound virtual concert, featuring bands, orchestras, jazz, and more. It can be found on our homepage, under district announcements.
[Click here to view Safe and Sound virtual concert](#)

F. Student Report

Sabine Hinkaty:

- Peer Leadership and National Honor Society Application are due within the next week
- Spring sports have started informal workouts and their season officially begins in a few weeks

Sophia Mainiero:

- Busy past few weeks for seniors - this week is the last week college decisions are coming out
- Local scholarship applications for seniors have also opened
- Seniors are really excited for the first day of all-in, planning on wearing senior shirts to celebrate

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Public Comment

Susie Caramanica:

- Parent with a student in each of the buildings
- Commented on the budget and the discrepancies with the recommended number of sections for each of the grades for next year

3. BUSINESS

A. Business Items

1. IXL Learning, Math and ELA pilot licenses, quote.
2. Ron's Trucking Corp. for transportation of voting machines, estimate.
3. Appoint Election Inspectors for the May 18, 2021 Budget Vote and Board Elections: Bryan Healy as Chairperson, Kathleen Soderstrom, Linda Johnson, Christopher Costello, Patricia Speranza, Michael Goldberg and John Mondello.
4. County of Westchester, electronic voting machines and related services, agreement.

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

Motion by Silvia Robles, second by Jeremy Arnon.

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 CSE and CPSE

CSE: 11392, 11102, 11103, 11514, 11390, 11285

RESOLVED, that upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and the Committee on Special Education, the Board accepts the classifications and arrangements for the placement and/or services for the 2020-2021 school year.

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

4. PERSONNEL

A. Appointments

1. Schedule B appointments as per attached spreadsheet. [Schedule B spreadsheet](#)

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

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

B. Amendment

1. Gerard Marciano, English teacher at Hastings High School has amended his retirement date to be effective at the end of the business day on June 30, 2021.

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

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

C. Leaves of Absence

1. Andrea Bromberg, 1.0 FTE World Language teacher at Farragut Middle School, requested a leave of absence as follows: NYPSL March 9, 2021-March 16, 2021. She returned to work on March 17, 2021.
2. Yesenin Quinones, Monitor at Hillside Elementary School, requested a leave of absence as follows: NYPSL March 15, 2021-March 26, 2021. She returned to work on April 6, 2021 (after Spring Break).
3. Daniel Brownstein, 1.0 FTE Science teacher at Farragut Middle School, requests an amended leave of absence as follows: Medical Leave of Absence April 19, 2021-May 19, 2021. He will return to work on May 20, 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 Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

D. Termination

1. Thomas Jimenez, Junior Network Specialist district-wide, termination effective at the end of business day, March 26, 2021.

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

Motion by Doug Sundheim, second by Jeremy Galland.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

5. 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 Arnon.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Facilities

Maureen Caraballo provided a brief overview of Facilities meeting:

- Reviewed the Use of Facilities Policy, looking to make a recommendation to the policy committee to revise some language to identify priority groups
- Discussed summer work and space planning and the need to look at a 5 year planning for programmatic needs as well as items related to the capital project that will be shared during the Capital update

[Click here to view Facilities presentation](#)

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. 2021-2022 School Budget

Maureen Caraballo:

- Presented updates to the preliminary budget to the Board for consideration and discussion
- Reviewed the State Aid update - State budget approved 4/6/2021
 - State Aid for the 2021/2022 School Year will be approximately \$5,691,811 (reflecting an increase of \$466,811)
- In addition to the increase in State Aid there is also a Federal allocation (allocation amounts need to be verified)
- Provided the board with scenarios to consider for usage of the additional state aid
 - Scenario 1 - Decrease Appropriated Fund Balance
 - Scenario 2 - Decrease Tax Rate
 - Scenario 3 - Decrease Tax Rate & Fund Balance

[Video of Budget Presentation](#)

[Click here to view Budget Update slides](#)

B. Construction Project Update

Maureen Caraballo:

- Provided a brief update on the construction project at Hillside:
 - District to receive a credit on the cornice contract work of \$200,000
 - Cornice work to begin the end of school year
 - Hillside addition - rebar installation, concrete footings and foundations
 - Asbestos abatement completed

[Click here to view Construction Project Update](#)

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Policies First Read

Valerie Henning-Piedmonte:

- Gave a brief overview of the policies being presented for first read and went over the recommended changes
First Read:

0150 - Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Related Illnesses

0310 - Board Self-Evaluation

0320 - Evaluation of the Superintendent

0100 - Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination

8500 - School Food Service Program (Lunch and Breakfast)

9. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. Second Public Comment
- No public comment

10. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

A. Comments

Jodie Meyer:

- Wanted to speak earlier when there were more participants in reference to a letter that would be coming out in the Enterprise - will bring up at another time.

Lauren Berman:

- Shared her gratitude for the Administration, faculty and staff for all their efforts in preparation for All-In learning to begin April 12.

11. ADJOURNMENT

A. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

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