



**Tuesday, September 21, 2021  
Board Meeting – Work Session  
7:00 PM**

**1. Call to Order – 7:06 PM**

**2. Work Session Opening**

**2.01 Pledge of Allegiance**

**2.02 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; Mr. Ron Clamser, Jr., Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Facilities and Operations; Dr. Darrell Stinchcomb, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum, Instruction and Equity; and Ms. Loretta Tularzko, District Clerk.

**2.03 Acceptance of the Agenda**

Ms. Kennedy moved, and Mr. Bufalini seconded, that the Board accept the September 21<sup>st</sup> Agenda.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

**3. 2021-2022 School Year**

**3.01 New Tenure Staff**

Dr. Falino, High School Principal, and Ms. Gismervik, Special Education Director, introduced the following:

Jessica Swart	Special Education
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Mr. Mussolini, Middle School Principal, and Ms. Gismervik, Special Education Director, introduced the following:

Julianne Lavery	Math 7-12
Rosann Russo (MS - SH)	ELL
Nycole Tobey	Social Studies 7-12
Tonya Brooks	Teaching Assistant

Dr. Julia Drake, Springhurst School Principal, and Ms. Gismervik, Special Education Director, introduced the following:

Emily Mandel	Special Education
KC Sokolski	Elementary Classroom
Dawn Buttinelli	Teaching Assistant
Beverly Morrow	Teaching Assistant

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## 3.02 New Staff/Teachers

<b>District</b>	
Darrell Stinchcomb	Asst. Supt. Curr., Instr. & Equity
Linda Flanagan	Asst. Director - Special Ed
<b>High School</b>	
Amanda Delaney	Psychologist
Kelley Howard	Social Studies
Sierra Friberg	Special Education
Suzette Gagos	Special Education
Janna Walski	Math Teacher
<b>Middle School</b>	
Jossue Infante	Social Studies
Courtney Esannason	Special Education
<b>Springhurst</b>	
Gabrielle Tobacco	Speech-Language Pathologist
Diamond Summerville-Nelson	Elementary Teacher

Dr. Brady introduced Dr. Stinchcomb, our new Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Equity, who joined us from the Eastchester School District.

Next, she introduced, Linda Flanagan in her new roles as Assistant Special Education Director.

Each school principal, along with Ms. Gismervik introduced their respective tenured and new staff. The principals each gave a brief report of their respective first few days of the new school year.

Each tenured teacher was introduced with a description of their experience, their classroom performance and contribution to our schools and/or their unique qualifications.

Each new staff member was introduced with a description of their qualifications and why they were chosen for the position.

At 7:54 PM, Mr. Bufalini moved, and Ms. Bass seconded, that the Board take a short recess.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

The meeting resumed at 8:03 PM.

## 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.*

No comments.

## 5. Announcements

Ms. Baron read an email from a community member and parent, Marjorie Zuniga, announcing that she is spearheading community walking tours to survey the main walking routes that children take to

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Springhurst. These community walking tours are designed to get people thinking, observing and experiencing how the environment works for all users, not just drivers, and discussing how to make it better for people of all ages and abilities. They are planning to host a walking tour on Thursday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00 am with a rain date of Thursday, October 7<sup>th</sup>

The Westchester Putnam School Boards Association will run a learning session for Board Members called "Clarifying the Culturally Responsive Framework" which is the framework put out by the New York State Education Department and the Board of Regents on Thursday, October 14<sup>th</sup> by zoom at 6:30pm. Anyone interested, please register through Loretta.

NYSSBA – will hold the Convention virtually and it will be free. They will still have a Pre-Law virtual session, however, that is not free.

### 6. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Brady gave an update on the latest public health issues, as follows:

- Correspondence went out today to the staff about the surveillance testing program
  - Currently, we have 297 parents that have registered their children for the surveillance testing program.
  - So that's far off the mark for 100% participation; our goal is 100% of students and staff
  - Surveillance testing program is for vaccinated or unvaccinated staff and children
  - It is designed to help us to pick up on COVID infections in asymptomatic people
  - Once we schedule the initial testing with Quadrant Biosciences, we will let everyone know that opted into the program.
  - The program is voluntary
  - It is not voluntary for the 23 adults across the district who are either unvaccinated, in the process of getting vaccinated, or have chosen not to disclose their vaccination status. New York State law requires that adults in the above categories be tested weekly.
  - We hope more students will opt in for testing.
  - After that initial testing, we'll do weekly random sampling of 20% of the people in the testing pool.
  - We'll provide a short video demonstrating the cheek swab test.
- We have received a lot of questions about backpacks in the middle school.
  - There is a communication that's going out to parents probably tomorrow morning, about backpacks in the middle school that hopefully will help parents to at least understand the decision that we're making.
  - There is no question that kids are bringing back and forth more things than they need in their backpack.
  - The team leaders have been responding to parents individually, to their questions about what needs to be in the backpack.
    - They need some folders, their Chromebook, and a binder which are the only things that need to be in the backpack.
    - We will certainly revisit the backpack situation.
    - One of the issues is that the Middle School lockers are the worst possible scenario because they're up and down lockers, unlike the High School, which are single lockers.
    - The potential for quarantining of kids, because of the locker situation, is higher since if a student is infected, they are not outside the required three feet.
    - So what we need to do in order to address the locker situation will involve creating a schedule for the kids to use their lockers in the hallway, so we know who is in the hallway when.
    - Also we have an entire sixth grade class and an entire seventh grade class that have never used lockers and our lockers are spin dial lockers.

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- One of the other things that's important to know is we had a very successful last eight weeks of the school year last year with minimal infections and quarantining and so it's natural that we want to maintain some of those things that we were doing because they worked.

The Board thanked Dr. Brady for becoming our surveillance testing guru.

### 7. Correspondence

None.

### 8. BOE Committees

#### 8.01 Committee Report

Student Activities & Athletics - 9/20

- We got an update on athletics
  - JV & Varsity is fall sports started August 23. Modified sports started September 13
  - Very high student participation on the team and it is off to a great start. We have not had any positive COVID-19 cases on the teams at this point in time nor any student quarantine due to exposure which is great.
- Looking forward there is ongoing discussion around spectator policies for winter sports such as limiting the number of spectators and possibly making them show proof of vaccination prior to entry.
- Two postseason facilities have been secured by NYSPHSA to host the regional and state finals
  - They may require vaccine mandates that students and adults will have to comply with to attend.
  - There are details to come regarding that the latter as the site's release information on protocols.
- High School club fair is scheduled for Wednesday, September 22. Two new clubs are being proposed - Guitar club and French club to run at the high school this year. We're going to see if there's any interest.
- Andrew is going to see if there's any pre-existing data on how often clubs meet throughout the year. There was a good suggestion that when new clubs are established, the advisor should include a tentative schedule for meeting dates and times to ensure that there's an alignment of expectation across all entities interested in the club.

### 9. Board Actions

#### 9.01 Personnel

Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Sullivan-Nunes seconded, that the Board approve the civil service and staff personnel recommendations.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

Dr. Brady reviewed the personnel resolutions on the agenda.

### 10. Acknowledgements

None.

### 11. Citizens' Comments

#### 11.01 Notice

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*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.*

None.

### 12. Old Business

None.

### 13. New Business

None.

#### 13.01 Work Session Topics

Discussion included:

- Several topics were discussed
- Dr. Brady created a Google Doc
- Topics will be decided on as the year progresses

### 14. Upcoming Meetings

#### 14.01 Calendar

Tuesday, October 5, 2021 - 7:00 PM - MS/HS Media Center

Tuesday, October 19, 2021 - 7:00 PM - MS/HS Media Center

- Work Session

### 15. Executive Session

#### 15.01 It is anticipated that the Board will act upon the following resolution to convene an Executive Session

At 8:44 PM, Mr. Bufalini moved, and Ms. Kennedy seconded, that the Board recesses into Executive Session for the following purpose: *to discuss the employment history of a particular civil service employee and the employment history of a particular pedagogical administrative employee.*

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

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

At 8:52 PM, Ms. Lucasey moved, and Mr. Bufalini seconded, to appoint Ms. Stringer as Clerk Pro Tem.

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

At 9:40 PM, Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Kennedy seconded, to move back to the Public Meeting.

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

### 16. Adjournment

At 9:41 PM, Ms. Bass moved, and Ms. Sullivan-Nunes seconded, that the Board adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

### 17. Approved Minutes

9/21/21

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### 17.01 Approved Minutes – August 18 and September 2, 2021

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Loretta Tularzko".

Loretta Tularzko  
District Clerk