

Hastings-on-Hudson Regular Board of Education Meeting (Monday, June 21, 2021)

Generated by Melissa DeLaBarrera on Tuesday, June 22, 2021

Members present

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

Meeting called to order at 5:46 PM

1. OPENING OF MEETING - 5:45 PM

A. Call to Order at 5:45 PM - Expected motion to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a legal matter (Special Education Settlements)

Motion to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a legal matter (Special Education Settlements).

Motion by Alison Andrus, second by Jeremy Galland.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

2. PUBLIC PORTION OF MEETING - 7:30 PM

A. Call to Order

Lauren Berman:

- Called public portion of meeting to order, meeting was previously called to order at 5:45 PM for an Executive Session

Melissa Szymanski and Maureen Caraballo:

- Recognized Dr. Valerie Henning-Piedmonte on her retirement with the following [presentation](#)

B. Board of Education Recognition

Andrea Stewart-Cousins, New York State Senate Majority Leader:

- Presented a proclamation to non-returning board members, Jodie Meyer, Lauren Berman and Jeremy Arnon

Silvia Robles:

- Presented certificates on behalf of WPSPA and awards on behalf of Hastings-on-Hudson UFSD to non-returning board members, Jodie Meyer, Lauren Berman and Jeremy Arnon

C. Retirement Recognition

Retirement Recognition:

ADMINISTRATION

Valerie Henning-Piedmonte, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools, 2 Years

EDUCATORS

David Felberbaum, Elementary K-6 teacher, HES, 31 Years

Naomi Gilbert, Visual Arts at HHS, 22 1/2 Years

Sandy Lutzker, Speech and Language Pathologist, HES, 30 Years

TEACHER AIDES

Stephanie Hammond, Teacher Aide, HES, 20 Years

CUSTODIANS

George Giannone, Custodian, 23 1/2 Years

Juan Villamar, Custodian, 14 1/2 Years

Calvin Williams, Custodian, 20 1/2 Years

D. Tenure Recommendation

1. Melissa Szymanski, recommendation to approve tenure in the area of Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction district-wide effective June 30, 2021. Certifications held: School District Leader-Professional, School Building Leader-Professional, Pre-kindergarten, Kindergarten and Grades 1-6 - Permanent.

Jodie Meyer: Wanted to go on record noting that this decision was not a run around any process and it was made in the best interest for the district.

Alison Andrus: Important to show the board stands behind Melissa and the work she has done. She is highly organized, has obtained grants to offset costs and will provide stability for the district.

Jeremy Galland: As a board always positive, appreciates Melissa and the work she has done, will abstain from vote, does not believe in early tenure.

Jeremy Arnon: Will also abstain, as he was not a part of the discussions and does not believe in early tenure.

Doug Sundheim: Sees Melissa as a foundational piece to having stability within the district. Leadership has been impressive. Sees voting for early tenure as a vote of confidence. Supports the vote for early tenure.

Silvia Robles: Sees the immense progress made under her leadership in the district and appreciates it.

Lauren Berman: In 2018 the board could not agree on having this role at all. Fully supports the notion of providing early tenure. Addressed that there is no policy to take community input with regard to tenure.

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

Motion by Silvia Robles, second by Doug Sundheim.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Abstain: Jeremy Galland, Jeremy Arnon

E. Announcements

1. High School Graduation: Thursday, June 24 - 6:00 PM

F. Administrative Comments

Melissa Szymanski:

- Congratulations to our wonderful music department on their recent outdoor performances. Specifically, I would like to recognize the successful HHS concert in late May, and two recent, seamless middle school concerts. Thank you to our talented, dedicated musicians and to the department for persevering through the pandemic.

G. Student Report

Sophia Maniero:

- Academic challenge team won nationals for 4th year in a row
- Missed last meeting because she was at prom, was a beautiful day and thanked Mr. Adipietro for making it happen
- This is her last meeting - thanked the board for the opportunity and listening to everything that students have to say

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Public Comment

Doreen Bucher:

- Incoming board member, thanked the administration and the outgoing board members for their advice

Jennifer Destin, Barbara Rizzo, Melissa Sbrega, Kefira Wilderman:

- Emailed letter to the Board in support of tenure for Melissa Szymanski. Letter read during public comment by the District Clerk

4. BUSINESS

A. Business Items

1. Increase Non-Resident tuition rates for the 2021-2022 school year by 2.25%.
2020-2021 2021-2022
Grades K-6, \$19,017 Grades K-6, \$19,445
Grades 7-12, \$21,224 Grades 7-12, \$21,702
2. Be it resolved, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves to increase the balance of the RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTION RESERVE FUND, in an amount not to exceed \$700,000.
3. Be it resolved, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves to increase the balance of the LIABILITY RESERVE FUND, in an amount not to exceed \$550,000.
4. Be it resolved, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves to increase the balance of the TRS RETIREMENT RESERVE FUND, A SUB-RESERVE OF THE RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTION RESERVE FUND, in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.
5. Be it resolved, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves to increase the balance of the UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PAYMENT RESERVE FUND, in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.
6. Be it resolved, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves to increase the balance of the TAX CERTIORARI RESERVE FUND, in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.
7. Warrants.
8. Yonkers Public School, contract for Health Services.

9. Southern Westchester Schools Cooperative Self-Insured Plan for Workers Compensation-Municipal Cooperation Agreement.

10. Resolution,
WHEREAS, there is a "Southern Westchester Schools Cooperative Self Insurance Plan for Workers' Compensation" pursuant to Section 119-o of the General Municipal Law (hereinafter "the Plan"); and
WHEREAS, the Hastings on Hudson Union Free School District is eligible for membership in the Plan; and
WHEREAS, the Hastings on Hudson Union Free School District has elected, pursuant to Subdivision 3 of Section 50 of the Workers' Compensation Law, to become a self-insurer as to Workers' Compensation claims against this District; and that pursuant to subdivision 4-a of said Section 50 of the Workers' Compensation Law, notice of such election has been [shall be] filed with the Chairman of the Workers' Compensation Board, Self-Insurance Section; and
WHEREAS, the Board of Education has made an independent investigation of the Plan and reviewed the Plan Document – Municipal Cooperation Agreement, and has concluded that it would be in the interests of the Hastings on Hudson Union Free School District to participate therein; now therefore, be it
RESOLVED, that the Hastings on Hudson Union Free School District enter into membership in the Plan pursuant to Section 119-o of the General Municipal Law; and be it further
RESOLVED, that Maureen Caraballo be and hereby is authorized and instructed to execute the Plan Document – Municipal Cooperation Agreement on behalf of the Hastings on Hudson Union Free School District; and be it further
RESOLVED, that Maureen Caraballo, Business Official, be and hereby is designated to represent the Hastings on Hudson Union Free School District as its Trustee under the Plan and that Melissa Szymanski, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, be and hereby is designated to serve as Alternate Trustee under the Plan; and be it further
RESOLVED, that the custody of all joint Plan monies by a single fiscal officer under the Plan be and the same hereby is approved.

11. Commercial Instrumentation Services, Inc., proposal.

12. HTA Side Letter, Professional Development.

13. Ardsley Union Free School District, transportation contracts.

14. Royal Coach Lines, Inc., transportation contracts.

15. Academy Bus Company, Inc., transportation contracts.

16. Budget transfers.

17. Middle School Mathematics Curriculum Resource - Big Ideas, proposal.

18. Project Lead The Way program agreement.

19. Pacific Transglobal Construction Corp., sidewalk proposal.

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

Motion by Alison Andrus, second by Silvia Robles.

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

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:

CPSE: 12116

CSE: 11768, 9027, 11511, 11876, 11290

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 2021-2022 school year:

CPSE: 11806, 12116, 11825, 11733, 11782, 12091, 12083, 12084, 11915, 11907, 11897, 11934, 12077, 11856, 12029, 11900

CSE: 11239, 10725, 11734, 10972, 11166, 11498, 11098, 10829, 11768, 10863, 11127, 10824, 10539, 10129, 10489, 10123, 11148, 11094, 11561, 10816, 11601, 11289, 10936, 12049, 11713, 11058, 11725, 11284, 10950, 11876, 11406, 10937, 11647, 10926, 11059, 11060, 11177, 10912, 11898, 11050, 11466

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

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

5. DISTRICT APPOINTMENTS

A. Appointment of Interim Superintendent

1. Resolution appointing Melissa Szymanski as Interim Superintendent of Schools commencing July 1, 2021 until July 31, 2021.
2. Employment Agreement for Melissa Szymanski.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District hereby appoints Melissa Szymanski as Interim Superintendent of Schools effective July 1, 2021, subject to the terms of an Agreement for Interim Superintendent of Schools dated June 21, 2021; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves said Agreement for Interim Superintendent of Schools dated June 21, 2021 and hereby authorizes the President of the Board to execute same.

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools the board appoint Interim Superintendent of Schools and approve employment agreement.

Motion by Jodie Meyer, second by Alison Andrus.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

B. Appointment of Interim Superintendent

1. Resolution appointing Dr. William McKersie as Interim Superintendent of Schools commencing August 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.
2. Employment Agreement for Dr. William McKersie.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District hereby appoints Dr. William McKersie as Interim Superintendent for the period from August 1, 2021, through and including June 30, 2022, subject to the terms of an Agreement for Interim Superintendent dated June 21, 2021; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby approves said Agreement for Interim Superintendent dated June 21, 2021 and hereby authorizes President of the Board to execute same.

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools the board appoint Interim Superintendent of Schools and approve employment agreement.

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

6. PERSONNEL

A. Appointments

1. Matthew Adipietro, appoint to 1.0 FTE probationary Physical Education teacher at Farragut Middle School, effective August 30, 2021. BA, Step 6, \$71,877. Probationary period August 30, 2021-August 29, 2024. Tenure date: August 30, 2024. Certification held: Physical Education - Initial.
2. Victoria Kelter, appoint to .8 FTE Physical Education teacher at Farragut Middle School effective August 30, 2021 for the 2021-2022 school year, MA, Step 2, \$68,733 (pro-rated). Certifications held: Physical Education - Initial, Health Education - Supplementary.
3. Lorient Solaski, appoint to 1.0 FTE Visual Art leave replacement at Hastings High School, effective August 30, 2021 for the 2021-2022 school year, MA, Step 3, \$71,877. Certification held: Visual Arts - Initial.
4. Addition to Summer Help staff for Building and Grounds Department, Imron Mohamed Hatim, effective July 6, 2021 through August 31, 2021.
5. Michael LaRocco, appoint to 1.0 FTE probationary Assistant Principal at Hillside Elementary School, effective July 1, 2021. Elem AP, Step 18, \$125,946. Probationary period: July 1, 2021-June 30, 2025. Tenure date: July 1, 2025. Certifications: School Building Leader - Initial, Childhood Education (Grades 1-6) - Professional.
6. Jenna Ryan, appoint to 1.0 FTE probationary School Counselor at Farragut Middle School, effective August 30, 2021, MA Step 3, \$71,877. Probationary period: August 30, 2021-August 29, 2025. Tenure date: August 30, 2025. Certification held: School Counselor - Provisional.

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the appointment for Michael LaRocco, appointment #5.

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

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the appointments #'s 1-4 & 6.

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

B. Amendments

1. Lisette Aldebot, school monitor, resignation from position, last date worked February 12, 2021, to accept appointment to Permanent Building Substitute teacher at Farragut Middle School effective February 23, 2021.
2. Rescind the following School Monitor appointments, candidates never started position: Melanie Burton, Nyla Satchell, Rahmecca Simmons, Veronica Rodriguez.
3. Amend appointments from Temporary Teacher Aide to Teacher Aide, effective the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year, for the following: Juliana M. Alvim-DalPiaz, Christine Smith and Maria deFatima Cunha.
4. Michael Cabrera, school monitor, amend end of employment, last day worked February 11, 2021 to effective date of February 19, 2021.

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

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

C. Leaves of Absence

1. Michele Avila, Office Assistant Automated Systems at Farragut Middle School has requested a leave of absence as follows: FMLA with pay May 21, 2021-July 15, 2021, Parental Leave July 16, 2021-August 31, 2021. She will return to work on September 13, 2021.
2. Rebecca Mockler, Math teacher at Hastings High School has requested a leave of absence as follows: NYCPSL January 4, 2021-January 5, 2021. She returned to work on January 6, 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 Alison Andrus.

Final Resolution: Motion Failed

Not Present at Vote: 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 June 7, 2021.

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. American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) Funds and Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) Funds

Maureen Caraballo and Melissa Szymanski:

- Gave a brief overview of the preliminary thinking for the use of the CRRSA Funds and a presentation on the Plan for the Disbursement of the American Rescue Plan Act Funds was shared with the Board with the finalization of the plan taking place. The final due date to the New York State Education Department for the plan is July 1st.

[Plan for Use of ARP Funds Presentation](#)
[CRRSA Funds Presentation](#)

B. Construction Project Update

Maureen Caraballo:

- Shared a construction update for the Hillside Addition with the Board. Construction of the pergola foundation began with formwork, rebar, and pouring of back pergola footings, retaining walls, and piers. The welding of the new gas pipe along existing building was completed. The creation of wall pockets in order to expose existing structural steel members in existing hallway took place. The crane has been mobilized to erect steel structures.

[Hillside Additional Progress Presentation](#)

C. Policies Second Read

Policies presented for Second Read:

Policy 3230 - Organization Chart

Policy 3240 - Administrative Organization, Operation and Line and Staff Responsibility

Resolved, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education adopt policies.

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

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Organizational Meeting

1. Annual Organizational Meeting Date of Monday, July 12, 2021 at 12:00 PM.

B. Board of Education Meeting Dates 2021-2022

1. Recommended Board of Education Meeting Dates 2021-2022 school year. ([Board of Education Meeting Dates](#))

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the meeting dates for the 2021-2022 school year.

Motion by Alison Andrus, second by Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

10. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Second Public Comment

Dorothy Neagle:

- Commented in favor of the work being done by Janice Mateo-Toledo

11. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

A. Comments

Jeremy Galland:

- Unprecedented to have 3 strong board members leave at the same time, thanked fellow board members

Jodie Meyer:

- Apologized to Patrick Theodule for not giving him a shoutout earlier during her speech, thanked him

Doug Sundheim:

- Thanked Lauren for service as president, expressed his appreciation for her job in that role, thanked Jeremy Arnon for stepping and for his service and finally thanked Jodie Meyer for her many years of service on the board.

Alison Andrus:

- Commented how lovely the meeting was acknowledging all retirees. Favorite part of being on the board is being on the Student Union committee, likes to hear student perspectives and what is on their minds, appreciates Sophia Maniero's role as student liaison. Expressed how she will miss the 3 leaving board members for their various perspectives and thanked them for their time on the board.

Silvia Robles:

- Thank you to Jeremy Arnon for always getting down to business, efficient board member, Jodie Meyer - the heart of the board, Lauren - prepared, composed, sets an exceptionally high standard. Integrity, hard work and focus on the best interest of the district.

Jodie Meyer:

- Thanked all for their kind words and thanked Valerie Henning Piedmonte for all her heart and soul that she put into the district. Very moving evening honoring all retirees.

Jeremy Arnon:

- Jodie 13 years is unbelievable. Thanked Silvia and Lauren for stepping up knowing it was going to be a difficult year. Appreciates them taking the lead.

Doug Sundheim:

- Thanked Valerie for her effort and grace.

12. ADJOURNMENT

A. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Doug Sundheim, second by Jodie Meyer.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

