Hastings-on-Hudson Public Schools



Office of the Superintendent

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William S. McKersie, Ph.D. Superintendent of Schools mckersiew@hohschools.org

September 12, 2024

Dear Hastings Families and Staff:

For the past 24 hours, administrators, teachers and staff have focused on balancing teaching and learning with supporting each other given the allegations against a long-standing colleague. We have to attend to the emotional impact of this news on our students and each other.

Andy Clayman, Scott Wynne and Amy Cazes—working with their respective administrative colleagues and teachers—instituted support and outreach approaches reflective of their building's varied, developmental needs. However, the core guidance has been similar. By now, all families should have received a letter outlining action steps in their children's school. For convenience, I share them below.

- Hastings High School
- Farragut Middle School
- Hillside Elementary

Long before the current situation, we mandated training for every employee regarding professional interactions with students. Last year, following the leadership of several teachers, all employees participated in <u>Darkness to Light Training</u>, with a refresher this August. Separately, all employees at the beginning of each school year take training modules required by New York State on professional behavior laws and regulations, including Sexual Harassment, Dignity For All/Code of Conduct and Workplace Violence in Schools.

I would ask that each of us work hard not to discuss the specifics of the current situation, either in person or virtually (in group chats, social media, etc). We must respect and protect the privacy of our fellow students and colleagues.

In closing, let me echo what the principals wrote today. We understand how difficult this is for everyone, and we are committed to helping our community heal...Thank you for your continued trust and support as we work through this challenging time together.

Sincerely,

Bill

William S. McKersie, Ph.D. Superintendent of Schools