

# MINUTES



**Thursday, January 21, 2016  
Work Session  
MS/HS Library, 7:00 PM**

## **1. Call to Order**

## **2. Meeting Opening - 7:01 p.m.**

Mr. Goldman called the meeting to order.

In attendance, Mr. Michael Goldman, Board President; Ms. Tracy Baron; Mr. Robert Reiser; Mr. Jonathan Greengrass; Ms. Jean Lucasey; Ms. Shannon Johnson; Dr. Lisa Brady, Superintendent; Mr. Douglas Berry, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction; Ms. Sylvia Fassler-Wallach, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Facilities and Operations and Ms. Loretta Tularzko, District Clerk.

### **2.01 Pledge of Allegiance**

### **2.02 Acceptance of the Agenda**

Mr. Reiser moved, and Ms. Lucasey seconded, that the Board accept the January 21st Agenda.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

Mr. Louis Schwartz, Board Vice President, arrived at 7:11 PM.

## **3. Committee Reports**

Please visit our District website under the BOE – Committees Tab for complete committee meeting minutes

### **3.01 Committee Reports**

School Community Relations

Reviewed Communications Survey Results:

- People are overall very satisfied with our current level of communication
- People want text messages for emergencies
- Mobile App (HS) not working was incorrect – it is working
- BOE agendas need to be embedded in the K12 email

Things people want to find on website:

- Sports information
- BOE meetings
- ABCD Day indicators on the calendars

Other findings:

- Open BOE forums

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- Being more open about cultural/drugs and drinking related issues and incidents
- Broadcast more activities such as school plays, concerts, sports events, student centered and/or run activities, classroom activities, homework help
- Make the community more aware of our TV station
- Can the cable TV guides give District specific information?

Committee discussed the following:

- BOE agenda embedded in K-12 (Diane and Lisa will work on this)
- Lisa and Liz will send a K-12 with all of the BOE agenda information. Will include how to access Board Docs, what the Agenda Snapshot “does,” link for livestream, how to watch a BOE meeting on TV etc.
- The District will begin to use text messaging for emergencies - 85% of respondents indicated that this is a preference. The District will be sending out a K-12 to parents requesting for them to sign up with two emergency phone numbers.
- FB numbers were lower than expected (50% access FB weekly or monthly) because of the demographics of the respondents and Facebook’s new algorithms. K-12 emails and the District/school websites (90% access weekly or monthly) remain the best way to communicate “official” information and FB has been instrumental in driving traffic to those websites. The Committee discussed the analytics for FB and the numbers of “hits” and reach is often very high in the thousands (depending on the post timing and topic)
- The District will also revisit the use of Instagram in its communications mix and its parameters
- Shannon, Liz and Lisa are working on the key points from the survey for the BOE Committee Report and Community Communication about the results in a K-12 and for the website

Discuss communication regarding delay in Capital Project (once this is confirmed)

- K-12
- Letter to ENTERPRISE
- Advertorial
- Piece to Enterprise and Journal News (Liz will pitch this) about the role and culpability of SED in these delays and the impact of escalating costs on taxpayers (going to get “less for their buck” and impact District ability to do alternates in projects)

District Dialogue and other TV plans:

- Feedback on BOE Meeting Live Streaming has been very positive – 50 people logged in for the last Board meeting
- Health and Wellness Series with St. John’s Riverside hosting monthly shows, such as Concussions, Lyme Disease, and Drug and Alcohol Awareness. St. John’s will provide the physicians and experts for the shows and Lisa will host the discussions. Students and other community members will be included as appropriate.
- Doug Berry will begin to host a series of shows on the instructional program.

Student Activities & Athletics Committee

School Supplies and Out of Pocket Costs

- The committee reviewed the costs
- Lisa and Doug have worked with the principals to put together information on “out of pocket” expenses for parents by grade/course
- It common in the Rivertowns area for parents to pay for supplies

Club Meeting Times

- All HS clubs meet either at lunch and/or after school with the exception of Peer Leadership/Tutoring (meets both before and after school), select chorus, and sign language club. (Attachment B)
- Information on MS club meeting times is still to come.

T-Period Meeting Times

- The committee reviewed the published T-Period schedules for the MS and HS
- A majority of scheduled T-Periods occur before school
- The current DFUT contract requires that teachers schedule T-Periods either before or after school.
- The only requirement is that they be scheduled. (2/week - 1 scheduled - 1 by appointment)

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- The committee discussed the large number of students that participate in after school activities, limiting their ability to access after school T-Periods if they were scheduled after dismissal.

### Impact of Later Start Time on Athletics

- Volleyball has been charged a "late fee" by officials 4 times throughout the season. Due to the late start time, the JV would then start late and this would have an impact on the return to Dobbs Ferry. Our volleyball teams would return to school around 9:00 PM. This means our teams leave at 3:30 PM and return at 9:00 PM multiple times throughout the week.
- The soccer teams were late to any game outside of the river towns. This late arrival effected warm-up time (should have 20 minutes) and the last 3 games of the season the team ran out of daylight.
- Track and field has been late to meets (Rockland) which meant students were unable to be entered into certain events.
- Certain Cross Country meets start at 4:15 PM which was always an issue.
- Basketball is in a similar situation as volleyball: late arrival times push back JV start times which impact return to Dobbs Ferry. Return times are approximately 8:45 PM depending on the game.
- Any more thought about Block Scheduling?

### Lady Eagles on uniforms -

- Girls JV Basketball jerseys (home), practice jerseys (Varsity) and T-shirts designed by the team/boosters.

## 4. Board Actions

### 4.01 Personnel

Mr. Reiser moved, and Mr. Greengrass seconded, that the Board approve the staff personnel recommendation.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

## 5. 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 presentation*

### 5.01 Continuum of Services and Least Restrictive Environment in Dobbs Ferry Schools

The Board stated that this was a presentation of process and preliminary findings and that no action will be taken by the Board and any changes will be institutionalized by the Administration.

Ms. Linda Schluter explained the process that was completed for her audit which included the following:

- Review & analysis of current continuum of services K-12 - IEPs and 504 Plans
- Analysis of programs and services data, in district and out of district students
- Meetings with key leaders and focus groups for input and collaboration - administration, teachers, staff, parents and students
- Provide written recommendations for improving effectiveness and efficiencies

#### Highlights:

- Definition of Inclusion
  - Ms. Schluter explained there is no law depicting "inclusion" rather it is a philosophy
  - Focus is on the Continuum of Services and Least Restrictive Environment leading to a student's academic achievement not the makeup of a classroom
- Report components
  - SE and Continuum of Services
  - Process and Procedures to collect data and interpretation
  - Building Administration, teachers, and parent comments and questions
  - Research on Inclusive practices and co teaching
  - Elementary, middle and high school recommendations
  - Additional thoughts, rationale and considerations

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- Comments
- Initial Recs
  - SH & MS – Spec Class Programs 8:1:3 (CR 200.6)
    1. K-2
    2. 3-5
    3. The max class size for spec classes containing students whose management needs are determined to be intensive and requiring significant degree of individualize attention and intervention, shall not exceed 8 students, one or more supplementary school personnel assigned to each class during periods of instruction
- Additional Thoughts, Rationale and Considerations
  - DFSD should be commended for it's
    - Decades of inclusive practices that enable student opportunities to rise to the challenges of today's global world
    - The unwavering commitment for a clearly established vision for inclusion, unification and social justice
    - The commitment to a Continuum of Services to insure all students access to the general education classes and home schools
    - The high standards and expectations for all students despite fiscal challenges and
    - Extraordinary leadership team faculty and community who embrace diversity, differences and life-long learners

### Comments:

- Practices now are phenomenal but can be improved
- Do we have the facilities to accommodate these classrooms? Yes.
- Decisions for any child whether out of district or co-taught in district class will be made through the Committee on Special Education with full parent consent to ensure their educational, emotional and social needs will be met
- Hiring specialized staff could impact the budget
- Professional Development can be managed over time
- Has transportation been considered? Yes.
- Will this have a budget impact on students? No.
- Will there be a behavioral specialist or professional development to help teachers assist students with any behavioral issues? TBD.
- It would involve 3 classes - K-2, 3-5, 6-8 not necessarily starting with 8 students in a class – it would depend on the cohort of students
- Over time the number of students could overflow the three rooms by 2019 -2020
- Academic expectation – i.e., Inquiry Based Learning, Critical Thinking
  - Alternate learning standards (Common Core ) are differentiated I
- If we need continue to grow the program then the model for 9-10-11 grades would be needed
- Out of district 10 – 11 – 12 grade students are difficult to bring back to the in-district environment

## 6. Old Business

None.

## 7. New Business

Mr. Goldman and Ms. Fassler-Wallach explained the possible changes by the Town of Greenburgh involving the Homestead Tax Option:

- Decision by end of February or mid-March
- Impact will be on residential homes, condos and commercial properties
- How the community may be affected
- If adopted, the School District will automatically be included unless it takes action not to participate
- How the school district's future tax certioraris could be affected
- Board member asked that the District's Tax Attorney attend a future Board meeting

## 8.0 Upcoming Meetings

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### 8.01 Calendar

#### Thursday, February 4, 2016 – 7:00 PM – MS/HS Library

- Proposed 2016-2017 Budget

#### Thursday, February 25 – 7:00 PM – MS/HS Library

- Work Session - Book Talk - "Switch: How to Change Things When change is Hard" by Chip Heath

### 9. Adjournment

At 8.42 PM, Mr. Greengrass moved, and Ms. Baron seconded, to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays



District Clerk