



MINUTES

**Tuesday, November 17, 2020
Virtual Board Meeting
Google Meet - Virtual Meeting, 7:00 PM**

1. Call to Order

2. Opening of the Meeting – 7:02 PM

Louis Schwartz called the meeting to order.

2.01 Pledge of Allegiance

2.02 Roll Call

Mr. Louis Schwartz, President; Ms. Rita Kennedy, Vice President; Ms. Shannon Johnson; Ms. Jean Lucasey; Ms. Tracy Baron; Ms. Shannon Stringer; Mr. Massimo Bufalini, Dr. Lisa Brady, Superintendent; Mr. Douglas Berry, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction ; Mr. Ron Clamser, Jr., Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Facilities and Operations; and Ms. Loretta Tularzko, District Clerk.

2.03 Acceptance of the Agenda

Ms. Johnson moved, and Ms. Baron seconded, that the Board accept the November 17th Agenda.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

Jean Lucasey was on line again at 7:09 PM.

Anyone wishing to make comments during the two Citizen’s Comment portions of the meeting can do so by emailing their comments to boemeetingcomment@DFSD.org. Please include your name and address.

3. Citizens Comments

3.01 Notice

Members of the community may comment on any matter related to the meeting's approved agenda. The Board President may request a brief description of the topic the speaker plans to address. 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.

4. Work Session Topic

4.01 Race and Equity

The Board will discuss the Courageous Conversations Four Agreements, <https://iel.org/sites/default/files/G10-courageous-conversation-protocol-overview.pdf> followed by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie’s TED Talk - The Danger of a Single Story. Using discussion questions and prompts, the idea of “single stories” will be explored.

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Dr. Brady welcomed everyone to this Work Session and noted that it is the first of several on Race, Equity and Inclusion. This will be our starting point for these sessions.

Dr. Brady introduced Natalie McCabe Zwerger, Esq., Director, Center for Strategic Solutions, from the NYU Steinhardt Metropolitan Center for Research on Equity and the Transformation of Schools who will facilitate the meeting.

The meeting tonight will focus on the TED Talk, mentioned above, and the discussion will be centered on The Danger of a Single Story and we will also be seeing a video by Indigenous People on Thanksgiving.

Dr. Brady then turned the meeting over to Natalie Zwerger. She thanked everyone for being part of this conversation to be engaged in issues around Race and Equity and all the uncertainty in today's environment.

Ms. Zwerger lives in Westchester County and is working with approximately 15 districts. She has been an educator for twenty years and is also a lawyer.

After we watch the TED Talk and video, we will break into groups to discuss how we should move forward to make actionable changes.

We will start with Dr. Glenn Singleton's *Courageous Conversations Four Agreements* and how to have a dialogue around our single stories about race, identity, socio-economics, gender, sexuality, religion and language.

1. Stay engaged - all can be true at the same time
2. Expect and accept discomfort – might feel tense, heart my race – what is prompting it
3. Speaking our truth as it makes sense to you
4. Expect and accept non-closure – it doesn't get wrapped in a bow at the end

After the individual breakout room discussions, we went back to the main session to share our discussions.

Mr. Schwartz thanked Mr. Huyter for how well the technology worked during the work session.

Dr. Brady thanked everyone for attending tonight's work session and wished everyone a nice holiday.

5. Citizens Comments

5.01 Notice

Members of the community may comment on any matter related to district business. The Board President may request a brief description of the topic the speaker plans to address. 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.

6. Old Business

6.01 District Goals 2020-2021

The Board thanked Dr. Brady and Mr. Berry for the rewording of the goals.

- There was a discussion regarding minor grammatical edits and the changes were made and all were in agreement.

Ms. Kennedy moved, and Ms. Stringer seconded, that the Board adopt the goals as edited.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

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7. New Business

7.01 WPSBA

The Rivertowns Superintendents would like to send out a community letter explaining advocacy for funding especially since we could move into the yellow zone at any time. It would cause the districts to test 20% of staff and students. Questions that need to be answered are: where are tests coming from, who will pay for the tests, will the DOH be able to assist, is it legal for districts to administer tests.

Also, there will be a Voter Voice link to advocate to our local legislators in Albany that we need the money that districts are entitled to and a resolution to be adopted by the Board at the next Board meeting.

The state Department of Health will notify the District if we fall into a Hot Zone which would place us in a remote only learning environment.

8. Upcoming Meetings

8.01 Calendar

Tuesday, December 1, 2020 - 7:00 PM – Virtual

Tuesday, December 15, 2020 - 7:00 PM – TBD

- Work Session

Happy Thanksgiving to all! Be safe and well.

9. Adjournment

At 8:46 PM, Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Baron seconded, that the Board adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

10. Approved Minutes

10.01 Approved Minutes October 27, 2020



Loretta Tularzko
District Clerk