



## MINUTES

### Tuesday, November 10, 2020 Regular Board Meeting Google Meet - Virtual Meeting, 7:00 PM

#### 1. Call to Order

#### 2. Opening of the Meeting – 7:01 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. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Stringer seconded, that the Board accept the November 10th Agenda.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

##### 2.04 Approval of Minutes

Ms. Kennedy moved, and Mr. Bufalini seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the October 27, 2020 meeting.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

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](mailto: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. Announcements

## MINUTES

Information from Tracy Baron

WPSBA

- Beginning 11/16, they will hold a series of small group virtual conversations on various topics. They are free for Board members and Superintendents. You can sign up in the GoogleDoc shared in the email you received.
- There will be a virtual panel discussion on 12/10 at 6:30 PM on how to support our students in the new landscape. It will include how to best teach racism, blended learning and mental health. There is a \$20 fee so register through Loretta.
- Today's Town Call included:
  - Cases in the districts and tweaking their hybrid learning models
  - Possibility going remote for a week or two after Thanksgiving – based on the fact that kids are coming home from college and dinner gatherings
  - Discussion on Districts and Villages sending out coordinated communications regarding how to be safe during Thanksgiving - avoiding parties and reminding about travel restrictions

NYSSBA

- On 11/16 at 2PM, the second of three sessions on Race & Equity & Issues will be held
  - Bridging the equity divide through Board policy. Tracy and Jean will attend.

Mr. Schwartz thanked Tracy for attending the Town Call.

### 5. Superintendent's Report

No school tomorrow - Wednesday, November 11th for Veterans Day. Thank you to all of our veterans for their service to our country. Springhurst has once again done a great job with cards and letters to our veterans. Our advertorial this week will acknowledge our veterans.

### COVID Update

MS is currently on 100% Remote through November 20th.

Quarantined

28 Staff members

116 Students

Springhurst Elementary

Quarantined

23 Staff

75 Students

Positive Tests so far this year

Students:

1 Springhurst

3 MS (includes 1 remote only)

1 HS (remote only)

Staff

4 positive

Major challenge is lack of staff.

Contact tracing has been completely relegated back to the Districts and the County is overwhelmed with this task. At this point in time, contacts are supposed to be contacted by the County with information about when they will be released from quarantine. This actually seems to be happening from the State and although inconsistent, some people are receiving daily phone calls and texts as a check in and reminder of how many days that are left on the quarantine and some are not.

If you receive a call from the District you have to act on it immediately since you may not receive any other call.

Westchester County is moving up towards the 3%.

Port Chester and Rye are now in Yellow Zones.

11/10/20

## MINUTES

The DOH is taking a very conservative approach with schools which is why they are requiring quarantine even when someone is in what they call as “proximate contact” which is the same as a “direct contact” (they are treating it the same way).

So, if a student or staff member is the same room with a positive individual, whether big room or small room, 50 ‘or 6’, wearing a mask or not – you are in direct contact and has to quarantine.

That is why in the MS, every student who was in the cafeteria with the positive student, even though they were more than 6 feet away and whether or not they were wearing a mask (be sure they were eating) is considered by the DOH to be a “proximate/direct” contact and is required to quarantine for 14 days. This is NOT a school decision.

Travel restrictions have been somewhat lessened:

- Restrictions apply to all states that do not border NY
- Travelers can “test out” of the 14 day restriction by testing within 72 hours of departing for NY, and then quarantining for 3 days upon arrival. On the 4th day after arrival the traveler must test again and upon getting a second negative test result are no longer required to quarantine
- Travelers leaving NY for less than 24 hours do not need to test before leaving or after returning to the state; however, these travelers must fill out the traveler form, and seek testing on the 4<sup>th</sup> day after returning.

Most cases now are results of parties and large gatherings.

As of Today:

All parents are urged to be making sure that they have plans/arrangements for 100% remote scenarios at Springhurst and the MS. We are hanging on by a thread in terms of staffing and with only 1 or 2 more staffing issues we are going to have to close for a period of time.

HS Pilot with Seniors scheduled for Thursday and Friday is on “pause” for this week because of concerns expressed by students and staff about recent cases in the schools.

Senior Citizen Thanksgiving Luncheon - will be delivered this year to the homes of 60 senior citizens working in conjunction with Abby Connett and the Dobbs Ferry Seniors Program. Thanks to Loretta Tularzko and Kathy Weinborg for finding a way to continue this wonderful tradition this year!

The Race Matters Committee Participation Letter was sent via K-12 on Friday, November 6th. We are hoping to have 40 students, alumni, staff, parents, BOE members and community members serving on this important committee that will make recommendations to the BOE in the spring.

Work Session on the 17<sup>th</sup> – Lisa Brady and Doug Berry have been working with Natalie Zwerger. The session will include Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie’s TED Talk - *The Danger of a Single Story*. A K-12 will be sent out to the community with the details.

### **Athletics**

Low-risk and moderate-risk winter sports have been given the green light for a November 30 start date. The winter sports in those low and moderate risk categories are bowling, gymnastics, skiing, swimming and diving and indoor track and field.

The high-risk winter sports of basketball, wrestling, ice hockey and competitive cheerleading have not yet been given the okay. NYSPHSAA executive director Dr. Robert Zayas tweeted Monday afternoon that the organization is looking at opportunities for these high-risk sports to be competed in this school year with strict risk minimization efforts in place.

### **DFHS**

Dr. Falino and Ms. Reim will participate virtually in the National Blue Ribbon Awards ceremony later this week.

Senior class events: Each month the senior class advisor, Ms. Cairo is running an event for seniors to come together as a class and participate in a project. Last week, the seniors tie dyed articles of clothing on the north field and had a great and safe time being together. Thank you Ms. Cairo for planning this event for our seniors.

Dr. Brady thanked all the Administrators for their support and effort the past few weeks.

# MINUTES

How do parents call with a case of COVID?

- Continue to call the nurse first
- Email Andrew Klaich, Dr. Brady, Administrators

Mr. Schwartz thanked Dr. Brady and the team for keeping our schools open and safe. It is a daunting task.

## 6. Correspondence

### 6.01 BOE Correspondence

The Board acknowledged the following:

- Seventy-three emails regarding "The Landing" tax classification.

No Citizens' Comments have been received as of now.

## 7. Committee Reports

Curriculum & Instruction – 10/28

- Springhurst ELA Academy
  - Program began again Tuesday, October 20
  - Provides ELA support to approximately 30 students in grades 1, 2 and 3
- Expansion of the DFHS Student Choice Hybrid
  - 2 possible strategies being explored:
    - Pilot and Testing of In-person strategies
    - AM/PM Wednesday and Thursday in-person: (Start date to be determined)
    - Biggest challenge – the numbers of staff being and students being remove
    - Remote only participate in classroom class – technological and pedagogical issues
    - The Board and committee is aware that we are trying to bring the HS students back in but are also aware of the challenges to bringing them safely.

Special Ed – 11/4

- The Committee reviewed the CSE/CPSE recommendations for the November 10th BOE Meeting. Questions were asked and clarified.
- The SE Director provided the committee with updated SE numbers following the meeting. See attachment.
- The SE Director will be submitting personnel recommendations for additional CSE/CPSE chairpersons to help facilitate the many meetings on the schedule and because of the challenges of not wanting to pull teachers away from their in-person classes.

Personnel – 11/5

- The Committee reviewed the Personnel Recommendations for the tonight's agenda.
- Questions were asked and clarified.

Student Activities & Athletics – 11/9

- The Committee discussed the status of Winter Sports, and as Dr. Brady explained in her report - . The season is currently delayed until November 30th.
- The Committee reviewed the proposal for two new clubs. Both clubs have been reviewed and are supported by the building principals and administrators.
  - High School - BIPOC Student Union
    - Goals of the BIPOC Student Union:
      - Develop leadership skills
      - Promote awareness and create a brave space for students
      - Discuss issues related to racial justice and equity
      - Develop skills in engaging in courageous conversations with confidentiality, and maintaining engagement
      - Understand and promote restorative justice practices
      - Invite guest speakers
      - There are currently 7 students signed up for this club but increased participation is expected once the club is established.

# MINUTES

- The Advisors are: Teri-Lynne Gregory, Sheila Kusi-Asare, Katia Marques, Michelle Yang-Kaczmarek
- The advisors anticipate that more students will be involved with the club.
- Challenges with advertising and reaching out to potential members are complicated with the remote learning model. The BIPOC Student Union is an important structure for students within the District's Race and Equity committee structure. Students from the BIPOC Student Union may also choose to participate on the larger District Race Matters Committee, which will begin to meet in December. This club is open to all students who self-identify as BIPOC.
- Middle School - Racial and Social Justice Alliance Club
  - Goals of the Racial and Social Justice Alliance Club
    - Develop leadership skills
    - Promote awareness and create a brave space for students
    - Discuss racial justice, equity, LGBTQ+, and other social justice issues brought up by students
    - Develop skills in engaging in courageous conversations with confidentiality, and maintaining engagement
    - Invite guest speakers
    - There are currently 4 students signed up for this club but increased participation is expected once the club is established.
    - The Advisors are the same as the for the High School Club
    - As part of an ongoing effort to build a diverse inclusive environment for students, the Racial and Social Justice Alliance Club will provide a safe space where students can learn to have courageous conversations about their intersectionality of identity and race. This will be a safe place for students to provide social-emotional peer support as well a place to gain the tools to develop caring relationships for one another in an inclusive and diverse environment. This club provides an important structure for middle school students within the District's Race and Equity Committee Structure. This club is open to all students.

## 8. Board Actions

### 8.01 Budget Increases

Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Stringer seconded, that the Board approve the following budget increases to enable the District to pay a tax certiorari refund to 14 Cedar Street Realty as consented to at the March 9, 2019 Board meeting and 99 Main Street Corp as consented to at the September 24, 2019 Board meeting:

Revenue Account to Increase	Amount	Expenditure Account to Increase	Amount
A864 Appropriated Reserve for Tax Certiorari	\$19,846.46	A1930-434-99-8002 Tax Certiorari	\$19,846.46

Revenue Account to Increase	Amount	Expenditure Account to Increase	Amount
A864 Appropriated Reserve for Tax Certiorari	\$10,842.62	A1930-434-99-8002 Tax Certiorari	\$10,842.62

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

### 8.02 Budget Increase

Ms. Johnson moved, and Ms. Kennedy seconded, that the Board approve the following budget increase to enable the District to pay for retiree accrued benefits per contract:

Revenue Account	Amount	Expenditure Account	Amount
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**MINUTES**

to Increase		to Increase	
A867 / A5997.867 Reserve for Accrued Benefits Liability	\$5,382.50	A9089.150.99.0000 Accrued Benefits – Certified Staff	\$5,000
		A9030.830.99.0000 – FICA	\$382.50

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

**8.03 CSE/CPSE**

Mr. Bufalini moved, and Ms. Baron 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 October 30, 2020, 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 October 30, 2020.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

**8.04 Personnel**

Ms. Stringer moved, and Ms. Johnson seconded, that the Board approve the civil service and staff personnel recommendations.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

**8.05 Policy Revision - Second Reading**

The Board conducted a second reading and Ms. Baron moved, and Ms. Johnson seconded, that the Board adopt the following policy as amended without the underlining text:

- 5500 - Student Records

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

**8.06 Policy Revision - First Reading**

The Board conducted a first reading of the following policies:

- 0110 - Sexual Harassment
- 0110.1 Sexual Harassment of Students
- 0110.2 Sexual Harassment of Employees

All three policies will be moved to second reading at the next board meeting.

**9. Acknowledgements**

**9.01 Warrants**

The Board acknowledged receipt of the following warrants:  
Warrant No. 19 Multi.

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# MINUTES

## 10. Citizens Comments

### 10.01 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.

## 11. Old Business

Mr. Terance Huyter, Director of Technology, discussed our Google Suite and Google Meet platform versus using Zoom to conduct our Virtual Work Session on November 17<sup>th</sup>.

- Our platform is safe and secure
- There will be no Zoom bombing
- Google Meet has breakout rooms and a Q&A space; the chat bar can be added as needed
- Kevin Ridley, TV Studio Programming Director, needs to have our Ensemble platform integrated to allow for live streaming
- Google Meet will show 49 people on the screen but can allow up to 250 participants
- It was agreed that we will proceed with the Google Meet platform for the Work Sessions

## 12. New Business

### 12.01 District Goals 2020-2021

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the goals. It included:

- It was agreed at the Board Retreat that because this was a challenging year and we should be mindful of the fact to not create any additional work for the administration because keeping our school open is a most consuming task
- Should we change our vision and mission statement? No.
- Should the goals be separate – one for the BOE and one for the Superintendent? No.
- Should we have one set of goals for the BOE and Superintendent? Yes.
- How many goals should we have? Consensus was four is more than enough.
  - Equity, Pandemic Response, Finances and Human Resources
- Dr. Brady and Mr. Berry will work on a draft and distribute it to the Board.

## 13. Upcoming Meetings

### 13.01 Calendar

Tuesday, November 17, 2020 - 7:00 PM – Virtual

- Work Session

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

## 14. Executive Session

### 14.01 Executive Session

At 8:49 PM, Ms. Lucasey moved, and Mr. Bufalini seconded, that the Board recesses into Executive Session for the following purpose: *to discuss ongoing litigation The Landing on the Water at Dobbs Ferry Condominium v. Town of Greenburgh.*

## MINUTES

The Board would not be returning to public session to take any action(s).

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

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

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

At 9:23 PM, Ms. Johnson moved, and Ms. Stringer seconded, to move back to the Public Meeting.

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

### 15. Adjournment

At 9:23 PM, Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Baron seconded, that the Board adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

### 16. Approved Minutes

#### 16.01 Approved Minutes October 6, 2020



Loretta Tularzko  
District Clerk