



**Tuesday, January 23, 2018
Work Session Meeting
MS/HS Media Center, 7:00 PM**

1. Call to Order

2. Meeting Opening 7:00 p.m.

2.01 Pledge of Allegiance

2.02 Roll Call

Ms. Jean Lucasey, President; Mr. Jonathan Greengrass, Vice President; Ms. Tracy Baron; Mr. Robert Reiser; 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. Louis Schwartz was not in attendance.

2.03 Acceptance of the Agenda

Mr. Reiser moved, and Ms. Kennedy seconded, that the Board accept the January 23rd Agenda.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

3. Announcements

The Westchester Putnam School Boards Association (WPSBA) Board meeting and Legislative Advocacy Committee meeting will be held in the MS/HS Media Center on Thursday, January 25th. The Board meeting will begin approximately at 6:15 PM with the Legislative Advocacy will begin immediately following around 7:45 PM.

4. Committee Reports

4.01 BOE Committees

Facilities - 1/16

Springhurst

- An issued occurred at Springhurst on New Year's Day with the boilers. The heat in the new section at Springhurst was affected. There were also broken pipes and it took a while for most of the rooms to heat up but things were back to normal by the start of the school day. The boilers will be worked on during winter break.
- Construction Update
 - All construction, from the Capital Projects Bond, is on track for April 2018 completion.
- Auditorium Update
 - Safety concerns with the stage rigging are being addressed immediately.
 - Third floor HVAC in the HS will not impact a/c issue in the auditorium

MINUTES

- Balcony Seating - we will shoot for the February break to install the seating.
- Future Facility Needs - 5 Year Plan needs to be updated.
 - Middle School HVAC - original HVAC was installed for "open classroom design"
 - Springhurst & MS Roof - solar energy project possible

School & Community Relations - 1/17

- The committee reviewed the plan for another Thoughtexchange survey dealing with Home Work.
- Parents, students and teachers will a combination of similar or different questions.
- We will separate teachers, staff and students responses.
- Timeline
 - February 5-14 Process is LIVE
 - February 15 - March 1 ANALYSIS
 - March 1 - Report back of data

5. Correspondence

5.01 eMail

The Board acknowledged an email from Jeff O'Donnell regarding a statement on diversity from the Arlington School Board.

TV DFTV - Channel 77 & 47 for full details or visit the website for the video of the meeting

6. Work Session Topic

6.01 Listening to Strangers: Classroom Discussion in Democratic Education by Walter Parker

The Board discussed the "practice" of classroom discussion and how/why schools in societies with democratic ideals need to cultivate enlightened and engaged citizens after reading: [Listening to Strangers: Classroom Discussion in Democratic Education](#), an analytic essay/argument research paper written by Walter Parker at the University of Washington, Seattle.

The Board watched TedEx talk with Diana Hess, author of [The Political Classroom: Evidence and Ethics in Democratic Education](#).

Dr. Brady began the session by explaining that a Dobbs Ferry team (consisting of Dr. Brady, Social Studies and other subject teachers) have been meeting with 6 other districts from Long Island, Westchester and Connecticut discussing this topic and how schools should approach the essential question "how do we live together".

The process for the discussion was as follows:

1. The BOE took 5 minutes to review the research paper by Walter Parker, University of Washington, Seattle and made highlights or notes that they thought were necessary to help their thinking.
2. The BOE was then asked to write a headline for this topic or issue that captured the most important aspect that should be remembered.
3. Next, the BOE was instructed to turn to their neighbor to share their headline and explain why they chose their headline.
4. Each pair then reported their headlines which were recorded to form a group list.
5. The group was asked if anyone heard a headline from someone else that they thought was particularly good at getting to the core of things?
Two questions were asked of the group:
 - a. What do you think is the role of the Board of Education as related to the issues discussed this evening?
 - b. What do you want administrators and teachers to know?

Loretta Tularzko, District Clerk, left the meeting at 7:36 PM.

MINUTES

After the completing the process, the group had a discussion around how do incorporate this teaching into our curriculum.

7. Citizens Comments

7.01 Notice

Members of the community may comment on any matter related to district business. 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.

8. Old Business

Denise Connell, Internal Claims Auditor, will meet with the Board on March 27th at 6:30 PM.

9. New Business

Dr. Brady and Mr. Berry have time scheduled to continue work on the Strategic Plan.

Rivertowns Leadership Boards will be meeting Saturday, January 27th at 10:00 AM in the Dobbs Diner.

10. Upcoming Meetings

10.01 Calendar

Thursday, February 8, 2018 - 6:00 PM - Board Room

- Board Fiscal Training

Tuesday, February 13, 2018 - 7:00 PM - MS/HS Library

- Proposed Budget Presentation
- Special Education Update

Tuesday, February 27, 2018 - 7:00 PM – MS/HS Library

- Executive Session only - Tenure Candidates

11. Adjournment

At approximately 9:11 PM, Ms. Kennedy moved, and Ms. Johnson seconded, that the Board adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

12. Approved Minutes

16.01 Approved Minutes – November 28, December 5 and 19, 2017



Loretta Tularzko
District Clerk