

**Hastings-on-Hudson
Regular Board of Education Meeting
Tuesday, March 19, 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](#) at 5:30 PM - it is expected that a motion will be made to move into Executive Session to discuss: 1) Collective Bargaining; 2) A Confidential Personnel Matter.

- Meeting called to order at 5:36 PM by Alex DalPiaz

Motion to move into Executive Session to discuss: 1) Collective Bargaining; 2) A Confidential Personnel Matter.

Motion by Maureen Lennon-Santana, second by Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

2. PRESENTATIONS

A. [2024-2025 Budget Overview](#)

Maureen Caraballo, Business Official presented the Instructional Budget Overview to the Board

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

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. [Public Comment](#)

1. Andy Zimmerman, residing at 7 Ridge Street, expressed concerns about the cuts in the music department and noted the elimination of music classes in the middle school.
2. Risa Kaufman, residing at 121 Euclid Avenue, expressed appreciation for the budget development process while voicing concerns about the proposed elimination of the music teaching position.

4. STUDENT REPORT

A. [Student Report](#)

Presented by Elianna Carvalho, Student Liaison

- [Click here to view student report](#)

5. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

A. [Update & District Highlights](#)

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

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

6. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

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

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

Tri-State Revisit: Systemic Collaboration

Last week, a number of staff from across the district participated in a revisit to our March, 2022 Tri-State visit on "Systemic Collaboration to Ensure a Professional Community for Student Success." During this revisit, we presented the progress we made with the recommendations related to three key essential questions:

1. *To what extent, and in what areas, does the district have clear and well understood protocols for systemic communication in service to a professional community for teachers and staff?*
2. *To what extent are stakeholder roles and responsibilities understood and adhered to in service to a professional community for teachers and staff, a shared vision and environment for change, and parent and community support?*
3. *How might we strengthen protocols, structures and norms to enhance intradistrict collaboration in service to a professional community for teachers and staff?*

The revisit team posed clarifying and probing questions for our consideration, as well as key follow-up recommendations to consider as we engage in the next level of work.

NYSED Desk Monitoring Review

We are delighted to share that we completed the process of compiling the evidence required for our NYSED desk monitoring review. Data was submitted to the State last week.

Courageous Conversations

Courageous Conversations inquiry work is ongoing. As a reminder, 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 has been 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 to support a shift from racial literacy to cultural competence.

Chair Council

At our recent Chair Council meeting, department chairpersons finalized differentiated processes for completing and documenting inquiry work with their departments that include attention to the standards and the POHL goal of authentic learning. This work is now in process.

Professional Learning Committee

The Professional Learning Committee finalized recommendations for the 2024-2025 Professional Development Plan. The final draft will be reviewed at the next committee meeting and added to an upcoming Board of Education meeting agenda before submitting to the State. The committee will now shift to designing Superintendent’s Conference Days for the upcoming school year.

7. BUSINESS

A. [Business Items](#)

1. Warrants.
2. Pearl Observatory, invoice for Telescope Night at Hillside Elementary.
3. White Plains City School District, Contract for Health Services.

4. Katonah-Lewisboro Union Free School District, Contract for Health Services.
5. Broadway Training Center, invoice for set rental, Spring 2024 show.
6. DB Productions Costumes Rental Agreement, costume rental for Urinetown.
7. Eastchester Union Free School District, Contract for Health Services.
8. Greenburgh Central School District, Contract for Health Services.
9. Penelope Margeotes, invoice for Urinetown Costumer.
10. Tax Certiorari Settlement - Hastings Center Realty LLC. for the Assessment years 2021-2022.
11. Approve the use of tax certiorari reserve to increase the budget in the amount of \$45,126.43.
12. Barton & Loguidice, Proposal for Professional Engineering Services - Burke Fields.
13. John Barnas, invoice, musician for High School musical.
14. Riley Palmer, invoice, musician for High School musical.
15. Michael Rubino, invoice, musician for High School musical.
16. Andrew Viverito, invoice, musician for High School musical.
17. Educational Data Services, Inc., invoice for Time and Materials Bids.
18. Stipulation of Agreement.
19. Hastings Administrators Association Retirement Incentive side letter.
20. CSEA Hastings Custodial Unit Retirement Incentive side letter.
21. CSEA Hastings Association of Office and Auxiliary Personnel Retirement Incentive side letter.
22. Hastings Teachers Association Retirement Incentive side letter.

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

Motion by Jodie Meyer, 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](#)

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:

CPSE:

CSE: 10725, 11860, 11111, 11733, 10852, 11378, 12083, 12369, 12680, 10182, 12362, 12590

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 2024-2025 school year:

CPSE:

CSE: 10464

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 Maureen Lennon-Santana, 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

8. PERSONNEL (CONSENT AGENDA)

A. [Approve Consent Agenda](#)

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

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

Motion by Doreen Bucher, second by Theresa McCaffrey.

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. Cherry Byrd, re-appoint to position of School Monitor, effective March 12, 2024.
2. Lucy Corrigan, appoint to Per Diem substitute teacher district wide effective March 20, 2024 for the 2023-2024 school year.
3. Rosael Revuelta, appoint to Student Observer in Chemistry 7-12 at Hastings High School for six (6) hours in April, 2024.
4. Elizabeth Lee, appoint to Substitute Clerical Assistant district wide, \$23.00/hr. effective April 24, 2024.
5. Melissa Shandroff, appoint to an additional .2 FTE Forensics assignment at Hastings High School effective April 1, 2024-May 31, 2024.
6. Jacklyn Correa, appoint to an additional .2 FTE LRC assignment at Hastings High School effective April 1, 2024-May 31, 2024.
7. Stephen Sullivan, appoint to an additional .2 FTE Living Environment assignment at Hastings High School effective April 1, 2024-May 31, 2024.
8. Maryanne Heckhaus, appoint to an additional .2 FTE Living Environment assignment at Hastings High School effective April 1, 2024-May 31, 2024.

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

Motion by Doreen Bucher, second by Theresa McCaffrey.

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. Ramysh Bangali, Teacher Aide, amend appointment FTE from .85 to 1.0, effective March 13, 2024.

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

Motion by Doreen Bucher, second by Theresa McCaffrey.

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. Michele Keefe, Office Assistant at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: FMLA with pay April 23, 2024-June 18, 2024.
2. Erica Williams, English Language Arts teacher at Farragut Middle School has requested a leave of absence as follows: unpaid Parental leave of absence for the 2024-2025 school year.
3. Deborah Thompson, Science teacher at Hastings High School has requested a leave of absence as follows: FMLA with pay April 1, 2024-May 31, 2024.

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

Motion by Doreen Bucher, second by Theresa McCaffrey.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

E. Resignation

1. Katie Paz, Spanish 7-12 teacher at Hastings High School has provided notice of resignation effective June 30, 2024.

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

Motion by Doreen Bucher, second by Theresa McCaffrey.

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 March 5, 2024.

RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of March 5, 2024.

Motion by Doreen Bucher, 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

10. POLICIES

A. [Second Read](#)

Policies for Second Read:

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

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

Motion by Doreen Bucher, 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

11. OLD BUSINESS

A. [DEI Coordinator Work Plan 2024-25](#)

Dr. McKersie introduced the DEI Coordinator Work Plan

- [Click here to view the DEI Coordinator Work Plan](#)
- [Click here to view the discussion](#)

12. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Second Public Comment

1. Andy Zimmerman, residing at 7 Ridge Street raised concerns about compliance with NYS regulations regarding music in the middle school.

13. AGENDA REVIEW

A. Agenda Review

April 3rd

- Budget Presentation
- Finance Committee Report

14. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

A. Comments

- Alex Dal Piaz acknowledged that it had been four years since they stopped due to COVID, expressing gratitude for the effort put into presentations for the meeting.
- Doreen Bucher recognized it's easier to be an editor than a writer when making comments.

15. ADJOURNMENT

A. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Jodie Meyer, second by Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

Not Present at Vote: Damaris-Lois Lang

Melissa DeLaBarrera

Submitted by:

Melissa DeLaBarrera

District Clerk