

**Hastings-on-Hudson
Regular Board of Education Meeting
Tuesday, March 5, 2024**

Members present

Silvia Robles
Alexander Dal Piaz
Damaris-Lois Lang
Doreen Bucher
Maureen Lennon-Santana
Jodie Meyer
Theresa McCaffrey

1. OPENING OF MEETING

A. [Call to Order](#)

- Meeting called to order at 6:07 pm
- Dr. Lang arrived at 6:10 pm

C. [Tenure Recommendation](#)

1. Kenneth Cotrone, Ed.D. Recommendation to approve tenure in the area of English 7-12 for Kenneth Cotrone, Ed.D., English Language Arts teacher at Farragut Middle School, effective March 10, 2024. Certifications held: English 7-12 - Permanent, School District Leader - Professional, School Building Leader - Professional.

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

Motion by Theresa McCaffrey, second by Doreen Bucher.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Silvia Robles, Alexander Dal Piaz, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana, Jodie Meyer, Theresa McCaffrey

2. STUDENT REPORT

A. [Student Report](#)

Presented by Elianna Carvalho and Kai Dirksen, Student Liaisons

- [Click here to view written Student Report](#)

3. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

A. [Update & District Highlights](#)

Presented by William McKersie, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools

- [Click here to view written Superintendent Report](#)

4. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. [Report from Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction](#)

Presented by Melissa Szymanski, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction

Hillside Literacy Program

On Wednesday, January 31st, a dedicated team of Hillside educators hosted a parent presentation focused on the Hillside Literacy Program. Given the recent Science of Reading momentum at the State level, we thought it would be helpful and timely to educate families about our literacy program; including how we facilitate instruction at the elementary level, particularly for early and emergent readers, the ways in which we differentiate our instruction, and our assessment methodologies. Please find the presentation slide deck [here](#).

Courageous Conversations

We have begun a review the Courageous Conversations Curriculum at the middle school. Indicators that are being used in the review process have been taken from the Learning for Justice framework. Four of the areas that we are working to code in our Hastings curriculum through the inquiry process are aligned to social justice indicators: 1) identity, 2) diversity, 3) justice and 4) action. Our coding process is also taking into account the extent to which key topic areas are being addressed in our current lessons, including 1) race, 2) ethnicity, 3) religion, 4) ability, 5) class, 6) immigration, 7) gender, 8) sexuality, 9) bullying, 10) bias, 11) rights, and 12) activism. The initial purpose of our inquiry work is to better understand the current curriculum and the progression of learning across the grades through these lenses. Once the inquiry has been completed, we will work with teachers to recommend revisions and enhancements.

Tri-State Revisit: Systemic Collaboration

Next week, a subset of the regional colleagues who participated in our initial March 2022 Tri-State visit on systemic collaboration will be joining us for a follow-up visit. This revisit has allowed us to reflect upon the progress we have made as it relates to specific recommendations the initial Tri-State team provided. Our regional thought partners will respond to what we share during the revisit with their impressions. We have been working with a Hastings revisit committee who will join the virtual revisit process the morning of February 13th. Our revisit will include a district presentation, probing questions, a consultancy where the visiting team talks about us as we listen, and a debrief.

Professional Learning Committee

The Professional Learning Committee continues to craft the 2024-2025 Professional Development Plan. This group has also begun designing for next year's Superintendent's Conference Days.

POHL: SS Inquiry

The social studies department is working to augment the use of AI to enhance authentic, interdisciplinary learning opportunities for students. Leslie Accardo and Kelly Nocca, our external consultants from Model Schools, attended our inquiry session with the social studies department to support our efforts.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. [Public Comment](#)

1. Andy Zimmerman - 7 Ridge Street - against any proposed cuts to the music program.
2. Patryk Rebisz - 137 Southland Avenue - against the inclusion of gender lessons at Hillside
3. Laura Heisler Mitton - 45 Chestnut Drive - in favor of the inclusion of gender lessons within the district.

6. PRESENTATIONS

A. [Initial Budget Presentation](#)

Maureen Caraballo, Business Official and William McKersie, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools presented the 2024-2025 Initial Budget Presentation to the Board.

[Click here to view slide presentation](#)

[Click here to view video presentation and discussion](#)

B. [Academic Growth and Performance Update](#)

Melissa Szymanski, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction presented the Academic Growth and Performance Update to the Board.

[Click here to view slide presentation](#)

[Click here to view video presentation and discussion](#)

7. BUSINESS

A. [Business Items](#)

1. Approve the use of tax certiorari reserve to increase the budget in the amount of \$3,297.21.
2. The Devereux Foundation dba Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health, contract for the 2023-2024 school year.
3. Mahopac Central School District, Contract Amendment for the 2023-2024 school year.
4. Con-Tech Construction Technology, Inc. Proposal, emergency water line repair at Hillside Elementary School.
5. December 2023 Revenue and Expenditure reports.
6. Multiflex Learning Services, LLC, contract for reading services.
7. Stipulation of Settlement.
8. Star Interpreting & Translating, Inc., interpreter services for state exams, proposal.
9. Stipulation of Settlement.
10. Approve the use of Reserve for Liability Claims, to increase the budget in the amount of \$165,000 for Special Education Settlements.
11. Ron's Trucking Corp., Transport of Voting Machines for School Budget Vote & Election on May 21, 2024, estimate.
12. Vanezza Cruz, Visiting Artist invoice for art show.
13. Folklore Urbano NYC, 2024 Cumbia for Kids Residency - Farragut Middle School, invoice.
14. Appoint Election Inspectors for the May 21, 2024, Budget Vote and Board Elections: Kathleen Soderstrom as Chairperson, David Agosto, Brian Allen, Christopher Costello, Linda Johnson, Richard Martin, John Mondello, and Con Roche.
15. Appoint Board of Registrars for April 24, 2024 and May 15, 2024, in-person registration: Kathy Soderstrom, David Agosto, Brian Allen, Linda Johnson, Richard Martin, John Mondello and Con Roche.
16. Lou Del Bianco, "Out of Rushmore's Shadow" program, invoice.
17. County of Westchester, electronic voting machines and related services, agreement.
18. WHEREAS it is the desire of the Southern Westchester Board of Cooperative Educational Services to allow any officer, board, or agency of a political subdivision or of any district therein, adopting this Resolution to bid jointly in those supplies, commodities, materials, and equipment set forth below.
Now, therefore, be it RESOLVED that the Hastings on Hudson School District agrees to participate with other school districts of the Southern Westchester Board of Educational Services, Westchester County, New York adopting this in the joint bidding as attached. (Enc)
19. Dr. TJC Consulting, LLC., contract for Heggerty Phonemic Awareness Curriculum session.
20. Warrants.
21. Educational Data Services, Inc., 2024-2025 fees.
22. Boces Broome-Tioga cross contract for Board Docs 2024-2025 services.
23. January 2024 Revenue and Expenditure reports.
24. Con-Tech Construction Technology, Inc. Proposal, emergency sewer drain repair.
25. Budget Transfer.

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

Motion by Silvia Robles, second by Damaris-Lois Lang.
Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Silvia Robles, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana, Jodie Meyer, Theresa McCaffrey

B. [Placement and/or Service 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 2023-2024 school year:

CSE: 12656, 10590, 12728, 10936, 11856, 12517, 9027

CPSE: 12354, 12754

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 Damaris-Lois Lang, second by Maureen Lennon-Santana.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Silvia Robles, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana, Jodie Meyer, Theresa McCaffrey

8. PERSONNEL (CONSENT AGENDA)

A. [Approve Consent Agenda](#)

Resolution: RESOLVED, to approve agenda items 8B through 8F as contained on the Consent Agenda for this meeting.

RESOLVED, to approve agenda items 8B through 8F as contained on the Consent Agenda for this meeting.

Motion by Silvia Robles, second by Damaris-Lois Lang.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Silvia Robles, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana, Jodie Meyer, Theresa McCaffrey

B. Appointments

1. Schedule B requests as per attached spreadsheet. ([Enc](#))
2. William Walls, appoint to Student Observer in Social Studies for 10 hours in March, 2024. He will observe 5 hours in Farragut Middle School and 5 hours in Hastings High School.
3. Hank Gilman returning substitute effective February 26, 2024 for the 2023-2024 school year.
4. Alyssa Santiago, appoint to position of Hearing Officer Coordinator for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year.

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

Motion by Silvia Robles, second by Damaris-Lois Lang.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Silvia Robles, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana, Jodie Meyer, Theresa McCaffrey

C. Amendments

1. Patrick Doyle, Social Studies Regular Substitute teacher at Farragut, amend appointment date of his Regular Substitute position to February 5, 2024-March 21, 2024. He will remain as Per Diem substitute teacher afterward until the end of the 2023-2024 school year.

2. Andrew Mesquita, Permanent Building substitute, amend appointment to Student Teacher effective January 24, 2024-May 14, 2024.

3. Alyssa Santiago, Teacher Aide, amend appointment to Column IA, Step 7 effective March 6, 2024.

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

Motion by Silvia Robles, second by Damaris-Lois Lang.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Silvia Robles, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana, Jodie Meyer, Theresa McCaffrey

D. Leave of absence

1. Devita Cruz, Social Studies teacher at Farragut Middle School has requested a leave of absence as follows: FMLA with pay February 1, 2024-March 13, 2024, FMLA without pay March 14, 2024-March 20, 2024. She will return to work on March 21, 2024.

Resolution: RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the following leaves of absence.

Motion by Silvia Robles, second by Damaris-Lois Lang.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Silvia Robles, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana, Jodie Meyer, Theresa McCaffrey

E. Terminations

1. Alana Galasso, School Monitor, has been terminated effective end of business day February 9, 2024.

Resolution: RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the termination.

Motion by Silvia Robles, second by Damaris-Lois Lang.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Silvia Robles, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana, Jodie Meyer, Theresa McCaffrey

F. Resignations

1. Malik Smith, Teacher Aide at Farragut Middle School has provided notice of resignation effective March 8, 2024.

Resolution: RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accept the resignation.

Motion by Silvia Robles, second by Damaris-Lois Lang.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Silvia Robles, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana, Jodie Meyer, Theresa McCaffrey

9. MINUTES

A. [Approval of Minutes](#)

1. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 23, 2024.
2. Approval of Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of January 30, 2024.

RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 23, 2024 and the Special Board Meeting of January 30, 2024.

Motion by Jodie Meyer, second by Doreen Bucher.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Silvia Robles, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana, Jodie Meyer, Theresa McCaffrey

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. [Facilities](#)

[Click here to view Facilities Committee Meeting Minutes 2.12.24](#)

11. POLICIES

A. [First Read](#)

Policies presented for First Read:

1. Policy 6700 - Purchasing
2. 6700-R - Purchasing Regulation

12. OLD BUSINESS

A. [Adopt 2024-25 School Year Calendar](#)

After a brief discussion, the Board voted to adopt the recommended 2024-2025 School Year Calendar.

[Click here to view the 2024-25 School Year Calendar](#)

RESOLVED, to approve agenda items 8B through 8F as contained on the Consent Agenda for this meeting.

Motion by Damaris-Lois Lang, second by Maureen Lennon-Santana.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Silvia Robles, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana, Jodie Meyer, Theresa McCaffrey

13. NEW BUSINESS

A. [Unused Inclement Weather Days 2023-2024](#)

The Board discussed the recommended three Give-Back Days for unused inclement weather. The recommended days were as follows: Day 1: Friday, May 24, 2024, Day 2: Tuesday, May 27, 2024 and Day 3: Wednesday, June 26, 2024. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed to prioritize May 28th as the first day to subtract from the plan should we need to use any additional inclement weather days.

[Click here to view the Proposed Give-Back Days memo](#)

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the following three (3) give-back emergency closure days.

Motion by Silvia Robles, second by Doreen Bucher.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Silvia Robles, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana, Jodie Meyer, Theresa McCaffrey

B. [DEI Initiatives](#)

Dr. Lang shared a statement about DEI work in the District

[Click here to view DEI Framework statement prepared by Dr. Lang](#)
[Click here to view video statement and discussion](#)

14. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT

A. [Second Public Comment](#)

15. AGENDA REVIEW

A. [Agenda Review](#)

March 19th

- Executive Session (5:30-6:30)
- Non-Instructional Budget Presentation
- Possible student sharing

16. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

A. [Comments](#)

Maureen Lennon-Santanta mentioned a HHS Sophomore was hit by a car and asked that they be kept in everyone's prayers.

17. ADJOURNMENT

A. [Adjournment](#)

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Jodie Meyer, second by Maureen Lennon-Santana.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Silvia Robles, Alexander Dal Piaz, Damaris-Lois Lang, Doreen Bucher, Maureen Lennon-Santana, Jodie Meyer, Theresa McCaffrey

Melissa DeLaBarrera

**Submitted by:
Melissa DeLaBarrera
District Clerk**