



MINUTES

**Tuesday, May 6, 2025
Regular Meeting
Public Hearing on Budget
7:00 p.m.
MS/HS Library Presentation Room**

1. Call to Order - Regular Meeting

B. Bass called the regular meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

2. Meeting Opening

2.01 Pledge of Allegiance

2.02 Roll Call

Brooke Bass, President; Penny Sullivan-Nunes, Vice President; Jean Lucasey; Darren Wood; Pavithra Nagarajan, Rebecca Hershberg; Kenneth Slentz, Superintendent; Meryl Rubinstein, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Facilities, and Operations; Elizabeth Saperstein, District Clerk.

S. Stringer and D. Stinchcomb were absent.

2.03 Proposed Walk-on Item

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board accepts item 8.13, CSE/CPSE Reports, as a walk-on item.

B. Bass requested a motion to accept the walk-on item.

J. Lucasey moved and P. Nagarajan seconded, that the board accept the walk-on item.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

2.04 Acceptance of the Agenda

B. Bass requested a motion to accept the May 6, 2025 agenda.

R. Hershberg moved and D. Wood seconded, that the board accept the May 6, 2025 agenda.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

2.05 Approval of Minutes

B. Bass requested a motion to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2025 regular meeting.



DRAFT MINUTES

P. Sullivan-Nunes moved and J. Lucasae seconded, that the board approve the minutes of the April 22, 2025 regular meeting.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

B. Bass requested a motion to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2025 special meeting.

D. Wood moved and J. Lucasey seconded, that the board approve the minutes of the April 23, 2025 special meeting.

Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstention. P. Nagarajan was absent from the April 23, 2025 meeting.

3. Public Hearing: 2025-26 Budget

3.01 Public Hearing Presentation

The superintendent and assistant superintendent presented the adopted budget to the community and discussed next steps including finalization of the budget newsletter, preparing for the May 20, 2025 budget and school board election vote, and reviewing the budget development process with administrative counsel and finance committee to identify areas for improvement.

The 2025-25 budget hearing presentation is posted to the district website.

3.02 Budget Q and A

There were no questions during the public hearing.

4. Citizen Comments

4.01 Notice

The board of education values input from the entire Dobbs Ferry School District community. Although we do not engage in dialogue with the public at our board of education business meetings, we are listening. Members of our school district community may comment on *any matter related to the meeting's approved agenda*. If you wish to address the board, please sign in with the district clerk. Any group or organization wishing to address the board must identify a single spokesperson. Please state your name for the record and keep your remarks to 3 minutes or less. 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.



DRAFT MINUTES

5. Correspondence

5.01 Board Correspondence

None.

6. Announcements

B. Bass reported that the Dobbs Ferry Foundation Gala raised over \$50,000 in funds to support district programs and staff.

In honor of national teacher recognition week and national school nurse appreciation day, K. Slentz and B. Bass thanked our teaching and nursing staff for their work and commitment to our students, and the PTSA for their contributions during the celebratory week.

K. Slentz congratulated 6th grader Mira Ameen-Williams, who received the top award at the annual tri-county science and technology fair.

R. Hershberg announced that the Dobbs Ferry PTSA Green Team is having a bake sale at this year's Eco Fair on Saturday, May 10, 2025 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at Springhurst Elementary School. Contact cassidy@greenteam.org if you wish to volunteer.

6.01 Personal Voter Registration

Any community resident not registered with the Westchester County Board of Elections may do so during Personal Registration that will take place on Monday, May 12, 2025 between 3:30 pm and 7:30 pm in the high school gymnasium foyer. Voter qualifications: (1) Must be a citizen of the United States; (2) Must be 18 years of age or older; and (3) Must have been a resident of the school district for a period of 30 days or more prior to May 20, 2025.

6.02 Absentee and Early Mail Ballot Applications

Any registered, qualified voter may vote by mail by submitting an application for an absentee or early mail ballot. Applications for absentee or early mail ballots may be downloaded from the District Budget section of the website, or may be requested in writing by emailing the district clerk at districtclerk@dfs.org or 505 Broadway, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522. Applications for absentee or early mail ballots may be submitted after April 21, 2025. The application must be printed, signed in ink by the voter, and returned either in person or by mail to the office of the district clerk. The application for an absentee or early mail ballot must be received by 2:00 p.m. on May 13, 2025 if the ballot will be mailed to the voter, or by 4:00 p.m. on May 19, 2025 if the ballot will be picked up in person by the voter or his/her designee. Absentee and early voting ballots will be available April 25, 2025. Completed absentee and early mail ballots must be received in the district office in person or U.S. mail no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 20, 2025.

7. Board Committee Reports

7.01 Committee Reports



DRAFT MINUTES

P. Sullivan-Nunes reported the following information and updates from the April 23, 2025 meeting of the Board of Education Policy Committee:

- Update on policy management worksheet
- Update on NYSED cell phone legislation
- Update on required and recommended policies for review
- Removal of exhibit 0105

J. Lucasey reported the following information and updates from the April 24, 2025 meeting of the Board of Education Special Education Committee:

- Report on April 23 meeting with SPRING Community Partners/parents
- Update on student programming and placements for in-district, out-of-district and tuition students
- Review of ICT and CT models for delivering specialized instruction
- Review of 25-26 IDEA accountability status

Committee minutes are posted on the district website.

8. Board Actions

B. Bass requested a motion to include board action items 8.07 through 8.12 into a consent agenda.

R. Hershberg moved and P. Nagarajan seconded, to include board action items 8.07 through 8.12 into a consent agenda.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

B. Bass requested a motion to approve board action items 8.07 through 8.12.

D. Wood moved and P. Nagargan seconded, to approve board action items 8.07 through 8.12.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

8.01 Personnel - Professional/Certificated Staff

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District moves to approve the professional/certificated personnel actions.

B. Bass requested a motion to approve the professional personnel actions.

R. Hershberg moved and D. Wood seconded, to approve the professional personnel actions.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

1. Annual Appointment



DRAFT MINUTES

(a) Michael Hanley, Faculty Coordinator
Location: Dobbs Ferry MS/HS Athletics
Effective: September 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025
Compensation: \$2,500 per annum

2. After-School Chaperones - Six Flags/Great Adventure 10th Grade Trip

(a) J. Henry (b) D. Ryan (c) K. Galante
(d) M. Addona (e) B. Birrittella (f) B. Sealey
(g) J. Carney (h) V. McCoy (i) A. Newhouse
(j) JP Kaminski
Location: Dobbs Ferry High School
Effective: May 16, 2025*
Compensation: \$35.00 per hour, provided that a minimum of two hours pay is received.
*anticipated return is 6:00pm

3. Regents Review Session (June 2025 Regents)

(a) J. Henry, up to six (6) hours
Location: Dobbs Ferry High School
Effective: April 9, 2025- June 26, 2025
Compensation: 20% of daily rate, per hour

4. 1:1 Support Aides

(a) A. Vaccaro
(b) A. Manuele
(c) M. Loran
(d) D. Voetsch
Location: Dobbs Ferry Middle School
Effective: 5/20, 5/30, 5/31, 6/2, 6/3, 6/4, and 6/5, for up to five hours each day.
Compensation: TA, Step 1, per hour (\$21.21)

(e) J. Broccoli
Location: Dobbs Ferry High School
Effective: 5/4, 6/4, 6/16 and 6/21, for up to four hours each day.
Compensation: TA, Step 1, per hour (\$21.21)

(f) Jenny Ritch
Location: Springhurst Elementary School
Effective: April 23, 2025 for up to three hours.
Compensation: TA, Step 1, per hour (\$21.21)



DRAFT MINUTES

Note: to provide 1:1 support for students with disabilities to participate in co-curricular activities and other district-sponsored events including but not limited to concerts and/or dramatic productions.

5. Resignation

(a) Christina Tracey, ENL Teacher
Location: Springhurst Elementary School
Effective: June 30, 2025

6. Probationary Appointment

(a) Danielle Green, K-12 School Psychologist
Location: Springhurst Elementary School
Effective: August 27, 2025
Duration of Probationary Period: August 27, 2025 - August 26, 2029
Tenure Area: School Psychologist
Compensation: MA +30, Step 15 (\$122,119) per annum
Replaces M. Rosen

7. Musical Accompanist

(a) Steven Gates
Location: Dobbs Ferry School District
Effective Dates and Compensation:
April 23 (district chorus) \$283.75
May 1 (HS concert) \$283.75
May 20 (MS spring concert) \$283.75
June 4 (5th grade spring concerts) \$283.75
June 11 (4th grade spring concerts) \$283.75

8. Athletic Chaperone/Clock Operator

(a) Kevin Messam
Location: Dobbs Ferry School District
Effective: April 26, 2025 - June 26, 2025
Compensation: \$35.00 per hour, provided a minimum of two hours pay is received

8.02 District Calendar Revision

WHEREAS, the 2024-25 district calendar approved on March 5, 2024, included four emergency closing days; and

WHEREAS, the district used one emergency closing day on February 6, 2025; and



DRAFT MINUTES

WHEREAS the district remains above the required 180 days of instruction for the 2024-25 school year; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of education hereby approves the revised calendar for 2024-25 with Friday, May 23, 2025, as an additional district wide holiday; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this action shall not be precedent-setting.

B. Bass requested a motion to adopt the revised 2024-25 district calendar.

D. Wood moved and R. Hershberg seconded, to adopt the revised 2024-25 district calendar.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

8.03 Acceptance of Dobbs Ferry Foundation Grant - Yoga

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, hereby move to accept the following curriculum grant from the Dobbs Ferry Schools Foundation in an amount not to exceed \$2,000:

Name of Grant	Teacher(s)/Staff	School	Amount
Happy Hearts Yoga	Tricia Zarro	Springhurst	\$2,000

B. Bass requested a motion to accept the grant.

J. Lucasey moved and P. Nagarajan seconded, to accept the grant.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

8.04 Acceptance of Dobbs Ferry Foundation Grant - EdTA Theatre Educators Conference

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, hereby move to accept the following curriculum grant from the Dobbs Ferry Schools Foundation in an amount not to exceed \$1,500:

Name of Grant	Teacher(s)/Staff	School	Amount
EdTA Theatre Educator Conference	Georgia DeFalco	MS/HS	\$1,500

B. Bass requested a motion to accept the grant.

R. Hershberg moved and D. Wood seconded, to accept the grant.



DRAFT MINUTES

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

8.05 Acceptance of Donation - Keith Yi

RESOLVED, that the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District does hereby move to accept a donation in the amount of \$500.00 for the Keith Yi Award.

B. Bass explained that the Keith Yi award goes to a high school student who has demonstrated growth academically, socially or emotionally.

B. Bass requested a motion to accept the donation from Keith Yi.

D. Wood moved and R. Hershberg seconded, to accept the donation.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

8.06 Policy Revision - Second Reading

BE IT RESOLVED, that having satisfied the requirements of policy 2410, the board hereby adopts the following policy:

Policy 2245: Ex-officio Student Member of the Board

B. Bass requested a motion to adopt the policy.

D. Wood moved and R. Hershberg seconded, to adopt the policies.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

8.07 SW BOCES Cooperative Bidding 2025-26

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District hereby moves to agree that the district participate with other school districts of the Southern Westchester Board of Cooperative Educational Services in cooperative bidding for 2025-2026 as per the attached list.

8.08 PNW BOCES Cooperative Bidding 2025-26

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District hereby moves to agree that the district participate with other school districts of the Putnam-Northern Westchester Board of Cooperative Educational Services in cooperative bidding for 2025-2026 as per the attached list.

8.09 Approval of Proposed Tax Certiorari Settlement (40 Cedar St)



DRAFT MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the board of education authorizes its attorneys, Shaw, Perelson, May & Lambert, LLP to execute a consent judgment in a tax certiorari proceeding captioned 40 Cedar Street LLC v. Town of Greenburgh and Dobbs Ferry UFSD;

AND IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the board authorizes the refund of taxes as required by the terms of the consent judgment.

8.10 Approval of Proposed Tax Certiorari Settlement (Beacon Hill Estates)

RESOLVED, that the board of education authorizes its attorneys, Shaw, Perelson, May & Lambert, LLP to execute an order and judgment in a tax certiorari proceeding captioned Beacon Hill Estates Cooperative Inc. v. Town of Greenburgh and Dobbs Ferry UFSD;

AND IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the board authorizes the refund of taxes as required by the terms of the consent judgment.

8.11 Approval of Proposed Tax Certiorari Settlement (Dobbs Ferry Apartment Corp)

RESOLVED, that the board of education authorizes its attorneys, Shaw, Perelson, May & Lambert, LLP to execute a consent order and judgment in a tax certiorari proceeding captioned Dobbs Ferry Apartment Court Inc. v. Town of Greenburgh and Dobbs Ferry UFSD;

AND IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the board authorizes the refund of taxes as required by the terms of the consent judgment.

8.12 Approval of Proposed Tax Certiorari Settlement (Village Green Condominium)

RESOLVED, that the board of education authorizes its attorneys, Shaw, Perelson, May & Lambert, LLP to execute a consent judgment in a tax certiorari proceeding captioned Village Green Condominium v. Town of Greenburgh and Dobbs Ferry UFSD;

AND IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the board authorizes the refund of taxes as required by the terms of the consent judgment.

8.13 CSE/CPSE Recommendation (Walk On)

WHEREAS the Committee on Special Education and Committee on Preschool Special Education had issued to the board by written confidential report dated May 6, 2025, 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 May 6, 2025.

B. Bass requested a motion to approve the CSE/CPSE Recommendation.

P. Sullivan-Nunes moved and J. Lucasey seconded, to approve the CSE/CPSE



DRAFT MINUTES

Recommendation.

B. Bass noted that the walk-on recommendations was reviewed by the Special Education Committee.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

9. Citizens Comments

9.01 Notice

The board of education values input from the entire Dobbs Ferry School District community. Although we do not engage in dialogue with the public at our board of education business meetings, we are listening. Members of our school district community may comment on *any matter related to district business*. If you wish to address the board, please sign in with the district clerk. Any group or organization wishing to address the board must identify a single spokesperson. Please state your name for the record and keep your remarks to 3 minutes or less. 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.

Three members of the public stated their opinion on the proposed statewide bell-to-bell restrictions on cell phones in schools.

10. Old Business

None.

11. New Business

11.01 2025-26 board meeting dates

At the May 27, 2025 regular meeting of the board of education, administration will present proposed board meeting dates, including the annual reorganizational meeting for the 2025-26 school year. The annual reorganizational meeting is tentatively recommended for Tuesday, July 8, 2025.

12. Acknowledgments

12.01 Treasurer's Report

The board acknowledged receipt of the March 2025 treasurer's report.

12.02 Annual Data Privacy Officer Update

The board acknowledged receipt of the annual DPO update in satisfaction of the requirement of NYS Education Law Section 2d.



DRAFT MINUTES

13. Upcoming Meetings

13.01 Calendar

- Wednesday, May 21, 2025 - 9:00 a.m. - Board Room special meeting - budget and trustee vote certification
- Tuesday, May 27, 2025 - 7:00 p.m. - MS/HS library regular meeting
- Tuesday, June 3, 2025 - 7:00 p.m. - MS/HS library regular meeting

14. Adjournment

B. Bass requested a motion to adjourn the May 6, 2025 meeting.

D. Wood moved and R. Hershberg seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

Elizabeth Saperstein
District Clerk