



Hastings-on-Hudson Public Schools

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Dear Hastings Community,

A short week leads to a short Friday letter. Today, I focus on several “technical updates” on strategic priorities, and close with a hint of good news coming next week. Read on, please.

Portrait of a Hastings Learner – Surveys Out Next Week

Starting on Monday, we will begin gathering information that will contribute to the design of a *"Portrait of a Hastings Learner"* and the development of strategic goals, which will guide the district's work over the next three to five years. We are surveying students (grades 5-12), district personnel, parents/families and community members.

Families and district personnel, as well as community members (without children in the district), should look for an email from me on Monday or Tuesday with a link to role-specific surveys. The deadline for replying will be October 20th. The survey is an opportunity for input and will be one slice of what we consider in creating the *Portrait* and in setting goals for our next level of work. Your thoughtful, anonymous responses will be essential.

Surveys of students (grades 5-12) will be distributed in a process being finalized with Jennifer Spirelli and Lou Adipietro. We will inform students directly when the plan is set. (We will not survey students in grades K-4.)

BOE Fall Plans – Attending to Strategic Priorities

The Board of Education (BOE) has set a forward-looking plan for its fall meetings.

Early Focus on Next Year's Budget – Maureen Caraballo outlined a [framework and timeline](#) at the September 28th BOE Meeting for how the Board could give early attention to the development of the 2023-24 Budget, and thereby be well-prepared for the formal review of the recommended budget starting in February 2023. A series of work sessions will be incorporated into the second part of already scheduled BOE meetings from October through December. The sessions will examine pivotal areas for the district and by extension, the budget. The aim is to gain perspective on complex topics and issues outside of what typically is an intense, truncated budget review process.

Priority Topic Updates - We have scheduled several priority topics for updates and BOE discussions. Some have a direct relationship to the budget, while others will provide broader context on progress across the district.

- Digital Learning & Technology – 10.11.22 BOE Meeting
- Special Education Advisory Committee – 10.25.22 BOE Meeting
- Hillside's National Blue Ribbon School Award – 11.9.22 BOE Meeting
- Academic Assessment Data Report (NYS Assessments and Renaissance STAR – Grades 3-8) – 11.22.22 BOE Meeting

Additional priority topics will be added as we proceed through the fall and into the early winter.

An Early Look – Upcoming Good News

In observance of this week's shortened holiday week, *Hastings Happenings* will resume on Tuesday, October 4th with an extended version. It will include a new episode of "The Buzz," featuring special guests Hillside Principal Amy Cazes, Third Grade Team Leader Phyllis Udice, and Second Grade Team Leader Dianna Clarke, who will bring to life Hillside's recent National Blue Ribbon School honor.

Additional good news to look for over the next few weeks: Junior Riya Chandra summits Mount Kilimanjaro (Tanzania), Teachers Unite to Raise Money for Cancer Research, and a Staff Spotlight on Kamillah Dawkins, Farragut Middle School's new Assistant Principal.

Be well.

Bill

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