



Tuesday, October 29, 2019
Work Session Meeting
MS/HS Media Center, 7:00 PM

1. Call to Order

2. Meeting Opening 7:03 p.m.

2.01 Pledge of Allegiance

3.02 Roll Call

Ms. Shannon Johnson, President; Ms. Rita Kennedy, Vice President; Ms. Tracy Baron; Mr. Louis Schwartz; Ms. Shannon Stringer; Mr. Matthew Rosenberg; 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.

Ms. Jean Lucasey was not in attendance.

3.03 Acceptance of the Agenda

Mr. Rosenberg moved, and Ms. Baron seconded, that the Board accept the October 29th Agenda.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

3. School Board Recognition

3.01 School Board Recognition Week - October 21 - 25, 2019

The Dobbs Ferry School Board was acknowledged for their dedication and service to the District.

Dr. Brady began with a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "Everybody Can Be Great, Because Anybody Can Serve" and thanked the Board for their ability to keep the District on track for our students and staff by looking forward and to the future. The Board has 33 years of combined service.

Dr. Brady also thanked the Board on behalf of Ms. Heffler, DFUT President who could not be present. Ms. Brooke Bass, PTSA President, also acknowledged the Board for their support and for attending all the school and community events.

The Board received small gifts of appreciation.

Ms. Johnson thanked everyone on behalf of the Board.

4. Annual Audit Report

4.01 Independent Auditor Report

Alan Kassay with the audit firm PFK O'Connor Davies, LLP, presented the Annual Audit Report for the 2018-2019 school year which included:

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- Audit Committee Meetings (Planning, Post-Audit)
 - Audit Committee consists of the Board Members and Community Members
- Audit Report - Summary of the Financial Statements and Management Letter
- Summary of Communications
- General Fund Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget and Actual June 30, 2019
- Balance Sheet – June 30, 2019
- Summary
 - No fraud, irregularities, no material errors, fraudulent reporting or misappropriation of assets

Ms. Johnson thanked Mr. Kassay for the report.

5. Announcements

- NY PTSA Annual Convention will be held on November 8 and 9 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Tarrytown.
- WPSBA - November 4th is the Joint Superintendent/Board Member Dinner at the Doubletree Hotel highlighting digital citizenship and creating a community that engages with each other respectfully online.
 - Please register through Loretta Tularzko

6. Citizen's Comments

6.01 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.

A community member stated that there should be other options for students other than the college readiness track.

7. Superintendent's Report

None.

8. Correspondence

None.

9. Work Session Topic

9.01 Career and Technical Education

The session included Administration, Board members, 3 students, and 12+ parents/community members. Dr. Brady explained how we select our work sessions. Tonight the group is encouraged to learn from one another on this thought-provoking and informative topic. The attendees were asked to read the articles below prior to tonight's session.

- <https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/2019/10/10/we-thought-our-son-would-attend-four-year-college-now-its-our-turn-learn/>
- https://www.businessinsider.com/blue-collar-trade-jobs-benefits-high-salaries-no-student-debt-2019-4?utm_content=buffer45816&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook.com&utm_campaign=buffer-tiuk?utm_source=copy-link&utm_medium=referral&utm_content=topbar&utm_term=mobile
- [On the Right Path](#)

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- [Students at Work](#)
- [Employability Skills](#)
- https://www.familycircle.com/teen/teens-need-know-they-can-make-money-trade-careers/?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=socialflow

Discussion included:

- College is not the answer for all students.
- Perception of the community and society that everyone needs to attend college.
- How do we judge success for students?
- As a society, how do we reclaim career and technical skills are just as important? How do we get there?
- BOCES ½ day sessions are not sufficient – only 4 students are currently enrolled.
- What role has technology played? Home economics and other skill programs have been phased out by technology classes.
- Kids use technology instead of their hand.
- Is IB all there is?
- Not all successful people have four year college degrees.
- Perception of a BOCES trade vs. a college degree.
- College and/or a trade need to have equal standing.
- We need local diplomas not just IB or Regents.
- 95% of our students go to college; what about the other 5%?
- There is a need for local apprenticeships and more trade job fairs.
- Can we have a panel of graduates that have taken different paths?
- Senior Internship Program is on the right path.
- Need more mindful education.
- Need to teach basic communication and daily living skills.
- This topic is much larger than a school issue it is a societal issue.
- Education needs to have a shift in how they rank and judge schools.
- Freedom from debt after college.
- Artificial Intelligence.
- Test scores can't be the only indicator for students.
- We need to be more future focused not forward focus.
- The Dobbs Ferry community is focused on 4 year college degrees.
- Successful college focused school districts increase home values in the community.
- Schools respond to community.
- Boards respond to community.

Dr. Brady and the Board thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and joining in the discussion.

10. Citizen's 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.

11. Old Business

None.

12. New Business

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None.

13. Upcoming Meetings

13.01 Calendar

Tuesday, November 5, 2019 - 7:00 PM - MS/HS Media Center

Tuesday, November 19, 2019 - 7:00 PM - MS/HS Media Center

14. Adjournment

At 8:38 PM, Ms. Stringer moved, and Mr. Schwartz seconded, that the Board adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

15. Approved Minutes

15.01 Approved Minutes – September 24, 2019 Meeting



District Clerk