

**Hastings-on-Hudson
Regular Board of Education Meeting
Wednesday, May 29, 2024**

Members present

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Call to Order at 5:00 PM - it is expected that a motion will be made to move into Executive Session to discuss: 1) The amendments to the District-Wide Safety and Emergency Management Plan. 2) A personnel matter, to discuss the employment history of particular people.

- Meeting called to order at 5:04 PM

Motion to move into Executive Session to discuss:

- 1) The amendments to the District-Wide Safety and Emergency Management Plan.
- 2) A personnel matter, to discuss the employment history of particular people.

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

2. PUBLIC HEARING

A. [Public Hearing on District Code of Conduct](#)

1. Nanesha Nunez shared concerns about proposed changes to the district's code of conduct, specifically the removal of language protecting race-related hairstyles and gender identity and expression. She emphasized the potential negative impact on marginalized communities.

[Click here to view Public Hearing](#)

3. OPENING OF MEETING

4. PRESENTATIONS

A. [Farragut Complex Master Plan](#)

Rena Mande and Leonard Leung of PBDW Architects presented findings from the master planning study for the Farragut complex. The study aims to address physical constraints and opportunities, provide a 10 to 15-year plan, and enhance space utilization and user experience. The presentation covered program analysis findings, deficiencies, and recommendations for future planning.

[Click here to view the Facilities Programming Phase Preliminary Report Presentation](#)

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

5. STUDENT REPORT

A. [Student Report](#)

Kai Dirksen presented the following student report:

- Elianna is absent due to attending prom.
- On May 17th, a surprise half-day and ice cream party celebrated Mr. A's retirement, with many speeches in his honor.
- Over the Memorial Day weekend, Kai attended a counselor training retreat and caught up on schoolwork.
- The Peer Leadership program announced its new leaders, and Kai is among the 24 selected.
- Two seniors placed in the International Science and Engineering Fair: Justin Baldassare (2nd) and Miles Hamilton (4th).
- Six 6th graders placed at the American Debate League Tri-State Championship.
- The Academic Challenge team placed 21st nationally out of over 300 schools.
- Kai and Elianna visited sophomore English classes to discuss Peer Leadership, with applications already coming in.
- Upcoming events include Hastings Pride on 6/7, the Jazz Picnic on 6/8, and the Curtains Up fundraiser on 6/15.

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

6. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

A. [Update & District Highlights](#)

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

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

7. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

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

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

- Recent efforts have focused on hiring new staff and end-of-year evaluations.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Public Comment

- No public comment

9. BUSINESS

A. [Business Items](#)

1. HTA of New York, Inc., contract for 2024 - 2025 school year.
2. Gordon Korman, author visit at Farragut Middle School.
3. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education does hereby move to approve the following:

WHEREAS, the Ardsley Union Free School District ("Ardsley") has made available to public school districts located in Westchester County its Student Out-of-District and Summer Transportation through a provision in the bid specifications permitting "piggybacking" as well as a resolution of the Ardsley Board of Education authorizing participation in the Student Out-of-District and Summer Transportation on the same terms and conditions as the contract with Ardsley; and

WHEREAS, said transportation contract was bid in accordance with Education Law Section 305(14);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Hastings on Hudson Union Free School District determines that the contract cost for the Student Out-of-District and Summer Transportation is appropriate and will result in cost savings to the District; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education requests authorization from Ardsley to piggyback onto Ardsley's Student Out-of-District and Summer Transportation Contract with Royal Coach

for the 2024-2025 school year on the same terms and conditions as the contract with Ardsley; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the Board President to execute a contract with Royal Coach as well as any documents and forms required by the New York State Education Department to facilitate approval of the contract.

4. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education does hereby move to approve the following:

WHEREAS, the Hastings on Hudson Union Free School District ("Hastings") Bid for Student Athletic and Field Trip Transportation that was opened on March 14, 2023 included a provision permitting piggybacking on such contracts by public school districts located in Westchester, Rockland and Putnam Counties, on the same terms and conditions as the contract with Ardsley;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Hastings on Hudson Union Free School District hereby authorizes public school districts located in Westchester, Rockland and Putnam Counties to piggyback on the Hastings Bid and the Contract with Academy Bus Company, Inc. for Student Athletic and Field Trip Transportation in accordance with the provisions of Section 4.1.1 of the Bid, upon receipt of a resolution of the Board of Education of the interested public school district requesting participation in such transportation contract.

5. Con-Tech Construction Technology, Inc., proposal for sidewalk replacement at Hillside Elementary School.

6. Quad Village Transportation Management Agreement for the 2024-2025 school year.

7. PNWBOCES - School Scheduling, LLC./Michael Retting contract.

8. Warrants.

9. CSEA Office and Auxiliary Personnel, Retiree Health Insurance and Timekeeping, Side Letter of Agreement.

10. Budget Transfers.

11. April Revenue and Expenditure.

12. Devereux New York Cares, contract for the 2024 - 2025 school year.

13. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby certifies the results of the May 21, 2024 School Budget Vote & Trustee Election as set forth on the attached Official Tally of the 2024-2025 School Budget Vote and Board Trustee Election. In accordance with these results, the Board of Education hereby certifies that Proposition 1 - Budget was approved and that David Barone, Alexander Dal Piaz and Catherine DiMartino have been elected to serve on the Board of Education for three-year terms beginning on July 1, 2024.

OFFICIAL TALLY OF THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE & BOARD TRUSTEE ELECTION

PROPOSITION NUMBER ONE – 2024-2025 BUDGET

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?

Yes: 1206

No: 313

VOTE FOR UP TO THREE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (3-year terms ending 6/30/2027)

David Barone - 844

Alexander Dal Piaz - 1003

Catherine DiMartino - 1234

Doreen Bucher - 728

14. Kidz Educational Services, contract for the 2024 - 2025 school year.

15. HAA Side Letter of Agreement.

16. 2024-2025 School Tax Warrant.

17. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education does hereby move to approve the following:

WHEREAS, the Hastings on Hudson Union Free School District ("School District") pursuant to the authority granted in General Municipal Law, Section 103(16) desires to participate in the Sourcewell (formerly National Joint Powers Alliance NJPA], a national purchasing cooperative organized under the laws of the State of Minnesota, authorized to enter into agreements with governmental units, including public school districts, in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Section 103 of the General Municipal Law permits the School District to make purchases of apparatus, materials, equipment or supplies, or to contract for services related to the installation, maintenance or repair of apparatus, materials, equipment, and supplies, may make such purchases, or may contract for such services related to the installation, maintenance or repair of apparatus, materials, equipment, and supplies, as may be required by the School District therein through the use of a contract let by the United States of America or any agency thereof, any state or any other county or political subdivision or district therein if such contract was let to the lowest responsible bidder or on the basis of best value in a manner consistent with this section and made available for use by other governmental entities; and

WHEREAS, the School District desires to participate for the purpose of fulfilling and executing its public governmental purposes, goals, objectives, programs and functions; and

WHEREAS, the School District has reviewed the benefits of participating in this program and has concluded the program will provide the best value to School District's taxpayers through the anticipated savings to be realized;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Ardsley Union Free School District authorizes the School District's participation in Sourcewell on behalf of the School District and authorizes the Superintendent of Schools or designee to execute any required documents for participation.

18. LHRIC 2024-2025 - Request for Services Agreement.

19. Con-Tech Construction Technology, Inc., proposal for sidewalk replacement on Farragut Avenue.

20. City School District of New Rochelle, Contract for Health and Welfare Services.

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

Motion by Silvia Robles, 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: 12842, 12812

CSE: 12071, 11286, 12843, 10723, 12269, 12241, 11900

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: 12606, 12756, 12718, 12603

CSE: 10493, 12023, 10679, 12567, 11286, 10382, 12053, 9022, 11148, 11998, 12680, 11406, 7668, 12231, 10723, 12362, 12358

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 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. PERSONNEL (CONSENT AGENDA)

A. [Approve Consent Agenda](#)

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

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

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

B. Appointments

1. Amanda Gentile, appoint to the position of part-time School Monitor at Hillside Elementary effective May 13, 2024.
2. Nancy Horsting, appoint to the position of School Nurse at the Farragut Complex, Column VI, Step 10, effective August 1, 2024.
3. Lisa Adipietro, appoint to Substitute Clerical Assistant district-wide, effective July 1, 2024.
4. Christopher Rotiroti, appoint to Student Intern in the Athletics department effective May 30, 2024-June 21, 2024.
5. Schedule B appointments as per attached spreadsheet.
6. Jack Phelan, re-appoint to summer help in Buildings and Grounds.
7. Salvatore Puoti, re-appoint to summer help in Buildings and Grounds.
8. Juan Villamar, re-appoint to summer help in Buildings and Grounds.
9. Matthew Williams, re-appoint to summer help in Buildings and Grounds.
10. Robert Hanney, appoint to summer help in Buildings and Grounds.
11. Cayden McGuirk, appoint to summer help in Buildings and Grounds.
12. Anthony Puoti, appoint to summer help in Buildings and Grounds.
13. Emmanuel Moscoso, appoint to summer help in Buildings and Grounds.
14. Kevin Ruffler, appoint to 1.0 FTE probationary Chemistry teacher at Hastings High School, BA+10, \$66,154 effective August 28, 2024. Probationary period August 28, 2024-August 27, 2028. Tenure eligibility date August 28, 2028. Certification held: Chemistry 7-12 - Internship.

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

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

C. Amendments

1. Deborah Thompson, Science teacher at Hastings High School, has requested an amendment on her leave of absence as follows: FMLA with pay April 1, 2024-June 21, 2024. Medical leave of absence with pay June 24, 2024-June 26, 2024.
2. Jacklyn Correa, amend appointment to an additional .2 FTE LRC assignment at Hastings High School to be effective April 1, 2024-June 25, 2024.
3. Maryanne Heckhaus, amend appointment to an additional .2 FTE Living Environment assignment at Hastings High School to be effective April 1, 2024-June 25, 2024.
4. Janine Melillo, amend appointment to an additional .2 FTE Living Environment assignment at Hastings High School to be effective April 1, 2024-June 25, 2024.
5. Melissa Shandroff, amend appointment to an additional .2 FTE Forensics assignment at Hastings High School to be effective April 1, 2024-June 25, 2024.
6. Stephen Sullivan, amend appointment to an additional .2 FTE Living Environment assignment at Hastings High School to be effective April 1, 2024-June 25, 2024.

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

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

D. Resignations

1. Carlos Luis, Athletic Trainer, has provided notice of resignation effective July 1, 2024.
2. Cherry Byrd, part-time School Monitor at Hillside Elementary, has provided notice of resignation effective June 1, 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 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. Leave of Absence

1. Nicole Josiger, Reading Teacher at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: FMLA with pay May 12, 2024-June 21, 2024.

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

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

11. MINUTES

A. [Approval of Minutes](#)

1. Approval of Revised Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of April 16, 2024.

There was an error in the minutes recorded for the Board of Education meeting held on April 16, 2024. Specifically, under 7. Business, B. Business Items section, motion was incorrectly marked as "Motion Denied," with the notation that all Trustees were "not present to vote."

The corrected entry should read as follows:

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

2. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of May 7, 2024.

RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the Amended Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of April 16, 2024 and the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the May 7, 2024.

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

12. POLICIES

A. [First Read](#)

Policies for First 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

13. NEW BUSINESS

A. [WPSBA Budget and Nominating Committee Slate](#)

1. 2024-2025 WPSBA Nominating Committee Slate of Officers/Directors and Budget Ratification.

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the 2024-2025 Budget Ratification.

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

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the 2024-2025 WPSBA Nominating Committee Slate of Officers.

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

14. AGENDA REVIEW

A. [Agenda Review](#)

Review topics for upcoming Board of Education Meeting:

June 11th BOE Meeting will take place in the Hillside MPR at 5:00 pm

- Recognition of Tenure & Retirees
- Adoption of Code of Conduct

15. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

A. [Comments](#)

- Jodie Meyer addressed the recent vote and election, praising Maureen for her great work on the budget, which passed by a large margin. She also expressed sadness over negative behavior observed during the trustee election, including bullying of candidates and their families. She likened it to a divisive election in the past, emphasizing the importance of maintaining a positive community atmosphere. She also expressed appreciation for departing board members Doreen and Damaris, acknowledging their contributions.
- Dr. Lang expressed gratitude and reflected on her time serving on the board, emphasizing the importance of inclusivity and collaboration among members. She acknowledged the diverse perspectives and personalities within the board, highlighting their commitment to serving all students and fostering transparency. She emphasized the board's dedication to discussing matters publicly and addressing concerns openly, rather than resorting to sidebar discussions. She praised the leadership team and thanked everyone for their dedication to Hastings.
- Doreen Bucher agreed with Jodie and Dr. Lang's comments and stressed the importance of asking questions on the board to drive progress and ensure the representation of children's interests. She expressed concern that bullying behavior may discourage people from running for the board or speaking up, which could be detrimental to the district.

16. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT

A. [Second Public Comment](#)

- George Wichelns, 86 Hillside Avenue - expressed appreciation for the efforts of the board members, acknowledging both their vocal and quieter contributions. He highlighted the kindness demonstrated by the board members and expressed gratitude for their dedication and time.

17. ADJOURNMENT

A. [Adjournment](#)

- Motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

Melissa DeLaBarrera

Submitted by:

Melissa DeLaBarrera

District Clerk