



**Tuesday, February 4, 2020
Business Meeting
MS/HS Media Center, 7:00 PM**

1. Call to Order

2. Regular Meeting Opening 7:02 p.m.

2.01 Pledge of Allegiance

2.02 Roll Call

Ms. Shannon Johnson, President; Ms. Rita Kennedy, Vice President; Ms. Jean Lucasey; 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.

2.03 Acceptance of the Agenda

Ms. Stringer moved, and Mr. Rosenberg seconded, that the Board accept the February 4th Agenda.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

2.04 Approval of Minutes

Ms. Baron moved, and Mr. Schwartz seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the January 21, 2020 meeting.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

3. Announcements

3.01 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 **Wednesday, April 1, 2020**, 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 914-295-5544. 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 Requests may be withdrawn if a school is not selected, but **may not** be considered if submitted after the deadline).

3.02 Board Member Terms of Office

Two terms of office of the Dobbs Ferry Board of Education will be expiring on June 30, 2020:

- Ms. Tracy Baron and Mr. Matt Rosenberg

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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 20, 2020**. Twenty-five signatures of qualified voters in the district are required.

For more information on becoming a School Board Member please follow the link to the New York State School Board Association's "The School Board Member Experience" bit.ly/schoolboardexp.

3.03 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 11, 2020**, 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 19, 2020.

WPSBA

Held their Annual Legislative Forum last week – it was well attended by Board members, Superintendents, and legislators including Senator Andrea Stewart Cousins and Thomas J. Abinanti New York State Assembly.

- Governor's Executive Budget
- State Aid Formula
- Foundation Aid
- Building Aid Reimbursements
- Transportation Aid
- Special Act Schools Funding
- Mental Health and Security in schools
- It would help if school districts reach out to Mr. Abinanti with their State Budget concerns

PTSA

- Collection bins for used books for the annual book sale can be found at all three schools by the Security Desk
- Safe Routes to School meeting will be held tomorrow
- Ms. McNamara and her son Devin Barbera will be attending the State PTA Lobbying Day to advocate for our school district

The Westchester County Legislator MaryJane Shimsky (Majority Leader) held her Swearing-In-Assembly with the Student Government at Springhurst on 1/31. It was great to hear her explain what her priorities were to the elementary students.

Mr. Sweitlicki lead the Harmonaires in a song naming all the states.

4. Superintendent's Report

District

Schools are closed for Winter Break from February 17-21

The Third Annual Diversity Career Fair for Educators will be held on Thursday (February 6th) from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Hastings High School. Edgemont will be participating this year for the first time along with Ardsley and Irvington. Thank you to all of our administrators who will be present on Thursday to interview potential candidates for positions in the District.

District Orchestra Concert is scheduled for Thursday, February 27th at 7 p.m.

High School

The students in our Life Skills class have started a successful "Coffee Cart" business. They sell coffee, tea, and breakfast treats to our staff every Friday!

MINUTES

The High School continues to do a great deal in the areas of community service and service-learning, including:

The Dobbs Ferry International Club was recognized by Heifer International for our recent animal's fundraiser.

A number of students are involved in amazing CAS activities:

- o Stanley Legan: Learned a new musical instrument in six weeks and performed in his first musical.
- o Ashley Polimeno: Went on missions to Guatemala.
- o Caroline Bayer: Made lunches to distribute to the homeless.
- o Peter Geratz: Using IB Film skills to learn about an unfamiliar sport and allow cross country athletes to reflect on performance.
- o Before break, DF SciRes students raised over \$500 for Operation Santa! They adopted a letter to Santa from an at-risk family with two kids. Students purchased, wrapped, and shipped the gifts!

The second semester is underway! The 2020-21 Course of Study Guide will be made public before February Break and registration will begin when we return!

Junior Parent Night was a tremendous success! Our school counselors reviewed the college admissions process. All juniors are now involved with parent-counselor meetings to discuss next steps!

We have a new IB DP Information Video that will be coming out before break! The video will provide an overview of the IB DP along with logistics for students and parents as they prepare for registration!

Middle School

Mr. Deming's class is running their very own coffee/tea shop. Orders for coffee, tea, and breakfast treats are submitted throughout the week and the class makes the deliveries on Fridays.

The MS Spanish Honor society conducted a fundraiser and raised \$300 for Water Mission an organization that brings clean water to the affected people in Puerto Rico

Grade 7 No place for Hate sponsored a Pajama Day to raise funds for Paws Crossed

The MS Student government is collecting nonperishable food items to donate to Feeding Westchester, a local food bank.

The MS annual Talent show took place on Friday, January 24th. A total of 18 groups or individuals shared their amazing talents with their peers and the community.

The Middle School Theatre Arts class got to see the Broadway production of Hamilton and participate in a backstage workshop with the actors prior to the show.

The 6th, 7th and 8th grade No Place for Hate Clubs participated in a "New Year Tea" with our Senior Citizen group.

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 for the fall season. The scholar-athlete team is defined as 75% of the team receiving a 90% GPA or higher:

- o Girls Soccer
- o Girls tennis
- o Volleyball
- o Girls Cross Country
- o Boys Cross Country

Congratulations to our student-athletes for their hard work in achieving this prestigious award!!!!

MINUTES

5. Committee Reports

5.01 BOE Committees

Curriculum & Instruction - 1/22

- Reviewed the 2020-2021 District Calendar on tonight's agenda
- Reviewed a new mathematics program to be piloted next year – Illustrative Mathematics (IM)
 - Springhurst has been using Singapore Math for 11 years
 - IM was initially developed as a -12 program – the K-5 program is an extension
 - It supports students in developing skills and understanding through solving problems
 - It offers on-line and paper resources
 - It gives a format/outline of a lesson plan
 - Springhurst will participate in a pilot next year

Facilities - 1/28

- Received updates from Tetra Tech, Calgi Construction & the Theater Project design development
 - Analysis of the Schematic Design Budget Estimate
 - Cost Comparison showing pre-referendum budget and revised budget

Finance - 1/28

- Discussed the impact of a Veteran's Tax Exemptions and Tax Certiorari Analysis
- Reviewed the monthly financial reports – we are anticipating another shortfall in state aid of approximately \$646,000
- Reviewed the 2020-2021 budget development presentation on tonight's agenda

Special Ed - 1/28

- Reviewed the recommendations on tonight's agenda
 - Questions were asked and clarifications provided.
- Special Ed numbers were reviewed
- The committee discussed some Out of District placement settlement agreements

Personnel - 1/29

- The committee discussed the Personnel recommendations for Civil Service and Professional Staff.
- Congratulations to four of our staff who will be retiring at the end of this year and in October:
 - Joan Burmester, George Sweitliki, Pat Coyne and Lucia Palladino

6. Correspondence

6.01 Correspondence

The Board acknowledged receipt of the following:

- eMail re Modified Sports Budget and response from the Board
- eMail re PTSA Safe Routes Request

7. Citizen's Comments

7.01 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.

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Mr. Donald Marra, a long time Dobbs Ferry resident, spoke on behalf of the Dobbs Ferry Veterans regarding an Alternative Veterans Tax Exemption from the Dobbs Ferry School District. Prior to tonight's meeting, Mr. Marra supplied the Board with a petition signed by 30+ Dobbs Ferry Veterans. He also presented a preliminary cost analysis prepared by Edey McCarthy from the Greenburgh Town Assessors office. Mr. Marra was joined at the meeting with two Dobbs Ferry Veterans, Alan Pico and Bill Florin.

Ms. Johnson thanked Mr. Marra for the information and the Veterans for their service.

8. Report to the Board

8.01 Springhurst Report to the Board

Ms. Julia Drake, Springhurst Principal, and Mr. Ray Cavallo, Springhurst Assistant Principal, presented an update on Springhurst.

- 2019-2020
 - Data
 - Noteworthy
 - Looking Forward
- Number of students by grade
- Data NYS Testing Program @ Springhurst
- Student Cohort Test Level Movement – 3rd to 4th grade
- A deeper dive still.... – ELA analysis of current 4th grade students who qualified for AIS
- Subgroups
- Working with Data
- Social Emotional Learning
- What is PBIS?
- A Few Things to Know
- New this Year
- Professional Learning Groups for all Staff
- Looking Forward

Comments:

- Professional Learning Groups and ICI all volunteer teachers
- The staff is never stagnant – curriculum is always evolving
- Social & Emotional Learning – programs Springhurst follows – Special Step (K – 3) and Steps to Respect (4-5)

8.02 Superintendent's Proposed Budget - 2020-2021

Dr. Lisa Brady, Superintendent, and Mr. Ron Clamser, Jr., Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Facilities and Operations, will present the proposed 2020-2021 Budget.

Mr. Ron Clamser, Jr., presented the following:

- Program Goals
- Key Financial Assumptions
- Tax Levy Cap
- Tax Cap Calculation
- Proposed Revenues
- Proposed Expenditures as of February 4, 2020
- Next Steps
- Projected Tax Rate Calculation
- Historical Trend
- Budget Preparation Calendar

Comments:

- Tax Cap – 1.8%

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- Decrease in State Aid
- Governor's flat budget
- Enrollments not an immediate issue but could increase year over year
- All known retirements have been included in development of the budget

9. Board Actions

9.01 Dobbs Ferry School Foundation Grant

Mr. Rosenberg moved, and Ms. Lucasey seconded, that the Board accept the following grant from the Dobbs Ferry Schools Foundation:

Name of Grant	Teacher	School	\$
Word Heroes	Judy Sanseverino, Rosann Russo	Springhurst and Middle School	761.00

Thank you to the Foundation for their continued generosity and support.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

9.02 2020-2021 District Calendar

Mr. Rosenberg moved, and Ms. Baron seconded, that the Board adopt the 2020-2021 District Calendar.

The calendar will be posted to the website tomorrow.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

9.03 Budget Increase

Mr. Schwartz moved, and Ms. Stringer seconded, that the Board approve the following budget increase to enable the District to pay a tax certiorari refund to Ardsley Country Club as consented to at the January 9, 2018 Board meeting:

Revenue Account to Increase	Amount	Expenditure Account to Increase	Amount
A864 Appropriated Reserve for Tax Certiorari	\$139,343.38	A1930-434-99-8002 Tax Certiorari	\$139,343.38

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays – 1 Abstention – M. Rosenberg

9.04 Budget Transfer

Mr. Rosenberg moved, and Ms. Kennedy seconded, that the Board the following budget transfer to reconcile BOCES special education tuitions:

Account	Decrease	Increase
A 2250-490-03-7200 Spec Ed-BOCES 9-12	\$100,000	
A 2250-490-01-7200 Spec Ed-BOCES K-5		\$100,000

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

9.05 Disposition of Springhurst Library Books

Ms. Stringer moved, and Ms. Baron seconded, that the Board approve the disposal of the books on the attached list that are currently part of the Springhurst Library collection.

The District has been working with Follett School Solutions to create a more organized strategic collection.

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Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

9.06 CSE/CPSE

Ms. Lucasey moved, and Mr. Schwartz seconded, that the Board authorize and direct 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 January 28, 2020 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;

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 January 28, 2020.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

9.07 Personnel

Mr. Rosenberg moved, and Ms. Lucasey seconded, that the Board approve the civil service and staff personnel recommendations.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

9.08 Policy Revision – Second Reading

The Board conducted a first reading of the following policies:

- 8121.1 - Opioid Overdose Prevention – need to add indemnification wording
- 8130.1 - Extreme Risk Protection Orders (The "Red Flag Law")

Both policies will move to Second Reading at the next Business Board meeting.

10. Acknowledgements

10.01 Warrants

The Board acknowledged receipt of the following warrant:
Warrant No. 36 Multi.

11. Citizen's Comments

11.01 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.

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12. Old Business

None.

13. New Business

The Board requested possibly considering a more environmentally friendly graduation ceremony i.e.:

- Plants or flowers instead of balloons
- Reusable banner

14. Upcoming Meetings

14.01 Calendar

Tuesday, February 25, 2020 - 7:00 PM - Board Room

- Executive Session - Tenure Candidate Discussions

Saturday, March 14, 2020 - 9:00 AM - MS/HS Media Center

- Proposed Budget Presentations

15. Executive Session

15.01 Executive Session

At 8:42 PM, Ms. Stringer moved, and Mr. Rosenberg seconded, that the Board recesses into Executive Session for the following purposes: *to discuss special-education settlement agreements and the Superintendent's contract.*

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

Mr. Schwartz moved, and Mr. Rosenberg seconded, to appoint Ms. Kennedy as Clerk Pro Tem.

Vote: 5 - ayes - 0 nays

At 9:24 PM, Mr. Rosenberg moved, and Ms. Lucasey seconded, to move back to the Public Meeting.

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

16. Board Action Continued

16.01 Settlement Agreement

Ms. Lucasey moved, and Mr. Rosenberg seconded, that the Board approve the following:

"BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education does hereby approve the Settlement and Release Agreement in regard to Student No. 77904; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education does hereby authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute such Settlement and Release Agreement on behalf of the District."

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

17. Adjournment

At 9:27 PM, Ms. Baron moved, and Ms. Kennedy seconded, that the Board adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

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18. Approved Minutes

18.01 Approved Minutes – January 7, 2020

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Loretta Salazar".

District Clerk