



**Tuesday, September 8, 2020
Regular Board Meeting
Google Meet - Virtual Meeting, 7:00 PM**

1. Call to Order

2. Opening of the Meeting – 7:00 PM

Louis Schwartz called the meeting to order.

2.01 Pledge of Allegiance

2.02 Roll Call

Mr. Louis Schwartz, President; Ms. Rita Kennedy, Vice President; Ms. Shannon Johnson; Ms. Jean Lucasey; Ms. Tracy Baron; Ms. Shannon Stringer; Mr. Massimo Bufalini, Dr. Lisa Brady, Superintendent; 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.

2.03 Acceptance of the Agenda

Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Stringer seconded, that the Board accept the September 8th Agenda.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

2.04 Approval of Minutes

Ms. Johnson moved, and Ms. Baron seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the August 18, 2020 meeting.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

3. Announcements

PTSA

- Jean Lucasey, on behalf of the PTSA, thanked the Administration and the Board for all their hard work in getting the schools opened and wished everyone good luck.
- The membership drive is still on. All parents and teachers can sign up at the PTSA website dobbssptsa.org.
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WPSBA

- Tracy Baron will continue to join the Town Hall calls every two weeks and will advise the Board of any helpful news. If any Board member has questions to raise please let Tracy know.
- Tracy also forwarded the Legal Advocacy focal points for the year to the Board.

Anyone wishing to make comments during the two Citizen's Comment portions of the meeting can do so by emailing their comments to boemeetingcomment@DFSD.org. Please include your name and address.

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4. Superintendent's Report

First Day

All three schools had a very successful opening day. Students were really happy to be back and so were the teachers and staff. Mask-wearing was very successful across the board. Thank you to the Board our administrators, teachers, support staff, custodial staff, clerical staff, security and everyone who worked so hard for us to be where we are today. It was great seeing and hearing the students in the halls and classrooms. It has been a very long summer and the road has been rocky and challenging but seeing our schools open today was worth every minute of it

Springhurst was a very busy place. K-2 dismissal is an area for growth. Julia sent an email just a few minutes ago with important information for parents. Buses are being underutilized and there is room for additional children. The buses are being thoroughly cleaned between every single run. It would also help if parents could walk instead of driving if possible. Drive and park at top of Beacon Hill Stairs. Using buses would help relieve congestion. Also, if parents are driving - please put a paper in the windshield with your child's, name, teacher, and grade because it is difficult for the staff to hear with everyone wearing masks. We plan to move to an app-based system for dismissal but we are not ready to launch this quite yet.

Middle School students did a great job today. Students were really happy to be back and they were very well behaved in the Commons during lunch. Sixth graders seemed to be adjusting really well and the whole cohort was very positive at dismissal. Many students commented that it was "better than I thought it would be."

High School students were here today for in-person orientation meetings, socially distanced on the front lawn with their teachers and other staff. The mechanics of the remote schedule were explained. Optional in-person grade level meetings are also being held this week. Formal instruction begins tomorrow.

Food Services

Food Service will be offered in all schools when in session and also curbside pick-up on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. One meal (breakfast and lunch) per student per day. Class rosters will be checked at time of pick up. A designated parent or guardian must be listed for pick up or pick up by students themselves.

State COVID Report Card

The Governor issued another daily report requirement on Friday asking for the number of positive COVID cases for each school. We are also required to report which models we are using for instruction, how many students, teachers, and staff are physically on-site, and how many students, teachers, and staff are operating remotely. There is also information that might suggest that schools are doing their own COVID testing which is extremely bizarre since this was never suggested anywhere in any guidance that schools received from anywhere prior to this. We are dependent on the Westchester County Department of Health for any information related to positive cases.

Tenured Staff Recognition and New Staff

We will recognize our newly tenured teachers at our next BOE meeting on September 22, which we plan to have in-person in the MS/HS Library. Guests will be limited and we will not have our usual reception. Meeting will begin at 7:00 PM. In an effort to limit the number of people at the meeting, our new staff will be introduced via a photographic slide show. Liz will also be taking the Board's pictures as well.

Students have been out of school for 6 months. Thanks to all the parents for their feedback to help us make the plans we did. We stand by our decisions, knowing that if needed we will be making adjustments along the way. Social Distancing is the biggest driver. Thank you to everyone.

Louis Schwartz thanked Dr. Brady for the positive report and thanked the District administrators, teachers and staff for all the work completed to arriving to opening today.

5. Correspondence

5.01 BOE Correspondence

The Board acknowledged the following:

1. Two follow-up emails regarding offering SATs for senior
2. Email regarding DFUT's response to the Enterprise

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3. Petition regarding the Dobbs Ferry High School Reopening Plan

Louis Schwartz thanked the community/parents for their correspondence.

6. Committee Reports

Special Ed – 9/2

- The Committee reviewed the CSE/CPSE recommendations. Questions were asked and clarified.
- The Committee discussed the differences in IEPs related to 5-day and 6-day cycles. This is predominantly an issue for transfer students.
- The Committee reviewed the special education numbers. Parental placements at the high school level are down.
- The committee discussed a proposed settlement agreement for a student which the BOE will discuss in Executive Session after this meeting.
- Jean G. explained that she and the social workers and psychologists met over the summer to revamp the process used to refer students for mental health supports. Changes included creating a new referral form, creating a flow chart of tiers of referral/support, identifying roles and responsibilities and aligning them K-12.

Personnel - 9/3

- The committee discussed the Personnel recommendations on tonight's agenda.
- The administration is recommending the addition of an Attendance Clerical position to be responsible for attendance across the District. The District has a civil service clerk position that can be used for this purpose. The District has an unfilled position in the Springhurst office.

Anyone wishing to make comments during the two Citizen's Comment portions of the meeting can do so by emailing their comments to boemeetingcomment@DFSD.org. Please include your name and address.

7. Citizens 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. There is another opportunity for comments later on in the meeting.

8. Board Actions

8.01 Internal Auditor Appointment

Ms. Johnson moved, and Ms. Stringer seconded, that the Board appoint Nugent & Haeussler, P.C. as the Internal Auditor for the School District.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

8.02 CSE/CPSE

Ms. Lucasey moved, and Mr. Bufalini 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 2, 2020 its IEP recommendations for the students who are identified therein; and

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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 2, 2020.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

8.04 Personnel

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

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

8.04 Policy - Second Reading

The Board conducted a second reading. Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Johnson seconded, that the Board adopt the following policies:

- 8131 - Pandemic Planning
- 8131.1 - COVID-19 Workplace & Student Learning Environment Accommodations

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

9. Acknowledgements

9.01 Treasurer's Report

The Board will acknowledged receipt of the Treasurer's Reports for June 2020.

9.02 MS HS Extra Classroom Activity Fund Reports

The Board acknowledged receipt of the Extra Classroom Activity Fund Report for the Middle and High Schools for July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

9.03 Warrants

The Board acknowledged receipt of the following warrant:
Warrant No. 8 Multi.

Anyone wishing to make comments during the two Citizen's Comment portions of the meeting can do so by emailing their comments to boemeetingcomment@DFSD.org. Please include your name and address.

10. Citizens Comments

10.01 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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11. Old Business

None.

12. New Business

ESSA Waiver for State Testing

- Tracy Baron sent another email with the Pleasantville Resolution sample
- If all members agree we will vote on it at the next meeting
- Needed information - # of students that take the tests and the cost
- Dr. Brady explained that the schools should focus on students' need without worrying about teaching to the state test requirements at the end of the year
- The Policy Committee will review, format, etc.
- Dr. Brady will find out if Pleasantville used a template
- Loretta Tularzko will research how such resolutions were distributed in the past, i.e., do we send a cover letter and who other than WPSBA should receive the adopted resolution.

13. Upcoming Meetings

13.01 Calendar

Tuesday, September 22, 2020 - 7:00 PM

- New Staff

Tuesday, October 6, 2020 - 7:00 PM

Tuesday, October 27, 2020 - 7:00 PM

The Board Retreat will take place on October 6 at 4:00 PM with Natalie Zwerger – NYU Steinhardt - prior to the Board meeting.

- Board Self Evaluation - Shannon Johnson will send out a reminder to those who haven't completed their evaluation and then she will send a consolidated report.

What are the specifics for Public attendance at the September 22 meeting? Tracy Baron will check with WPBSA.

14. Executive Session

14.01 Executive Session

At 7:43 PM, Ms. Lucasey moved, and Mr. Bufalini seconded, that the Board recesses into Executive Session for the following purpose: *to discuss a student settlement and release agreement.*

It is not anticipated that the Board will return to public session to take any action(s).

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

Ms. Johnson moved, and Ms. Stringer seconded, to appoint Ms. Kennedy as Clerk Pro Tem.

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

At 7:53 PM, Ms. Baron moved, and Mr. Bufalini seconded, to move back to the Public Meeting.

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

15. Adjournment

At 7:53 PM, Ms. Johnson moved, and Ms. Lucasey seconded, that the Board adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

16. Approved Minutes

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16.01 Approved Minutes July 7, 2020



Loretta Tularzko
District Clerk