



**Tuesday, March 23, 2021  
Regular Board Meeting  
Google Meet - Virtual Meeting, 8:00 PM**

**1. Call to Order**

**2. Opening of the Meeting – 8:00 PM**

Louis Schwartz called the meeting to order.

**2.01 Pledge of Allegiance**

**2.02 Roll Call**

Mr. Louis Schwartz, President; Ms. Rita Kennedy, Vice President; Ms. Shannon Johnson; Ms. Jean Lucasey; Ms. Tracy Baron; Ms. Shannon Stringer; 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. Massimo Bufalini was not in attendance.

**2.03 Acceptance of the Agenda**

Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Johnson seconded, that the Board accept the March 23rd Agenda.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

**3. Citizens Comments**

**3.01** Anyone wishing to make comments during the two Citizen's Comment portions of the meeting can do so by emailing [boemeetingcomment@DFSD.org](mailto:boemeetingcomment@DFSD.org) and you will be sent a link with additional details for joining the Google Meet for the Citizen's Comments portion of the meeting.

**3.02 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.

**4. Announcements**

**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 **Thursday, April 1, 2021**, in order to be included in the district's request for transportation next year. Requests for forms should be made to the Transportation Director at 914-295-

## MINUTES

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, 2021:*

*Two seats for three (3) year terms, July 1, 2021-June 30, 2024*

- *Mr. Louis Schwartz 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 19, 2021. Twenty-five signatures of qualified voters in the district are required.*

Mr. Schwartz and Ms. Johnson both announced that they will not be seeking re-election and encouraged other community members to run for the Board which will be a very rewarding experience.

### 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 10, 2021, 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 18, 2021.*

***This meeting can be viewed on TV DFTV - Channel 77 & 47 or visit the website for the video of the complete meeting.***

#### PTSA

- The PTSA will be hosting a Zoom Meeting featuring a “Meet the Board of Education Night” with the current Board members and Dr. Brady. It will begin at 7:00 PM on Thursday, March 25th. An invite has been sent out by the PTSA. Further announcements will probably be made to encourage more people to attend. The meeting will include information about what it's like to be a board member in hopes of encouraging other members of the community to run for the board.

Ms. Baron thanked Louis and Shannon for their service on behalf of the Board.

#### WPSBA

- On April 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM, WPSBA will hold their Prospective School Board Member Workshop. It's free, but you have to register by April 5. Anyone interested in hearing about running for the school board, please go to their website <https://www.wpsba.org/> and click on the events tab to register.

## 5. Committee Reports

#### Facilities – 3/16

- Capital Project Update
  - Project Timeline
    - 3/15/21 bids are available for contractor pickup
    - 3/24/21 pre-bid meetings at SH and MS/HS
    - 4/12/21 bids are due
    - 4/15/21 bid analysis presented to Facilities Committee
    - 4/20/21 Board of Education approval of bids
  - The majority of the HVAC equipment will be purchased through a national purchasing cooperative used by the State of New York, Office of General Services, which will allow the district to secure the best pricing. Two resolutions will be presented to the Board later on this evening.
- Cash Flow / Financing
  - Ron discussed the updated capital project cash flow analysis provided by Calgi. We are currently anticipating the need to issue short-term financing for \$13.5 million

## MINUTES

- Change Order Authorization
  - Ron shared with the committee that there will be a resolution on the April 13th meeting for Board approval allowing the Superintendent or designee to approve capital project change orders of up to \$100,000. In these instances, the change orders will be presented to the Board at their next regular meeting. This authorization has been approved for past capital projects and is a common practice.
- Update of School Reopening
  - Dave Robertin provided the committee with an update on the school re-opening/re-entry progress. Over the past few weeks, the custodial & maintenance staff moved furniture back into the classrooms. We anticipate the MS/HS will be finished early next week. At Springhurst, grades 3, 4, & 5 are complete and we anticipate the remaining classrooms will be completed before the Spring Break recess begins.
  - Desk dividers and personal barriers have been partially installed and will be completed soon. New dividers have been purchased for cafeteria tables. Air purifiers have been deployed to the buildings and are being installed as well.
- Other Items
  - The annual fire inspections have been completed, certified, and submitted to the State Education Department.
  - There have been a few classrooms at Springhurst where floor tiles are popping up. These sections are being repaired as necessary. Also, there are areas of separation between floor tiles in several classrooms. While this is probably due to moisture and failing tile adhesive due to the age of the building, we are having the architects inspect them to ensure there are no underlying issues.

Mr. Clamser stated that the Capital Project has received final approval by the SED.

Question: Do we know how many contractors will be bidding on the project?

Mr. Clamser didn't have that information as of yet.

### 6. 2021-2022 Budget Update

#### 6.01 Proposed Budget Update

Budget Update:

Dr. Lisa Brady – Superintendent and Ron Clamser, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Facilities & Operations

- How did we close the budget gap?
  - Revenue Increases
  - Expense Decreases
- What about that Federal Stimulus?
- Projected Revenues
- Projected Expenditures
- Historical Trend

Dr. Brady and Mr. Clamser explained how the budget gap was closed by increases in revenue and decreases in expenses.

Mr. Clamser explained how the \$1.4 million in stimulus money for Dobbs Ferry published in LoHud will probably not equal \$1.4 million since there are many moving parts, may be spread over a few years and will have strings attached.

Questions:

Please explain the increase in tuition revenue.

Mr. Clamser explained that the new amount includes the full base tuition. The ancillary services cost is still not reflected.

COVID related programming - could we apply through this federal stimulus for a one time program this summer to deal with learning loss or special mental health programs for next year?

## MINUTES

COVID Summer Programming for learning loss is not currently planned for in the budget, but should we be able to apply for it.

Mr. Berry explained during preliminary conversations about what a program might look like in the summertime, a bare bones program for just a couple of grades at Springhurst was somewhere in the area of \$70,000, for just a few weeks when including paying for the staffing.

If it is not a one shot amount but given over a series of years, it would be more beneficial since there's nothing that we can do in three or four weeks in the summertime, that's going to make up for the last 13 months.

It may not necessarily be a summer program, but it may support after school programming or weekend programming or things like that going forward.

Mr. Schwartz congratulated Dr. Brady and Mr. Clamser for presenting a balanced budget.

### 7. Board Actions

#### 7.01 Participation the U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance

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

**WHEREAS**, the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District ("School District") pursuant to the authority granted in General Municipal Law, Section 103(16) desires to participate in the U.S. Communities Cooperative Purchasing Alliance; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 103 of the General Municipal Law permits the School District to make purchases of apparatus, materials, equipment or supplies, or to contract for services related to the installation, maintenance or repair of apparatus, materials, equipment, and supplies, may make such purchases, or may contract for such services related to the installation, maintenance or repair of apparatus, materials, equipment, and supplies, as may be required by the School District therein through the use of a contract let by the United States of America or any agency thereof, any state or any other county or political subdivision or district therein if such contract was let to the lowest responsible bidder or on the basis of best value in a manner consistent with this section and made available for use by other governmental entities; and

**WHEREAS**, the School District desires to participate for the purpose of fulfilling and executing its public governmental purposes, goals, objectives, programs and functions; and

**WHEREAS**, the School District has reviewed the benefits of participating in this program and has concluded the program will provide the best value to taxpayers of this School District through the anticipated savings to be realized;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District authorizes the School District's participation in the U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance and any other purchasing cooperative with which they merge or otherwise join and authorizes the Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Facilities, and Operations or designee to register for the U.S. Communities program on behalf of the School District.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

#### 7.02 Capital Project

Ms. Kennedy moved, and Ms. Lucasey seconded, that the Board hereby move to accept the equipment proposals for the Capital Project from Trane US Inc.- Contract Number: USC-15-JLP-023 and Proposal Number: 47-609492-21-002 and authorize the Superintendent or designee to sign the contract.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

#### 7.03 Policy Revision - Reading

## MINUTES

Ms. Johnson moved, and Ms. Lucasey seconded, that the Board omit a second reading and adopt the following policy:

- 0101 - Gender Neutral Single-Occupancy Bathrooms

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

### 8. Acknowledgements

#### 8.01 Treasurer's Report

The Board acknowledged receipt of the Treasurer's Reports for February 2021.

#### 8.02 Warrants

The Board acknowledged receipt of the following warrants:  
Warrant No. 43Multi.

### 9. Citizens Comments

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None.

### 10. Upcoming Meetings

#### 10.01 Calendar

Tuesday, April 13, 2021 – 7:00 PM – Virtual

- Finalization of 2021-2022 Budget and Budget Adoption

Tuesday, April 20, 2021 – 7:00 PM – TBD (Executive Order 202.97 has extended the provisions through April 16, 2021.

- Special Meeting
  - SWBOCES Vote

### 11. Executive Session

#### 11.01 Executive Session

At 8:39 PM, Ms. Johnson moved, and Ms. Stringer seconded, that the Board recesses into Executive Session for the following purpose: To discuss the ongoing litigation - The Landing on the Water at Dobbs Ferry Condominium v. Town of Greenburgh.

It was not anticipated that the Board will return to public session to take any action(s).

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

## **MINUTES**

Ms. Stringer moved, and Ms. Johnson seconded, to appoint Ms. Kennedy as Clerk Pro Tem.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

At 9:17 PM, Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Baron seconded, to move back to the Public Meeting.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

### **12. Adjournment**

At 9:18 PM, Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Stringer seconded, that the Board adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

### **13. Approved Minutes**

#### **13.01 Approved Minutes - February 9 and 23, 2021 Meetings**



Loretta Tularzko  
District Clerk