



**MINUTES**

**Tuesday, September 14, 2021  
Business Board Meeting  
7:00 PM**

**1. Call to Order – 7:04 PM**

**2. Opening of the Meeting**

**2.01 Roll Call**

Ms. Tracy Baron, President; Ms. Shannon Stringer; Vice President; Ms. Rita Kennedy; Ms. Jean Lucasey; Mr. Massimo Bufalini; Ms. Brooke Bass; Ms. Penny Sullivan-Nunes; Dr. Lisa Brady, Superintendent; Dr. Darrell Stinchcomb, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Equity; Mr. Ron Clamser, Jr., Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Facilities and Operations; and Ms. Loretta Tularzko, District Clerk.

**2.02 Pledge of Allegiance**

**2.03 Acceptance of the Agenda**

Ms. Lucasey moved, and Mr. Bufalini seconded, that the Board accept the September 14th Agenda.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

**2.04 Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Bass moved, and Ms. Sullivan-Nunes seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the August 18, 2021 meeting.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

Mr. Bufalini moved, and Ms. Lucasey seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the September 2, 2021 meeting.

Vote: 5 - ayes - 0 nays – 2 abstentions- Ms. Kennedy and Ms. Stringer

**3. Correspondence**

The Board acknowledged the following:

1. Letter from group of parents concerning cohorting and quarantining

**4 Citizens Comments**

*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 Ed 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.*

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No comments.

### 5. Announcements

None.

### 6. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Brady asked Mr. Clamser to give a brief summary of the Board's Tour of the Buildings on Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup> to view the summer Capital Projects work and summer projects.

- There has been a flurry of activity in all three schools since school ended last June
- Springhurst/MS/HS
  - New Kindergarten Playground funded partially by the Foundation
  - New Library Media Center not quite finished due to a delay with cabinetry
  - 5<sup>th</sup>-grade classrooms have new floors
  - Main Entrance now has a set of interior security doors and a new security booth
  - Repaired cracks in tennis court
  - Softball field renovations still under construction
  - New sidewalk up to Springhurst's Main Entrance
  - MS has a new HVAC
  - MS roof partially replaced; scheduled for completion summer 2022
  - Retaining wall behind the Middle School redone with a new ramp for aqueduct access
  - Re-purposed clay and dirt from softball field, adding it to North Field at HS

Dr. Brady updated the Board and community on the latest regulations regarding Surveillance Testing:

- Introductory communication will be sent to parents with two short videos, one from the Superintendent encouraging parents and staff to participate, another of a child doing the cheek swab test.
- The WCDOH has been slow in rolling this program out to schools.
- We are awaiting a revised memorandum of agreement with Quadrant Biosciences, our assigned vendor.
- Parents need to register on the Quadrant portal and complete the two Google Forms.
- We are aiming for 100% participation among students and staff.
- Participation in the Westchester County Schools COVID-19 Screening Testing Program does NOT guarantee that a district/school will be in full compliance with all testing types and testing levels required by NYSDOH. Rather, by participating in this program, you will receive no-cost testing materials and services (to the extent that WCDH can provide given current federal/state funding levels) to help the Districts towards compliance with NYSDOH guidance.
- Gateway/Baseline testing will continue as originally planned. Any student, teacher, or staff who consents, regardless of vaccination status, can receive a baseline test during our district's/school's initial testing event(s).
- Districts can receive a number of weekly tests equal to 20% of their TOTAL population.
- For example, in Dobbs Ferry, based on 1500 students and 286 staff (total 1786 individuals) we will receive 357 tests/ week regardless of how many people opt into the program. If we have 500 people (students and staff) opt-in, we could use the 357 tests strategically among the group of 500 consenting individuals.
- The District/School can decide to use their allotted tests in a way that aligns with the NYSDOH guidance. The allotted number of weekly tests can be used to:
  - Test unvaccinated\* teachers/staff weekly. It is important to note that participation in the County program remains voluntary. Any unvaccinated teacher/staff that wants to fulfill their weekly testing requirement independently of this program may do so.
  - Offer unvaccinated\* students weekly testing (parental consent required)
  - Test a random sample of consenting unvaccinated and/or vaccinated teachers, students, and staff weekly

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- Districts are responsible for tracking which students, teachers, and staff are vaccinated and unvaccinated to implement the above model(s).
- Districts/schools should NOT use this program for diagnostic testing. If a student, teacher, or staff member develops symptoms while in school, they should be referred to the school nurse for alternative testing or a referral for testing.

### Staff Vaccination Information:

- 285 Dobbs Ferry Staff (2 people on leave)
- 269 have responded to the survey
- 16 people have not responded to the survey after three notifications from me.
- 13 staff members are unvaccinated (need to be tested weekly)
- 6 staff members have selected “not responding” (need to be tested weekly)
- 5 staff members indicate that they will be vaccinated but have not yet had a shot (need to be tested weekly)
- 40 potential staff that need to be tested weekly (this number includes the 16 people that I have not yet heard from)

### Student Vaccination Information

- High-Risk Athletes - 55 total students and 55 responses
  - 47 vaccinated
  - 8 unvaccinated
- 40 football - 36 vaccinated and 4 unvaccinated
- 12 volleyball- 9 vaccinated and 3 unvaccinated
- 13 Cheerleading - 12 vaccinated and 1 unvaccinated

### Grade 7-12 School Survey (31%)

- 688 students
  - 241 responses
  - 213 vaccinated
  - 28 unvaccinated

### Transportation

- We are experiencing numerous issues with transportation. We have been in daily communication with Ardsley Transportation and they are working as fast and as hard as they can - this has definitely been the rockiest school opening that we have ever had with transportation.
- The BOCES bus issue at the High School was resolved today.
- We had contacted Ardsley in the spring about the bus runs up to D'Assern but somehow this did not get communicated to the new coordinator.
  - We are hopeful that this will be rectified within the next two weeks.
- A lot of it is due to the shortage of drivers and there were also issues with the transportation software and the algorithms that determine the routes. Once Ardsley gets past the current crisis situation - all of this will be reviewed to determine the cause.
- The unexpected resignation of the former coordinator due to illness and the process for finding a replacement also put a strain on Ardsley Transportation.
- We have been responding to parent emails and trying to intervene as much as we can but we actually have few options since this is a contracted service.

### Back to School Night Week - September 27<sup>th</sup>

- We will be hosting virtual Back to School Nights this year (again) during the week of September 27<sup>th</sup>. We are worried about the number of adults that would be in classrooms even with masks.
- Teachers will make videos as they did last year and the principals will make welcome videos. Our parent support groups have been contacted about making videos as they did last year.

### MS/HS Drop Off and Pick Up

- Dr. Brady sent out a K-12 as a reminder about middle school/high school drop off and pick up to please just be mindful of the safety of our kids and each other.
- The High School drop off and pickup is in front of the commons.
- The Middle School is at the Middle School entrance.
- We have parents arriving at 2:30 to be in line to pick their children up at 3:20, and idling their cars and it's creating a nightmare situation out here

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- To help prevent traffic congestion, parents are reminded that they can drop off students across the street from the HS/MS campus where crossing guards are posted during arrival and departure times.
- Remind your child when dropping them off, either on campus or across the street, to exit the car on the passenger side.

The Board expressed how grateful, appreciative and proud they are of Dr. Brady and the Administrators for all the work involved since the beginning of COVID, during the summer with the capital projects and now with the vaccination/testing work.

Dr. Brady thanked the Board for their appreciation and extended her thanks to our parents, students and staff.

### 7. Committee Reports

Special Education - 9/1/21

- Reviewed the recommendations on tonight's agenda
  - Questions were asked and clarifications provided
- The committee discussed a settlement agreement that is currently in process.

Finance - 9/9/21

- Ron's report included the fact that most of the financial activity doesn't really begin until after the summer months. So there wasn't too much information on the report.
- We received an update on the 2021 fiscal year end audit and how that's proceeding.
- Revenues projected to be \$900,000 over budget expenses unspent \$200,000 with an estimated return to fund balance of 1.1 million.
- At the June 8, board meeting the board authorized funding for a number of reserve accounts.
- Ron and Lisa updated the committee on the following federal and state grants the districts applied for, FEMA grant, Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief(ESSER) 2 funds, Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF), and the Federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Funding.
- The next committee meeting is scheduled for October 12, 2021

### 8. Board Actions

#### 8.01 SWBOCES Five Year Service Contract for Network Printing

Ms. Kennedy moved, and Mr. Bufalini seconded, that the Board approve of the following:

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry SD (hereafter referred to as the "District") desires to enter into a five (5) year service contract with the Southern Westchester Board of Cooperative Educational Services (hereafter referred to as "SWBOCES") pursuant to Education Law 1950(4)(jj), in order for the Lower Hudson Regional Information Center ("LHRIC") to furnish certain services to the District including, not limited to, network printing services in Co-Ser 6360 and/or Co-Ser 7710,

**NOW THEREFORE**, it is **RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the District agrees to a multi-year contract with SWBOCES for the provision of said services to the District at a cost not to exceed over the term of the agreement \$178,636.80 plus yearly RIC support fees during the term of this contract. This amount may be amended with the approval of both parties. Payments will be made as part of the regular annual BOCES Contract for Services. The Superintendent of Schools or designee is hereby authorized to approve the final terms of the contract and to execute on behalf of the District all documents necessary or appropriate to carry out the intent of this resolution.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

#### 8.02 Budget Transfer

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Mr. Bufalini moved, and Ms. Lucasey seconded, that the Board approve the following budget transfer to cover the repair of a condensate receiver vacuum boiler feed unit at Springhurst:

Account	Decrease	Increase
A 9903-900-00-0000 Transfer to Capital	\$65,500	
A 1621-401-08-0000 Maint Projects		\$65,500

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

### **8.03 CSE/CPSE Recommendations**

Ms. Sullivan-Nunes moved, and Ms. Bass 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 September 1, 2021, 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 September 1, 2021.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

### **8.04 Personnel**

Mr. Bufalini moved, and Ms. Kennedy 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 of the following policies:

- 8130 - School Safety Plans and Teams
- 8131- Pandemic Planning

Ms. Bass moved, and Mr. Bufalini, seconded that the Board adopt the policies.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

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## 9. Acknowledgements

### 9.01 Warrant

The Board acknowledged the following warrant:  
Warrant No. 9, 10 and 12 Multi.

## 10. Citizens Comments

### 10.01 Notice

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None.

## 11. Old Business

### 11.01 2021-2022 District Goals

Ms. Kennedy moved, and Mr. Bufalini seconded, that the goals be adopted.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

Mr. Bufalini will draft an introductory statement reflecting the Mission Statement and Strategic Plan to be added to the District Goals.

## 12. New Business

### 12.01 NYSSBA Proposed Bylaw Amendments & Resolutions

Ms. Baron has volunteered to cast the Board's vote at the NYSSBA Business Meeting on 10/18.

The Policy Committee will review the amendments and resolutions and present their recommendations to the full Board at the October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting for Board approval.

### 12.02 New NYS law passed on 9/2/21 allowing school boards to conduct meetings via videoconferencing until January 15, 2022

The Board discussed the following:

- In-person Board meetings
- The community has trouble hearing Board meetings with members wearing masks and not speaking loud enough into the microphones
- What happens if a Board member has to quarantine?
  - We need to check what solutions would be available to us.
- On-line Board committee meetings

## 13. Upcoming Meetings

### 13.01 Calendar

- Tuesday, September 21, 2021 - 7:00 PM  
New Staff & Tenure Introduction  
Board training with Shawn Joseph will be begin at 4:30 PM via Zoom.

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- Tuesday, October 5, 2021 - 7:00 PM

### 14. Adjournment

At 8:45 PM, Ms. Lucasey moved, and Mr. Bufalini seconded, that the Board adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

### 15. Approved Minutes

#### 15.01 Approved Minutes – July 6, 2021



Loretta Tularzko  
District Clerk