

Hastings-on-Hudson Regular Board of Education Meeting (Tuesday, April 20, 2021)

Generated by Melissa DeLaBarrera on Tuesday, April 27, 2021

Members present

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

Meeting called to order at 7:32 PM

1. OPENING OF MEETING

A. 5:00 PM - Call to Order - Expected motion to move into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

Called to order at 5:01 PM

Silvia Robles:

- Advised that there will only be five Board members present at this evening's Executive Session, therefore only requiring a quorum of three to move into Executive Session

Expected motion to move into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

Motion by Doug Sundheim, second by Alison Andrus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Doug Sundheim, Silvia Robles, Alison Andrus

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

Silvia Robles:

- Called the regular meeting to order at 7:33 PM and noted that Lauren Berman, would not be present.

C. Announcements

Valerie Henning-Piedmonte:

- Congratulated and thanked the students of Hastings who participated at Sunday's American and Pacific Island Vigil at Draper Park, in terms of the roles they played in organizing as well as speaking, helping to raise awareness around the issue of Anti-Asian/Asian American/Pacific Island Violence.

D. Administrative Comments

Melissa Szymanski

- Congratulated to Caleb Painter, who has been selected as a winner of the National Merit \$2500 Scholarship. Caleb will be attending Harvard University this fall.
- Has been working together with IXL, administrators, the department chairpersons, and teachers to develop a pilot program to explore IXL as a potential district-wide diagnostic screening tool. Having an articulated resource across the K-12 system would support tracking students across grades and buildings, while simultaneously strengthening our ability to support students with a resource that provides formative data and intervention/ extension learning activities.
- Writing: In the area of writing, the 3rd grade team has been working on creating teaching tools to support explicit writing instruction in any setting. The focus for recent work with the kindergarten team was on supporting writers to attend to letter-sound relationships, spelling patterns, and high frequency words as they add text to the page. Additionally, Gravity Goldberg recently met with Hillside writing committee members. This session focused on developing a common lens for looking at students' narrative writing and designing a common learning progression template. This template will be used for the purpose of understanding developmental progressions, identifying areas for student assessment, and determining next steps for differentiated instruction.
- K-12 Mathematics Committee: The recent work of the K-12 Mathematics Committee was centered on the creation of indicators that capture the group's shared vision around the nature of mathematics learning and instructional approaches to promote mathematics learning. The middle school resource selection work continues to be in motion and is being anchored by these indicators.

E. Student Report

Sabine Hinkaty:

- Varsity Swim and Volleyball have sectional playoffs this week, the first day of spring sports was yesterday
- The NHS and Amnesty International Spring Art Class is Thursday, April 29 at 7pm, student art will be auctioned off to raise money for a medical fund and information is in the Hasting's Daily
- Student perspectives on going back to in-person learning: many students found the first week to be gaining but at the same time happy to be in a more normal class dynamic

Jeremy Galland:

- Provided a brief update on the search for an interim Superintendent
 - The board is vetting recommendations from executive search firms who know our district from previous years, our Council and current administrators who are sharing possible candidates

- o Board is currently moving forward with four interested candidates, the first discussions will be happening later this week
- o Will continue to provide further updates as the search continues

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Public Comment

1. Lisa Eggert Litvin: Commented to ask the Board to consider making the Diversity Coordinator position full-time
2. Amy Nichols: Commented in favor of making the Diversity Coordinator position full-time
3. Caitlin Chang: Commented in favor of making the Diversity Coordinator position full-time
4. Cat McGrath: Commented in favor of advancing the role of Diversity Coordinator to full-time
5. Nanesha Nunez: Commented in support of making Diversity Coordinator position full-time
6. Lauren Jen: Sent in an email to be read to register support for increasing the Diversity Coordinator position to full-time
7. Michelle Veyvoda: Commented to advocate for the Diversity Coordinator position to be increased to full-time
8. Lara Weitzman: Commented in favor of making the Diversity Coordinator position full-time
9. Kalani Martial: Current senior at Hastings High School sent in an email to be read outlining the incredible work Ms. Jenice Mateo-Toledo has done as Diversity Coordinator

3. BUSINESS

A. Adoption of the 2021-2022 School Budget

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the board adopt the 2021-2022 school budget.

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

B. Business Items

1. Health services contract with Greenburgh Central School District.
2. Health services contract with Scarsdale Union Free School District.
3. Health services contract with Harrison Union Free School District.
4. Westchester Therapy Solutions.
5. Budget transfer.
6. Contract for educational services with Hendrick Hudson School.
7. Contract to provide educational services to Scarsdale Union Free School.
8. Horizon proposal.
9. Warrants.
10. Service pay, side letter.
11. HTA Coverage Assignment, side letter.
12. Hillside Elementary School Upgrades, change order 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

C. Placement and/or Services for CSE and CPSE

CPSE: 11934

CSE: 11161, 11298, 11526, 11218, 11101, 11924, 11895, 11393, 10886, 11725, 7703, 11923, 10444, 10359, 10534

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 Alison Andrus, second by Doug Sundheim.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

4. PERSONNEL

A. Appointments

1. Marisa Barbera, re-appoint to 1.0 FTE probationary Elementary K-6 teacher at Hillside Elementary School as call back from the Preferred Eligibility List, BA+20, Step 2, \$63,836, effective August 30, 2021. Probationary period: August 28, 2019-

June 18, 2020 and August 30, 2021-August 27, 2024. Tenure date: August 28, 2024. Certifications held: Early Childhood Education (Birth-Grade 2) - Initial, Childhood Education (Grades 1-6) - Initial.

2. Lori Dayton, re-appoint to Substitute Teacher Aide at Farragut Middle School effective April 21, 2021-June 25, 2021.
3. Schedule B appointment requests as per attached spreadsheet. ([Spreadsheet](#))
4. Matthew Williams, appoint to the position of School Monitor at Farragut Middle School, effective April 21, 2021-June 25, 2021.

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

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

B. Amendments

1. Trisha Scaringella, 1.0 FTE Elementary K-6 Regular Substitute/Leave Replacement at Hillside Elementary School, MA, Step 1, \$64,764 (pro-rated), amend her appointment to cover a leave of absence as follows: March 27, 2021-June 25, 2021.
2. Mariya Pushkantser, 1.0 FTE ELA Regular Substitute/Leave Replacement at Farragut Middle School, MA, Step 4, \$74,112 (pro-rated) rescind her resignation and amend her appointment to cover a leave of absence to extend through June 25, 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

C. Leaves of Absence

1. Joanna Barolas, 1.0 FTE Teacher Aide at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: FMLA with pay March 17, 2021-April 28, 2021. She will return to work on April 29, 2021.
2. Linda Tam, 1.0 FTE Elementary K-6 teacher at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: FMLA with pay March 6, 2021-April 13, 2021, FMLA without pay April 14, 2021-May 28, 2021 and Parental Leave May 13, 2021-June 25, 2021. She will return to work August 30, 2021 for the 2021-2022 school year.
3. Jennifer Bellas, School Counselor at Farragut Middle School, requested a leave of absence as follows: NYCPSL January 19, 2021-January 20, 2021. She returned to work on January 21, 2021.
4. Elyssa Bloom, Psychologist at Hillside Elementary School, requested a leave of absence as follows: NYCPSL April 6, 2021-April 9, 2021. She returned to work on April 12, 2021.
5. Michele Keefe, Office Assistant at Farragut Middle School requested a leave of absence as follows: NYCPSL March 17, 2021-March 19, 2021. She returned to work on March 22, 2021.
6. Jill Ochacher, Elementary K-6 teacher at Farragut Middle School, requested a leave of absence as follows: NYCPSL January 12, 2021-January 14, 2021. She returned to work on January 15, 2021.
7. Gina Kowalski, School Nurse at Hillside Elementary School, requested a leave of absence as follows: NYCPSL April 6, 2021-April 13, 2021. She returned to work on April 14, 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 Jodie Meyer.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

D. Resignations

1. John DeKams, Assistant Principal at Hillside Elementary School has provided notice of his resignation effective end of business on June 30, 2021.
2. Melissa DeLaBarrera, has provided notice of her resignation from the position of District Clerk effective July 9, 2021.
3. Tina Washington, school monitor at Farragut Middle School has provided notice of resignation effective April 2, 2021.

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

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

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 Jeremy Galland, second by Jodie Meyer.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. BOCES BOARD VOTE

1. SWBOCES election of member: John V. Filiberti.

RESOLVED, that upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the board vote to approve the candidate for the BOCES board.

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

B. BOCES BUDGET VOTE

1. SWBOCES 2021-2022 administrative budget \$12,280,511.

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the board vote on the BOCES 2021-2022 budget.

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

C. Revised 2021-2022 School Year Calendar

Valerie Henning-Piedmonte:

- Gave a brief overview of the revision to the 2021-2022 School Calendar
- June 25, 2022 has been made a Superintendent's Conference day

RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education vote to adopt the revised 2021-2022 school year calendar.

Motion by Jeremy Arnon, second by Doug Sundheim.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

No: Jeremy Galland

D. Community feedback about reducing physical distance in classrooms

Valerie Henning-Piedmonte:

- Presented a slide presentation outlining the feedback from the community regarding adjusting physical distancing from 6 feet to 3 feet and the use of barriers with the all in person learning model as part of the NYS Department of Health requirements
View presentation [here](#)

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Policies Second 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)

RESOLVED, that upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the policies presented.

Motion by Jodie Meyer, second by Doug Sundheim.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

8. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Second Public Comment

Kate Rhodes

- Commented on the need for additional math support at Hillside

9. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

A. Comments

- No comments from the board

10. ADJOURNMENT

A. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Doug Sundheim, second by Jeremy Arnon.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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