



**Thursday, May 7, 2015
Business Board Meeting
MS/HS Library, 7:00 PM**

1. Audit Committee 6:30 PM

2. Call to Order

3. Meeting Opening 7:14 p.m.

Ms. Baron called the meeting to order.

In attendance, Ms. Tracy Baron, Board President; Mr. Robert Reiser, Board Vice President; Ms. Lynne Black; Mr. Michael Goldman; Mr. Jonathan Greengrass; 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.

Mr. Louis Schwartz was not in attendance.

3.01 Pledge of Allegiance

3.02 Acceptance of the Agenda

Mr. Greengrass moved, and Ms. Lucasey seconded, that the Board accept the May 7 Agenda.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

3.03 Approval of Minutes

Mr. Greengrass moved, and Ms. Lucasey seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the April 9, 2015 meeting.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

Mr. Goldman moved, and Mr. Greengrass seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the April 16, 2015 meeting.

Vote: 5 ayes - 0 nays – 1 abstention – Ms. Black

Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Black seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the April 21, 2015 meeting.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

4. Announcements

4.01 Personal Voter Registration

Any community resident not registered with the Westchester County Board of Elections may do so during Personal Registration which will take place on Monday, May 11, 2015 between **3:30 PM and 7:30 PM** in the HS

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Gymnasium Foyer. Voter Qualifications: (1) Must be a citizen of the United States; (2) Must be 18 years of age or older; (3) Must have been a resident of the school district for a period of 30 days or more prior to May 19, 2015.

The High School spring concert, the District Orchestra concert and the High School musical "Little Shop of Horrors" were all wonderful. Our students' performance displayed significant growth and progress in our music programs.

PTSA

- Meeting on Monday, May 11 at 7:30 PM in the Library Presentation Center
 - Creating a new slate for the Executive Committee for next year
 - Brainstorming session for the future of the PTSA
- The Board thanked the PTSA for hosting Teacher Appreciation Week
- Staff thank you luncheons will take place next Monday at Springhurst and next Friday at the MS/HS
- "Meet the Candidates" for the Board of Education will be held May 12th at 7:30 PM in the Library

5. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Brady discussed Springhurst class sizes for next year in response to parent correspondence received during the week.

- During budget preparation, all the principals have input into what is needed for their schools in terms of staff
 - Springhurst principal requested an additional AIS teacher to support all students for success
 - Our District is in line with the neighboring towns and the region in regards to class size – this information was obtained from PNWBOCES
 - Class sizes for next year:
 - K-19.2
 - 1-18.2
 - 2-20.4
 - 3-21.8
 - 4-20.4
 - 5-23.2
 - Generally, there is more than one teacher in the classroom along with other adults such as aides
 - AIS (Academic Intervention Services) does not preclude Special Ed services
 - A parent must approve AIS services
 - There are approximately 33 sections with 68 teachers/teaching assistants at Springhurst
 - This is not the first year Springhurst had a 21/22 third grade class size
 - Current year 3rd grade class size is 19
 - Board has a legal responsibility to carry out State mandates such as AIS
 - Parents will email their specific questions to the Superintendent

6. Correspondence

6.01 Correspondence

The Board acknowledged correspondence concerning class size at Springhurst next year.

7. Citizen's Comments

7.01 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.

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Comments/Questions:

- Several parents voiced their concern regarding the increase in the 3rd grade class size
 - AIS teacher versus classroom teacher
 - Lack of transparency
 - All meetings including our budget meetings are publicized on the website and via K-12's
 - The Board always encourages community participation at meetings
 - Tracy Baron explained the budget preparation and meeting process
 - The voters will vote on the budget dollar amount not individual line items
 - What if the budget is voted down?
 - The District may resubmit the same budget, change the budget for voter approval or use a contingency budget with a zero percent tax levy increase which would cut a million dollars out of the budget

8. Budget Hearing

8.01 Adopted 2015-2016 Budget

Dr. Lisa Brady, Superintendent, and Ms. Sylvia Fassler-Wallach, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Facilities and Operations, presented the adopted 2015-2016 Budget.

- Sources of Revenue – 2015-16
- Expenditures
- Assessed Valuation
- Tax Levy Cap Calculation
- Proposition #1 – 2015-15 Budget Statistics
- Proposition #1 – Budget
- Proposition #2 – Bond Reallocation
- Board Members
- School Board Election and Budget Vote

Comments:

The District budget is built through a series of publicized public meetings. Transparency is a two way street. Our information is sent out via K-12's, Agenda Snapshot reminders, and articles in the Enterprise. However, the community has to act on the information. The Board encourages everyone to please attend.

9. 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

9.01 Middle Years Program Update

Mr. Douglas Berry, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instructions and Ms. Jennifer Hickey, MYP Coordinator, updated the Board.

- Vision/Mission
- IB Mission
- Reading Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies 6/12
- Tony Wagner's 7 Survival Skills for Teens Today
- IB Learner Profile
- MYP Programme Model & Requirements
- Timeline to MYP Authorization
- Requirements Prior to Authorization
- MYP Training
- MYP Program Development Oversight Structure
- What's Next?

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- Questions?

Comments/Questions:

- Mr. Berry thanked all the administrators for their work on MYP
- Mr. Berry also thanked Ms. Hickey for the great job she is doing as the MYP Coordinator and for being our resident expert
- MYP is a direct connection between what we set in our vision/mission and the IB mission/philosophy
- MYP is an approach to instruction not curriculum
 - It trains teachers how to integrate this philosophy into their teaching
 - Teachers have been enthusiastic about the training
- Our IB consultant feels we are on the right track towards authorization
- When will the first class be implemented?
 - Perhaps the fall of 2016
 - It will be a systemic change in process
 - It may take 5 – 7 years to be fully implemented

9.02 School/Bell Schedule

Dr. Brady shared a sample later start MS/HS Bell Schedule to coincide with the discussions during the April 19th Work Session on Adolescent Sleep and later school start times.

Comments:

- The information presented is not a “change”, it is just a sample schedule
 - It could be used as an incremental first step
- Athletics – games/practices need to be considered when extending the day
- Athletics should not dictate instructional time
- Administration will share the sample with the DFUT
- Sleep and start time need to be a partnership between the District and parents
- School start times are the responsibility of Administration to coincide with Union Contracts not a Board function
- Can the Superintendent canvas her colleagues regarding Athletic Directors and sports start time?
- Variations of block scheduling is a long term discussion
- The Board thanked the Administration for the quick turnaround

10. Board Actions

Mr. Goldman moved, and Ms. Black seconded, that the Board approve Items 10.01, 10.2, 10.06, 10.07, 10.08, 10.09, 10.11, 10.12, 10.13, 10.14, 10.16, 10.17, and 10.19 as a consent agenda.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

Mr. Goldman moved, and Mr. Greengrass seconded, that the Board approve Items 10.01, 10.2, 10.06, 10.07, 10.08, 10.09, 10.11, 10.12, 10.13, 10.14, 10.16, 10.17, and 10.19

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

10.01 2015 Board of Registry and Election Inspectors

The Board appointed the Board of Registry and Election Inspectors for the May 11, 2015 and May 19, 2015 Personal Registration and Annual Election and Budget Vote.

10.02 2015-2016 Reorganizational Meeting

The Board established Wednesday, July 1, 2015 as the date of the 2015-2016 Reorganizational Meeting. It will take place in the Board Room at 8:00 AM.

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10.06 Alternate Transportation Resolutions for 2015-2016

The Board approved the following alternate transportation resolutions:

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Ardsley School District award the 2015-16 Alternate No. 1: Out-of-District Home-to-School Contract/ Annual Cost of Performance Bond and Alternate No. 1: In-District Home-to-School Contract/ Annual Cost of Performance Bond to Montauk Student Transport, LLC, as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder.

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Ardsley School District award the 2015-16 Alternate No. 2: Out-of-District Home-to-School Contract/ Cost per vehicle of Video and Sound Recording Equipment, Alternates 2.1 and 2.2, and Alternate No. 2: In-District Home-to-School Contract/ Cost per vehicle of Video and Sound Recording Equipment, Alternates 2.1 and 2.2, to Montauk Student Transport, LLC, as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder.

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Ardsley School District award the 2015-16 Alternate No. 3: Out-of-District Home-to-School Contract/ Daily increase per vehicle in cost of Lower Vehicle Age Requirements, Alternate 3.2, and Alternate No. 3: In-District Home-to-School Contract/ Daily increase per vehicle in cost of Lower Vehicle Age Requirements, Alternate 3.2, to Montauk Student Transport, LLC, as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder.

10.07 88 Ashford Avenue LLC Tax Refund and Budget Increase

The Board approved the payment in the total amount of \$39,877.81, that includes the 2009 and 2012 assessment years, and the following budget increase to enable the District to pay the tax certiorari refund.

Reserve/Revenue Account	Amount	Budget Account to Increase	Amount
A864	\$39,877.81	A1930.434.99.8002	\$39,877.81
Reserve for Tax Certiorari		Certiorari	
Total	\$39,877.81	Total	\$39,877.81

10.08 Dobbs Ferry Manor Condominium Tax Refund and Budget Increase

The Board approved the payment in the total amount of \$60,950.60 to refund taxes for the 2012 and 2013 assessment years, and the following budget increase to enable the District to pay the tax certiorari refund out of the Reserve for Tax Certiorari.

Reserve/Revenue Account	Amount	Budget Account to Increase	Amount
A864	\$30,217.87	A1930.434.99.8002	\$30,217.87
Reserve for Tax Certiorari		Certiorari	
Total	\$30,217.87	Total	\$30,217.87

10.09 Banking

The Board designated People's United Bank as an additional bank in which the District may deposit District funds.

10.11 Bid Awards

The Board awarded the following bids to the vendors listed below:

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Bid Name/Number	Vendor Name	Vendor to be Awarded
BID #1516-02	Asphalt Paving & Repair Services	Ben Cozzi, Inc.
Bid #1516-03	Concrete Construction & Repair Services	Ben Cozzi, Inc.
Bid #1516-04	Site Work Services	Ben Cozzi, Inc.

10.12 Budget Increase

The Board approved the following budget increase to enable the district to move funds from the Reserve for Capital Projects to the Capital Fund:

Reserve Account	Amount
A878	\$994,700
Reserve for Capital Projects	
Revenue Account to Increase	\$994,700
A5997.878	
Appropriated Reserve - Capital Projects	
Expenditure Account to Increase	\$994,700
A9903.900.99.000	
Transfer to Capital Fund	

10.13 Budget Increase

The Board approved the following budget increase to pay the expenditures for the Hudson River Community Education program:

Revenue Account to Increase	Amount	Expenditure Accounts to Increase	Amount
A1489.500	\$6,800.00	A8060.150.00.HRCE	\$ 800.00
HIRCE Tuition		Salary - Certified Staff	
		A8060.160.00.HRCE	\$3,825.00
		Salary - Classified Staff	
		A8060.406.00.HRCE	\$ 500.00
		Contractual	
		A8060.460.00.HRCE	\$1,299.00
		Software	
		A8060.473.00.HRCE	\$ 376.00

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		Postage	
Total	\$6,800.00	Total	\$6,800.00

10.14 Budget Increase

The Board approved the following budget increase to replace equipment lost due to water damage:

Revenue Account to Increase	Amount	Expenditure Accounts to Increase	Amount
A2680	\$30,112.20	A1620.200.08.0000	\$30,112.20
Insurance Recoveries		Operations - Equipment	
Total	\$30,112.20	Total	\$30,112.20

10.16 Budget Transfer

The Board approved the following budget transfer to pay for educational expenses for hospitalized and home-bound students:

Account to Decrease	Amount	Account to Increase	Amount
A2110.450.04.0000	\$12,000.00	A2110.403.04.0000	\$12,000.00
Tch Reg - Supp - General		Contractual Tutors	
Total	\$12,000.00	Total	\$12,000.00

10.17 Poetry Workshop and Cafe

The Board approved Cynthia Keteku, Poetry Consultant, to lead a workshop focusing on the writing of poetry. The work will consist of 7 days/1 night and the fee will not exceed \$900.00 and will be charged to code F8110-400-02-DFPTSA.

10.19 Special Education Consultant

The Board approved Precise Translations, LLC to provide translation services for Urdu Psychological and Educational evaluations for special education students effective May 8, 2015 through June 30, 2015. The fee is \$1,150.00. It will be charged to F2250-400-00-150611.

10.03 WPSBA Resolution: 2015 APPR Plan Implementation

Ms. Lucasey moved, and Mr. Greengrass seconded, that the Board adopt the following resolution as amended:

Whereas our district benefits from local control, opposes legislative remedies that assume that one size fits all, and has serious concerns about the new APPR plan;

Whereas the newly enacted State budget requires the Commissioner of Education to adopt regulations by June 30, 2015, thereby creating a truncated timeline, and assuring ongoing, piecemeal changes to APPR without adequate public consideration;

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Whereas the State budget legislation threatens that state aid will be withheld unless local contract negotiations conclude by September 1 of this and each subsequent year – another virtually impossible deadline given the obligations of collective bargaining;

Whereas we oppose the proposed nexus of high stakes assessment and teacher evaluation and we have concerns related to the reliability, transparency and length of the tests;

Whereas it is in the best interest of the students, staff and public education in the state and in this school district that we develop and implement an appropriate APPR evaluation system, rather than the recently enacted system which relies on an untested, opaque value-added model (VAM), focuses on only three snapshots in time (assessment and 2 evaluations) out of an entire school year, uses a basic scoring grid rather than a matrix based on multiple measures, and relies on a SLO model for the majority of teachers; and

Whereas the current efforts in Congress to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) recognize the error of mandating that test scores be linked to teacher and administrator evaluations; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District:

1. requests that the Board of Regents convene a task force of qualified practitioners and independent experts to review the reliability, transparency, developmental appropriateness, and length of the state tests and to assure the validity of linking the tests to the proposed evaluation system,
2. requests that the Board of Regents, Commissioner of Education and State legislators allow that draft regulations be filed by the Commissioner on June 30, 2015, followed by a 90 day comment period and that the deadline for school district submission of modified APPR plans be moved to September 1, 2016, and
3. requests that the Board of Regents, Commissioner of Education and State legislators perform a detailed review of the evaluation proposal, gather input from qualified practitioners and independent experts, and reject the elements of the Cuomo Education Reform Agenda which place undue reliance on state tests and constitute inappropriate reforms to APPR. Our communities, teachers and students deserve nothing less.

Vote: 5 ayes - 1 nay – Mr. Goldman

10.04 State Aid Process Review

Ms. Black moved, and Mr. Greengrass seconded, that the Board approve the Management Advisory Group of New York, Inc. to perform a State Aid Process review. The fee will be \$1,500.00.

Ms. Fassler-Wallach explained the necessity of the review.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

10.05 Fund Surplus Resolution Agreement and Release

Mr. Goldman moved, and Mr. Greengrass seconded, that the Board approve the Fund Surplus Resolution Agreement and Release between the Dobbs Ferry UFSD and the Board of Cooperative Educational Services Rensselaer - Columbia - Greene Counties "Questar III" and authorize the Board President to execute the agreement and release on behalf of Board.

Ms. Fassler-Wallach explained the surplus.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

10.10 Bid Rejection

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Mr. Greengrass moved, and Ms. Lucasey seconded, that the Board waive the reading of the resolution.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

Mr. Goldman moved, and Ms. Black seconded, that the Board adopt the resolution below and reject bid #1516-01, Window Reconstruction/Repair Services Project:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Board of Education, in accordance with Article 5-A of the General Municipal Law, has invited sealed bids for the furnishing of material and labor necessary for the Bid #1516-01 Window Reconstruction/Repair Services Project ("the Project and Services"), which bids were opened publicly on April 28, 2015; and

WHEREAS, only one bid was received for the Project and Services which came in over budget, and the Board believes it to be in the best interests of the School District to reject the bid and rebid the Project and Services;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, in the best interests of the School District, hereby reject the bids for the Bid #1516-01 Window Reconstruction/Repair Services Project, and directs the purchasing agent to rebid the Project and Services.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

The Board has requested that at the next meeting Ms. Fassler-Wallach create a one-slide timeline of the Capital Projects.

The Finance and Facilities Committee will meet on May 18, to review the project documents that will be sent to the SED.

10.15 Budget Transfer

Mr. Goldman moved, and Mr. Greengrass seconded, that the Board approve the following budget transfer to pay for Visitor Management Software:

Account to Decrease	Amount	Account to Increase	Amount
A1310.460.00.0000	\$11,000.00	A1620.490.08.5500	\$18,000.00
Bus Off Acctg Software		Operations - BOCES	
A2280.490.03.0000	\$ 7,000.00		
Occ Ed - BOCES			
Total	\$18,000.00	Total	\$18,000.00

Ms. Fassler-Wallach described how the District will use the program.

The Board would like more information regarding the how database anomalies will be handled.

Vote: 5 ayes - 1 nay – Ms. Black

10.18 ELA Workshop

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Mr. Reiser moved, and Mr. Greengrass seconded, that the Board approve Knighthorse Theatre Co. to lead a 8th Grade ELA workshop focusing on Romeo & Juliet. The fee will be \$2,500.00 and will be charged to codes A-2110-410-02-2000, A-2110-450-02-2000 and F8110-400-02-DFPTSA.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

10.20 CSE/CPSE

Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Black seconded, that the Board authorized and directed 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 April 30, 2015 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 April 30, 2015.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

10.21 Personnel

Ms. Black moved, and Mr. Greengrass seconded, that the Board approve the Civil Service and staff personnel recommendations.

The Board thanked Ms. Wrey for all her years of teaching. She will be missed.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

10.22 Treasurer's Report

The Board acknowledged receipt of the Treasurer's Report for March, 2015.

10.23 Warrants

The Board acknowledged receipt of the following warrants:
Warrant No. 45 and 47 Multi.

11. Committee Reports

None.

12. Old Business

None.

13. New Business

13.01 LHCSS Letter to Governor, SED, Regents, and Legislators

The letter will be amended to correct the date format.

13.02 2015-16 Board Meeting Calendar

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The Board meeting calendar discussion has been postponed until the next Board meeting.

14. Upcoming Meetings

14.01 Calendar

Monday, May 11, 2015 - 3:30 PM - 7:30 PM - HS Gymnasium Foyer

- Voter Registration

Tuesday, May 19, 2015 - 7:00 AM - 9:00 PM - HS Gymnasium

- Trustee & Budget Vote

Thursday, May 21, 2015 – 7:00 PM – MS/HS Library

15. Executive Session

15.01 Executive Session - Immediately following the Public Meeting if required.

At 9:53 PM, Mr. Goldman moved, and Ms. Lucasey seconded, to convene to Executive Session for the following purposes: to discuss the employment history of specific personnel.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

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

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

Mr. Greengrass moved, and Mr. Goldman seconded, to return to the Regular Meeting.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

16. Adjournment

At 10:15 PM, Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Black seconded, to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

17. Approved Minutes

17.01 Approved Minutes - March 7, 19 and 26, 2015



District Clerk