

Hastings-on-Hudson Regular Board of Education Meeting (Monday, June 7, 2021)

Generated by Melissa DeLaBarrera on Tuesday, June 8, 2021

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1. OPENING OF MEETING - 6:00 PM

A. Expected motion for the Board to move into an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter (HAA & CSEA proposals)

Members Present:

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

Meeting called to order at 6:04 PM

Motion to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter (HAA & CSEA proposals).

Motion by Silvia Robles, second by Alison Andrus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

2. PUBLIC HEARING

A. American Rescue Act Funds Hearing at 7:00 PM

Melissa Szymanski

- Presented the plan for use of the ARP funds. ([Click here to view slideshow presentation](#))

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Susie Caramanica:

- From a process perspective, the survey that came out did not have a lot of description to vote on, the data is only based on what was asked.
- How does this address the loss the students had over the last year and half, funds should directly address students learning loss, not put towards Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator.

Laura Compagni:

- Included in Fridays' forum, appreciated the use of the survey, reiterated comments made at the forum by a Hillside faculty member indicated that some Hillside teachers do not support additional DEI funding.
- Asked could it have to do with the shift in the programming and the way we are addressing DEI.

Doreen Bucher:

- Agrees with what Susie and Laura commented when reviewing what is requested and required of money - doesn't believe we are addressing/prioritizing the mental health.
- Did anyone approach Jocelyn or Juliann regarding students returning to school to prioritize mental health?
- How is DEI position addressing the impact of the pandemic on students?

Alex Dal Piaz:

- One of the most important voices in the room brought up concern to be mental health, stress and anxiety, families moving, children changing schools, etc.
- We owe it to the community to have a plan to exit the pandemic.

Amanda Kupillas:

- Feels that a lot of parents didn't know this survey was out there and didn't understand the survey
- Parents didn't have opportunity to digest the information on the survey.
- District needs better communication with parents.

Caitlin Chang;

- Allocation of funds to those who have been most affected by the pandemic.
- Expanding position to 1.0, math intervention, learning loss and special education at Hillside - supports expansion of DEI position. FT Diversity and inclusion coordinator - all students will be dealing with tension and stress but need to consider the students who experienced this pre-covid.

Juliana Dal Piaz:

- Does not feel we need another administrative position to address diversity.
- More important to tackle mental health and learning loss.

3. PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING BEGINS

A. Call to Order at 7:30 PM

Members present:

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

Public portion of meeting called to order at 7:40 PM

B. Announcements

Valerie Henning Piedmonte:

- Reminder to parents who had their children vaccinated at Dobbs Ferry High School, 2nd vaccination date is Wednesday, June 9th.
- Thanked Maureen, Tech Team & Patrick Theodule for ensuring meetings are uploaded to the website and noted that tonight we are live streaming for the first time!
- Building Level School Re-opening teams will be reconvening to discuss relaxing mask requirements for outdoors, based on the Governor's latest orders. The final decision will be up to the district. Will enlist feedback from faculty and staff and will send out a survey to the community regarding the use of masks outdoors. With 3 weeks left of the school year, we don't want to do anything that will impact the end-of-the-year celebrations. Currently there is no change to indoor mask policy.
- National Honor Society Induction - Wednesday, June 9 - 4:00-5:00 PM, High School Auditorium
- Hastings High School Broadway Revue - Friday, June 11 - 7:00-8:00 PM
- Grit Ninja for 5th Grade - Tuesday, June 15th
- High School Science Symposium, Tuesday, June 15 - 7:00-9:00 PM, Playground/Stage Area (Rain Date: Wednesday, June 16)
- FMS Virtual Career Day, Wednesday, June 16 - 1:15-2:45 PM
- Policy Committee Meeting, Wednesday, June 16 - 3:00-4:00 PM
- Hillside 4th Grade Moving Up Ceremony, Thursday, June 17 - 10:00-12:00 PM, Reynolds Field
- Grade 8 Recognition Night, Thursday, June 17, 6:00-7:00 PM, Reynolds Field (Rain Date: Friday, June 18)

C. Administrative Comments

Maureen Caraballo:

- Noted that in addition to the American Rescue Plan, Melissa Szymanski will also be applying for the CRRSA Act on June 15th.

Lauren Berman:

- Expressed the Board's condolences for the family of Ellen Woods, former Buildings and Grounds office assistant who passed away on Friday, June 4th.

D. Student Report

- No student report

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Public Comment

Doreen Bucher:

- Commented regarding mask wearing outdoors, noted that a survey was sent regarding barriers, with the overwhelming response for no barriers, yet we still have barriers, despite community feedback and science.
- Feels that wearing masks outdoors in the summer can cause issues due to heat exhaustion, doesn't feel there is any reason for students to wear masks outdoors.

5. BUSINESS

A. Business Items

1. Recommendation: Appoint Maureen Caraballo as representative of the School District to serve on the SWSCHP Board of Governors.
2. The Learning Shop Inc., contract.
3. HTA of New York, Inc., contract.
4. ESU Events invoice for 4th grade and MS graduation.
5. ESU Events invoice for HS graduation.
6. Tax Certiorari Settlement-Sterling National Bank Astoria Federal Bank for the Assessment years 2016-2018.
7. Trade Services Bid Results.
8. Athletic Mergers, Girls & Boys Swimming, Ice Hockey-Letters of Intent.
9. H2M, change order certification, Empire Energy Specialists, Inc.
10. Buildings and Grounds Summer Help effective June 28, 2021 through August 31, 2021.
11. Stipulation of Settlement.
12. Zearn School Account & On-Demand Professional Development Agreement.
13. Pear Deck for District software license, quote.
14. Hillside Racial Equity Day, proposal.
15. Section 125 Plan, Memorandum of Agreement.

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

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

6. PERSONNEL

A. Appointments

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

2. Kenneth Cotrone, appoint to 1.0 probationary English Language Arts teacher at Farragut Middle School, DR, Step 2, \$83,700, effective August 30, 2021. Probationary period August 30, 2021-August 29, 2025. Tenure date: August 30, 2025. Certifications held: English 7-12 - Permanent, School Building Leader - Professional, School District Leader - Professional.
3. Christine Thomas, appoint to Per Diem Substitute teacher, district wide for the 2021-2022 school year.
4. Con Roche, appoint to Per Diem Substitute teacher district wide upon verification of fingerprint clearance.

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

Motion by Jeremy Galland, second by Alison Andrus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

B. Leaves of Absence

1. Maria Garcia, Cleaner, has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYCPSL May 12, 2021-May 25, 2021. She returned to work on May 26, 2021.
2. Michele Gentile, Teacher Aide at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYCPSL December 14, 2021-December 18, 2021. She returned to work on December 21, 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 Jeremy Arnon.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

C. Retirement

1. Naomi Gilbert, Visual Arts teacher at Hastings High School, has provided notification of resignation for the purpose of retirement effective July 1, 2021. (Enc)

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

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

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 Alison Andrus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. Construction Project Update

Maureen Caraballo:

- Provided a brief update with progress photos of the construction project at Hillside. ([Click here to view progress pic slides](#))

B. Policies Second Read

Melissa Szymanski:

- Provided a brief overview of the following policies that were presented for a 2nd read and adoption by the board.
- There was a question regarding the narrative for Policy 3230, as well as the chart itself, it was noted that the dotted lines delineate co-responsibilities.
- Policy 3240 is being reviewed by counsel to provide more language and provide a narrative to accompany the Organizational Chart in Policy 3230.
- Policy 3230, along with Policies 3240 and 3200 will be presented at the next board meeting.

Policy 1000 - Community Relations

Policy 1120 - School District Records

Policy 1222 - Booster Clubs

~~Policy 3230 - Hastings on Hudson Union Free School District Organization Chart~~ (TABLED FOR NEXT MEETING)

Policy 8130 - School Safety Plans and Teams

Resolved, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education adopt policies 1000, 1120, 1222 & 8130.

Motion by Doug Sundheim, second by Jeremy Arnon.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

BOARD COMMENTS REGARDING ARP FUNDS:

Alison Andrus:

- Feels we are much closer than we realize on how to use the funds, in terms of helping with learning loss and mediation, sees what parents and teachers have been asking for reflected in the recommendations.
- Noted that the Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator role ties in the mental health aspect for students' experiences during COVID which may be similar to the experiences of other students pre-COVID.
- Added that the state is requiring more diversity, civics and ethics work.

Doug Sundheim:

- Asked Melissa S. to discuss how the additional Coronavirus Response Relief Supplemental Act (CRRSA) Funds can be used, Melissa Szymanski provided the list of 20 allowable uses and noted that a Google form survey has been sent out with a link to the list.
- Supportive of the proposals put forth so far.
- Supports making the Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator a 1.0 position, and feels it is the board's responsibility to continue to ask for updates to look at the work that is being done.

Silvia Robles:

- Commented that social-emotional/mental health and learning loss are two major concerns that can also be covered under the CRRSA.
- Asked about the deadline to apply, Melissa Szymanski advised the deadline for ARP is July 1st and the deadline for CRRSA has been extended to July 15th.

Jodie Meyer:

- Supportive of the allocation of funds, expects that there will be a lot of push back from the community on this position.
- Feels Melissa Szymanski will be key in creating an understanding of how the Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator position will be implemented.

Lauren Berman:

- Supportive of the proposals for these particular funds, feels the Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator supports the social-emotional health of all children in the community.
- The NYS Regents has requirements for Diversity, Inclusion and Civics work, so this money provides us with the opportunity to make those changes and move forward.

Jeremy Galland:

- Expressed his disapproval of the three suggestions made for the use of funds, feels that it is being rushed with a 1 month timeline.
- The choices presented he finds uninspiring and does not support the way the funds are being spent.
- Feels the increase in the position and the inclusive schooling at Hillside will have negative effects.
- Addressed the growing budget and feels there has to be other ways to spend the money that helps the budget and helps the students.

Silvia Robles:

- Regarding the expansion of the Diversity position, she stated that she views it as a 2-year position and as an opportunity to see what can be done with that position.
- After 2 years the position will have to be reviewed to make sure that it is aligned with achievements.
- Feels the Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator should be viewed as a position we are trying to figure out, not a position that will automatically become a permanent position.

9. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Second Public Comment

Jennifer Ito:

- Commented on the large spike in anti-Asian sentiment and anti-Asian violence, which she feels was a direct result of the pandemic.
- In light of that feels the increase of the Diversity Inclusion Coordinator to 1.0 position will be important in helping to define what kind of community we want to build and work towards.
- Feels the increase in position will help address the social-emotional health of all students, those affected by the pandemic and experiencing learning loss.

Laura Compagni:

- Regarding Community feedback - nobody should be thought of as noise.

Doreen Bucher:

- Commented on the Diversity and Coordinator position - feels that it is solely being spoken about in terms of race and not LGBTQ+ or religions, we need to include those in the job description.

Alexander Dal Piaz:

- Commented that the elderly in the community feel they are being priced out of Hastings.
- Students need to get back together, so kids can be kids, he would like to have opportunities for children reflected in the money.

10. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

A. Comments

Jodie Meyer:

- Commented on Ellen Woods and all she did when she worked here. Expressed that she was a gift to our district and expressed her condolences for her family.

Silvia Robles:

- Commented on the loss of Ellen Woods as well and expressed her sincere condolences.

Jeremy Galland:

- Commented on the unmaking of students. Whatever gets decided for the last 15 days, he wanted to express that it was a huge success to have so much in-person learning in Hastings this year.

Lauren:

- Acknowledged that we are meeting in person for the first time this year, thanked the administration and community for all that was done to make that happen.

11. ADJOURNMENT

A. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

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