



**Tuesday, March 27, 2018
Regular Board Meeting
MS/HS Commons, 7:00 PM**

1. Internal Claims Auditor Meeting - 6:30 PM - Board Room

1.01 Internal Claims Auditor

Denise Connell, our internal Claims Auditor met with the Board.

2. Call to Order

3. Meeting Opening 7:02 p.m.

3.01 Pledge of Allegiance

3.02 Roll Call

Ms. Jean Lucasey, President; Mr. Jonathan Greengrass, Vice 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.

3.03 Acceptance of the Agenda

Mr. Reiser moved, and Ms. Kennedy seconded, that the Board accept the March 27th Agenda.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

3.04 Approval of Minutes

Ms. Schwartz moved, and Ms. Kennedy seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the February 13 and 27, 2018 meetings.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

Ms. Kennedy moved, and Ms. Baron seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the March 10, 2018 meeting.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays – 1 abstention – Mr. Reiser

4. Announcements

WPSBA will be holding a Negotiations and Legal Issues Workshop entitled KEEP THE BALL IN YOUR COURT tomorrow Wednesday, March 28th beginning at 8:00 am - 11:45 am at 450 Mamaroneck Avenue, 3rd floor, Harrison

4.01 Private School Transportation Requests

Parents who are considering sending a child to a private school next year are advised that transportation requests must be submitted by **Sunday, April 1, 2018**, in order to be included in the*

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district's request for transportation next year. Requests for forms should be made to the Transportation Director at 914-295-5544. A written request must be submitted for each child and for each school being considered. The School Board has established a firm policy of not considering requests submitted after the deadline.

(Parents should note that a separate request must be submitted for each school being considered. Requests may be withdrawn if a school is not selected, but **may not be considered if submitted after the deadline).*

4.02 Board Member Terms of Office

Two terms of office of the Dobbs Ferry Board of Education will be expiring on June 30, 2018:

- *Mr. Jonathan Greengrass and Ms. Shannon Johnson*

*Forms for petitions to run for a seat on the Board of Education are available in the District Office. Petitions to run as a candidate for the School Board next year must be submitted by the close of business on **Monday, April 16, 2018**. Twenty-five signatures of qualified voters in the district are required.*

4.03 Personal Voter Registration

*Any community resident not registered with the Westchester County Board of Elections may do so during Personal Registration which will take place on **Monday, May 7, 2018** between **3:30 PM and 7:30 PM** in the HS Gymnasium Foyer. Voter Qualifications: (1) Must be a citizen of the United States; (2) Must be 18 years of age or older; (3) Must have been a resident of the school district for a period of 30 days or more prior to May 15, 2018.*

High School Legislative Branch

Daniel Schwartz and Nicolas Checa shared the resolution created by students after the March 14th Walk Out by students and teachers across the United States to honor the lives of the 17 people killed at Stoneman Douglas and press lawmakers to pass stricter gun control laws.

5. Superintendent's Report

- Spring Break – Friday, March 30 thru Friday, April 6. No days were lost due to school snow day closures. If another day is lost, there will be school on the Friday before Memorial day.
- MYP at Springhurst – Connor Cohen and Josh Rosen have connected to arrange a wonderful opportunity for our students. On April 17th (12:30 – 1:30 pm), the 10th graders will go to Springhurst to present their Personal Projects to the 4th graders.
- The District had a meeting with the Mayor and pre-school representatives from the village – they will be added to the special alert K-12's that are sent out regarding weather and other emergency situations
- MYP Personal Projects Expo will be held on Wednesday, April 25 from 6-8 PM.
- A K-12 will be sent encouraging parents to have their children participate in the NYS Standardized testing.

6. Committee Reports

6.01 Committee Reports

Curriculum & Instruction - 2/28

- The committee reviewed the new Elementary Science/Science 21 curriculum for grades K-12
 - It is fully aligned with the "New" New York State Science Learning Standards
 - Best practices in Science instruction
 - Hands On Experiences

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- Focus on Guided Inquiry
- Engaging Materials
- Comprehensive Assessment Packets

Special Education – 3/13

- The Committee reviewed the CSE/CPSE recommendations for the March 27th BOE Agenda. Questions were discussed and answered.
- Special Education BOE Update/Report - May 1st (This was a retreat topic)
 - Topics to Consider:
 - Model IEP
 - Annual Reviews - what are they?
 - FERPA?
 - Walk through the CSE/CPSE report which goes to the BOE each month
 - RTI?
 - Erin will be prepare the materials/presentation to the committee to review on April 24th, prior to the BOE meeting.

Facilities -3/6

- Construction Timeline Update
 - On track and scheduled work will be done during the break. There is continuing work that needs to be done with duct work for the project to reach substantial completion. The A/C should be fully operationalized at Springhurst for the warm weather in all areas.
- Auditorium Audit Update
 - Seats are installed in the balcony. Stage rigging is being scheduled for installation this month.
- Cell Tower - Springhurst
 - The committee reviewed some options for a cell tower on the HS and MS. Lisa and Ron are meeting with CV on Thursday to discuss whether CV would be interested in hosting the tower there. Ron and Dave continue to work with Verizon on options.
- Proposition Discussion
 - The committee discussed adding a proposition for the establishment of another capital reserve fund on the ballot for the May 2018 budget vote. This would be a general proposition to “bank” for future capital projects currently under discussion.

7. Correspondence

None.

8. Citizen's Comments

8.01 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.

Tomorrow at 7:30 PM, Dr. Falino, High School Principal, we host a chat for parents with students with IEPs and 504s in grades 8-12. Thank you to the PTSA and Trailguides for hosting.

*Live streaming of the meeting on our website takes place during the meeting.
The meeting can also be viewed on TV DFTV - Channel 77 & 47 or visit the website for the video of the meeting*

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9. Reports to the Board

9.01 Strategic Plan

Dr. Lisa Brady, Superintendent reviewed the proposed Strategic Plan and addressed questions raised by the Board.

Comments/discussion included:

- Work began on the new plan in January of 2017
- Committee consisted of 27 – 30 people at different stages of the meetings – administrators, Board members, teachers, students and parents
- Dr. Brady explained the “roadmap” and the changes in the strands of the road map
- Technology being embedded in all strands
- New strand “Health & Wellness/The Whole Child
- Culture & Climate
- How will civics be addressed in the curriculum
 - Digital Citizenship
 - Democracy in Education – professional development in August for teachers
- Understanding of Primary Years Program (PYP) will be developed and a decision regarding possible implementation at Springhurst
- Thank you to the Committee for all their work and support

10. Board Actions

10.01 PTSA Winter Insta Grants

Ms. Johnson moved, and Mr. Schwartz seconded, that the Board accept the following Insta Grants awarded by the Dobbs Ferry Schools PTSA totaling \$2,970.59:

Middle School Physical Ed - Drum Fitness Equipment	\$ 90.00
Springhurst Compost Day - K-5 participation	\$ 720.00
Team Toolkits for ENL Students in K-5	\$ 851.00
Set of Books for a new unit on Afghanistan for the entire 5th grade - 133 students	\$1,309.59

The Board thanked the PTSA for their continued generosity.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

10.02 District-wide Strategic Plan

Ms. Kennedy moved, and Mr. Reiser seconded, that the Board approve the 2018-2023 District-wide Strategic Plan.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

10.03 Voter Proposition

Mr. Schwartz moved, and Mr. Greengrass seconded, that the Board approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the following proposition be placed on the ballot at the Annual Meeting of the voters of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, to be conducted on the 15th day of May, 2018:

Shall the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District establish a capital reserve fund pursuant to the provisions of Section 3651(1) of the New York State Education Law, to be known as the “District-wide Capital Improvements Reserve Fund 2018”, which shall be for the purpose of paying the costs of capital improvements to District buildings and facilities, including planning costs and site work; the maximum amount of such fund shall be \$2,500,000 (plus earnings thereon), to be funded from the unexpended unassigned fund balance in the District’s general fund and/or legally available funds

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available to the District, to said "District-wide Capital Improvements Reserve Fund 2018" over a period of 10 years?

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District Clerk is authorized and directed to cause this proposition to be published in the legal notices in the designated newspapers.

Voter approval will be required to spend any money accumulated in the fund.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

Ms. Johnson moved, and Ms. Baron seconded, that the Board approve Items 10.04, 10.05, 10.06 and 10.09 as a consent agenda.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

Mr. Reiser moved, and Ms. Kennedy seconded, that the Board approve 10.04, 10.05, 10.06 and 10.09.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

10.04 2018-2019 Reorganizational Meeting

The Board established Monday, July 2, 2018 as the date of the 2018-2019 Reorganizational Meeting. It will take place in the Board Room at 7:00 PM.

10.05 Board of Registry and Election Inspector

The Board appointed the Board of Registry and Election Inspectors for the May 7, 2018 and May 15, 2018 Annual Election and Budget Vote.

10.06 2018-2019 Budget & Trustee Vote Vendors

The Board approved the following authorized vendors in connection with the 2018-2019 Budget & Trustee Vote:

- Westchester Board of Elections
 - Four voting machines; three 3 privacy booths
 - Poll Books
 - Poll Lists - Active and Permanently Disabled
- Ron's Trucking
 - Delivery and return of voting machines and privacy booths to the Board of Elections
- Phoenix Graphics
 - Ballot Printing and shipping
- Alperson Party Rentals
 - 12 Stanchions & 8 ropes

10.09 CSE/CPSE

The Board approved 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 March 13, 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;

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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 March 13, 2018.

10.07 Settlement of a Tax Certiorari Proceeding

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, hereby authorize its attorneys, Shaw, Perelson, May & Lambert, LLP to execute a Consent Judgment in a tax certiorari proceeding captioned 110-150 Draper Owners Corp. 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 for a total refund of \$83,364.67.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

10.08 Settlement of a Tax Certiorari Proceeding

Mr. Schwartz moved, and Ms. Kennedy seconded, that the Board approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, hereby authorize its attorneys, Shaw, Perelson, May & Lambert, LLP to execute a Consent Judgment in a tax certiorari proceeding captioned Gramercy Capital Corp.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 for a total refund of \$39,132.86.

The District has reserves set aside to pay these certioraris.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

10.10 Personnel

Mr. Reiser moved, and Ms. Johnson seconded, that the Board approve the Civil Service and staff personnel recommendations.

Dr. Brady explained the personnel resolutions, since the committee did not meet prior to the meeting.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

10.11 Policy Revision - Second Reading

The Board conducted a second reading and Mr. Schwartz moved, and Mr. Greengrass seconded to adopt the following policies:

- 6240 - Investments
- 6700 - Purchasing
- 9700 - Staff Development

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

10.12 Safe School Measures

Mr. Schwartz moved, and Ms. Baron seconded, that the Board move on the following resolution as amended:

Whereas, the safety of all children in our schools is of paramount importance; and

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Whereas the proposed 5% reduction to the current Federal education budget would include \$425 million in cuts to mental health and school safety programs, such as the School Emergency Response to Violence Program and Project Prevention Grants; and

Whereas seventeen students and staff members were killed and many others were injured as a result of a school shooting in Parkland, Florida on February 14, 2018; and

Whereas in the past five years, 439 students and staff members have been shot in more than 239 school shootings across our Country; and

Whereas a need for greater access to mental health services for students and families in our schools and communities was ranked as a top funding priority by the majority of Superintendents in New York State; and

Whereas we believe that every child has the right to a safe school environment that has an appropriate level of security as determined by our community; and

Whereas a reasoned and rational approach to gun control and increased access to mental health services for students and families in our schools and communities are essential elements of a safe school environment; and

Whereas the Dobbs Ferry School District fosters civic discourse and promotes student understanding of government and current issues; and

Whereas a coordinated effort at the Federal and State levels, boosted by law enforcement and community engagement, is needed to protect our communities and our schools;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

The Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District calls upon the New York State Assembly and New York State Senate to implement a reasoned and rational approach to address gun control and background checks, and prioritize funding and resources for increased access to mental health services for students and families in our schools and communities; and

RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District implores Federal and State leaders to take immediate action to:

- Provide additional funding to schools and communities for adequate mental health, social, and guidance services and resources for the purpose of prevention, support, and response;
- Provide funds for districts to upgrade their facilities if internal safety audits find there is a need for improvements;
- Provide funding for essential security personnel and related professional development for all staff, as determined by the local school district
- Enact rational and reasonable gun control measures; and

RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District affirms that the civic engagement of students in Parkland, Florida and beyond, who are speaking out for school safety, support for mental health services, and legislation to address gun violence needs to be heard.

RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District opposes any reductions in federal or state funding for education that would cut mental health or school safety programs; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District calls upon the Governor, NYS Assembly and NYS Senate to address gun violence and provide support for local school districts to promote school safety.

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SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

NAME _____ TITLE _____

The Board of Education directs the District Clerk to send a copy of this resolution to the following people:

- Andrew Cuomo, the Governor of the State of New York
- Senator Charles Schumer, US Senate
- Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, US Senate
- Thomas Abinanti, State Assembly Member
- Andrea Stewart-Cousins, State Senator
- Nita Lowey, US Congresswoman

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

10.13 NYS Executive Budget Shifts Costs to Local Taxpayer

Mr. Reiser moved, and Ms. Kennedy seconded, that the Board move on the following resolution as amended:

Whereas the 2018-19 Executive budget proposes a reduction in state reimbursement for mandated summer special education programs from the current 80% reimbursement to a wealth adjusted reimbursement rate; and

Whereas the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District's state reimbursement is currently 80%, but under the Executive Budget proposal it would be reduced to approximately 25%; and

Whereas under this proposal two-thirds of the districts in Westchester and Putnam Counties would be eligible to receive only the minimum proposed state reimbursement of 25% for summer special education; and

Whereas the Executive Budget further proposes a 2% expenditure reimbursement cap on annual increases in transportation, BOCES, and building aid effective 2019-20; and

Whereas the Governor asserts that state funds from the 2% expenditure reimbursement cap on annual increases in transportation, BOCES, and building aid would go to foundation aid for high need districts, the Executive Budget does not contain any language in that regard; and

Whereas the proposed 2% cap on transportation reimbursement aid disregards normal variability due to: school bus purchases; fuel and labor cost increases; changes in the number of students requiring NYS mandated special education transportation in a 50 mile radius; fluctuations in the number of private and parochial students transported within a 15 mile radius; changes in the number of homeless or foster children requiring transportation under federal law; successful interscholastic teams whose expanded season increases bus costs; and

Whereas the proposed 2% cap on annual increases in BOCES reimbursement aid would be a disincentive to use BOCES for shared services, professional development, and student programs such as career- technical education, special education or alternative high school, etc., would have been a \$60,979 reduction in state aid to the Dobbs Ferry School District had it been in effect this year; and

Whereas, the proposed statewide 2% building aid cap is based on the overall state increase in building aid and not determined on an individual district basis, and any cut would proportionally affect all school districts receiving building aid, creating uncertainty regarding a district's ability to plan for proposed projects and fund those already in progress. Any cut in building aid could result in higher property taxes or a reduction in other programs or staffing; and

Whereas 80% of the districts in Westchester and Putnam Counties would only receive the 2018-12 proposed 0.25% minimum increase in Foundation Aid, including the Dobbs Ferry the Dobbs Ferry

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School District, irrespective of increases to NYS employer pension costs, rising healthcare premiums in NYS, and contractual salary increases that affect every school district in the state; and

Whereas the Executive Budget proposes to maintain veto power over school district budgets for Big Five City school districts and certain other large districts based on their school-level funding plan, which disregards local control of school districts across NY State; and

Whereas NY State property taxes and taxes in our region, in particular, are the highest nationally, and any further revenue shift from the state to the local taxpayer could result in increased property taxes; and

Whereas these reductions in state aid could lead to program or staff cuts in order to stay under the maximum allowable tax levy limit; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

The Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District calls upon the New York State Assembly and New York State Senate to rebuke Executive Budget proposals that shift costs to the local taxpayer; and

RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry School District opposes any caps on state reimbursement for expense-based aids; and

RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry School District deems that these line item limitations compromise a local school district's decision-making and flexibility; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry School District calls upon the Governor, NYS Assembly and NYS Senate to appropriately fund public school districts, and stop diverting much-needed state funds, so that we can address the ever-increasing needs of the children we serve.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

NAME _____ TITLE _____

The Board of Education directs the District Clerk to send a copy of this resolution to the following people:

- Andrew Cuomo, the Governor of the State of New York
- Thomas Abinanti, State Assembly Member
- Andrea Stewart-Cousins, State Senator

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

A K-12 will be sent with information regarding the two resolutions along with a link to the VoterVote where the community may share their opinions.

11. Acknowledgements

11.01 Treasurer's Report

The Board acknowledged receipt of the Treasurer's Report for January and February 2018.

11.02 Warrants

The Board acknowledged receipt of the following warrants:
Warrant No. 35, 37 and 40 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

None.

14. New Business

BOCES Annual Meeting Information for Voting on April 17th.

15. Upcoming Meetings

15.01 Calendar

Tuesday, April 10, 2018 - 7:00 PM - MS/HS Media Center

- Proposed 2018-2019 Budget & Revenue Update

Tuesday, April 17, 2018 - 7:00 PM - MS/HS Media Center

- Review & Finalization of Budget
- Budget Adoption
- BOCES Vote
- 2017 Prevention Needs Assessment Survey

16. Executive Session

16.01 Executive Session

At 8:51 PM, Ms. Baron moved, and Ms. Kennedy seconded, that the move into Executive Session for the following purposes: to discuss a CSEA Supplemental Agreement.

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

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

At 9:10 PM, Ms. Lucasey moved, and Mr. Schwartz seconded, to return to the Public Meeting.

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

17. Adjournment

At 9:10 PM, Ms. Johnson moved, and Ms. Kennedy seconded, that the Board adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

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Loretta Tularzko
District Clerk