

## Hastings-on-Hudson Regular Board of Education Meeting (Tuesday, May 25, 2021)

Generated by Melissa DeLaBarrera on Tuesday, May 25, 2021

### 1. OPENING OF MEETING

A. 6:00 PM - Call to Order - Expected motion to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing probationary personnel.

#### Members present

Jeremy Galland, Lauren Berman, Silvia Robles, Alison Andrus

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM

Expected motion to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing probationary personnel.

Motion by Alison Andrus, second by Silvia Robles.

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.

Meeting called to order at 7:38 PM

#### Members Present:

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

Jeremy Arnon (joined at 7:44 PM)

Jodie Meyer (joined at 8:27 PM)

Lauren Berman:

- Welcomed all to the May 25, 2021 Board of Education meeting, noted that the meeting had already been called to order at 6:00pm for Executive Session
- Recognized lifelong Hastings resident, John Gander who passed away on May 5th, he was elected to the Board of Education serving as both Vice President for two years and President for one year, the Board would like to recognize his service to the District and to pass along condolences to his loved ones

C. HEF Grant Awards

Michelle Greenwald and Kimberly Meisner, Co-Presidents of HEF presented the following eight grants:

For Hillside:

- \$5,500 for The Book Vending Machine, conceived by School Librarian Jamie Nedwick, School Counselor Juliann Snyder, and the Assistant Principal Mr. DeKams, which will be used across the whole school, and aligned with Hillside's literacy and diverse books goal.

For FMS:

- \$4,200 for The FMS Mural Project. Spearheaded by 5th grade teacher Jada Dickens and Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator Jenice Mateo-Toledo, this mural will build off of the recent successful high school mural project, with the goal of uniting the school community by designing a work of art that provides opportunities for collaboration and open discussions about diversity, equity, and inclusion, in addition to enhancing and beautifying the MS school building.
- \$4,953 for the Makerspace Rapid Prototyping Expansion (otherwise known as more 3-D printers). Technology teacher Louis Cooper will be expanding the capacity of the middle school's rapid prototyping capabilities with three additional 3-D printers, to serve all FMS students. We funded the first 3-D printer several years ago, and since then the program has dramatically expanded – additional printers will allow for efficiencies and student demand to meet supply.
- \$1,300 for a Sensory Lounge. Special Education teacher Kristen Kumar will create a dedicated sensory room for FMS, an inclusive environment for all students, but especially students with ADHD, autism, Down's Syndrome, and other learning differences, who need a space where they can have a sensory break in order to reset and return to schoolwork. We appreciate how this plan addresses equity and inclusion issues by allowing students to have individual needs met with minimal adjustments to the curriculum.

For Hastings High School:

- \$2,500 for the Latin American Film Festival. Spanish teacher Katie Paz will host a film festival designed to expose students, faculty, staff, and the community to Latin American culture as depicted in contemporary cinema. The district does not currently sponsor any language-based film festivals, and the hope is to open up the festival to additional languages following the inaugural first year.

For the DISTRICT:

- \$20,792.09 for Project Lead the Way. Assistant Superintendent Melissa Szymanski will be bringing in two exciting science courses through the program Project Lead the Way: a Design and Modeling course for the middle school, and an Engineering course at the high school level. These courses have been implemented in many neighboring districts; they are considered very high quality, and will dramatically increase the rigor and science offerings for Hastings students. Pending successful results, the goal is for the courses to become a supported part of the budget in years to come.
- \$7,350 for College Readiness & Educational Advocacy for students of color, all students from low-income families, and English language learners. Melissa Szymanski and Dr. Damaris-Lois Lang, Executive Director of P-CoC and brand new member of the BOE, will be collaborating to implement programming for many students in Hastings around college preparation and readiness. The grant funding will specifically support state exam preparation sessions for middle and high

school students, such as Regent's prep and SAT preparations; two laptops to conduct college readiness workshops, professional hour dialogue programs, virtual educational presentations, and software training sessions; and a modest honorarium for speakers. These programs will address important diversity and inclusion goals, as well as serving students who are financially under-resourced.

- \$11,000 for the Speaker Series: Diverse Voices, Diverse Paths. High School English Teacher Ross Abrams and Diversity Coordinator Jenice Mateo-Toledo look forward to continuing the successful Diverse Voices, Diverse Paths Speaker Series. This year, all of the speakers were embedded in each school's inaugural Racial Equity Days. The high school hosted Kevin Richardson, one of the Exonerated Five, and the middle school hosted Richard Blanco, who was President Obama's Inaugural Poet in 2013. At Hillside, they will be welcoming Dhamey Norgay, the youngest son of Tenzing Norgay, the first man to climb Mount Everest with Edmund Hillary. The feedback from students, staff, and the broader community has been incredibly positive, and the plan will be to incorporate speakers into next year's Racial Equity Days as well.

The total amount awarded for this year is \$57,595.09

#### D. Announcements

Valerie Henning-Piedmonte:

- Expressed her gratitude for Michelle and Kimberly and the Hastings Education Foundation for their service to the children through the granting of awards that help to support and advance the District's focus on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Congratulated Steven Lopez, recently tenured teacher on his Passion Project extravaganza
- Thanked High School administrative team and Nancy Gagliardi and everyone involved in yesterday's prom
- Reminded everyone that the next two Board meetings on June 7th and June 21st will be held in person in the High School auditorium
- Public Hearing on the Disbursement of the American Rescue Act Funds on June 7th at 7:00 PM
- At the June 21st meeting we will honor our retired professionals across the district, starting with a reception in the courtyard and then continuing the remainder of program in the auditorium

#### E. Administrative Comments

Melissa Szymanski:

- Over the past two weeks, Bryce Jacobs and Kaylee Oppenheimer have been competing and participating in the Regeneration International Science and Engineering Fair. This is only the third time Hastings has had students make it to the International Fair and the first time that a Hastings student has won an award at the fair. Bryce Jacobs placed 3rd in the Animal Science category and has won a \$1000 scholarship as his award. Congratulations!
- Congratulations to the music department for a wonderful Hastings High School spring concert. This was held outside at the Farragut Complex Playground and featured performances by High School Orchestra, High School Band, High School Chorus, High School Jazz Band, Madrigals, and District Steel Drums.
- Congratulations to our many high school Spanish and French students who participated in the recent passion projects evening. This special event provided the opportunity for students to share their joy, innovate, and inspire. Special thanks to Mr. Lopez and Ms. Aleiner for bringing this experience to life.
- The K-12 Mathematics Committee has been working together to create a rubric that will scale and further define the aspirational vision indicators the group created together. This rubric will support the vision to come to life in planning, lesson facilitation, and professional learning.
- Middle School Mathematics Resource Work: Members of the middle school faculty associated with mathematics instruction and members of the K-12 Mathematics Committee have continued to learn about mathematics resources to inform a pilot in grades 6-8 for the 2021-2022 school year. A decision will be made in June about the resource that will be purchased for the pilot. Professional learning to support implementation will take place in July.
- There has been a lot of energy around the mural painting that's been spearheaded by the Affinity Group, faculty members, students and administrators will take part in the group mural painting which will take place on June 2, 3 & 4th

#### F. Student Report

Sabine Hinkaty:

- Many high school students opting out of this year's Regents exam due to pandemic
- The Hastings High School Music Dept. had a very successful outdoor concert this past Friday
- Many students who visited the Passion Project exhibit given by the language department found the projects very interesting and enjoyed the wide range of topics presented
- Seniors had their last day of class on Friday and Prom was held last night

## 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

### A. Public Comment

- No public comment

## 3. BUSINESS

### A. Business Items

1. AP Psychology, purchase of new textbook: Myers' Psychology for the AP Course. Third Edition 2018, David G. Meyers; C. Nathan DeWall.
2. PBL Works - Project Slice Proposal.
3. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby certifies the results of the May 18, 2021 School Budget Vote & Trustee Election as set forth on the attached Official Tally of the 2021-2022 School Budget Vote and Board Trustee

Election. In accordance with these results, the Board of Education hereby certifies that Proposition 1 - Budget was approved and that Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris Lois Yamoah Lang and Doreen Bucher have been elected to serve on the Board of Education for three-year terms beginning on July 1, 2021.

OFFICIAL TALLY OF THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE & BOARD TRUSTEE ELECTION  
PROPOSITION NUMBER ONE – 2021-2022 BUDGET

Shall the Board of Education of the Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District, Town of Greenburgh, NY, be authorized to expend the sums set forth in the 2021-2022 Annual Budget in the total amount of \$52,823,911 and to levy the necessary tax therefore?

Yes: 711

No: 261

VOTE FOR UP TO THREE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (3-year terms ending 6/30/2024)

Alexander Dal Piaz - 628  
Damaris Lois Yamoah Lang - 567  
Doreen Bucher - 492  
Matthew Gordon - 488  
Steven Goldfinger - 329

4. Warrants.
5. Agreement with Omni.
6. Budget Transfers.
7. Grit Ninja contract.
8. Change order G1, Empire Energy.
9. SS/ELA Framework Proposal.
10. Expenditure Report for April 2021.
11. Revenue Report for April 2021.
12. 2020-2021 Westchester Therapy Solutions, Occupational, Physical, Speech/Language Therapy, PLLC, contract.
13. 2021-2022 Westchester Therapy Solutions, Occupational, Physical, Speech/Language Therapy, PLLC, contract.
14. 2021-2022 School Tax Warrant.
15. Memorandum of Agreement Between the Hastings Teachers Association and The Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District.
16. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education does hereby move to approve the following:

WHEREAS, the Ardsley Union Free School District ("Ardsley") has made available to public school districts located in Westchester County its Student Out-of-District and Summer Transportation through a provision in the bid specifications permitting "piggybacking" as well as a resolution of the Ardsley Board of Education authorizing participation in the Student Out-of-District and Summer Transportation on the same terms and conditions as the contract with Ardsley; and

WHEREAS, said transportation contract was bid in accordance with Education Law Section 305(14);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Hastings on Hudson Union Free School District determines that the contract cost for the Student Out-of-District and Summer Transportation is appropriate and will result in cost savings to the District; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education requests authorization from Ardsley to piggyback onto Ardsley's Student Out-of-District and Summer Transportation Contract with Royal Coach for the 2021-2022 school year on the same terms and conditions as the contract with Ardsley; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the Board President to execute a contract with Royal Coach as well as any documents and forms required by the New York State Education Department to facilitate approval of the contract.

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

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

## B. Placement and/or Services for CSE and CPSE

CSE: 11895, 8006, 10745, 6978

CPSE: 12091, 11897

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.

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

## 4. PERSONNEL

### A. Appointments

1. Lior Fishman, appoint to 1.0 FTE probationary Speech and Language Pathologist at Hillside Elementary School and Farragut Middle School, MA Step 3, \$70,990, effective August 30, 2021. Probationary period August 30, 2021-January 9, 2025. Tenure date: January 10, 2025. Certifications held: Speech and Language Disabilities-Initial.
2. Claire Lytton, appoint to 1.0 FTE probationary English Language Arts teacher at Farragut Elementary School, MA Step 4, \$74,112, effective August 30, 2021. Probationary period August 30, 2021-August 29, 2025. Tenure date August 30, 2025. Certification held: English Language Arts 7-12 - Initial.
3. Schedule B as per attached spreadsheet. ([SPREADSHEET](#))
4. Benjamin Ratzkin, appoint to School Monitor at Hillside Elementary School effective May 24, 2021.
5. Meredith Fichman, appoint to 1.0 FTE probationary Earth Science teacher at Farragut Middle School, MA+30, Step 5, \$83,452, effective August 30, 2021. Probationary period August 30, 2021-August 29, 2025. Tenure date: August 30, 2025. Certification held: Earth Science - Professional.

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

Motion by Alison Andrus, second by Doug Sundheim.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

### B. Leaves of Absence

1. Joanna Barolas, Teacher Aide at Farragut Middle School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYCPSL April 29, 2021-May 7, 2021. She returned to work on May 8, 2021.
2. Emily Isidori, Special Education teacher at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYCPSL May 10, 2021-May 11, 2021. She returned to work on May 12, 2021.
3. Lorraine Solaski, Art teacher at Hastings High School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYCPSL March 2, 2021-March 9, 2021. She returned to work on March 10, 2021.
4. Margie Tummolo, Monitor at Farragut Middle School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYCPSL April 12, 2021-April 16, 2021. She returned to work on April 28, 2021.
5. Michelle Castelluccio, Teacher Aide at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: FMLA with pay May 25, 2021-June 14, 2021. She will return to work on June 15, 2021.
6. Lisa Royce, Secretary to School Administrator has requested a leave of absence as follows: FMLA with pay February 15, 2021-May 7, 2021, NYCPSL February 22, 2021-March 5, 2021 and Medical leave of absence May 10, 2021-June 1, 2021. She will return to work on June 2, 2021.
7. Michelle Campbell, Elementary K-6 teacher at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYCPSL November 19, 2020-December 2, 2021. She returned to work on December 3, 2020.

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 Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

### C. Resignations

1. Shatty Katthi, school monitor, resignation, last day worked April 30, 2021.
2. Hope Clark, school monitor, resignation, last day worked April 28, 2021.
3. Jennifer Bellas, School Counselor at Farragut Middle School has provided notice of resignation effective end of business day, June 30, 2021.

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

Motion by Silvia Robles, second by Doug Sundheim.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: 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 Jeremy Galland, second by Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

## 6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### A. Policies First Read

Melissa Szymanski:

- Provided a brief overview of the policies being presented for the first read. The policies are being reviewed as a result of the NYSBBA Policy Audit, she highlighted the revisions and recommended changes to policies as per District Counsel.
  - Policy 1000 - Community Relations
  - Policy 1120 - School District Records
  - Policy 1222 - Booster Clubs
  - Policy 3230 - Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District Organization Chart (along with 3200 and 3240)
  - Policy 8130 - School Safety Plans and Teams

## 7. OLD BUSINESS

### A. Construction Project Update

Maureen Caraballo:

- Shared progress photos and a brief update of the Construction Project at Hillside - [click here to view slides](#)

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Disbursement of the American Rescue Act Funds

Melissa Szymanski and Maureen Caraballo gave a brief overview of Grants that have been awarded by the US Department of Education to the States in response to the pandemic, the latest being the American Rescue Plan Act. They explained the requirements, the Consultation and Collaboration process as well as the preliminary thinking for the disbursement of the funds.

[Click here to view slides](#)

### B. Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator and Use of the Remainder of the Grant Funds

Melissa Szymanski further explained the recommendations for the Disbursement of American Rescue Acts Funds:

- Increase the role of Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator position from a .6 to a 1.0 FTE position for the next two years
- Increase the Hillside mathematics interventionist position from a part-time to a full-time position
- An elementary special education program review at Hillside by Inclusive Schooling
- A public hearing at the June 7th Board of Education meeting at 7:00 PM is required to formalize this decision prior to submission to the State.

[The NYS Board of Regents Policy on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion  
ARP, ESSER, LEA Plans](#)

Jeremy Galland:

- Noted that although the Board was not voting on this at this time he wanted to express that he is not in agreement with recommendations presented for the disbursement of funds

## 9. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Second Public Comment

Alex Dal Piaz

- Commented on the Inclusive Schooling review at Hillside and Math Interventionist at Hillside, noting that adding a new administrative position means less money that can be spent on people who work most directly with students and potentially less money to be spent on other direct intervention

10. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

A. Comments

- No comments from the Board

11. ADJOURNMENT

A. Adjournment

A motion was made to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter, the Board will not be resuming the public session after the Executive Session.

Motion to go into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing a personnel matter.

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