

# MINUTES



**Tuesday, December 4, 2018  
Regular Board Meeting  
MS/HS Media Center, 7:00 PM**

## **1. Call to Order**

## **2. Meeting Opening 7:11 p.m.**

### **2.01 Pledge of Allegiance**

### **2.02 Roll Call**

Ms. Jean Lucasey, President; Ms. Tracy Baron; Mr. Robert Reiser; Mr. Louis Schwartz; Ms. Shannon Johnson; Ms. Rita Kennedy; 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.

Mr. Jonathan Greengrass and Dr. Lisa Brady, Superintendent were not in attendance.

### **2.03 Acceptance of the Agenda**

Mr. Reiser moved, and Ms. Kennedy seconded, that the Board accept the December 4th Agenda.

Vote: 5 - ayes - 0 nays

### **2.04 Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Baron moved, and Ms. Johnson seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the November 13, 2018 meeting.

Vote: 4 - ayes - 0 nays – 1 abstention – Ms. Kennedy

## **3. Announcements**

SPRING Community Partners

- Thank you to all the attendees and volunteers of the Annual Square Dance.

WPSBA

- Bridges to Success - Dec. 10, 2018 -7:15 PM - 9:30 PM
- School Start Times Survey has been sent to all Board members

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

Mr. Douglas Berry, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instructions reported for Dr. Brady. She is presenting at the Learning Forward Conference in Dallas, Texas on Democracy In Education.

High School

- IB for All. Promoting IB for all has been a mission of our school and district for many years now. The belief in providing all students with an IB education has resulted in many changes in our IB DP offerings, how we support all students, and of course our authorization as an IB MYP school in

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2016. At DFHS, all students enroll in at least two IB DP courses. This year, we have registered students for over 500 subject areas for the first time in our school's history.

- Congratulations to Jolie McDonnell. She has been awarded the Acorda Scientific Excellence Award. The Acorda Scientific Excellence Award was created to encourage young people to pursue careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).
- Service Learning at DFHS. Our 10th graders have been reading Richard Wright's memoir, *Black Boy*. The memoir chronicles Richard's experience growing up in a time of extreme poverty, hunger and racism in the deep south. As our students discussed Richard's hunger regularly in class, they came up with the idea that they would like to sponsor a Thanksgiving dinner for a local family in need. As part of this project, our students came up with great ideas (such as printing out word searches and little coloring pages for the children - things that don't cost anything so that everyone could get involved). They brought in items, made little signs, and even went on a field trip to Stop & Shop to shop for the items. We are very proud of their efforts. A special thanks to Ms. Fahy, Ms. Cosgrove, and Ms. Castellano for organizing this.
- DFHS Blood Drive. Our fall blood drive was a success despite the change in times due to the weather. We collected a total of 65 pints which means we could potentially save up to 195 lives. Thank you to Jolie McDonnell, Samantha Straub, and Abigail Bayer-Mertens Human for running the drive. We hope to see everyone again at our spring blood drive in April.
- Senior Citizen Thanksgiving Lunch. DFHS proudly welcomed our community members to the high school for an early Thanksgiving lunch that was served by our students. This is the 8th year of this great tradition at our school.

### Athletics:

- At the end of each sports season, the New York State Public High School Athletic Association honors those students that excel in the classroom. The following varsity teams have been recognized by the NYSPHSAA as Scholar-Athlete teams at Dobbs Ferry High School. The scholar-athlete team is defined as 75% of the team receiving a 90% GPA or higher:
  - Girls Tennis, Girls Soccer, Girls Volleyball, Girls Cross Country, Boys Cross Country, Girls Swimming
  - Congratulations to our student-athletes for their hard work in achieving this prestigious award.
- Boys Cross Country and Girls Cross Country both finished as League Champs. Phoebe Ward and Alia Moustafa qualified for the state championship meet and were awarded All County and All State.
- The Dobbs Ferry football team were Sectional Champions, Regional Champions, and East Finals Champions this season. The Eagles made it to the State Championship game at the Carrier Dome in Syracuse, NY. There are over 70 teams in Class C football throughout New York State and the Eagles finished #2 in the state.
- Varsity Girls Soccer team had the most wins since 2008 and clinched a home playoff game. The girls won the Rivertowns Cup and Senior Kalle Person was selected as Rivertowns Player of the Year.
- For the second year in a row, senior Gabriella Torres, qualified for the state championship in Girls Swimming.

### Springhurst

- Since the last BOE meeting, Kindergarten hosted its annual Thanksgiving Feast & Springhurst hosted a wonderful Pep Rally to support the DFHS Football team.
- Building Bridges has commenced.
  - 4th grade was last week (Learning Disabilities & ADHD)
- 3rd graders completed the fall Mindfulness unit & the responses were very favorable. Here are some of the positive takeaways (student's words):
  - students reported feeling "relaxed, rested and focused"
  - "it was nice to take a break to sit and relax since I never get a chance to do that at school or at home because of how busy I am."
  - "I felt calm and mindful."

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- 4th grade students went on a trip last week to Philipsburg Manor where they learned about what life would have been like for the manor owner and his family, their workers, and those enslaved on the plantation.
- This morning we hosted the 4th grade Math Parent Workshop (Mr. Rosen & Ms. O'Rourke).
- Grade 1 Math Parent Workshop is scheduled for this Thursday 12/6/18 at 8:45 AM @ Springhurst.

### Middle School

- Building Bridges in the MS is taking place in our 7th grade Language Literature classes. With the goal of promoting empathy for those with disabilities, the 7th grade focused on Autism.
- Jennifer Hickey and Melissa Gretczko received a grant from the Edith Winthrop Teacher Center for a Mindfulness project in the Middle School.
- This week our 8th-grade No Place For Hate club is going to the Senior Center to make arts and crafts.
- Next week the 6th-grade No Place For Hate club is going to Mother Cabrini Nursing home to Carol and distribute the crafts from the 8th-grade club.

## 5. Committee Reports

### 5.01 Committee Reports

#### Facilities - 11/20

The committee discussed the following:

- Maintenance Projects Status Report
  - Boilers
  - Floor replacements
  - Card access control to be installed during December break.
  - Re-keying of schools in the ordering process.
  - Received proposal for security film. Currently looking at funds for this project.
  - Phone System Update
    - A lot of the equipment has been delivered
    - Cabling will begin to be installed mid-December and will take about 5 weeks
  - Current Construction Project Close-out
    - Small closeout items
    - Early aid reports will be filed
    - MS/HS should be completed
    - Springhurst may still take a little longer
  - Capital Project Planning
    - Status Update
    - Tentative Schedule
  - Next Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 11th

#### Special Ed - 11/27

- The Committee reviewed the recommendation for the December 4th BOE meeting and clarifying questions were answered.
- We are still looking for a secretary to replace Nancy Donofrio.
- Transportation - there have been issues with the Special Class bus. Erin has been working with transportation on this and Lisa has met with the other superintendents and transportation. We now have a permanent bus driver and we are still waiting for a permanent monitor.

#### Personnel - 11/27

- The Committee reviewed the Personnel Recommendations.
- HR Regulation about raising the per diem substitute rate of pay from \$90/day to \$110/day to remain competitive and try to increase retention of per diem subs.
- We have found a replacement for Susan McCarthy (Ron's office secretary) but are still trying to find someone for Nancy Donofrio's position.

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## Curriculum & Instruction - 11/28 Innovative Classroom Initiative Update

- 28 teachers K-12 participating who have demonstrated and articulated a desire to engage in a reflective learning process, take risks and collaborate with colleagues
- The goal of the Innovative Classroom Initiative is to support the continued development of student centered classrooms that address the needs of the whole child through an exploration of the following:
  - the role mindfulness can play in enhancing instruction
  - how classroom environments and physical space impact learning
  - the inquiry mindset and Project Based Learning
  - Meaningful use of technology
  - Authentic learning experiences that support globally engaged learners
- Participants are engaging in a variety of activities designed to challenge and push their thinking, encourage reflection, and support their growth as educators.
- At first session participants collaborated on the development of an essential question that guides the work:
  - "How can we foster an engaging environment where students are empowered, motivated and active learners?"
- The group has adopted the hashtag #dfinnovates and are collaborating with area colleagues engaged in similar work
- Thanks to Jenn Cronk and Amber Reilly.
- Performance Standards Based Assessment Consortium
  - Lisa attended the meeting for Superintendents hosted by Regent Judith Johnson to learn more about the work of the Consortium and how it might apply to OF
  - The consortium is made up of NYC schools and has successfully lobbied the NYSED to remove the Regents Exam requirements at the HS level
    - It is a two year "program" - with the performance task completed in grade 11 and 12
    - No IB schools are involved
    - All schools participate in 4 required performance tasks - Math, English, SS and Sci
    - Lisa - "For a school like DFHS it would be difficult to do in conjunction with IB."
    - "Might be more appropriate for schools with an AP program"
    - "The effort is in the very early stages"
    - Lisa will attend future meetings

## Mr. Schwartz arrived at 7:48 PM.

## Finance - 11/20

- Review of Finance Committee Schedule and Investment Plan
- Ron will report back to the committee at the next meeting with an update on interest revenue forecast for the year.
- Debt Service Schedule/Capital Planning
- Project financial considerations
- Multi-year Financial Plan - Part 1
- 5-year Tax Cap calculator
  - This report shows the impact on the tax levy in 2023 due to the drop off of debt service payments should no new capital project replace the expiring debt.
- Fixed Asset Policy
  - Recommendation from auditor and insurance to increase the minimum value threshold for financial purposes from \$500 to \$5,000
  - Will bring this to the policy committee for revision as recommended by Finance Committee
- Next meeting originally scheduled for Tuesday, December 11 will be cancelled. The next meeting will be on January 15.

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## 6. Correspondence

### 6.01 Correspondence a parent

The Board acknowledged receipt of correspondence from a parent regarding Dress Code.

## 7. Citizen's Comments

### 7.01 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.

*The meeting can also be viewed on TV DFTV - Channel 77 & 47 or visit the website for the video of the meeting*

## 8. Reports to the Board

## 9. Board Actions

### 9.01 Substitute Teacher Compensation

Ms. Kennedy moved, and Ms. Johnson seconded, that the Board establish the attached substitute teacher compensation to be in effect as of January 1, 2019.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

Mr. Reiser moved, and Ms. Baron seconded, that the Board approve Items 9.02, 9.04 and 9.05 as a consent agenda.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

Ms. Kennedy moved, and Mr. Schwartz seconded, that the Board approve 9.02, 9.04 and 9.05.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

### 9.02 Standard Work Day Reporting

The Board established the following as standard work day for the appointed official title as set forth below based on the timekeeping system of activities maintained by the District:

Title	Standard Work Day (Hrs/day)
District Clerk	7 hrs/day

### 9.04 CSE/CPSE Recommendations

The Board authorized and directed the following:

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WHEREAS the Committee on Special Education and Committee on Pre-School Special Education had issued to the Board by written confidential report dated November 26, 2018 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 November 26, 2018.

### 9.05 Personnel

The Board approved the Civil Service and staff personnel recommendations.

### 9.03 Disposition of Springhurst Library Books

Ms. Johnson moved, and Ms. Kennedy seconded, that the Board approve the disposal of the books on the attached list that are currently part of the Springhurst Library collection.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

### 9.06 Policy Revision – Second Reading

The Board conducted a second reading with discussion, and Ms. Baron moved, and Ms. Kennedy seconded, that the Board adopted the following policies:

- 1400 - Public Complaints
- 2340 - Notice of Meetings
- 5225 - Student Expression
- 8505 - Charging School Meals & Prohibition against Shaming

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

## 10. Acknowledgements

### 10.01 Treasurer's Report

The Board acknowledged receipt of the Treasurer's Report for October 2018.

### 10.01 Warrants

The Board acknowledged receipt of the following warrants:  
Warrant No. 23 and 26Multi.

## 11. Citizen's Comments

### 11.01 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.

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## 12. Old Business

The Board requested an update on the previous brief discussion on possibly changing the time of graduation.

## 13. New Business

None.

## 14. Upcoming Meetings

### 14.01 Calendar

Tuesday, December 18, 2018 - 7:00 PM - MS/HS Media Center

- Civic Engagement which will be facilitated by Giselle Martin-Kniep

Tuesday, January 8, 2019 - 7:00 PM - MS/HS Media Center

## 15. Adjournment

At 8:04 PM, Ms. Baron moved, and Ms. Kennedy seconded, that the Board adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 6

- ayes - 0 nays



Loretta Tularzko  
District Clerk