

MINUTES



Thursday, December 18, 2014 Business Board Meeting MS/HS Library, 7:00 PM

1. Call to Order

Ms. Baron called the meeting to order.

In attendance, Ms. Tracy Baron, Board President; Mr. Robert Reiser, Board Vice President; Mr. Michael Goldman; Mr. Jonathan Greengrass; Mr. Louis Schwartz; Ms. Jean Lucasey; 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.

Ms. Lynne Black was not in attendance.

2. Regular Meeting Opening 7:09 p.m.

2.01 Pledge of Allegiance

2.02 Acceptance of the Agenda

Mr. Goldman moved, and Ms. Lucasey seconded, that the Board accept the December 18th Agenda.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

2.03 Approval of Minutes

Ms. Lucasey moved, and Mr. Reiser seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the December 4, 2014 meeting.

Vote: 4 ayes - 0 nays – 2 abstentions – Mr. Greengrass and Mr. Schwartz

3. Announcements

4. Superintendent's Report

4.01 Superintendent's Report for December 18, 2014

The holiday concerts in the Middle School and High School are growing in leaps and bounds. Dr. Brady received unsolicited emails from community members and graduates about their progress.

For the past two years, the District has been discussing the branding process and how to capture the essence of our strategic Vision and Mission. Dr. Brady shared a video depicting a sneak peek of the new "Pages of Progress" identity for the District.

- Please see our website to view the video.

The commissioner of the State Education Department has resigned to accept a position on President Obama's staff.

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The LHCSS had their annual meeting with 22 legislators to discuss how they might influence policy decisions that support public education.

Discussion included:

- Gap Elimination Adjustment
- Restoration of foundation aid
- Common Core uncertainty
- Mandatory field testing
- Standardized test scores tied to teacher evaluation
- Issues around local versus SED negotiated teacher evaluation – no movement currently underway to revamp

SED will be publishing graduation rates – their data is flawed and based on incomplete information from the College Clearinghouse.

- The State looks at number of graduates who are continuing on to higher education in two year or four year colleges.
- They contracted a Clearing House to collect data not all colleges participate.
- 2006, 2007 and 2008 cohorts

Year	State Reported Students	District Reported Students	State Reported % Pursuing higher education	District Reported % Pursuing higher education
2012	92	101	84%	93%
2011	81	102	84%	97%
2010	96	121	79%	99%

The Board suggested perhaps posting the chart on Facebook.

5. Correspondence

The Board acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence:

1. Commending the Guidance Department
2. Complimenting the quality of the MS concert

6. Citizen's Comments

6.01 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.

None.

7. Reports to the Board

Please view the entire meeting on TV DFTV - Channel 75 & 47 for full details or visit the website for the video of the presentation

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7.01 School Data and Academic Progress

Mr. Berry, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, presented an overview of the elementary and middle school data and academic progress.

- In what ways can student performance data from the 3-8 NYS Assessments help to shape school based programs and interventions?
- Outcomes for tonight's presentation
- Where We Are
- Performance Levels
- Options for Looking at Data
- Enrollment Growth

Highlights:

- Thanked the administrators for their work on the presentations and to the teachers for coming out tonight in support
- Data affords us multiple opportunities to look at the results in different ways
- We are aware of interventions required in sub groups
- Plans for scoring changes of the spring assessments 2015 will be shared after the presentations
- 13-14 data represents the 4th year of the 12 year Common Core phase-in and the 2nd year of common core assessments
- Our goal is to have the Class of 2022 pass the Regents at the Common Core college entry level
- 13-14 data represents 2nd common core assessments
- NYS identifies the sub group "economically disadvantaged" also as free and reduced lunch or poverty
 - 92 students in grades 3-8 in 2013
 - 107 students – in 2014
 - % scoring at Level 3 and 4 remained the same
- We can do better, and each District is unique
- We are in a cycle of continued improvement
- The buildings have wonderful steps in place to improve scores going forward; some will have immediate and some will have long term effects
- Dobbs Ferry chose the harder path to look at sub groups for intervention

Ms. Drake and Ms. Giannico Doty presented the 2014 NYS Exam Results & Plan of Action for Springhurst.

- NYS Math Results
- NYS ELA Results
- Grade 4 Science
- Our big "take aways"
- What are we doing now (Math)
- What are we doing now (ELA)
- What we need

Highlights:

- Students are doing better in Math than ELA
- In the past, if a child was reading at or above grade level generally they did well on the test
 - Not the case anymore - 80 students reading at grade level; but only 50% passed the ELA
- Reading level is determined by different methods (K-2 – DRA – 3-5 Teacher College Assessment)
- Books that were read in the 8th grade are now being read in 6th grade
- In the past, the tests had fewer questions and less testing time
- AIS support is being increased
- WIN periods help deliver more targeted instruction
- Increase staff awareness of which students need to increase reading levels
- 74 students in 2012-13 needed AIS; in 2014-15 we have 216 students

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- Unable to help beyond the mandate
- Springhurst is requesting an additional AIS position
- Opting out of testing hurts the District
- What are other Districts reading results? Districts haven't shared that data.
- It is difficult to pin point one particular student's progress, but at building levels we are tracking progress performance in AIS programs
- Springhurst is working on redesigning the report cards to be aligned with the Common Core

Mr. Mussolini, Ms. Anne Pecunia and Ms. Kazcomarak presented the Middle School's data and academic progress.

- 2013-2014 NYS Common Core ELA Assessment
- Grade 6 ELA Assessment
- Grade 7 ELA Assessment
- Grade 8 ELA Assessment
- 2013-2014 NYS Common Core Math Assessment
- Grade 6 Math Assessment
- Grade 7 Math Assessment
- Grade 8 Math Assessment
- Scales Scores
- Definitions of Performance Levels for the 2014 Grades 3-8 English Language Arts Tests
- Scale Score
- ELA 3-8 Scale Score Ranges Associated with Each Performance Level
- Math 3-8 Scale Score Ranges Associated with Each Performance Level
- 6th Grade ELA Total Growth/Regression
- 7th Grade ELA Total Growth/Regression
- 8th Grade ELA Total Growth/Regression
- Subgroups
- 6th Grade ELA Economically Disadvantaged Growth/Regression
- 7th Grade ELA Economically Disadvantaged Growth/Regression
- 8th Grade ELA Economically Disadvantaged Growth/Regression
- The Plan

Highlights:

- Looking at cohort data
- Levels include scale scores
- The State takes a raw score and uses a scale score conversion
- The SED also change definitions as they go
- Level two's can still be on track for HS graduation
- Scale scores are a better way to track students' progress
- Math scores are good
- We are concentrating on ELA
- Changed AIS Model
- AIS – 55 students in ELA – 49 students in Math
- Fully servicing all mandated students
- Scales scores are not on the reports anymore
- iReady – AIS online diagnostic program
- Benchmark assessments
- ELA after school academy – twice a week
- Saturday academy – for ELA and test taking skills
- All teachers are ELA teachers
- Standard based rubrics

A parent from SPRING suggested that cost of tutoring should be shared by the District and the work being done should be communicated to the parents.

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Ms. Baron thanked the administrators for their presentation and all the work going on at the schools.

Mr. Berry, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, summarized the plans for 2015 and how the 2015 Assessments will be scored:

- 3-8 Math will be scored outside the District
- ELA will be scored in house
- This will give teachers more interaction with the rubrics

8. Board Actions

8.01 Budget Development Calendar

Mr. Schwartz moved, and Ms. Lucasey seconded, that the Board move to adopt the 2015-2016 Budget Development Calendar.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

8.02 Policy Revision - First Reading

The Board conducted a first reading of the following policies revised policies:

- 1740 – Relationship with Nonpublic Schools
- 5500 – Student Records

Mr. Greengrass moved, and Mr. Schwartz seconded, that the Board forego a second reading and adopt the following policy:

- 1740 – Relationship with Nonpublic Schools

Vote: 5 - ayes - 1 nay – Mr. Goldman

Mr. Goldman moved, and Ms. Lucasey seconded, that the Board forego a second reading and adopt the following policy as amended:

- 5500 – Student Records

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

8.03 CSE/CPSE

Ms. Lucasey moved, and Mr. Reiser seconded, that the Board authorize and direct the following:

WHEREAS the Committee on Special Education and Committee on Pre-School Special Education had issued to the Board by written confidential report dated December 11, 2014 its IEP recommendations for the students who are identified therein; and

WHEREAS the Board is responsible for arranging for appropriate special programs and services to students with IEPs, as recommended by said committee;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District hereby authorize and direct the administration to immediately arrange for the special programs and services as set forth in said report dated December 11, 2014.

The Board has requested information pertaining to concerns about the beginning and end dates of services.

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Concerns will be addressed during the Special Education update at the January 8th meeting.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

8.04 Personnel

Mr. Goldman moved, and Mr. Greengrass seconded, that the Board approve the Civil Service and Staff Personnel recommendations.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

8.05 Treasurer's Report

The Board acknowledged receipt of the Treasurer's Report for November, 2014.

8.06 Warrants

The Board acknowledged receipt of the following warrant:
Warrant No. 25 Multi.

9. Committee Reports

Branding Communications Committee met on December 18th to review the new logo and tag lines for the District which will be rolled out when we return from break.

Students Activities/Athletics Committee met on Monday, December 8th – The Committee discussed the possibility of adding a Girls Winter Varsity Cheerleading team to the athletic program. Currently, our cheerleading team is considered a non-competitive "Spirit" team.

10. Old Business

None

11. New Business

A meeting was held yesterday with KG&D Architects to talk about the turf fields to assist KG&D in preparing specifics for the community presentation to be held in the beginning of the new year.

Items Discussed:

- Fillers - rubber versus organic
- Cost, maintenance and life span
- There is no scientific data against either the rubber or organic fillers
- What other Districts are installing
- Currently there isn't enough information of have the community presentation on Jan. 6th
- Need to find out the exact date that a decision needs to be finalized
- The Board will supply questions and concerns for KD&G to investigate

12. Upcoming Meetings

12.01 Calendar

Thursday, January 8, 2015 – 7:00 PM – MS/HS Library

- Special Ed Report
- School Data and Academic Progress - HS

Thursday, January 22, 2015 – 7:00 PM – Work Session - MS/HS Library

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- Budget Status Report

Saturday, January 24, 2015 – 9:00 AM – Board Room

- Board Retreat

13.0 Executive Session

3.01 Executive Session

At 10:04 PM, Mr. Goldman moved, and Ms. Lucasey seconded, to convene to Executive Session for the following purpose: to discuss the employment history of a particular person.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

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

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

At 10:34 PM, Ms. Lucasey moved, and Mr. Goldman seconded, to return to the Regular Meeting

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

14. Adjournment

At 10:35, Ms. Lucasey moved, and Mr. Greengrass seconded, to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

15. Approved Minutes

15.01 Approved Minutes – November 6 and 19, 2014

IF INTERESTED IN REVIEWING BACK UP MATERIALS PERTAINING TO ANY ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA, ONCE APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION PLEASE CONTACT LORETTA TULARZKO AT 693-1506.



District Clerk