

Hastings-on-Hudson Regular Board of Education Meeting (Tuesday, May 4, 2021)

Generated by Melissa DeLaBarrera on Tuesday, May 4, 2021

Members present

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

Meeting called to order at 7:32 PM

1. BUDGET HEARING

A. Public Hearing on School Budget

Lisa Eggert Litvin:

- Commented regarding the changes in the budget from the budget presentation on April 12th to budget adoption that took place on April 20th, stated that there was no additional presentation on April 20th to review the changes and felt open meeting laws were being violated, asked for clarification as to the changes and the reasons for the changes

Maureen Caraballo:

- Provided a detailed overview as to what changes were made to the budget that was adopted on April 20th and noted that the changes were a result of the discussions and decisions made during the public work session

Lauren Berman & Jeremy Galland:

- Also noted that all discussions and decisions were made at the public work session and the changes reflected were a result of the open meeting discussion

A. Call to Order

B. Tenure Recommendations

1. Alison Guiney, recommendation to approve tenure in the School Psychologist Tenure area for Alison Guiney, School Psychologist district wide effective August 29, 2021. Certification held: School Psychologist - Permanent.
2. April Browne, recommendation to approve tenure in the Art tenure area for April Browne Art teacher at Hastings High School, effective August 31, 2021. Certification held: Visual Arts (Grades K-12) - Professional.
3. Stephanie Chalmers, recommendation to approve tenure in the World Language tenure area for Stephanie Chalmers, French teacher at Farragut Middle School and Hastings High School, effective August 31, 2021. Certifications held: French (Grades 7-12) - Initial.
4. Rebecca Mockler, recommendation to approve tenure in the Mathematics tenure area for Rebecca Mockler, Math teacher at Hastings High School effective August 31, 2021. Certification held: Mathematics (Grades 7-12) - Initial.
5. Tesfa Stewart, recommendation to approve tenure in the Assistant Director of Special Education tenure area for Tesfa Stewart, Assistant Director of Special Education effective August 31, 2021. Certifications held: Students with Disabilities (Grades 5-9), Generalist - Professional, School Building Leader - Professional, School District Leader - Professional, Generalist in Middle Childhood Education (Grades 5-9) - Professional.
6. Andrew Wendol, recommendation to approve tenure in the area of Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics for Andrew Wendol, Interim Director of Physical Education, Health and Athletics district-wide, effective July 1, 2021. Certifications held: School District Administrator-Permanent, Physical Education-Permanent, Health-Permanent.

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the tenure recommendation for Alison Guiney.

Motion by Jodie Meyer, second by Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the tenure recommendation for April Browne.

Motion by Doug Sundheim, second by Jodie Meyer.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the tenure recommendation for Stephanie Chalmers.

Motion by Jeremy Galland, second by Jodie Meyer.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the tenure recommendations for Rebecca Mockler.

Motion by Alison Andrus, second by Jeremy Galland.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Jodie Meyer, Doug Sundheim, Jeremy Galland, Lauren Berman, Silvia Robles, Alison Andrus
RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the tenure recommendation for Tesfa Stewart.

Motion by Doug Sundheim, second by Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Jodie Meyer, Doug Sundheim, Jeremy Galland, Lauren Berman, Silvia Robles, Alison Andrus
RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the tenure recommendation for Andrew Wendol.

Motion by Alison Andrus, second by Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

C. Announcements

Building Leaders presented results from Barrier Survey:

Lou Adipietro shared the following results for the High School - 54 respondents to the survey:

HHS	Keep barriers up until the end of the school year	12	22.22%
	Transition to removal of barriers over the course of the month of May	15	27.78%
	Remove all barriers immediately	27	50.00%

Jennifer Spirelli shared the following results for Farragut Middle School - 42 respondents to the survey:

FMS	Keep barriers up until the end of the school year	17	40.48%
	Transition to removal of barriers over the course of the month of May	4	9.52%
	Remove all barriers immediately	21	50.00%

Amy Cazes shared the following results for Hillside Elementary School - 56 respondents to the survey:

Hillside	Keep barriers up until the end of the school year	24	42.86%
	Transition to removal of barriers over the course of the month of May	10	17.86%
	Remove all barriers immediately	22	39.29%

Comments shared from the survey for Pro Barriers:

- Visual reminder
- Keep students in their own space
- Cough/sneeze

Comments shared from the survey for Anti- Barriers:

- Students can't see
- Classrooms are packed
- Ventilation
- Safety hazard
- Students don't like them

Reasons that this is a non-issue:

1. More classes are utilizing outdoor spaces
2. More HS students are vaccinated
3. More windows are open because weather is good; improved ventilation

Barrier Decision:

- All students will continue to have barriers in place when three feet of distance cannot be guaranteed. If three feet of distance is assured, teachers/students may take their barrier down for their class period. Students who are seated at desks where there is three feet of distance may still use a barrier, if desired.
- At Hillside, students will use barriers for lunch and snack.
- Our plan respects everyone, those that are least comfortable and those that are more comfortable.

Valerie Henning-Piedmonte:

- As of May 3rd there are 8 active cases of COVID in Hastings
- As of September:
 - FMS has had 17 students test positive and a total of 26 cases including teachers and staff
 - Hastings High School has had a total of 6 students test positive
 - Hillside Elementary has had 9 students test positive and a total 19 cases including teachers and staff
- 94% in-person attendance - since opening April 12 - we have had 2 positive cases (no students have tested positive)
- We have received 159 consent forms for surveillance testing which began yesterday, BINEX tests are being administered by nurses to 5% of students whose parents have submitted consent forms in each school

D. Administrative Comments

Melissa Szymanski:

- Congratulations to Kaylee Oppenheimer and Bryce Jacobs, who have been selected as finalists in the Regeneron International Science Engineering Fair competition.
- Congratulations to all involved with the Hastings High School production of All Shook Up. We are delighted that this was able to happen outdoors and live. Special thanks to Gerard Marciano, Laurie Walton, and Gillian Husovsky for the extra attention and efforts related to safety protocols, in addition to their incredible work with the production.
- Middle School Mathematics
 - Alongside the work of the K-12 Mathematics Committee, a number of us have been exploring mathematics resources in preparation for a pilot in grades 6-8 for the 21-22 school year. The indicators that were developed by the K-12 Mathematics Committee that articulate the group's shared vision for mathematics, are being used to anchor our middle school resource discussions. At our most recent session, participants worked within small group breakout rooms to identify evidence of the extent to which the resource aligned to the various indicators.
- Chair Council
 - The focus for the most recent Chair Council meeting centered on unpacking a Culturally Responsive Curriculum Scorecard, which will provide support to determine the extent to which resources are culturally responsive in relation to social justice orientation and representation.

Maureen Caraballo:

- American Rescue Plan
 - The federal government has allocated additional grant funding to K-12 public schools as part of its recently passed stimulus package, the American Rescue Plan. The District anticipates receiving an additional \$257,924 to be used over the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years. Naturally, there are parameters around how these additional funds may be used.
 - Based on the allowable use of funds, an allocation of \$51,585 will be earmarked to address the implementation of evidence-based interventions, spread out over the next two fiscal years. Melissa will be working with District leadership to provide recommendations on the types of programs that can be developed to support our students. The remaining funds will be allocated in line with the requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). As required under ESEA, the funds will be used to: (1) provide professional learning; (2) provide additional resources to support educational programs to create equal access to education; and (3) lessen achievement gaps between students.
 - Additional allocation of funds would include the recommendation to: (1) increase the release time for the District's Diversity Coordinator in order to support the professional learning for teachers district-wide, at a cost of approximately \$100,000 over the next two school years; and (2) increase the Math Interventionist position at Hillside by .2 FTE to support students' needs, at a cost of \$45,000. The remaining funds would be used to conduct a special education program review at Hillside as well as provide additional professional learning for our teachers district-wide.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Public Comment

Jennifer Destin:

- Congratulated Tesfa Stewart on receiving tenure, has worked with him as a district parent and in her role in SEPTA, described him as honorable, direct, collaborative and student-focused, stated that he is a model of what we want our district to look like and an asset

4. PRESENTATIONS

A. Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator

Presented by Jenice Mateo-Toledo and Melissa Szymanski

[View slide presentation here](#)

5. BUSINESS

A. Business Items

1. Collaborative Planning, Dr. Detra Price-Dennis, proposal.
2. Change order for Empire Energy.
3. Contract for Health Services with Dobbs Ferry UFSD for the 2020-21 school year.
4. PNW BOCES addendum.
5. Capital Market Agreement.
6. Contract for Health Services with Katonah-Lewisboro UFSD for the 2020-21 school year.
7. Warrants.
8. Stipulation of Settlement.
9. Revised side letter with HTA.
10. Approval of Accume's Internal Audit Extra Classroom Activity Funds report and responses.

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

B. WPSBA Budget and Nominating Committee Slate

1. WPSBA 2021-2022 Budget and Nominating Committee Slate vote.

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the WPSBA 2021-2022 Budget and Nominating Committee Slate.

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

Not Present at Vote: Jodie Meyer

C. Placement and/or Services for CSE and CPSE

CSE: 11601, 11138, 11511, 11876, 11429

CPSE: 12082

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 Jeremy Galland, second by Alison Andrus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Not Present at Vote: Jodie Meyer

6. PERSONNEL

A. Appointment

1. Andrew Mesquita, appoint to Per Diem substitute teacher district wide effective May 5, 2021 for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year.

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

Motion by Doug Sundheim, second by Jeremy Galland.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Not Present at Vote: Jodie Meyer

B. Amendment

1. Linda Tam, 1.0 FTE Elementary K-6 teacher at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence. The dates of her leave are corrected as follows: FMLA with pay March 6, 2021-April 13, 2021, FMLA without pay April 14, 2021-May 28, 2021 and Parental leave May 31, 2021-June 25, 2021. She will return to work August 30, 2021 for the 2021-2022 school year.

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

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

C. Leaves of Absence

1. Benjamin Vabner, School Monitor at Farragut Middle School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYCPSL April 9, 2021-April 16, 2021. He returned to work on April 19, 2021.
2. Janice Bochicchio, 1.0 FTE Elementary K-6 teacher at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYCPSL April 9, 2021-April 15, 2021. She returned to work on April 16, 2021.
3. Lori Mackay, 1.0 FTE Speech and Language Pathologist at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: FMLA with pay April 12, 2021-April 27, 2021. She returned to work on April 28, 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 Jodie Meyer.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

D. Resignations

1. Andrew Wendol, Interim Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics district-wide has provided notice of resignation from his Physical Education teaching position to accept the 1.0 FTE Director of Health, Physical and Athletics position effective June 30, 2021.

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

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

7. 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 Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

8. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Second Public Comment

Dr. Lang:

- Expressed appreciation for all the work Melissa Szymanski and Jenice Mateo-Toledo have done for the diversity, curious as to what plans are in place to integrate all the knowledge and experience from their work into the curriculum and culture of the school.

9. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

A. Comments

Jodie Meyer:

- Commented that it is a pleasure compared to years past when we could spend half an hour going over problems with the minutes
- Acknowledged and expressed appreciation for all the work of our educators especially during this past year that has been above and beyond.

Lauren Berman:

- Wanted to thank all the educators, personally and as a member of the board she wanted to express appreciation for all the work the educators have done this year in particular, keeping up with the challenges, their flexibility with all the changes, while attending to all the needs of our students. It has not been overlooked, all the work of all the educators throughout our three schools is appreciated.
- Reminded the community of the School Budget and Trustee vote on May 18th

10. ADJOURNMENT

A. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

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