

**Hastings-on-Hudson
Regular Board of Education Meeting
Tuesday, April 16, 2024**

Members present

Silvia Robles
Alexander Dal Piaz
Damaris-Lois Lang (arrived at 6:13 pm)
Doreen Bucher
Maureen Lennon-Santana
Jodie Meyer (arrived at 6:15 pm)
Theresa McCaffrey

1. OPENING OF MEETING

A. [Call to Order](#)

- Meeting called to order at 6:07 pm by Alex Dal Piaz

2. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

A. Update & District Highlights

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

[Click here to view Superintendent Report for 4.16.2024](#)

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Report from Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction

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

NYSED: Required Testing

This week, students in grades 3-8 took the NY State English Language Arts Test. Students in grades 5 and 8 were administered the test in a computer-based format, as required by the State. All other students were administered the assessment in a paper-based format.

Curriculum Council

Melissa attended the monthly Putnam Northern Westchester BOCES Curriculum Council session. These meetings are crucial for the purposes of professional learning, strengthening partnerships, and processing updates from the State Education Department with other curriculum leaders throughout the region. Learning during this particular session focused on anticipated changes to the mandated Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) process for teachers and principals. Regional curriculum leaders also engaged in a curriculum summit to outline key priorities for the 2024-2025 school year.

Professional Learning Committee

The work of the Professional Learning Committee focused on finalizing the State-required Professional Development Plan. [This plan](#) has been added to the BOE agenda as an item to be voted on.

Facing History and Ourselves

Melissa has been working closely with Jenice Mateo-Toledo, Kamillah Dawkins, and key teachers in an effort to review and revise Courageous Conversations. This week Jenice and Melissa met with Facing History, both to plan for 2024-2025 professional learning and with the hope of engaging with them later this year as thought

partners around the revisions being made to our curriculum. Special thanks and recognition to HEF for grant funding for this professional learning opportunity.

4. STUDENT REPORT

A. [Student Report](#)

Elianna Carvalho gave an update on various aspects of school life. She shared the highlights of Spirit Week, including different dress-up days. She mentioned the Senior Assassin game, Prom, College Decision Day, and her acceptance to Harvard. Elianna bid farewell to the theater program and highlighted the end of PL for freshmen. She also discussed her assembly presentation on the dangers of drunk driving, sponsored by the SADD club and the upcoming AP European History Trip. Lastly, she mentioned sports updates and the end of the third quarter.

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

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. [Public Comment](#)

1. Stan Madyde (1973 graduate of HHS), residing at 33 Hudson Drive, Fairfield, CT, shared concerns about potential staffing cuts in the music department.
2. Andy Zimmerman, residing at 7 Ridge Street, shared concerns about potential staffing issues in the music department.
3. Patryk Rebisz, residing at 137 Southside Avenue, shared concerns about the material used to teach children about gender in schools.
4. Alex Solounias, residing at 14 Euclid Avenue, shared concerns about the emphasis on differences within the school community and the resulting divisions it creates.
5. Jeta Wilson, residing at 200 Old Broadway, inquiry and comment regarding ELA (English Language Arts) professional development in the budget session.
6. Kristie Weatherford, residing at 11 Warren Street, shared concerns about technology use in the school district, particularly platforms like YouTube.

[Click here to view Public Comment](#)

6. BUDGET WORK SESSION

A. [Budget Review](#)

Maureen Caraballo, Business Official presented the following budget presentation to the Board during their Budget Session:

[Click here to view Board Budget Work session slide presentation](#)

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

7. BUSINESS

A. [Adoption of the 2024-2025 School Budget](#)

Resolved, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education adopts the 2024-2025 budget.

The Board of Education approves that the District Clerk place the following proposition on the voting machine for the Annual Meeting on May 21, 2024:

"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 2024-2025 Annual Budget in the total amount of \$59,645,877 and to levy the necessary tax therefore?"

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the board adopt the 2024-2025 school budget.

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. [Business Items](#)

1. SWBOCES, CoSer 646 - Public Information Service.
2. February 2024 Revenue & Expenditure.
3. Budget Transfer.
4. Sara Wolkowitz, invoice for TV Studio and Film Studies class visits at Hastings High School.
5. 2024-2025 Professional Development Plan.

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

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

C. [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 2023-2024 school year:

CPSE:

CSE: 11497, 11888, 12109, 11998, 12077, 12293, 12303, 12262, 12587, 12061

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: 10541, 11888, 10489, 12262, 12061, 11516

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 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](#)

RESOLVED, to approve agenda items 8A through 8E as contained in 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

B. Appointments

1. Bryan Stevens, appoint as Student Observer in ENL at Hillside Elementary School for 10 hours in April, 2024.
2. Schedule B request as per attached spreadsheet.

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

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

C. Amendments

1. Sharon Quigley, amend date of additional .2 FTE Counseling assignment at Hastings High School to April 1, 2024-June 25, 2024.
2. Randie Shaw, amend date of additional .2 FTE Counseling assignment at Hastings High School to April 1, 2024-June 25, 2024.

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

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

D. Leave of Absence

1. Nicole Josiger, Reading teacher at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows:
Unpaid Parental Leave for the 2024-2025 school year.

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

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

E. Retirements

HTA Retirement Incentive

As per notification by April 15, 2024, the following HTA members have provided notification of resignation for the purpose of retirement based on the HTA Retirement Incentive program:

1. Marc Rosner, Science teacher at Hastings High School has provided notice of resignation for the purpose of retirement effective June 30, 2024.
2. Stephen Yurek, Mathematics teacher at Farragut Middle School has provided notice of resignation for the purpose of retirement effective June 30, 2025.
3. Jeffrey Conwisar, Social Studies teacher at Hastings High School has provided notice of resignation for the purpose of retirement effective June 30, 2024.
4. Dominic Cecere, Social Studies teacher at Farragut Middle School has provided notice of resignation for the purpose of retirement effective June 30, 2025.
5. Janine Melillo, Special Education teacher at Hastings High School has provided notice of resignation for the purpose of retirement effective June 30, 2025.

6. Frederick Sandhop, Science teacher at Farragut Middle School has provided notice of resignation for the purpose of retirement effective June 30, 2025.
7. Peter Scotch, English teacher at Hastings High School has provided notice of resignation for the purpose of retirement effective June 30, 2025.
8. Trina Weitman, Mathematics teacher at Hastings High School has provided notice of resignation for the purpose of retirement effective June 30, 2025.
9. Maryanne Heckhaus, Special Education teacher at Hastings High School has provided notice of resignation for the purpose of retirement effective June 30, 2024.
10. Martha Polstein, Special Education teacher at Farragut Middle School has provided notice of resignation for the purpose of retirement effective June 30, 2025.

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

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

9. MINUTES

A. [Approval of Minutes](#)

1. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of April 3, 2024.

RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of April 3, 2024.

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

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. [Policy](#)

Maureen Lennon-Santana provided an update on the recent Policy Committee Meeting. The Parental involvement policy was discussed, with positive feedback from an audit. Changes include the addition of meetings conducted through focus groups or roundtables for better engagement. Dr. Lang emphasized an evaluation cycle to adjust policy based on feedback from focus groups or roundtables.

11. POLICIES

A. [First Read](#)

Policies for First Read:

Policy 1900 - Parent and Family Engagement

Policy 5151

Policy 5151-R

12. NEW BUSINESS

A. [BOCES Budget Vote](#)

1. SWBOCES 2024-2025 administrative budget \$13,211,295

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the board approve the 2024-2025 Estimated Administrative Budget for the Southern Westchester Board of Cooperative Education Services.

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

B. [BOCES Board Trustee Vote - John V. Filiberti](#)

1. John V. Filiberti (Re-Election)
195 Park Drive
Eastchester, NY 10709
Eastchester Union Free School District

RESOLVED, that one vote be cast for John V. Filiberti to serve as a trustee on the Southern Westchester Board of Cooperative Educational Services for the time period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027.

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. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT

A. [Second Public Comment](#)

1. Andy Zimmerman, residing at 7 Ridge Street, addressed potential cuts to the music program, specifically concerning staffing and resource allocation within various music classes and lessons.

[Click here to view Public Comment](#)

14. AGENDA REVIEW

A. [Agenda Review](#)

April 30th

- Executive Session - Recommended Candidates for tenure
- Ways Coalition Survey Report by Linda Fosina

15. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

A. [Comments](#)

1. Maureen Lennon-Santana provided a recap of a meeting with Student Union and other staff members, describing it as a positive and supportive gathering. Discussions revolved around advising the new principal amidst departures, emphasizing the importance of embracing change while preserving Hastings' best aspects. Attendees praised past initiatives like welcoming assemblies and highlighted departing staff members' impact, particularly Mr. A's approachability. They also discussed the school's responsiveness to student ideas, citing examples like Benny's program. Concerns about the loss in the guidance department and mental health support were raised, with the group offering assistance and expressing a desire to stay involved.
2. Alex Dal Piaz shared exciting news about the Bloomberg climate grant secured by Mayor Nikki Armacost worth \$50,000, to fund local climate projects for Hastings residents aged 15 through 24. The grant supports various initiatives like recycling and composting. The village is preparing a website with more information and sign-up opportunities. Additionally, Alex mentioned the possibility for younger residents to participate through sponsorship. One project idea involves adopting storm drains for cleanliness, addressing the significant number of drains in Hastings with no state funding for maintenance.
3. Theresa McCaffrey mentioned that SEPTA is hosting a trivia night fundraiser on Friday at the community center. She encouraged attendance, emphasizing the event's fun atmosphere and the opportunity to support SEPTA.
4. Jodie Meyer raised concerns about technology in the district and proposed the formation of a committee to address them. Bill McKersie confirmed the existence of a tech committee with upcoming meetings and a board representative. Maureen Caraballo mentioned that they would report on the committee's progress at the next meeting. Bill McKersie acknowledged the thoughtful input from community members regarding technology issues and assured that they are being addressed. Jodie Meyer also reminded the board about an email regarding participation in the Memorial Day parade, highlighting its importance and fun nature.

5. Dr. Lang expressed concerns about ongoing issues within the district, particularly regarding equity and community engagement. She emphasized the need for intentional action and expert navigation to address growing unrest and assertive value assertions and highlighted the importance of prioritizing equity over personal values and the challenges of navigating diversity and inclusion work. She urged for prompt and effective action to address these issues.
6. Doreen Bucher made a brief comment regarding technology, noting the significance of listening to experts in the field, particularly those whose job involves technology. She emphasized the importance of taking their warnings and advice seriously.

16. ADJOURNMENT

A. [Adjournment](#)

- Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Damaris-Lois Lang, second by Jodie Meyer.

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

(Revised 5.20.2024 to correct Final Resolution of B. Business Items)