



## MINUTES

### Tuesday, April 10, 2018 Regular Board 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; Mr. Louis Schwartz; Ms. Shannon Johnson; Ms. Rita Kennedy; Mr. Douglas Berry, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction; Mr. Ron Clamsen, Jr., Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Facilities and Operations; and Ms. Loretta Tularzko, District Clerk.

Dr. Lisa Brady, Superintendent was not in attendance.

##### 2.03 Acceptance of the Agenda

Mr. Reiser moved, and Ms. Baron seconded, that the Board accept the April 10th Agenda.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

##### 2.04 Approval of Minutes

Ms. Johnson moved, and Mr. Schwartz seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the March 27, 2018 meeting.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

#### 3. Announcements

##### 3.01 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.*

##### 3.02 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.*

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## 4. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Berry gave the Superintendent's Report in Dr. Brady's absence.

### District

- First Annual Quad Village Diversity Career Fair, sponsored by the Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Hastings-on-Hudson and Irvington School Districts. The fair will take place on Wednesday, April 18th from 5:00-7:00 pm in the Dobbs Ferry High School/Middle School Commons
  - 64 participants have signed up as of today
- NYS Assessments
  - 3 - 8 ELA Assessments begin tomorrow and continue on Thursday
  - 3 - 8 Math - First week in May
  - Tests will be untimed for all students.
  - Grade 3-8 ELA and Math Assessments have been reduced from three to two days each.
- Middle School Wellness Fair
  - The Dobbs Ferry Wellness Committee is excited to introduce the Middle School Wellness Fair on Friday, April 13th
  - Students will be signing up for the breakout sessions based on their personal interests.
- Work over the break – Ron Clamser
  - MS – parking lot repaved
  - HS – sidewalk replaced in front
  - MS library window trim completed
  - Roof work delayed due to weather
  - Continuation of air duct work at Springhurst – still more work to be done
  - Tree removed at Springhurst and a tree trunk at HS removed
  - One more tree to be removed at the HS
  - All work should be completed before we file the final cost report in June
- Congratulations to both the Springhurst "DI-monds" & Middle School Common Difference Destination Imagination Teams who will move on to compete at Global Finals at the end of next month in Tennessee! Way to go!
- The first afterschool Springhurst Math Academy just wrapped up before the break! 34 students in grades 1 through 5 participated! Thank you to Facilitator Cristina Moccia. It gave students a meaningful, fun and rich math experience to boost their skills as well as their confidence.
- We held our second week of teacher inter-visitations the week before Spring Recess! Teachers are able to observe colleagues across the grade levels in whatever content area they are interested in. A range of new and experienced teachers have participated thus far.
- Enrichment Clusters are set to begin again! With 140 plus students participating this will be our biggest Enrichment experience.
- Math Teacher Book Clubs Underway at Springhurst with Mr. Rosen
  - At the end of January teachers completed a session with the text *Becoming The Math Teacher You Wish You'd Had* written by Tracy Zager
  - Next month, interested teachers and teaching assistants will be participating in a book talk with Josh Rosen. The book is called *Count Me In!-Including Learners with Special Needs in Mathematics Classrooms* by Judy Storeygard and Karen Karp. So far, 17 teachers have signed up.
- Superintendent Update Springhurst hosted nearly 300 people at Family Math Night!
- Springhurst Student Government (under direction of Donna Misrok) members wrote letters to the Dobbs Ferry Board of Trustees in favor of the proposal to increase the number of recycling bins in the Dobbs Ferry Community. As many of you know, at the end of February students attended the Dobbs Ferry Board of Trustees Meeting and a couple of them read their letters to the Board.
- On March 27<sup>th</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> graders participated in an assembly led by the DFPD on Traffic Safety. Officer Justin Kamke and Dobbs Ferry Crossing Guards reminded students of good traffic safety behavior when walking to and from school
- Springhurst hosted a group of parents from Dows Lane in Irvington to see how students are being engaged in recycling, composting and gardening in the cafeteria and in class

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programs. They were able to see some of the "Compost Kid" program and tour the compost operation and school garden.

### High School

- Special Education Principal's Chat: Dr. Falino hosted a "Principal's Chat" for special education parents prior to spring break. Approximately 50 parents from the middle and high school were in attendance. A special thanks to Anna Christina Allan and the Trailguides for organizing this event.
- NCAA Champion: Congratulations to Eric Paschall and the Villanova Wildcats on winning the national title last week! Eric is a perfect example of an individual who pursued an alternative path to attain his overall goals. As you may know, Eric left DFHS for his senior year to attend a private school that would better allow him to attend Fordham to play Division 1 basketball.
- DFHS Goes to Spain: I am thrilled to share that DFHS had 18 juniors and seniors who went to Spain over spring break! A blurb along with pictures from the trip have been posted to Facebook. Thank you to our chaperones Maria Milio and Lisa Honeck, and a special thanks to Megan Lois for working tirelessly over the past 18 months to plan every last detail of this trip. This international trip is a first (at least in a very long time) for DFHS, and it sets the stage for more trips of this nature in the future.
- Theater Arts Trip (The Lion King): A group of our theater arts students will travel to Broadway on Wednesday! Thank you to Georgia DeFalco for organizing this trip.
- IB Art Show: A special thanks to all of the parents and community members who attended our IB Art Show before spring break. Our students did an exceptional job, as always. Thank you to Ms. Buschi for organizing this event and for her dedication to our program and students.
- Spring Musical: Thank you to all of our community members who came out to see our spring musical, "Urinetown." A special thanks to Georgia DeFalco for directing this show and leading our program and students.
- DFHS Wins at WESEF: Our science research students competed with over 600 students from across Westchester and Putnam before break and walked away with many awards and recognitions. In addition, Jamie Kramer was chosen as one of the top Grand Prize winners and has been invited to attend the International Genius Olympiad in June! A special thanks to our science research coordinator Erica Curran.

### Middle School

- 6th Grade Career Day: With the focus for 6th grade being on the professions in the Arts
- 8th Grade Theatre Arts: Mrs. DeFalco and the MS 8th grade Theatre Arts class took a field trip to Broadway. They attended a Broadway workshop where they had the opportunity to work with one of the cast members from Once on this Island.
- LAHC: The Latin American Heads Conference has invited Mr. Mussolini to present at their annual conference in Bogota, Colombia. He will be presenting in 3 sessions on two topics. This invite was a result of our presentation from the IB conference in July.
  - The Adolescent Brain: Perceived Weaknesses - Actual Strengths
  - Creating Lessons Designed for the Adolescent Brain

### Athletics

- At the end of each sports season, the New York State Public High School Athletic Association honors those students/teams that excel within the classroom. The following varsity teams have been recognized by the NYSPHSAA as Scholar-Athlete teams at Dobbs Ferry High School. The scholar-athlete team is defined as 75% of the team receiving a 90% GPA or higher:
  - Girls Basketball
  - Girls Winter Track and Field
  - Boys Winter Track and Field
  - Congratulations to our student-athletes for their hard work in achieving this prestigious award!!!!
- The Dobbs Ferry Varsity Softball team just returned from their Softball Spring Training at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Training Complex in Orlando, Florida. This is a great opportunity for our student athletes to be exposed to a high level competition as well as

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world class facilities. Thank you to coaches Kim Reznicek and Melissa Gretczko for all of their efforts in making the trip a huge success.

### 5. Committee Reports

#### 5.01 Committee Reports

Curriculum & Instruction - 3/28

- 2016-17 Assessment Data
  - The Committee reviewed grade 3-8 and Regents Assessment Data
  - The Committee focused on the performance of the economically disadvantaged subgroup
- Performance on Regents Exams
- Westchester Performance Rankings
  - Overall Performance has remained steady 11 year period
  - 2017 All Students – Mean Scale Score
    - 19<sup>th</sup> out of 45 Districts
  - 2017 All Students - % of students at levels 3 or 4
    - 20<sup>th</sup> out of 45 Districts
  - 2016 Economically Disadvantaged 10%+ - 8th out of 26
  - A date for a future presentation to BOE will be determined

The Board would like to know how success and value can be determined other than standard test scores.

Student Athletics & Activities – 3/28

- The committee discussed a Cross Country Overnight Trip in September
  - It will be brought to the Board for approval at an upcoming meeting
  - The students will have the opportunity to fundraise to cover a portion of the cost. The meet is not mandatory to attend.
  - There is a mechanism in place to ensure that every student who wants to participate will be able to participate should this be any financial barriers.
- Athletic Placement Process:
  - Dobbs Ferry continues to follow the Athletic Placement Process for students in 7th or 8th grade looking to try out for a Junior Varsity or Varsity Sport.
- Andrew contacted Rick Wolff regarding a parent program for parents of student athletes.
  - He is a Hastings resident and willing to come to Dobbs Ferry. We will be reaching out to Rivertowns Parents to see if they are interested in sponsoring the program so that there is a larger audience, and Lisa will speak to PTSA this month.
- Spring Sports Update:
  - We will not run a JV Lacrosse program for girls or boys
  - Baseball numbers are really strong
  - Track numbers are really strong
- Kelly Rancier has resigned from as the Varsity Cheerleading Coach. Andrew is hopeful that the current Assistant Coach, who is highly respected by the girls and parents in the program, will step up to the Varsity opportunity.
- Stephanie Mills has agreed to coach the Girls Varsity Basketball team for another year. Stephanie took over at the tail end of the season this year from Erik Bartell.

### 6. Correspondence

None.

### 7. Citizen's Comments

#### 7.01 Notice

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*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.

*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*

### 8. Reports to the Board

#### 8.01 Proposed 2018-2019 Budget & Revenue Update

Mr. Ron Clamser, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Facilities and Operations updated the Board.

- Districtwide Budget Priorities
- 2018-19 Budget Highlights
- Proposed 2018-2019 Budget Statistics
- Summary of 2018-19 Proposed Expenditures
- Estimated Sources of Revenue
- 2018-19 NYS Budget Highlights
- Enacted State Budget State Aid Estimates
- 2018-19 Budget Options
- Mitigating Impact of Federal Tax Changes
- Proposition #2
- General Fund Balance & Reserve History
- 2018-2019 Budget Preparation Calendar

Comments/Discussion:

- As per data collected by WPSBA, Dobbs Ferry has the second lowest Tax Levy Increase in the area
- The group had a lengthy discussion regarding which of the three 2018-2019 Budget Options should be applied and Proposition #2
- Mr. Clamser explained the impact of the Federal Tax changes
- Communication of budget and proposition to the community

### 9. Board Actions

#### 9.01 Section I Teams

Mr. Greengrass moved, and Ms. Johnson seconded, that the Board approve the following team merges:

Dobbs Ferry Boys Swimming Team to Merge with Ardsley Boys Swimming Team  
Dobbs Ferry Wrestling Team to Merge with Ardsley Wrestling Team

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

#### 9.02 Personnel

Ms. Kennedy moved, and Ms. Baron seconded, that the Board approve the Civil Service and staff personnel recommendations as amended.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

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## 10. Acknowledgements

### 10.01 Warrant

The Board acknowledged receipt of the following warrant:  
Warrant No. 42 Multi.

## 11. Citizen's Comments

### 11.01 Notice

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The Rivertown Parents will be hosting the following:

- Documentary "Angst" Raising Awareness Around Anxiety – Wednesday, April 18, 2018 – 7:00 PM at the Ardsley Middle School Auditorium.
- Mindfulness Parenting – Dr. Christopher Willard – Wednesday, May 2, 2018 – 7:00 PM at the Hastings High School Auditorium.

## 12. Old Business

None.

## 13. New Business

On Thursday, April 12, 2018 from 7:00 – 9:15 PM, WPSBA will be hosting a Prospective School Board Member Workshop. It will be held at White Plains CSD Education House.

## 14. Upcoming Meetings

### 14.01 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

Monday, April 23, 2018 - 7:30 PM - MS/HS Media Center

- Board Presentation to the PTSA

Tuesday, May 1, 2018 - 7:00 PM - MS/HS Media Center

- Public Hearing – Budget, Proposition & Trustee Vote
- Special Education Workshop

## 15. Adjournment

At 8:50 PM, Ms. Baron moved, and Mr. Greengrass seconded, that the Board adjourn the meeting.

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Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

### 16. Approved Minutes

#### 16.01 Approved Minutes - February 13, 27 and March 10, 2018



Loretta Tularzko  
District Clerk