

# MINUTES



## **Thursday, November 5, 2015 Business Board Meeting MS/HS Library, 7:00 PM**

### **1. Call to Order**

### **2. Meeting Opening - 7:02 p.m.**

Mr. Goldman called the meeting to order.

In attendance, Mr. Michael Goldman, Board President; Mr. Louis Schwartz, Board Vice President; Ms. Tracy Baron; Mr. Robert Reiser; Ms. Jean Lucasey; Ms. Shannon Johnson; 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. Greengrass was not in attendance.

### **2.01 Pledge of Allegiance**

### **2.02 Acceptance of the Agenda**

Mr. Reiser moved, and Ms. Johnson seconded, that the Board accept the November 5th 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 October 8 and 22, 2015 meetings.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

### **3. Announcements**

- SPRING Partners – Annual Square Dance will be held on 11/13 at Springhurst - volunteers needed
- SPRING Partners – A clothing boutique, for families in need, will be held on 11/6 at the South Presbyterian Church

### **4. Superintendent's Report**

- Congratulations to the football team on winning the Sectional Title. The team will play in the state quarterfinals next Saturday (11/14) in Kingston
- Girls Volleyball - The girls will play Pawling for the sectional Championship. Friday 5 PM @ Hendrick Hudson
- HS Media Journalism Class created a new YouTube channel and is working on the HS App which is currently under construction
- Early Dismissal PSAT Day (October 28th)
  - 9th and 10th grade assembly was joined by the Westchester DA on digital citizenship;

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- 11<sup>th</sup> graders were taking the PSATs;
- 12<sup>th</sup> grade - Dr. Brady conducted workshops for seniors on interviewing skills for college and career
- Justin Kamke and the DFPD came in to teach a lesson on fingerprinting with the Fingerprinting in Forensics class and to discuss the history and future of fingerprinting
- Blood Drive coming up on November 19<sup>th</sup>. 8 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. for school and community.
- MS Principal Coffee and Chat was held last night to share information about MYP. Ms. Jen Hickey assisted with the facilitation. About 20 parents attended. The chat included a comparison of a traditional class versus an MYP lesson
- Springhurst held Parent Information Sessions to introduce families to the new Springhurst Report Card (8:45 AM & 7:30PM). The morning session was filmed and will be made available on the Springhurst website.
- Cabrini Immigrant Services is going to honor Judy Sanseverino at its annual fundraising gala for all the work she has done for the Cabrini Kids program!
- On 10-21, Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins helped to lead the Springhurst Student Government Swearing In Assembly.
- The Pumpkin Fair was a great success! Thank you to the countless parent & staff volunteers and donations of baked goods etc.
- Springhurst held its annual Halloween Parade on Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>
- Some of our grade 5 students participated in National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo). Some of the 5<sup>th</sup> graders are working toward the goal of writing a 10,000-word novel by the end of the month! Learn more here: <http://nanowrimo.org/>
- Tomorrow, Friday 11/6, two Youth Ambassadors will be speaking on Tourette's syndrome to all our fifth grade students to jump-start our Building Bridges program.
- Fourth and Fifth graders are applying using Google Docs to participate in mid-November's ADL Ally Training
- Blue Shirt Day/No Place for Hate was held on October 5<sup>th</sup> in all three schools.
- Wellness Committee – 11/2 - Overview
  - The sub-committee will be overseeing the Wellness Fair that will be sponsored in the spring for MS/HS students
  - Goals for the committee:
    - Review the enforcement of the nutritional guidelines developed by the Committee in 2012
    - Provide oversight to the Wellness Fair Committee
    - Survey for HS and MS students
    - Addressing scheduling concerns
    - Revisit the health curriculum with Rebecca Wing
    - Review the Wellness policy and identify two to three reporting areas for review by the Committee
    - Continue to identify ways to increase parent involvement including family wellness programs
- Our APPR Hardship Waiver was approved

## 5. Committee Reports

### 5.01 BOE Committees

Curriculum  
SE Subcommittee  
School & Community Relations  
Personnel

**Please visit our District website under the BOE – Committees Tab for complete School & Community Relations and Wellness committee meeting minutes**

- Curriculum Committee – 10/2/15
  - Meeting focused on Springhurst data from last year
    - state assessment data
    - Math & ELA had a few up ticks
    - 20% opt out rate makes the data more difficult to
    - Regents data will be un-embargoed tomorrow

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- Raise reading levels in kindergarten and first grade
- Discussed reasons why a fixed computer area in MS/HS Library needs to be refurbished
  - One example - Chromebook does not have Excel installed
- Will there be a formal report of the state assessment data to the Board?
  - Trying to figure out what is the best way to report the data in context
  - Not in the traditional way of looking at data
- School Community Relations Committee
  - Boys Volleyball – the SA&A Committee asked the SCR committee to find ways to reach out to the larger Rivertowns community for interested players – possibly an advertorial in the Enterprise
  - We currently have 11 students interested
  - The Masters School is looking to form a Rivertowns boys team
  - The HS APP is currently under construction and should be back on line soon
  - The committee will be reviewing the final draft of the community survey and hopes to send it out before Thanksgiving holiday
  - Tonight's Board of Education meeting will be streamed live to a test group
- Personnel Committee - Overview
  - Springhurst Assistant Principal Doty will be out on medical leave in December
  - Georgia DeFalco will be going out maternity leave around mid-December
  - Received an update on non-tenure teachers
  - Discussed the DFUT negotiations
  - School directories on the website need to be updated
- Special Education Subcommittee – Overview – 10/28
  - Reviewed all recommendations for Board of Education approval at tonight's meeting
    - No change in numbers from last month
  - Discussed policy 4321.12 – Use of time out rooms & Physical Restraints – we have no students with an IEP for the use of time out rooms and the District does not use physical restraints, however, the policy is required by law
  - Discussed Linda Schluter's work in the District:
    - Began visiting classrooms in mid-October
    - Conducted observations in the MS & SH and has spoken with various teachers
    - Will be visiting our out of District placements
    - The Trailguides just announced that she will be meeting with parents of children with IEPs to answer any questions at their next meeting next Tuesday
  - Discussed "inclusion"
    - They will be working on an explanation of our philosophy as part of updating the Special Education website and continuation of services
  - Brief discussion on state assessment results of 1 or 2 and how it affects students with an IEP and AIS
    - Students with IEPs are not excluded from receiving AIS – they are eligible just as the general education students

### 6. Correspondence

The Board acknowledged receipt of an email concerning the content on the District website.

### 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.***

None.

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## 8. Reports to the Board

None.

## 9. Board Actions

### 9.01 PTSA Funding

Ms. Baron moved, and Mr. Reiser seconded, that the Board accept the following additional PTSA 2015-2016 funds totaling \$311.74 for the purchase of 26 mobile phone LED microscope lenses to be used by all 7th graders.

Ms. Julie Fischer, General Vice President, explained the equipment associated with the donation.

The District thanked the PTSA for their continued support.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

### 9.02 Donation

Mr. Reiser moved, and Ms. Baron seconded, that the Board accept the following donation from the Dobbs Ferry Youth Little League Association:

Items	Approximate Value
Batting cages to be installed in the Middle School Gym	\$10,000.00

Mr. Jeff Young, President of the Little League Association, highlighted the uses associated with the equipment. The equipment will be installed over the winter break for use by the students in the spring.

The District thanked the DFLL for their donation.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

### 9.03 2016-2017 Budget Development Calendar

Mr. Reiser moved, and Ms. Johnson seconded, that the Board adopt the 2016-2017 Budget Development Calendar.

The Budget Presentations will take place on Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup> in the Commons, beginning at 9:00 AM.

The School Community Relations Committee was asked to publicize the date.

The Budget Presentations cannot be held at Springhurst because all the sensitive technology would need to be transported and installed at Springhurst and returned back to the MS.

The March Board meetings will be held in the Commons to allow for the IB Art showcase in the MS/HS Library.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

### 9.04 Budget Increase

Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Johnson seconded, that the Board approve the following budget increase to recognize the revenue from and pay the expenditures for the Hudson River Community Education program:

Revenue Account to Increase	Amount	Expenditure Accounts to Increase	Amount
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A1489.500	\$ 54,000.00	A8060.150.00.HRCE	\$ 1,500.00
HRCE Tuition		Salary - Certified Staff	
		A8060.160.00.HRCE	\$21,101.00
		Salary - Classified Staff	
		A8060.406.00.HRCE	\$25,000.00
		Contractual	
		A8060.460.00.HRCE	\$ 1,399.00
		Software	
		A8060.473.00.HRCE	\$ 1,000.00
		Postage	
		A8060.490.00.HRCE	\$ 4,000.00
		BOCES - Printing	
Total	\$ 54,000.00	Total	\$54,000.00

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

**9.05 Girls Varsity Softball Team spring break trip to Orlando**

Ms. Johnson moved, and Mr. Reiser seconded, that the Board approve the Girls Varsity Softball Team spring break trip to Orlando

Going forward, out of state trips will be brought to the Board in June of the prior school year.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

**9.06 CSE/CPSE**

Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Johnson 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 27, 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 October 27, 2015.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

**9.07 Personnel**

Ms. Lucasey moved, and Mr. Reiser seconded, that the Board approve the civil service and staff personnel recommendations.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

**9.08 Policy Revisions**

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The Board conducted a first reading of the following policies:

### 4321.12 – Use of Time Out Rooms and Physical Restraints

Policy will be brought back for a second reading after the school attorney answers two questions.

### 5100 – Attendance

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

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

### 5150 – School Admissions

Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Baron seconded, that the Board forego a second reading and adopt the policy.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

### 5420 – Student Health Services

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

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

## **10. Acknowledgements**

### **10.01 Treasurer's Report**

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

### **10.02 Warrants**

The Board acknowledged receipt of the following warrants:  
Warrant No. 15 and 18 Multi.

## **11. Old Business**

1. What is happening with the Solar Energy Program in the District?
  - a. Solar panels cannot be installed due to the age of the roofs, they would need to be considered during roof replacement
2. Where are the "no idling" and "change in time signage" going to be installed?
  - a. Signs are being installed and the time has been changed at the end of the driveway
3. Why are our female athletes referred to as "Lady Eagles" in the Enterprise?
  - a. Perhaps the Student Activities and Athletics Committee or Liz Hausman can prepare an advertorial in the Enterprise or a letter to the editor?
4. Board Goals
  - a. Ms. Baron and Ms. Johnson reported on what was suggested at the NYSSBA Convention in regards to Goal Setting
    - i. It is a collaborative process between the Board and Administration
    - ii. Very broad goals – that could be in effect for 2 – 3 years
    - iii. From these goals the Superintendent then creates the "how to" achieve these goals
    - iv. The goals should be quantifiable and quantitative
    - v. Board and leadership work as a sub-committee for next year's goals

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- vi. Dr. Brady discussed the possibility of having Bill Ryan (referred by Mr. Schwartz) work with the Board on governance and leadership and a high level look at goal setting. Dr. Brady will send Bill Ryan's link to the Board.
- vii. Ms. Baron and Ms. Johnson will send their suggested tweaks to last year's goals to Mr. Goldman for forwarding to the Board.

### 12. New Business

Our annual Senior Citizen Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:45 am in the Commons.

### 13. Upcoming Meetings

#### 13.01 Calendar

##### Thursday, November 19, 2015 – 7:00 PM – MS/HS Library

- Work Session
  - Strategic Plan

##### Thursday, December 3, 2015 – 7:00 PM – MS/HS Library

- Business Meeting

### Executive Session

At 8:55 PM, Mr. Reiser moved, and Ms. Lucasey seconded, to convene to Executive Session for the following purpose: to discuss employment history of specific personnel, contract negotiations and potential litigation.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

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

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

Mr. Goldman moved, and Mr. Reiser seconded, to move back to the Regular Meeting.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

### 14. Adjournment

At 9:27 PM, Ms. Baron moved, and Ms. Lucasey seconded, to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

### 15. Approved Minutes

#### 15.01 Approved Minutes – August 27, 2015



District Clerk