

**Hastings-on-Hudson  
Regular Board of Education Meeting  
Tuesday, July 9, 2024**

---

**Members present**

Silvia Robles  
Alexander Dal Piaz  
David Barone  
Maureen Lennon-Santana  
Theresa McCaffrey

**1. OPENING OF MEETING**

A. [Call to Order](#)

- Meeting called to order at 12:15 pm

B. [Announcements](#)

- Dr. McKersie reminded the board about the BOE building walkthrough scheduled for August 27, emphasizing the need for a quorum of at least four members. This walkthrough is essential for accountability and to ensure readiness for the school opening. He noted the importance of seeing the facilities before and after the preparations. Additionally, Dr. McKersie mentioned the need for a meeting in the next week or two. The first regular meeting is scheduled following the walkthrough, with the vote on the meeting schedule to take place shortly. The first day of school for students is on Tuesday, September 3.

**2. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT**

A. [Update & District Highlights](#)

- Dr. McKersie discussed the summer activities and schedules, noting that while faculty and staff are on break, administrators maintain lighter schedules with buildings closing at 3 PM most days. He emphasized the importance of the upcoming board retreat on July 24 to foster cohesion and coordination among the new governance team. He highlighted the ongoing summer work, including facility readiness, administrative transitions, and preparation for new staff. The focus on instructional technology and digital learning was underscored as a major priority. The capital bond and the HTA negotiations were also mentioned as significant items requiring attention. Lastly, he stressed the importance of fostering a district culture of dignity, respect, and inclusivity, aiming to treat everyone with respect regardless of their background. The outlined priorities, termed the "big eight," will guide the work throughout the summer and the upcoming school year.

**3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

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

- Melissa Szymanski provided an update on post-school year activities, highlighting curriculum reviews and enhancements across various subjects. In K-4 mathematics, efforts have focused on implementing the new curriculum "Reveal," designing unit assessments, and creating pacing calendars and facilitation resources. Algebra has seen improvements aligning with Next Gen standards. Social studies at middle and high schools has integrated AI into curriculum development, with pilot lessons planned for September. Hillside is developing inquiry-based social studies units, preparing for implementation across grade levels. Restorative practices planning and professional learning for counselors are ongoing. Supplemental instruction for eligible students is also being provided over the summer. Melissa outlined plans for professional learning objectives, including backward design and collaboration with principals at all levels. She discussed initial meetings with new staff, such as Andy Clayman, focusing on training and certification requirements. Lastly, she mentioned upcoming business item to approve Lou Adipietro as Andy Clayman's mentor.

B. [Report from Business Official](#)

- Maureen Caraballo provided updates on ongoing audits and fiscal year activities. She highlighted the internal risk assessment, internal focus area audit, and external fiscal audit underway, all scheduled for completion and

board reporting by October 15. Summer efforts include closing out the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and preparing for the new fiscal year, involving extensive administrative and payroll tasks. Maureen discussed recent bids for architect and engineer services, emergency repair work bids, and plans for electric bus infrastructure in compliance with upcoming state mandates. She emphasized the need for planning and potential grant opportunities to support infrastructure development for electric buses. Ongoing building renovations, maintenance projects, and infrastructure assessments were also noted as priorities.

#### 4. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. Public Comment
- No public comment

#### 5. BUSINESS

##### A. [Business Items](#)

1. Warrants.
2. Mountain Lake Academy, Contract for the 2024-2025 school year.
3. Yonkers Public Schools, Contract for Health Services 2023-2024.
4. Holly Hochstein Weinrib, Contract for the 2024-2025 school year.
5. Louis Adipietro, Proposal for mentoring Andrew Clayman.
6. Recommendation to accept bid from Hi Tech Air Conditioning Services, for the HVAC Services.
7. Approve contract with Pleasantville UFSD to provide summer services for 2024.
8. Establish the 2024-2025 Cafeteria Budget in the amount of \$1,150,000.

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

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

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yes: Silvia Robles, Alexander Dal Piaz, David Barone, Maureen Lennon-Santana, 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:

CPSE: 12354

CSE: 7261, 10968, 9015, 12032, 10886, 12437

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: 12354, 12431

CSE: 7625, 11239, 10725, 11905, 10322, 10158, 11497, 12563, 12670, 11865, 10483, 11442, 12684, 7286, 11768, 10480, 10733, 12760, 7757, 11393, 10539, 7336, 11294, 11293, 10123, 11492, 10590, 10661, 11413, 12344, 11495, 10448, 11856, 12419, 10699, 10421, 7703, 11514, 12377, 8053, 11207, 10542, 12590, 10466, 12517, 11510, 10359, 10591

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 David Barone.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

## 6. PERSONNEL (CONSENT AGENDA)

### A. [Approve Consent Agenda](#)

RESOLVED, to approve agenda items 6B through 6D as contained in the Consent Agenda for this meeting.

Motion by David Barone, second by Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

### B. Appointments

1. Dylan Hargraves, appoint to position of sub-cleaner in Buildings and Grounds effective July 1, 2024.
2. Mr. Tracy Forrest, appoint to Per Diem substitute teacher district wide effective August 28, 2024 for the 2024-2025 school year.
3. Schedule B appointments for the 2024-2025 school year as per attached spreadsheet. ([Enc](#))
4. Kristina Caruso appoint to Substitute Clerical district wide, \$23.00/hr. effective July 10, 2024.

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

Motion by David Barone, second by Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

### C. Amendment

1. Mohammed Zeshaun Mirza, amend start date of 1.0 FTE Athletic Trainer district wide, 10 month position as per contract, to effective August 8, 2024 for the 2024-2025 school year.

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

Motion by David Barone, second by Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

### D. Leave of Absence

1. Terence Land, Custodian at Hillside Elementary School has requested a leave of absence as follows: FMLA with pay June 20, 2024-July 5, 2024.

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

Motion by David Barone, second by Silvia Robles.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

## 7. MINUTES

### A. [Approval of Minutes](#)

1. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of June 25, 2024 and July 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 June 25, 2024 and July 3, 2024.

Motion by Maureen Lennon-Santana, second by Theresa McCaffrey.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

## **8. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT**

- A. Second Public Comment
- No public comment

## **9. NEW BUSINESS**

A. [Board of Education Meeting Dates 2024-2025](#)

1. Board of Education Meeting Dates 2024-2025

The Board reviewed and discussed the proposed 2024-2025 Board of Education Meeting dates. The discussion centered on meeting start times and duration logistics. The administration endorsed maintaining the 6:00 PM start to avoid late-night sessions, citing past meetings ending close to midnight without this early start. The board recognized the benefits of starting earlier, noting increased alertness and efficiency. Concerns were raised about scheduling conflicts with executive sessions and community engagement, particularly regarding village trustee meetings. It was noted that these dates were shared with the Village offices to avoid such conflicts.

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the following 2024-2025 Board Meeting Dates.

Motion by Silvia Robles, second by Theresa McCaffrey.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

## **10. AGENDA REVIEW**

A. [Board Retreat](#)

- The Board discussed plans for an upcoming retreat, emphasizing its training and team-building focus. They reviewed a tentative agenda and discussed logistical details such as location and facilitation.

B. [Agenda Review](#)

- Dr. McKersie presented the proposed schedule of board meetings for the upcoming year, emphasizing its role as a structured roadmap for the board's activities. The schedule includes regular updates on district operations, instructional technology, and financial matters, along with key events such as budget work sessions and policy reviews. Dr. McKersie highlighted the flexibility of the schedule to accommodate additional topics of interest to the board, urging members to prioritize their time effectively given the breadth of responsibilities. The board discussed potential adjustments to specific dates and topics, aiming to streamline their focus on essential educational and administrative issues throughout the year.
- Maureen Lennon-Santana suggested that the Retirement and Tenure recognition not be attached to a regular business meeting. The Board discussed and agreed to add an additional date for a celebratory meeting to recognize retirees and tenure recipients and vote on the tenure.
- Maureen Caraballo added that we should begin to identify dates for executive session to discuss collective bargaining. Will aim to schedule those dates at the August 27 BOE meeting.

## **11. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS**

A. [Comments](#)

- Alex Dal Piaz welcomed new Trustee David Barone

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

A. [Adjournment](#)

- Motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:48 pm.

Motion by Maureen Lennon-Santana, second by David Barone.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

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

*Melissa DeLaBarrera*

**Submitted by:**

**Melissa DeLaBarrera**

**District Clerk**