



**Tuesday, February 7, 2017  
Regular Board Meeting  
MS/HS Library, 7:00 PM**

**1. Call to Order**

**2. Regular Meeting Opening 7:05 p.m.**

Ms. Tracy Baron, President; Ms. Jean Lucasey, Vice President; Mr. Robert Reiser; Mr. Jonathan Greengrass; Mr. Louis Schwartz; Ms. Shannon Johnson; Ms. Rita Kennedy; Dr. Lisa Brady, Superintendent ; Ms. Sylvia Fassler-Wallach, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Facilities and Operations; Mr. Douglas Berry, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction and Ms. Loretta Tularzko, District Clerk.

**2.01 Pledge of Allegiance**

**2.02 Acceptance of the Agenda**

Mr. Reiser moved, and Ms. Johnson seconded, that the Board accept the February 7th Agenda.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

**2.03 Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Schwartz moved, and Mr. Greengrass seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the January 3, 2017 meeting.

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

Mr. Reiser moved, and Ms. Johnson seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of January 17, 2017 meeting.

Vote: 5 - ayes - 0 nays – 2 abstentions – Mr. Greengrass and Mr. Schwartz

**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 **Saturday, April 1, 2017**, 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 Requests may be withdrawn if a school is not selected, but **may not** be considered if submitted after the deadline).*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, 2017:*

- *Ms. Tracy Baron and Mr. Robert Reiser*

## MINUTES

*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 17, 2017**. Twenty-five signatures of qualified voters in the district are required.*

### 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 8, 2017** 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 16, 2017.*

### 4. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Berry explained the upcoming Tri-States Consortium Visit scheduled for March 1 through March 3.

- The District presented the following two questions for the team to consider:
  - To what extent has the integration of technology been successful in supporting the development of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills in pursuit of the district mission?
  - To what extent has the integration of technology helped the district to further its goal of enhancing teaching and learning for all students?
- The team will consist of approximately 18 people from various schools in the Tri State area
- Three or four members of the Board are invited to attend the 3/2 session from 1:30 to 2:15pm to be interviewed by the Visitation Team.
- Thank you to the staff and administrators that have worked on getting all the necessary information required

Dr. Brady will facilitate, along with the MS principal from Briarcliff Manor, a K-12 Math Tri-State Consortium Visit at Edgemont in mid-March.

Strategic Planning Update - BOE meeting with representatives from the committee is scheduled for March 30<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM.

The Committee met on January 24<sup>th</sup> with members representing a cross-role group of parents, students, administrators, BOE members and teachers. The group "unpacked" the vision statement and Lisa shared a "history" of the current vision and mission for the District. The committee will examine the recent update to the Strategic Plan in February.

- A K-12 will be going out tomorrow regarding the spring MS and HS Parent/Teacher conferences
- There will be no spring MS/HS Parent Teacher Conferences
    - Parents can use the portal to email teachers or meet with teachers on an individual basis
  - Springhurst Parent/Teacher conferences will remain the same.

#### High School

The following teams were recognized as scholar athlete teams from the fall season (NYSPHSSA)

- Varsity Girls Soccer, Tennis and Cross Country
- Varsity Boys Soccer
- Varsity Volleyball

Digital Citizenship – On February 2 in the morning, Thomas Grimes, retired NY Police Officer, spoke to the students about internet safety and making good online decisions and then spoke to about 30 parents in the evening.

The District is planning on having a District sponsored technology evening and possibly a family university for kids and parents in the future.

## MINUTES

HS students participated in a Wellness Fair last week. In addition to a highly engaging talk by Matt Bellace on the power of positive decisions, there were several vendors as well as breakout sessions for our students.

Congratulations to the Yearbook team and Amanda Newhouse for earning first place honors by the American Scholastic Press Association for best yearbook and best senior section for the 2016 Periauger.

### Middle School

Due to past issues with excessive heat in the evenings in June, Stepping Up will be held at 9 AM on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

This year, the 7<sup>th</sup> grade will visit the Hall of Science in the Bronx instead of Philadelphia.

The 6<sup>th</sup> graders will be getting full access to their Chromebooks this week.

The 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be participating in the NAEP assessments on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

### Springhurst

The fourth graders participated in the NAEP testing on Monday 2/6.

- The District does not receive individual test results for these assessments.

February 12-18 is Random Acts of Kindness Week

February 13 - Kamate Traders African Dance Performance (K-5) - Cafeteria, 9:00-10:10

February 15 - Chinese Culture Lion Dance Assembly - 3rd Grade - Cafeteria, 9:00-9:45

The PTSA is sponsoring the Compost Kids program for 5 classes – grades K, 2 & 4.

Springhurst will be partnering with the Middle School Ecology Club for recycling and composting. First step will be sorting recyclables in the Commons.

Ms. Hacker and Ms. Ducic have done a wonderful job planning the Washington DC trip that was approved at the Reorg meeting in July of last year.

## 5. Committee Reports

### 5.01 Committee Reports

School & Community Relations - 1/18

- Discussed how to best communicate the change in the MS/HS spring Parent Teacher Conferences
  - A K-12 will be sent out tomorrow

Student Activities & Athletics - 1/18

- Reviewed the pros and cons of a trip to Spain, for example:
  - Cost for all students who wish to take the trip
  - Fundraising and possible criteria for fund raising
  - ACIS Travel/Tour company is very reputable
  - Should it be for both 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders?
  - Perhaps a fund raising element can be built in for the future
  - Next step, need to have another interest meeting with parents and students
  - Thanks to Ms. Sardina for trying to get this trip together

The Board asked if the District has a formal Foreign Exchange Program – the answer is no

- Committee discussed the Athletic Option
  - Make it available to 10, 11 and 12 graders playing a varsity sport as of this year

## MINUTES

- Naming of tournaments, scoreboards for individuals
  - We need a policy for consistency
- Dr. Brady will share other information with the policy committee
- Reviewed the various interscholastic athletic handbooks to sync it up to Student Code of Conduct & the IB Learner Profile
- Mr. Berry and Mr. Klaich worked on the Interscholastic Code of Conduct

### Finance - 1/24

- Reviewed the following:
  - Proposed budget
  - Tax certioraris
  - Potential areas to use with any surplus dollars
    - All the principals requests are covered in current budget
    - Maintenance and technology items
- Possible proposition on the ballot to increase capital reserves
- Library ceiling too costly to do – approx. 700K
- Bid opening discussion at the next Facilities Committee on 2/16

### Curriculum & Instruction - 1/25

- Reviewed the Springhurst schedule revision
  - To increase uninterrupted instructional learning time across the grades

### Personnel - 1/31

- Reviewed the recommendations on tonight's meeting

### SE Subcommittee - 1/31

- Reviewed the following:
  - CSE recommendations on tonight's agenda
  - Enrollment numbers have changed slightly
  - Ms. Vredenburg has certified in non-violent crisis intervention
    - She will train others on her staff

## 6. Correspondence

### 6.01 Letter and eMail

The Board acknowledged receipt of the following:

Letter from Paul Feiner - 2016 Year in Review Highlights  
Resolution for Board adoption  
School pick-up and drop-off traffic  
DFSD response and community reassurance

## 7. Citizen's 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.*

A private school parent thanked the District for the Out-of- District transportation notification, but asked that the District also make textbook loan program announcements.

PTSA

## MINUTES

- The Harlem Wizards Game will be held this Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are almost sold out. 800 people will be in attendance.
- There will be another used book sale on March 16, 17 & 18<sup>th</sup>. Collection boxes are available in the Middle School and Springhurst and JJ Beans in town. Books/DVDs/CDs are needed.
- There will be a "Social" at the Hudson Social on March 2, 2017 from 7 to 10pm.
- Mary McNamara will be going to Albany with the National PTSA to meet with the Legislature and Board of Regents. Devin Barbera will be attending as a student representative.

### 8. Reports to the Board

*Please view the entire meeting on TV DFTV - Channel 75 & 47 for full details or visit the website for the video of the meeting*

#### 8.01 Superintendent's Proposed Budget - 2017-2018

Ms. Sylvia Fassler-Wallach, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Facilities and Operations, presented the proposed 2017-2018 Budget.

- Program Goals in the 2017-2018 Budget
- Financial Assumptions in the 2017-2018 Budget
- Tax Levy Cap
- 2017-2018 Tax Levy Cap Calculation
- Local Challenges
- Source of Revenue
- Expenditures
- Other Expenditures
- Salary and Benefits
- Projected Tax Calculation
- Changes over the Years
- Proposed 2017-2018 Budget Statistics
- 2017-2018 Budget Preparation Calendar
- Budget Presentations Schedule – Saturday, March 11, 2017

#### Comments

- The budget is meeting all the needs of the District and the schools
- For the sixth consecutive year the proposed budget is under the cap and meeting all the needs of the schools
- Thanks to Ms. Fassler-Wallach for all her work in creating the budget again under the tax cap

#### 8.02 School Demographics

Dr. Lisa Brady, Superintendent and Mr. Douglas Berry, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction reported on our School Demographics and explained how the data is gathered.

- Data is from the 2015-16 School Year
- Enrollment by Gender
- Enrollment by Ethnicity
- Enrollment by Grade
- Free & Reduced Lunch Students
- Student Suspensions
- Teacher Turnover Rate
- Teacher Certification
- Accountability making AYP

## MINUTES

Ms. Baron shared some information, from her Fellowship Program at Columbia, on Diversity in Schools and how it has a real positive learning impact on all students.

### 9. Board Actions

#### 9.01 Resolution Opposing Betsy DeVos for Education Secretary

Ms. Kennedy moved, and Ms. Johnson seconded, that the Board adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District opposes the appointment of Betsy DeVos as United States Secretary of Education for the following reasons:

- DeVos has been a staunch supporter of school vouchers, which divert taxpayer dollars away from public education and directs that public money to private and corporate charter schools. This undermines the American system of funding public education and the ability of public schools to provide a sound education for all students regardless of socioeconomic status. It requires all taxpayers to financially support private and for-profit institutions and, in many cases violates the American value of separation of church and state when taxpayer funds are used to support religion-specific institutions, and;
- Whereas, the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District has been elected by the residents of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District to determine policy and approve programming for the students of the district within the confines of both federal and state statutes governing education, and;
- Whereas, the Board of Education is committed to the provision of quality education, focused on cognitive, social, emotional, and physical growth, for all students, and;
- Whereas, the Board of Education wants all of our students to feel confident and secure that they will receive this education regardless of socioeconomic status, ability, disability, religion, race or gender, and;
- Whereas, Ms. DeVos has been at the forefront of the establishment of several voucher and charter school initiatives in Michigan that have enriched the coffers of private companies and diverted scarce economic resources from the public education of students, particularly in urban areas, and;
- The DeVos Foundation has spent millions of dollars successfully promoting its agenda in Michigan. The success of the Foundation in recent years corresponds to a time of overall decreases in student performance across the State. There is no reason to believe that this agenda has changed, or that the results will be different if put into effect nationwide, and;
- The so-called "school choice" programs DeVos promotes are of deep concern for diverse communities as they tend to increase racial and socioeconomic segregation. School vouchers rarely cover full tuition in private schools, shutting out lower-income students from any choice other than public schools that are forced to operate on budgets reduced by the cost of vouchers for more advantaged populations, and;
- DeVos has no experience in education other than her work on behalf of corporate charters and the voucher movement. She has no degree of any kind in education, has never worked in a school or a District office, has never attended a public school herself and has never sent her children to public schools.

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

#### 9.02 2017-2018 District Calendar

Mr. Reiser moved, and Ms. Lucasey seconded, that the Board adopt the 2017-2018 District Calendar.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

# MINUTES

## 9.03 Settlement of a Tax Certiorari Proceeding

Mr. Greengrass moved, and Mr. Schwartz seconded, that the Board authorize its attorneys, Shaw, Perelson, May & Lambert, LLP to execute a Consent Judgment in a tax certiorari proceeding captioned South Presbyterian Church of Greenburgh v. Town of Greenburgh and Dobbs Ferry SD:

**AND IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board authorize the refund of taxes as required by the terms of the Consent Judgment totaling a refund of \$62,178.45.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

## Executive Session - 9:25 PM

Ms. Kennedy moved, and Ms. Lucasey seconded, that the Board convene to Executive Session for the following purpose: To discuss the employment history of a particular person.

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

Ms. Johnson moved, and Mr. Schwartz seconded, to appoint Ms. Lucasey as Clerk Pro Tem.

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

At 9:23 PM, Mr. Schwartz moved, and Mr. Greengrass seconded, to move back to the Regular Meeting.

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

## 9.04 Stipulation of Settlement and General Release

Mr. Reiser moved, and Ms. Kennedy seconded, that the Board authorize the Superintendent of Schools to sign a Stipulation of Settlement and General Release between the District and Employee No. 00525, dated January 30, 2017, as presented to the Board at this meeting.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

## 9.05 Partial Tax Exemption For Qualified Persons Aged 65 or Older and For Qualified Persons With Disabilities and Limited Income

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

**RESOLVED**, that real property owned by one or more persons, each of whom is 65 years of age or over, or who qualify as persons with disabilities and limited income as defined by Section 459-c of the Real Property Tax Law, shall be exempt from taxation by the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry UFSD of the town of Greenburgh in Westchester County, State of New York, to the extent of 50% of the assessed valuation thereof, subject to the provisions and limitation contained in Sections 467 and 459 of the Real Property Tax Law of the State of New York; provided however, that the property is vested in either the husband or the wife, the combined income of the husband and wife for the income tax year immediately preceding the date of making the application for exemption is \$37,399.99 or less. This exemption would be in effect from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

<u>Annual Income</u>	<u>Percentage of Assessed Value Exempt from Taxation</u>
Up to and including \$29,000.00	50%
\$29,000.01 to \$29,999.99	45%
\$30,000.00 to \$30,999.99	40%
\$31,000.00 to \$31,999.99	35%
\$32,000.00 to \$32,899.99	30%
\$32,900.00 to \$33,799.99	25%
\$33,800.00 to \$34,699.99	20%

## MINUTES

\$34,700.00 to \$35,599.99	15%
\$35,600.00 to \$36,499.99	10%
\$36,500.00 to \$37,399.99	5%
\$37,400.00 or more	Not Eligible

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

Mr. Reiser moved, and Ms. Lucasey seconded, that the Board approve Items 9.06, 9.07, 9.08, 9.09, 9.10, 9.11, 9.14, and 9.15 as a consent agenda.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

Mr. Reiser moved, and Mr. Greengrass seconded, that the Board approve Items 9.06, 9.07, 9.08, 9.09, 9.10, 9.11, 9.14, and 9.15.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

### 9.06 Budget Transfer

The Board approved the following budget transfer to transfer funds to pay tuition:

Accounts to Decrease	Amount	Account to Increase	Amount
A2250.490.00.7200	\$60,000.00	A2250.470.00.0000	\$60,000.00
Special Ed - BOCES		Special Ed - Tuition	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$60,000.00</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$60,000.00</b>

### 9.07 Budget Transfer - Maintenance

The Board approved the following budget transfer to transfer funds for the maintenance projects discussed at the Finance Advisory Committee on January 24, 2017.

Accounts to Decrease	Amount	Account to Increase	Amount
A1620.421.08.1000	\$ 80,000.00	A1621.401.08.0000	\$289,000.00
Operations - Fuel Oil - SH		Maintenance Projects	
A1620.425.08.1000	\$ 20,000.00	A1621.450.08.0000	\$ 10,000.00
Operations - Elec. - SH		Maintenance Supplies	
A1620.425.08.3000	\$ 56,000.00		
Operations - Elec. - MS/HS			
A1930.434.00.8002	\$ 25,000.00		
Certiorari			
A1950.405.00.0000	\$ 56,000.00		
Dual Residency			
A2250.490.00.7200	\$ 62,000.00		
Special Ed. - BOCES			



**MINUTES**

Total	\$299,000.00	Total	\$299,000.00

**9.08 Budget Transfer - Technology**

The Board approved the following budget transfer to transfer funds to pay for instructional technology purchases discussed at the Finance Advisory Committee meeting on January 24, 2017:

Accounts to Decrease	Amount	Account to Increase	Amount
A9020.820.00.0000	\$133,700.00	A2630.450.00.5500	\$ 3,000.00
Teacher Retirement		Comp. Tech. - Supplies	
		A2630.460.00.5500	\$ 35,800.00
		Comp. Software - District	
		A2360.490.00.5500	\$ 94,900.00
		Comp. Tech. - BOCES	
Total	\$133,700.00	Total	\$137,700.00

**9.09 2017-2018 Service Bid Renewals**

The Board approved the attached 2017-2018 Service Bid Renewals.

**9.10 Disposition of Springhurst Library Books**

The Board approved the disposal of the books on the attached list that are currently part of the Springhurst Library collection.

**9.11 Special Education - Listening Partners**

The Board approved the revision of the July 1, 2016 approval of the Listening Partners to include Occupational Therapy Services effective January 2017 to June 30, 2017.

**9.14 CSE/CPSE**

The Board authorized and directed 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 31, 2017 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 31, 2017.

**9.15 Personnel**

The Board approved the Civil Service and staff personnel recommendations.

## MINUTES

### 9.12 Policy Revisions - Second Reading

The Board conducted a second reading and Mr. Greengrass moved, and Ms. Kennedy seconded, that the Board adopt the following policies:

- 2112 – Protocols for Board/Superintendent Roles and Responsibilities (as amended)
- 4325 – Academic Intervention Services
- 5152 – Admission of Non-Resident Students

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

### 9.13 Policy Revision - First Reading

The Board conducted a first reading of the following policy:

- 8130 - School Safety Plans and Teams

A second reading will be conducted at the next Business Meeting.

## 10. Acknowledgements

### 10.01 Treasurer's Report

The Board acknowledged receipt of the Treasurer's Report for November and December, 2016.

### 10.02 Warrants

The Board acknowledged receipt of the following warrants:  
Warrant No. 30, 32 and 33 Multi.

## 11. Citizen's Comments

### 11.01 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.

## 12. Old Business

None.

## 13. New Business

None.

## 14. Upcoming Meetings

### 14.01 Calendar

**Tuesday, February 28, 2017 - 7:00 PM - Board Room**

## MINUTES

- Executive Session - Tenure Candidate Discussions - Principals

### **Saturday, March 11, 2017 – 9:00 AM – Commons**

- Proposed Budget Presentations

Mr. Schwartz moved, and Ms. Kennedy seconded, that the Board convene to Executive Session for the following purpose: To discuss the employment history of a particular person.

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

Mr. Schwartz moved, and Mr. Reiser seconded, to appoint Ms. Lucasey as Clerk Pro Tem.

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

At 10:04 PM, Mr. Greengrass moved, and Ms. Johnson seconded, to move back to the Regular Meeting.

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

### **Executive Session - 9:53 PM**

#### **15. Adjournment**

At 10:04 PM, Ms. Johnson moved, and Ms. .Baron seconded, that the Board adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

#### **16. Approved Minutes**

##### **16.01 Approved Minutes – December 6 and 20, 2016**



District Clerk