

**Hastings-on-Hudson
Regular Board of Education Meeting
Tuesday, June 11, 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 6:00 PM

B. Announcements

Upcoming Events & Dates of Interest:

- HES 3rd Grade String Recital - Parents & Siblings
Wednesday, June 12 · 9:30 – 10:00am
- HHS Last Day of Classes
Thursday, June 13
- HHS Finals and Regents Testing
June 14 – 25, 2024
- FMS Grade 8 Career Day
Friday, June 14 · 1:15 – 2:45pm
- Fall Athletics APP Testing
Monday, June 17 · 3:15 – 4:15pm
- HHS Community Scholarship Night
Tuesday, June 18 · 7:00 – 8:30pm
- Juneteenth - Schools & Offices Closed
Wednesday, June 19
- FMS 8th Grade Earth Science Regents
Thursday, June 20 · 8:15 – 11:15am
- HHS Graduation
Thursday, June 20 · 6:00 – 8:00pm
- FMS Grade 6 Grecian Festival
Friday, June 21
- 4th Grade Moving Up
Friday, June 21 · 9:00 – 10:00am
- FMS 8th Grade Recognition Night
Friday, June 21 · 6:00 – 7:00pm
- Last Day of School/Regents Rating Day
Tuesday, June 25

C. [Tenure Recognition](#)

1. Marisa Barbera. Recommendation to approve tenure in the area of Elementary K-6 for Marisa Barbera, Kindergarten teacher at Hillside Elementary School effective August 28, 2024. Certification held: Childhood Education 1-6 - initial, Early Childhood Education Birth-2 - professional.
2. Christine Samuel. Recommendation to approve tenure in the area of Elementary K-6 for Christine Samuel, Grade 4 teacher at Hillside Elementary School effective August 30, 2024. Certification held: Childhood Education 1-6 - professional.
3. Matthew Adipietro. Recommendation to approve tenure in the area of Physical Education for Matthew Adipietro, Physical Education teacher at Farragut Middle School, effective August 30, 2024. Certification held: Physical Education - professional.
4. Wendy White. Recommendation to approve tenure in the area of School Counselor for Wendy White, School Counselor at Hastings High School, effective October 1, 2024. Certification held: School Counselor - permanent.
5. Laurence Cerretani. Recommendation to approve tenure in the area of Special Education for Laurence Cerretani, Special Education teacher at Farragut Middle School, effective August 31, 2024. Certifications held: Students with Disabilities 1-6 - professional, Students with Disabilities Generalist 7-12 - professional, Childhood Education 1-6 - professional.

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

Motion by Damaris-Lois Lang, 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. [Retirement Recognition](#)

Recognition of 2023-2024 School Year Retirees

Teachers/Social Worker

- Jeffrey Conwisar, Social Studies teacher at Hastings High School, 30 years
- Caryn Hecht, Special Education teacher at Farragut Middle School, 20 years
- MaryAnne Heckhaus, Special Education teacher at Hastings High School, 20 years
- Christina Repp, Social Worker at Hastings High School, 21 years
- Marc Rosner, Science teacher at Hastings High School, 22 years

Teacher Assistant

- Lisa Adipietro, Teacher Assistant in Guidance at Farragut Middle School, 15 years

Secretarial/Clerical

- Maria Cocucci, Office Assistant in Guidance at Hastings High School, 10 years
- Bethanne Habermann, Confidential in Special Education at Hastings High School, 30 years

Nurse

- Joanne Cipollina, Nurse at Hastings High School, 15 years

Custodial

- Nicholas Frascone, District-wide Laborer, 31 years
- Emilio Righetti, District-wide Maintenance Mechanic, 13 years

Administrator

- Louis Adipietro, Principal Hastings High School, 19 years

E. [Student Liaison Recognition](#)

Recognition of 2024 Graduating Student Liaison:

- Elianna Carvalho - Student Liaison for the 2022-2023 & 2023-2024 School Years

2. STUDENT REPORT

A. [Student Report](#)

Elianna Carvahlo and Kai Dirksen announced Ella Chiu as the new student liaison for the upcoming year and reviewed recent events:

- Multicultural Book Fair in the Cochran gym showcasing diverse literature.
- Pride event with various performances and local business support.
- Jazz picnic with middle and high school jazz bands.
- Hillside Night of the Arts displaying student-created art.
- Yearbook distribution and excitement over the new design.
- Announcement of new school President and Vice President: Nitin Kodali and Sophia Ballard.
- Peer Leadership induction scheduled for Thursday.
- Fourth grade moving-up ceremony on June 21st.
- Senior activities: internship presentations, cap and gown distribution, yearbook signing, senior trip to Six Flags, Senior Day events, and graduation on June 20th.
- Recognition of Metro Awards winners Emma Gelman and Jasper Zimmerman.
- Upcoming Hastings Booster Theater fundraiser on Saturday night.
- Shared insights from "The Governance Core" book about the importance of governance and student focus.
- Detailed the rigorous selection process for student board members, emphasizing inclusivity and representation of all student voices.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Public Comment

- No public comment

4. PRESENTATIONS

A. [Special Education Advisory Committee Update](#)

Tesfa Stewart provided a Special Education Advisory Committee Update to the Board.

[Click here to view the slide presentation](#)

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

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](#)

Curriculum Review Cycle: Social Studies

In the area of K-12 social studies, there has been a focus on inquiry work over the course of the year to understand the extent that authentic learning opportunities are included within the current program. A decision was made at the elementary level to incorporate at least one of the C3 inquiries into the curriculum on each grade level. Last week, teacher representatives at Hillside worked on planning for these inquiry units, which will be taught next year. Moving from theoretical understanding to practice, middle school and high school teachers will be planning authentic learning activities incorporating the use of AI this summer to pilot with students next year.

Hiring, Observations, Evaluations

Hiring, observations, and evaluations continue to be key priority areas of focus and effort as the school year draws to a close.

7. BUSINESS

A. Business Items

1. Panorama Education, Survey Platform, renewal agreement.
2. JAG Athletic Training Services Agreement for the 2024-2025 school year.
3. Warrants.
4. Midwestchester Consortium, 2024-2025 Special Education Consortium Agreement.
5. US OMNI & TSACG Compliance Services, Inc., Services Agreement Reinstatement for 2024-2025 school year.

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

Motion by Doreen Bucher, 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

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 2023-2024 school year:

CPSE:

CSE: 11492, 12808

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: 12607, 12459

CSE: 12360, 12607, 12429

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 Jodie Meyer, second by Silvia Robles.

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 8D as contained in the Consent Agenda for this meeting.

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

Motion by Maureen Lennon-Santana, 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. Alicia King, appoint to Per Diem substitute teacher district wide effective June 12, 2024 for the 2023-2024 school year.
2. Nili Navot, appoint to Observer at Hillside Elementary School for 5 hours during the week of June 17, 2024.
3. Christina Gagliardi, Science teacher at Hastings High School, appoint to an additional .067 FTE for the 2024-2025 school year.
4. Florian Konig, Science teacher at Hastings High School, appoint to an additional .067 FTE for the 2024-2025 school year.
5. Schedule B requests for appointment as per attached spreadsheet ([Enc](#))
6. Terrance Thomas, Jr., appoint to position of Cleaner, Column IA, Step 1A, effective July 1, 2024.
7. Elizabeth Zadrima, appoint to Per Diem substitute teacher district wide effective June 12, 2024 for the 2023-2024 school year.

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

Motion by Maureen Lennon-Santana, 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. Amendment

1. Michele Keefe has amended her request for a leave of absence as follows: FMLA with pay April 23, 2024-June 7, 2024. (Enc)

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

Motion by Maureen Lennon-Santana, 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. Resignation

1. Thomas Adler, Science teacher at Farragut Middle School has provided notice of resignation effective June 30, 2024.
2. Elizabeth Keogh, School Nurse at the Farragut Complex has provided notice of resignation effective August 30, 2024.

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

Motion by Maureen Lennon-Santana, 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 May 29, 2024.
2. Approval of Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of June 4, 2024.

RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of May 29, 2024 and Special Board Meeting of June 4, 2024.

Motion by Doreen Bucher, 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. [Facilities](#)

Maureen Caraballo, Business Official provided an update on the Facilities Committee Meeting where they discussed plans for a bond referendum focusing on essential upgrades. She shared the slidedeck that was presented earlier in the day to the Facilities Committee outlining maintenance priorities, including boiler replacements, HVAC upgrades, and field improvements. Detailed analysis and community input are ongoing to finalize proposals for board consideration.

[Click here to view slideshow presentation](#)

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

11. POLICIES

A. [First Read](#)

The Board reviewed the following policies:

Policy 4321.12 Timeout and Physical Restraint (All students)

Policy 4321.12-R - Timeout and Physical Restraint (All students)

Policy 5100 - Student Attendance

The discussion focused on Policy 5100 - Student Attendance. There was general agreement among the board that the policy should apply uniformly to all students without distinction. Concerns were raised about the requirement for notifying the school within 24 hours of an absence, particularly in cases of emergencies, which was seen as potentially problematic. There was also confusion about the requirement for a written excuse upon the student's return. It was noted that operational clarity is crucial, and suggestions were made to potentially revise the language to accommodate extraordinary circumstances and to ensure clarity between notification requirements for absences versus tardiness and early departures. The administration agreed to clarify with building admins to further refine and clarify the policy language addressing these concerns before the second read on June 25th.

B. [Second Read](#)

Policies for Second Read:

1. Policy 4321 - Programs for Students with Disabilities Under the IDEA and New York's Education Law Article 89
2. Policy 2382 - Broadcasting and Recording of Board Meetings

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

Motion by Maureen Lennon-Santana, 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

12. OLD BUSINESS

A. [Resolution to adopt the 2024-2025 District Code of Conduct](#)

District Code of Conduct Discussion

- The Board discussed the recent changes to the district code of conduct.
- Edits included enhanced definitions at the beginning of the document to clarify changes made in 13 spots throughout the document.
- Legal review confirmed that these changes do not alter the intent or affect protected classes.
- A concern was raised about ensuring the Crown Act and protected hairstyles are adequately represented and not diminished.
- Emphasis was placed on the importance of embracing diversity, with gratitude expressed for the attention given to these issues.

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board adopt the revised 2024-2025 District Code of Conduct.

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

13. NEW BUSINESS

A. [Hastings High School - Greece Trip](#)

Proposed Greece Trip for Latin Students

- The Latin teacher has proposed a trip to Greece for Latin students.
- The trip has been approved by the superintendent and presented to the board for advisory purposes.
- Future trips will be spaced out more to include various destinations like France and Italy.
- These trips are noted for their high educational and safety standards.
- Discussion on the trip's cost highlighted that it's comparable to similar educational trips.
- Fundraising efforts were discussed, noting the challenges of organizing them effectively.
- The company organizing the trips provides fundraising ideas and a 12-month payment plan to help manage costs.
- Emphasis was placed on ensuring all students have equal opportunities to participate and avoiding disparity among students based on their ability to afford such trips.

14. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Second Public Comment

- No public comment

15. AGENDA REVIEW

A. [Agenda Review](#)

June 25th Meeting:

- Public Hearing on Districtwide Safety plans
- HEF Grants
- Technology Committee Update
- Future Steps

16. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

A. Comments

- No Board Comments

17. ADJOURNMENT

A. [Adjournment](#)

- Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Theresa McCaffrey, 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

Melissa DeLaBarrera

**Submitted by:
Melissa DeLaBarrera
District Clerk**