

Superintendent's Report

Hasbrouck Heights School District



Dr. Torrento
January 2025

Aviators Fly Higher Together!

Policy Updates – January 2025

Second Readings:

1. **P 3125.2- Substitute Teachers**
 - As per NJDOE regulations all substitutes have 30 credits.
2. **R 8462.1- Restraint and Seclusion**
 - Language revision- As per Administrative discretion, staff members will be trained in proper restraint techniques and protocols.
3. **R 8462.1- Pupil Safety AND P 8601- Pupil Supervision**
 - Addresses late pick ups at the elementary schools. If a child must be brought to keys, parents will now be charged \$20.00 per hour, after two warnings.
 - 4th or 5th graders must have a signed waiver, in order to be permitted to walk home from the after school Keys Program.

Policy Updates – January 2025

First Readings:

1. *** P 5512 Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying**
 - HIB Investigations must pause when students are being criminally investigated; parental notification (in writing) is required to outline “pause.”
2. *** P & R 5533 Student Smoking**
 - School officials are to notify the Superintendent and the Police when there is reason to believe that an electronic device has been used on school property.
3. *** P & R 7441 Electronic Surveillance in School Buildings and on School Grounds**
 - Requires a district to enter into an MOU with local PD to allow for viewing of video surveillance during an emergency event.
4. *** P & R 9320 Cooperation with Law**
 - Designates specific individuals to be contacted by the PD with handle with care notifications.

**In alignment with the approved 2023 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and correlating Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)*

Policy Updates – January 2025

First Readings, Continued:

- 4.
5. **P & R 5111 Eligibility of Resident/Non-Resident Students**
 - Students of nonresident staff members of non certificated or certificated staff members are permitted to enroll their child(ren) within the district, with a set tuition rate, as per Executive County Superintendent Approval.
6. **P 8500 Food Services**
 - Coincides with P 8505 and P 8561– Mandated Language changes pertaining to the SNAP program.
7. **P 5460 High School Graduation**
 - Updates the requirement for all students to complete the financial aid application– starting with the class of 2025.
8. **P 5701 Academic Integrity**
 - Replacing Plagiarism (5701) and updates discipline– to stay in line with codes of conduct at each level.
9. **P and R 5516 Use of Electronic Communication Devices**
 - Updated policy changes and NEW Regulation to accompany the updates policy to outline expectations and discipline; no procedural changes to procedures with cell phones at any level; will continue to be in alignment with 5600.
10. **P 5710 Student Grievances**
 - Updating policy to include a process for student grievances.

Security Bid– Preliminary Planning

This security bid will address systems and platforms needed to ensure student and staff safety, including:

- **A NEW Public Address (PA) System**
 - Up to date security announcements
 - Separating announcements intended for Middle School or High School classrooms.
- **Completion of Surveillance Installation**
 - Hallways, stairwells and outdoor facilities will be complete, including Hitchcock and Depken Fields.
- **Installation of Telecommunication System**
 - Throughout the Middle/High School Facilities
 - Classroom staff will be able to call the main office and into other classrooms.
 - Classroom telephones will be enabled to call a lockdown from each room.

Security Bid- Timeline & Process

- **December 2024**
 - Board of Education approved the architecture firm to provide a cost assessment for bid proposal at the December BOE Meeting.
 - Assessment provided at the end of the month.
- **January 2025**
 - Board of Education will approve the architecture firm's cost assessment and will begin the drafting of security bid proposal at the January BOE Meeting.
- **February 2025- ANTICIPATED**
 - Board of Education intends to approve the architecture firm's bid proposal at February BOE Meeting.
 - The district intends to engage in requisition for proposal (RFP) *bidding process in March 2025*
 - Work to begin ASAP with completion intended for September 2025, prior to student arrival.

Good News!

- ***Middle School Spelling Bee Champion***
 - Congratulations to **Gabriella Lombanda**, our Spelling Bee Champion! A special congratulations to all of our participants who qualified for this event.
- ***Winter Track– Taking Gold***
 - **BOTH the girls and boys shuttle hurdles** have clinched the Group 1 Championship!
 - The Boys Winter Track **won** the Bergen County Championship!
 - The Girls Winter Track team **won** second place at the Bergen County Tournament!
- ***Bowling– On a Roll***
 - **Will Munoz** has been chosen for the prestigious honor of The Bergen Record's Athlete of the Week!
 - The team has qualified for the Bergen County Tournament.

Good News!

- **Boys Wrestling**

- **The team has won the NJIC Meadowlands League!**
- Multiple wrestlers have had an excellent season and are awaiting news on the NJSIAA Tournament in Atlantic City.

- **Poetry Out Loud – Artists on Display**

- Congratulations to our winners **Isabela Gomez, Victoria Morales, and Melanie Cardona Ocampo!**
- Our Poetry Out Loud Competitors were outstanding! These HS students displayed **bravery, creativity and public speaking skills** that will be needed within any profession.

- **Unsung Hero – Service, Dedication, & Responsibility**

- **Sarah Cue** has been chosen as the 2025 Unsung Hero of Hasbrouck Heights High School.

Good News!

- *Euclid and Lincoln Schools*

- Both schools are preparing for *Author Visits* and *Theater Week* in the coming months.
- The elementary schools have completed another year of *successful parent/teacher conferences*.
- Both elementary schools are proud of all of the *Junior Women's Club Spelling Bee* participants.
- The elementary schools will be holding the first ever *in-district coding competition*.
- The elementary schools will begin *Kindergarten Registration* and welcome our newest Eagles and Leopards.

A Very Special Thank You...

- **Lincoln School Staff and Mr. Colangelo**
 - Thank you for your outstanding efforts in navigating a challenging situation. *Your genuine care for our kids and unwavering support* for Mr. Colangelo and the administration consistently shine through.
- **HH Police Department, Fire Department and DPW**
 - The town *responded expeditiously* in addressing the telephone pole replacement outside of Lincoln School.
- **HHEA**
 - *Mr. Warren and the HHEA Executive Team* are true leaders willing to collaborate and assist the administration in all ways.
- **Mr. Bob Brown, Interim Business Administrator & Board Secretary**
 - Mr. Brown has served HHSD for the two years assisting the Board and administration during a time of significant transition.
 - His expertise, his knowledge, and his dedication will be missed.
 - *Thank you, Mr. Brown!*

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