



**Tuesday, October 9, 2018
Regular Board Meeting
MS/HS Media Center, 7:00 PM**

1. Audit Committee

1.01 External Auditor - 6:00 PM

Alan Kassay with the audit firm PFK O'Connor Davies, LLP, met with the Audit Committee to review the 2018 Fiscal Year End Financial Statements.

2. Call to Order

3. Meeting Opening 7:10 p.m.

3.01 Pledge of Allegiance

3.02 Roll Call

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, Jr., Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Facilities and Operations; and Ms. Loretta Tularzko, District Clerk.

Mr. Jonathan Greengrass, Vice President was not in attendance.

3.03 Acceptance of the Agenda

Mr. Reiser moved, and Ms. Johnson seconded, that the Board accept the October 9th Agenda.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

3.04 Approval of Minutes

Ms. Baron moved, and Mr. Reiser seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the September 25, 2018 meeting.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

4. Report & Board Action

4.01 Independent Auditor Report

Alan Kassay with the audit firm PFK O'Connor Davies, LLP, presented the Annual Audit Report for the 2017-2018 school year.

4.02 Annual Audit Report

Mr. Schwartz moved, and Ms. Baron seconded, that the Board accept the Independent Auditors Report, performed by PFK O'Connor, Davies, LLP, for the 2017-18 school year.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

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5. Announcements

WPSBA

- 10/17 – Breakfast at SWBOCES with Regent Judith Johnson.
- 11/5 – Regional Superintendent/Board dinner with speaker John Mellow on Student Well Being.

Education Policy Fellowship Program

- The Regional Leadership Forum at the Gettysburg Battlefield and Army War College was a wonderful experience with focus on leadership & communication and how it equates to education.
- There were participants from 5 different states

PTSA

- The PTSA Pumpkin Fair will be held on October 21st. They still have a laundry list of needed volunteers for various events, projects, etc.
- You can volunteer online or send an email requesting a time slot.
- The PTSA and the Women's Club will again host the Haunted House. Teenage volunteers are needed.

SPRING

- They are once again holding a Winter Coat Drive until Tuesday, 10/16 – there are drop off boxes in each school and the Community Nursery School. Please bring gently used and freshly laundered coats.

6. Superintendent's Report

- National Walk to School Day is tomorrow (Wednesday). Lisa and Bob McLoughlin will walk from MS/HS to Springhurst.
- Senior Citizen Luncheon is scheduled for November 15th.
- Book Chats starting Wednesday, October 31st and every Wednesday through the end of November. HS students from Tom Falconetti's book club will join one of the HS chats.
- Presentation for Rachel Gonzales at 9 a.m. at Springhurst. Tomorrow, October 10th, some representatives from the district and community will honor the late Rachel Gonzales at Springhurst. Rachel was a dynamic force of life and an inspiration for all of us. We are indebted to Rachel for the many times that she came to Springhurst to share stories of her life experiences with us as part of our curriculum on blindness in our Building Bridges program.
- Diversity Career Fair Planning Meeting - October 17th at Irvington Dows Lane.
- Reading Without Walls Lunch Planning Meeting - October 18th.
- Met with HS legislative branch today about BOE meeting attendance, dress code, and homework survey.
- October 1st was Blue Shirt Day – Dobbs Ferry Youth Services gave 100% fruit pops to all students that participated. This year Springhurst students were included. The MS recognized World Day of Bullying Prevention on October 1st by having a mix-it-up lunch for all three grades. The students all ate their lunch then played various board games for the remainder of the lunch period. The guidance department assigned students to tables that were different from their regular groups of friends.
- On Wednesday 10/3 Paige Monte (2014 DFSD Graduate!) and children's book author Eric Bennett came to Springhurst for the first-ever public reading of their new book Noodles' & Albie's Mermaid Parade! Paige is the illustrator! Students in grades K-5 participated!
- On Thursday 10/4 Springhurst held its annual Soup Day. This time it was a Zero Waste event! Thank you to the many parent volunteers who helped make it happen.
- STEAM is underway in grades 4 & 5 as an optional recess alternative. Springhurst staff presented about this exciting work at the last Curriculum Committee Meeting.
- The US Tennis Association has been working with our PE Coaches beginning last month and will be throughout the course of this month. The USTA runs a program called Net Generation (you may have seen commercials for this if you watched the US Open) which provides a community partnership between schools and local tennis clubs (in our case, The Tennis Club of Hastings). The USTA's mission through this program is to expand and

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encourage tennis participation among school age children. We have been using our new tennis courts as part of this work but are also able to bring the experience indoors with the idea being that tennis can be enjoyed almost anywhere. A big thank you to Springhurst PE Coach Denise Briscoe for helping to bring this about.

- Advanced Notice: Since Halloween falls on a Wednesday this year, this year the Springhurst Halloween Parade will be held in the morning (change from past practice).

7. Committee Reports

7.01 Committee Reports

Curriculum & Instruction - 9/26

Springhurst STEAM Program - Science Technology Engineering Art Math

- Program started last year as a voluntary recess "alternative" for 4th grade students
- Supporting students to become learners who take risks, engage in experiential learning, develop persistence when problem solving, and embrace collaboration
- 2-3 week sessions - 25 minutes/day
- Approximately 75/110 students in grade 4 participated at some point
- Small group - 12-15 students
- This year the program has been expanded to include 5th grade students as well
- Discussions are ongoing regarding ways in which the program might be expanded, and the feasibility of it being embedded within the school day

The committee discussed NYSED initiatives related to guidance and mental health and the district's preparedness

School & Community Relations - 9/27

- The District will be moving to a new phone system supported by the LHRIC
- LHRIC is no longer supporting the old system
- Most schools in the region are moving to VOIP
- The current system is an older system that will not be updated by Verizon and has many pain points (example - Voicemail lives at the District Office, so when someone calls Springhurst and needs to leave a message they are bounced back to the District. If the connection between the two is down, which it has been more frequently lately, the call is dropped and they can't leave a message.). In addition, the district does not have control over the phone network/wiring/etc.
- There are four pieces to complete Dobbs Ferry's VOIP project.
- Infrastructure, cabling, installation and backup power sources in case of emergency.
- The new VOIP system is modern technology
- Other systems in the district can integrate into the phone system - Security, Cameras, PA, etc.
- The new platform is virtual. The handset can be removed and plugged into electricity and internet at a different location and continue to work properly with the same phone number. "As long as you have electricity and internet access, you have phone service." Location doesn't matter. This is especially helpful in a disaster situation (ex: loss of power).
- You can use the phone as a PA system. The PA system can be programmed by zones to allow you to make an announcement to 1 building or all buildings at once.
- 911 - You can have alerts sent to key district staff if someone dials 911. If someone dials 911 the system can pinpoint exact location (room) to share with police.
- Voice messages can be sent to email and listened to on computer or cell phone.
- Jabber client can be installed on cell phones to allow calls to a district number to ring both on the cell phone and the handset.
- District can customize all settings.
- Some hard wired phone lines would remain for emergency purposes (Nurse's Office, District Office, etc.)
- There would be network (internet) redundancy so that phones would continue to work in the case of an outage.

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- There will be some down time during the porting of the phone numbers from one system to the other.
- There may also be some disruption on the building sites during cabling work.
- Infrastructure work will result in some down time of the network.
- All of this work will be planned and scheduled in a way to avoid as much disruption as possible. (Holidays, weekends, after hours)
- The infrastructure and cabling work needs to happen before the VOIP system can be installed. We expect to have everything completed before the beginning of the 19/20 school year.

Personnel - 10/2

- The Committee reviewed the Personnel recommendations for the October 9th BOE meeting.
- Susan McCarthy (Office Assistant in Ron's office) has resigned effective 2 weeks. We will be appointing Joyce (current intern) to a substitute clerical position while Ron works with Civil Service for a permanent replacement.
- Christina Sarofeen (leave replacement for Sara Grosso has resigned). Erin is currently working on replacing her.
- We will be appointing Lisa Doty to assist with classroom observations for the 2018-2019 school year as previously discussed.

Special Ed - 10/2

- The Committee reviewed the CSE/CPSE recommendations and questions were answered by Erin.
- In the current budget, we increased OT to .6 but we are having trouble filling this position. It is a civil service position. Currently, we are contracting with Listening Partners for this service for the rest of the school year at 3 days/week.
- Parent members for CSE meetings (list) will be on the agenda on October 9th.

8. Correspondence

8.01 8.01 SWBOCES Board Member Vacancy

The Board acknowledged a letter from SWBOCES regarding a Board Member vacancy.

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.

None.

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

10. Board Actions

10.01 SALT Tax Proposed Regulations & Contributions to Charitable Reserve Resolution

Mr. Reiser moved, and Ms. Baron seconded, that the Board adopt the following resolution:

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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 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.

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Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

10.02 Converted Condominium Units

Ms. Kennedy moved, and Ms. Johnson seconded, that the Board adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Section 581(1)(a) of the New York Real Property Tax Law (RPTL) and Section 339-y(1)(b) of the New York Real Property Law (RPL) require condominiums to be assessed at a value substantially less than comparable non-condominium properties resulting in an inequity between properties in condominium ownership and those in a conventional form of ownership; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education believes that residential property owners that convert to condominium form of ownership unfairly lower the property and school tax burden for the converted property while increasing the property and school tax burden to owners of property in a conventional form of ownership; and

WHEREAS, Section 581(1)(c) RPTL and Section 339-y(1)(f) RPL permit taxing jurisdictions, including school districts, to "opt out" of such valuation requirements so that the assessment restrictions for condominiums in Section 581(1)(a) RPTL/Section 339-y(1)(b) RPL shall not apply to converted condominium units located within the school district, defined as a dwelling unit held in condominium form of ownership that has previously been on an assessment roll as a dwelling unit in other than condominium form of ownership and has not been previously subject to the provisions of Section 581(1)(a) RPTL or Section 339-y(1)(b) RPL; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Greenburgh recently enacted Local Law No. 8 of 2018 pursuant to the provisions of Section 581(1)(c) RPTL and Section 339-y(1)(f) RPL; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education similarly seeks to implement the "opt out" provisions of Section 581(1)(c) RPTL and Section 339-y(1)(f) RPL for such dwelling units within the Dobbs Ferry School District.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to the authority granted to school districts by Section 581(1)(c) RPTL and Section 339-y(1)(f) RPL, the Board of Education determines and declares that the provisions of Section 581(1)(a) RPTL and Section 339-y(1)(b) RPL shall not apply to converted condominium units located within the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, as that term is defined above; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the terms of this resolution shall take effect immediately; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to the Town of Greenburgh and the Village of Dobbs Ferry.

This will be in effect going forward and not for those already in process.

Condominium Units may still convert but there will be no school tax implications.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

Mr. Schwartz moved, and Ms. Kennedy seconded, that the Board approve Items 10.03, 10.04, and 10.05 as a consent agenda.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

Ms. Kennedy moved, and Ms. Baron seconded, that the Board approve 10.03, 10.04, and 10.05.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

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10.03 2018/2019 Parent Member CSE Committee

The Board approved the parent members, on the attached list, to the CSE Committee.

10.04 CSE/CPSE Recommendations

The Board authorized and directed 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 October 1, 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 October 1, 2018.

10.05 Personnel

The Board approved the Civil Service and staff personnel recommendations.

10.06 Policy Revision - First Reading

The Board conducted a first reading of the following policy:

- 6150 - Budget Transfers

The policy will move to second reading.

Counselors push-in to classrooms to discuss bullying and sexual harassment in age appropriate way for students.

Mr. Schwartz moved, and Mr. Reiser seconded, that the Board forego a second reading and adopt the following policy:

- 0110 - Sexual Harassment

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

10.07 NYSSBA Proposed Bylaw Amendments & Resolutions

Ms. Baron moved, and Mr. Reiser seconded, that the Board cast votes in support of the recommended 2018 NYSSBA proposed bylaw amendments and resolutions presented in the attached document (with the exception of #6) and authorized Ms. Kennedy to amend the resolutions if required.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

10. Acknowledgements

10.01 Warrants

The Board acknowledged receipt of the following warrants:
Warrant No. 15 & 16 Multi.

12. Citizen's Comments

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12.01 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.

13. Old Business

NYSSBA's Board Self Evaluation tool will now be available on-line.

14. New Business

None.

15. Upcoming Meetings

15.01 Calendar

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

- Work Session - Role of Technology

Tuesday, November 13, 2018 - 7:00 PM - MS/HS Media Center

Tuesday, November 27, 2018 - 7:00 PM - MS/HS Media Center

- Work Session

16. Adjournment

At 8:39 PM, and Ms. Johnson moved, Mr. Schwartz seconded, that the Board adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

17. Approved Minutes

17.01 Approved Minutes – September 4, 2018



Loretta Tularzko
District Clerk