



**Tuesday, December 20, 2016  
Work Session Meeting  
MS/HS Library, 7:00 PM**

**1. Call to Order**

**2. Executive Session - 6:17 PM**

Mr. Reiser moved, and Mr. Greengrass seconded, to appoint Ms. Lucasey as Clerk Pro Tem.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

Mr. Reiser moved, and Ms. Johnson seconded, that the Board convene to Executive Session for the following purpose: To discuss the discipline of a particular person.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

At 7:01 PM, Mr. Greengrass moved, and Mr. Reiser seconded, to move back to the Regular Meeting.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

**3. Work Session Meeting Opening 7:09 p.m.**

Ms. Tracy Baron, President; Ms. Jean Lucasey, Vice President; Mr. Robert Reiser; Mr. Jonathan Greengrass; Ms. Shannon Johnson; Ms. Rita Kennedy; Dr. Lisa Brady, Superintendent; Ms. Sylvia Fassler-Wallach, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Facilities and Operations; Mr. Douglas Berry, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction and Ms. Loretta Tularzko, District Clerk.

Mr. Louis Schwartz was not in attendance.

**3.01 Pledge of Allegiance**

**3.02 Acceptance of the Agenda**

Ms. Johnson moved, and Ms. Kennedy seconded, that the Board accept the December 20th Agenda.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

**4. Student Recognition**

**4.01 Blake Hord**

Blake Hord gave a summary of his science research project that led to his achievement as a 6<sup>th</sup> place winner in the National Siemens Competition in Math, Science, and Technology. He was awarded a \$10,000 scholarship.

Dr. Brady introduced Blake and explained that they have been "buddies" since he worked on his Eagle Scout project three or four years ago.

Blake's research focused on spiral features that Scientists have observed around nearby stars. It is thought that these features may be caused by the early formation of planets generating a wake in the dust surrounding the stars. He developed a pipeline between a code that simulated a high-mass planet and another code that

## MINUTES

replicated the sources of heat around the star. The results demonstrated a match with patterns around different stars, suggesting that those spirals may indeed be created by planets forming in those regions.

Dr. Brady and the Board congratulated Blake on his achievement.

### 5. Citizen's Comments

#### 5.01 Notice

*Members of the community may comment on any matter related to district business. Any group or organization wishing to address the Board must identify a single spokesperson. Presentations should be as brief as possible and no speaker will be permitted to speak for longer than 3 minutes. It is expected that speakers will conduct themselves in a civil manner and will be ruled out of order for any statement that constitutes a direct threat against officers, employees or students of the school district, or that is obscene. Questions or comments concerning matters that are not on the agenda will be taken under consideration and referred to the Superintendent for appropriate action.*

### 6. Board Actions

#### 6.01 PTSA Grants

Mr. Greengrass moved, and Ms. Johnson seconded, that the Board accept the following fall Insta Grants from the Dobbs Ferry Schools PTSA totaling \$1,767.00:

Middle School  
2 Breakout Edu Kits - \$200.00

Springhurst  
2 Breakout Edu Kits - \$178.00  
Ten set of Think Tank Cards by Origo for the Second Grade - \$1,089.00  
Kodable Pilot - Class 2 - Mr. DiStefano - 30 subscriptions - \$300.00

The Board thanked the PTSA and expressed their gratitude for their continued support. Ms. McNamara stated that there will be winter grants awarded in January.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

#### 6.02 Dobbs Ferry Schools Foundation Grant

Mr. Reiser moved, and Ms. Lucasey seconded, that the Board accept the Google Exhibition grant from the Dobbs Ferry Schools Foundation totaling \$10,000.

The Board thanked the Dobbs Ferry Schools Foundation for the grant and expressed their gratitude for their continued support.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

### 7. Work Session Topic

#### 7.01 Student Feedback

The group discussed information they read in the following articles:

- "Why Kids Should Grade Teachers" by Ronald Ferguson in the "The Atlantic"
- "Asking Students About Teaching" an article from the Melinda and Bill Gates Foundation
- "Tripod" - The leading source of student feedback for K-12 educators.

Discussion:

## MINUTES

- Youth Truth Survey has been used in the Middle School for 2 years
  - Survey results by grade/gender
    - Students feel safe about their school
    - Feedback gained has been used by the teacher leaders with their departments
- 3012d doesn't allow for survey results to be part of a teacher's evaluation
- Research based non-threatening survey instruments are suggested
- Teachers are encouraged to be reflective with the survey information
- District could start with a pilot for a few teachers
- Possibly ask teachers to volunteer for focus groups
- Cost would be a factor
- It should be a partnership
- A Pride Survey was conducted in the district sometime in 2006-2007

Strategic Plan BOE volunteers – Rita Kennedy – Jonathan Greengrass – Shannon Johnson

### 8. Upcoming Meetings

#### 8.01 Calendar

##### Tuesday, January 3, 2017 – 7:00 PM – MS/HS Library

- Budget Status Report (moved to January 17<sup>th</sup> after the January 10<sup>th</sup> Finance Committee meeting)
- Annual Special Education Update

##### Tuesday, January 17, 2017 - 7:00 PM - MS/HS Library

- Work Session - " The Originals" by Adam Grant

#### Executive Session - 8:35 PM

Ms. Johnson moved, and Mr. Reiser seconded, that the Board convene to Executive Session for the following purpose: To discuss employment and appointment of a particular person.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

Ms. Kennedy moved, and Ms. Johnson seconded, to appoint Ms. Lucasey as Clerk Pro Tem.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

At 9:00 PM, Ms. Kennedy moved, and Mr. Reiser seconded, to move back to the Public Meeting.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

### 9. Adjournment

At 9:00 PM, Ms. Kennedy moved, and Ms. Johnson seconded, that the Board adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays



District Clerk