



**Tuesday, September 25, 2018  
Work Session  
MS/HS Media Center, 7:00 PM**

**1. Reception - 6:30 PM MS/HS Media Center**

**1.01 Reception**

A reception was hosted by the PTSA for the tenured and new staff in the MS/HS Library.

**2. Call to Order**

**3. Meeting Opening 7:06 p.m.**

Ms. Jean Lucasey, President; Ms. Tracy Baron; Mr. Robert Reiser; Mr. Louis Schwartz; Ms. Shannon Johnson; Ms. Rita Kennedy; Dr. Lisa Brady, Superintendent; Mr. Douglas Berry, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction; Mr. Ron Clamser, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Facilities and Operations; and Ms. Loretta Tularzko, District Clerk.

Mr. Jonathan Greengrass was not in attendance.

**3.01 Pledge of Allegiance**

**3.02 Acceptance of the Agenda**

Mr. Reiser moved, and Ms. Johnson seconded, that the Board accept the September 25th Agenda.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

**3.03 Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Kennedy moved, and Mr. Reiser seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the September 4, 2018 meeting.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

**4. 2018-2019 School Year**

**4.01 New Tenured Staff**

**4.02 Introduction of New Staff**

Dr. Brady thanked the PTSA for the lovely reception.

Dr. Brady welcomed everyone and asked the principals of each school to come up and introduce their respective tenured and new staff.

Each staff member was introduced with a description of their qualifications and/or experience or their classroom performance and contribution to our schools.

Dr. Brady, Superintendent, introduced:

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Andrew Klaich	Director of Health, Physical Education & Athletics
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Dr. Falino, High School Principal, introduced:

Erica Curran	Earth Science 7-12
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Mr. Mussolini, Middle School Principal, introduced:

Paul Huneke	Music K-12
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Ms. Julia Drake, Springhurst School Principal, introduced:

Catherine O'Rourke	Elementary Pre K-6
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Dr. Vredenburg, introduced:

Marietta Wrzesc	K-12 Speech & Language
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Dr. Brady and the principals of each school introduced their respective new staff.

District

Kelli Cronin  
Kelly Foster  
Raymond Cavallo

High School

Dana Molloy

Middle School

Lisa Alfonzetti  
Juliane P. Lavery  
Nycole Tobey

Springhurst

Gina DiMaria  
KC Sokolski

Special Education

Ting Waymouth  
Sheila Kusi-Asare

The Board, Administration and audience congratulated the tenured and new staff.

### **5. Executive Session**

#### **5.01 Executive Session.**

At 7:37 PM, Ms. Johnson moved, and Ms. Baron seconded, that the Board move into Executive Session for the following purposes: To discuss the Tax Certiorari process with the school district's attorney and obtain legal advice.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

Mr. Reiser moved, and Ms. Kennedy seconded, that the Board appoint Ms. Baron as the Clerk Pro Tem.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

At 8:26 PM, Ms. Kennedy moved, and Mr. Schwartz seconded, to return to the Public Meeting.

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Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

### 6. Announcements

Ms. Baron updated the Board on several upcoming WPSBA events.

- The WPSBA Board of directors will hold a legislative advocacy breakfast on 9/27 at 6:00 PM to 7:45 PM at Lakeland.
  - The agenda will include regional priorities, NYSSBA resolutions and the SALT resolution.
- 10/17 – Breakfast at SWBOCES with Regent Judith Johnson.
- 11/5 – Regional Superintendent/Board dinner with speaker John Merrow on Student Well Being.

Ms. Johnson attended the first session of the 2018-19 NY Metro EPFP Program on Friday, September 21st.

- The kickoff speaker was Regent Judith Johnson. Ms. Johnson's fellow attendees included Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents and Board members.
- The next session will be held on October 4th & 5th there is an optional Strategic Leadership Forum at the Gettysburg National Battlefield and the US Army War College. This trip is highly recommended and has been described by prior Fellows as a "life-changing" professional experience.

The PTSA Pumpkin Fair will be held on October 21<sup>st</sup>. They still have a laundry list of needed volunteers for various events, projects, etc.

### 7. Superintendent's Report

Blue Shirt Day - Monday, October 1st. The District DASA Committee met on 9/17 to review plans for the first week in October as well as for the school year.

District Dialogue with Mayor Bob McLoughlin is airing and on the website

Recycling efforts are in full swing with GNC in the cafeteria this week helping at the bins. Students from HS Ecology Club were trained on 9/20. Recycling is part of the MAC Field Day Competition this year along with collecting bottles. The District is working closely with GNC to tighten up recycling at the MS/HS. MS is doing really well which would be expected since they already know how to do this from Springhurst. Thanks to Connor Cohn and Kelly Ravo at the HS for really taking this on.

Football at Gould - the game with Woodlands was moved to Springhurst when the Woodlands team refused to play on an "unplayable field." We may be in the same situation on Friday for Homecoming due to the rain today and the situation is being monitored.

Grades 3-5 Back to School Night is tomorrow night. Arrive at 6:30 to meet with Specialists. Program begins at 7:00 in the cafeteria.

We had a great turn out for our Middle School and High School Back to School Night last week.

MAC Field Day is Friday! This year, the Ecology Club and Fundraising Club are joining forces to raise money through recycling for a local charity. Each grade level is going to collect as many bottles/cans and compete against one another.

We are proud to share that DFHS has 3 students in the Class of 2019 who are being recognized this year by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) as semifinalists for their performance on last year's PSAT. Of the 1.6 million students who took the exam nationally, 34,000 were designated as Commended Students and 16,000 were designated as Semifinalists. The winners are as follows: Remy Nammour, Jamie Kramer, and Zachar Hawkewycz.

Our Co-Curricular Club Fair will be held next Wednesday, October 3rd, at the end of 9th period.

Homecoming Weekend Athletics Schedule, all games will be played at Dobbs Ferry:

Friday, September 28th:

- Varsity Girls Tennis vs Tuckahoe at 4:15 PM
- Varsity Volleyball vs Westlake at 4:30 PM

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- JV Volleyball vs Westlake at 6:00 PM
- Varsity Football vs Ardsley at 7:00 PM
- JV Girls Soccer vs Irvington at 4:30 PM

Saturday, September 29th:

- Varsity Girls Soccer vs Woodlands at 5:00 PM
- Varsity Boys Soccer vs Woodlands at 7:00 PM

Dr. Brady will find out about the portable lights at the evening games at Springhurst.

### 8. Correspondence

None.

### 9. Citizen's Comments

#### 9.01 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.*

### 10. Committee Reports

#### 10.01 BOE Committees

Personnel - 9/20

- The committee reviewed the recommendations on tonight's agenda

Special Ed - 9/20

- The committee reviewed the numbers of the students with IEP's and 504 Plans
- They discussed the requirements for Parent Members on the CPE/CPSE committee
- Per committee request, monthly reports now track numbers of students in intensive day treatment

### 11. Board Actions

#### 11.01 Donation

Ms. Johnson moved, and Ms. Kennedy seconded, that the Board accept a donation from The Masters School of 8 Smartboards with speakers to the District.

The Board thanked The Masters School for the donation.

Vote: 6- ayes - 0 nays

#### 11.02 Settlement of a Tax Certiorari Proceeding

Mr. Schwartz moved, and Ms. Baron seconded, that the Board authorize its attorneys, Shaw Perelson, May & Lambert, LLP to execute a Consent Judgment in a tax certiorari proceeding captioned Joseph Cuneo v. Town of Greenburgh and Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District;

**And it is Further Resolved**, that the Board authorize the refund of taxes as required by the terms of the Consent Judgment.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

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### 11.03 SALT Tax Proposed Regulations & Contributions to Charitable Reserve Resolution

Mr. Reiser moved, and Ms. Johnson seconded, that the Board move to table the adoption the following resolution until a position statement is prepared:

WHEREAS, in response to the Federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA), the State of New York has enacted legislation as part of its FY2019 Budget that authorizes counties, local governments, and school districts to establish a charitable gifts reserve fund that may be used to defray some of the costs related to public education, healthcare, or other public service provided by that entity; and

WHEREAS, the State of New York has also enacted legislation which allows counties, local governments, and public school districts the option to authorize by means of resolution a real property tax credit of up to 95% of the amount of a property owner's monetary contribution(s) to an established charitable reserve fund during the "associated credit year"; and

WHEREAS, individual taxpayers may be incentivized to contribute generously to these charitable funds out of the expectation that the pairing of an increased charitable deduction at the federal level combined with a real property tax credit at the local level may mitigate the effects of the new \$10,000 cap on state and local tax deductions imposed by TCJA; and

WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) issued on August 23, 2018 proposed regulations providing rules on the availability of federal charitable contribution deductions when the taxpayer receives or expects to receive a corresponding state or local tax credit; and

WHEREAS, the proposed regulations rules that a taxpayer who makes a contribution to a charitable reserve fund and subsequently receives a state or local tax credit that exceeds 15 percent of the contribution must reduce his or her charitable deduction by the amount of any tax credit he or she received at the state or local level; and

WHEREAS, state, county, and local entities have expressed confusion, doubt, and skepticism on the draft regulations and have raised questions as to whether they constitute an arbitrary and capricious interpretation of federal tax law, particularly in the context of the treatment of existing state tax credit programs that pre-date the TCJA and the stated preservation of the deductibility of contributions made by businesses; and

WHEREAS, the IRS has invited the public to submit comments on the proposed regulations no later than October 11, 2018;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District believes the proposed regulations issued by the IRS on August 23, 2018, dramatically impair the incentives for individual taxpayers to make contributions to these charitable reserve funds as established by law in the State of New York and, in doing so, impair the mission of these funds, namely providing a high-quality public education to all children residing within the Dobbs Ferry School District; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District believes the proposed regulations issued by the IRS on August 23, 2018, provide insufficient clarity on many topics as well as arbitrary and unfair distinctions between deductions for individuals compared to deductions for businesses, and contributions to support public education compared to contributions to support private education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District finds it necessary and appropriate to propose changes to the proposed regulations issued by the IRS to provide additional clarity for the taxpayers of the Dobbs Ferry School District and to explain and remove any arbitrary distinctions that would effectively and unfairly disadvantage the taxpayers of the Dobbs Ferry School District;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District shall submit public comments on or before October 11, 2018 that shall reflect the concerns outlined above; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District shall seek to collaborate with other like-minded state, county, municipality, or school district agencies or organizations to express these concerns publicly and to advocate for fair regulations and equitable and principled interpretation of federal tax law that

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recognizes and rewards the value of contributions in support of public education, no matter whether the contributor is an individual or a business, or whether the charitable entity is public or private.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

### 11.04 2018-2019 Dobbs Ferry District Goals

Ms. Kennedy moved, and Ms. Baron seconded, that the Board adopt the proposed 2018-2019 Dobbs Ferry District Goals.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

### 11.05 Personnel

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

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

## 12. Acknowledgements

### 12.01 Treasurer's Report

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

### 12.02 Warrants

The Board acknowledged receipt of the following warrants:  
Warrant No. 11 and 13 Multi.

## 13. Citizen's Comments

### 13.01 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.*

## 14. Old Business

None.

## 15. New Business

### 15.01 Voting at the NYSSBA Convention

If the Board intends on voting at the NYSSBA convention, a survey must be completed.

The voting takes place on Saturday, October 27th, 2018 at 8:00 a.m. at the Sheraton New York Times Square Hotel, New York Ballroom, 3rd Floor.

Ms. Kennedy agreed to cast the District's votes at the convention.

The Board will vote on the resolutions at the October 9<sup>th</sup> meeting and vote on whether Ms. Kennedy will be authorized to amend the resolution if required.

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### 16. Upcoming Meetings

#### 16.01 Calendar

Tuesday, October 9, 2018 - 7:00 PM - MS/HS Media Center

- Audit Committee – 6:00 PM – Board Room
- Audit Report

Tuesday, October 23, 2018 - 7:00 PM - MS/HS Media Center

- Work Session – Role of Technology

### 17. Adjournment

At 9:15 PM, Ms. Baron moved, and Ms. Johnson seconded, that the Board adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

### 18. Approved Minutes

#### 18.01 Approved Minutes - August 14, 2018



District Clerk