



**Thursday, February 5, 2015
Business Board Meeting
MS/HS Library, 7:00 PM**

1. Call to Order – 6:20 PM

2.0 Executive Session

2.01 Executive Session

At 6:23 PM, Ms. Lucasey moved, and Mr. Greengrass seconded, to convene to Executive Session for the following purpose: to discuss the employment history of specific personnel being considered for tenure.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

Ms. Lucasey moved, and Mr. Greengrass seconded, to appoint Ms. Black as Clerk Pro Tem.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

At 6:58 PM Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Black seconded, to return to the Regular Meeting

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

3. Regular Meeting Opening 7:11 p.m.

Ms. Baron called the meeting to order.

In attendance, Ms. Tracy Baron, Board President; Ms. Lynne Black; Mr. Michael Goldman; Mr. Jonathan Greengrass; Mr. Louis Schwartz; Ms. Jean Lucasey; 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.

Mr. Robert Reiser, Board Vice President was not in attendance.

3.01 Pledge of Allegiance

3.02 Acceptance of the Agenda

Mr. Schwartz moved, and Ms. Lucasey seconded, that the Board accept the February 5th Agenda.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

3.03 Approval of Minutes

Ms. Lucasey moved, and Mr. Goldman seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the December 18, 2014 meeting.

Vote: 5 ayes - 0 nays – 1 abstention – Ms. Black

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Mr. Goldman moved, and Ms. Black seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the January 8, 2015 meeting.

Vote: 5 ayes - 0 nays – 1 abstention – Mr. Greengrass

4. Announcements

PTSA

2/7 – Harlem Wizards vs. Dobbs Ferry Dunkers
2/9 – General Membership Meeting with the Dobbs Ferry Board of Education
3/9 – Rivertown Parents – Math Madness – Commons
3/14 – Used Book Fair and Soup Cook Off Night

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 Tuesday, April 1, 2015, in order to be included in the district's request for transportation next year. Requests for forms should be made to Transportation Director at 914-693-6300 ext. 2208. 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

Three terms of office of the Dobbs Ferry Board of Education will be expiring.

- Two terms ending June 30, 2015 - Ms. Lynne Black and Jonathan Greengrass
- One term ending on May 19, 2015 - Jean Lucasey

Forms for petitions to run for a seat on the Board of Education will be available in the District Office beginning **Monday, February 23, 2015**. Petitions to run as a candidate for the School Board next year must be submitted by the close of business on **Monday, April 20, 2015**. Twenty-five signatures of registered voters in the district are required.

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 11, 2015 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, 2015.

5. Superintendent's Report

Hudson River Continuing Education HRCE course registration is available online on our District website.

Dr. Brady presented Ms. Tracy Baron with a certificate from NYSSBA for earning 75 points towards Board Achievement Level 1.

5.01 Update on Veterans' Tax Exemption

Ms. Fassler-Wallach explained the position of other District's in the area.

Discussion included:

MINUTES

- Out of 38 Districts that responded to the survey:
 - 18 Districts have approved some version of the Veterans' Tax Exemption
 - 20 Districts have not responded either way to the survey
- There are over 50 Districts in the area
- All exemptions passed will impact the 2014 tax assessment roll which will impact 2015/2016 taxes; therefore no information is available
- The exemption will decrease the taxable assessment
- It would be approximately a 1% increase to our remaining tax payers, based on the number of Veterans currently filed with the Village
- Is it appropriate to give the Veterans' Tax Exemption and increase the taxes for the rest of the community?
- Veterans' Tax Exemption is not based on income
- We will have more information as to the impact of those Districts that approved the exemption in August

Mr. Berry gave an update on the status of MYP.

- A full MYP update will come later in the spring
- Our District is in good standing for candidate status
- We are on track and are ahead of the game
- Thanks to the coordinator (Jen Hickey), administrators and teachers for their work

6. Correspondence

None.

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.

None.

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 presentation

8.01 Special Education Update

Ms. Erin Vredenburgh, Director of Special Education, updated the Board on Special Education.

- Tonight's Areas of Focus
- Acronyms
- IEP versus 504 Plan
- Special Education Totals
- K-12 Special Education numbers by grade
- Out of District Placements
- Number of Special Education Students (In and Out of District) compared to total enrollment
- All Students by Disability

MINUTES

- 504 Accommodation Plans
- CPSE to CSE
- Referrals
- Things to Know
- Next Steps

Discussion/Comments

- Parentally placed – parent has the right to accept an IEP or not
 - Cost would depend on the situation – i.e., transportation, program, school, if student returns to the district, etc.
 - Exact cost situations are hard to quantify
- There are costs associated with 504 Plans but not for every child
 - Not reported to, or monitored by the state
 - Are other districts trending higher? Not sure.
 - Increase in mental health situations – consistent with neighboring districts
- Child Study Team referrals – The Board would like statistics at the end of the year
- Ms. Vredenburgh is chairing all CSE/CPSE meetings
 - There will be a coordinator position to run the meetings next year
- IEP calendar process
 - We don't use anniversary meeting dates – we hold calendar year reviews
- A Special Education Committee is being formed to assess our services and 3-8 assessment data
 - What is the outcome? At this point, the committee is just meeting to brain storm and discuss the current program; no major changes for next year
- Big picture of IEP/504/General Ed students in the MS/HS; i.e., IB and Honors courses - how are we helping them? Are there enough options for all students?
 - All students are in IB English in the 11th grade – there are two levels – classes are being co-taught for students with S.E. supports as required
 - IB Diploma is the end game in the HS – our goal is to find ways for all students to access it as best as possible
 - Our programs are very differentiated
 - There are many electives
 - We are constantly looking at our programs to adjust accordingly
- Outplacements – numbers don't add up 2012 and 2014
- Students with disabilities – it is a student's primary classification category that is captured
- Gross totals – don't see the flow in and flow out of specific category – are we tracking totals or specifics
 - Hard to say that a child's disability changes – typically that doesn't occur
 - Biggest change is from speech language impairment to learning disability

8.02 Superintendent's Proposed 2015-16 Budget

Dr. Lisa Brady, Superintendent, and Ms. Sylvia Fassler-Wallach, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Facilities and Operations, will present the proposed 2015-2016 Budget.

- Budget Terms
- Budget Factors and Timeline
- Program Goals in the 2015-2016 Budget
- Financial Assumptions in the 2015-2016 Budget
- Tax Levy Cap
- Tax Levy Cap Calculation
- Additional Government Impact
- Local Challenges
- How did we get here?
- Sources of Revenue
- Expenditures
- Other Expenditures
- Salary and Benefits Represent 78% of the Budget
- Taxable Assessments
- Tax Calculation

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- Changes Over the Years
- Proposed 2015-2016 Budget Statistics
- 2015-2016 Budget Preparation Calendar
- Budget Presentations – Saturday, March 7, 2015

Discussion/Comments

- Changing demographics – accelerated support for many reasons, i.e., ELL students and economically disadvantaged students
- Personnel cuts – would have to notify people by April 1st
- Student Assistant Counselor does not have the same skill sets as a Guidance Counselor
- State Aid Runs are an unknown at this point in time
- \$700, 000 TRS savings could possibly be at risk
- Any residual dollars – should be used for Special Education support
- Is there a wish list for each school? The principals requests are included in the budget already
- Greenburgh reassessments won't impact us until 2018/2019 tax year

9. Board Actions

Mr. Greengrass moved, and Mr. Goldman seconded, that the Board approve Items 9.01, 9.03, 9.04, 9.06, 9.07, 9.08, 9.10 and 9.11 as a consent agenda.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

Mr. Goldman moved, and Ms. Lucasey seconded, that the Board approve Items 9.01, 9.03, 9.04, 9.06, 9.07, 9.08, 9.10 and 9.11.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

9.01 Settlement Agreement

The Board approved the following:

“BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education does hereby approve the terms of the Settlement and Release Agreement concerning Student No. 13060; 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”.

9.03 Tax Certiorari

The Board approved the following:

Resolved, that the Board of Education authorizes its attorneys, Shaw, Perelson, May & Lambert, LLP to execute a Consent Judgment in a tax certiorari proceeding captioned Dobbs Ferry Manor Condominium v. Town of Greenburgh and the Dobbs Ferry UFSD;

AND IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes the refund of taxes as required by the terms of the Consent Judgment in the amount of \$60,950.60.

9.04 Release of Reserve for Tax Certiorari

The Board authorized the return of funds currently in the Reserve for Tax Certiorari (G/L Account A864.00) that are designated for the following years where the anticipated refunds are less than the amount in the reserve.

Assessment Year	School Year	Amount
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2004	2005-2006	\$350,000
2005	2006-2007	\$400,000

This increase in the District-wide Capital Improvements Reserve Fund was authorized by the voters on October 21, 2014.

Reserve Account A864.00 Reserve for Tax Certiorari	\$750,000
Budget Account to Increase A9903.900.99.0000 Transfer to Capital Fund	\$750,000
Revenue Account to Increase A5997.864 Appropriated Reserve – Tax Certiorari	\$750,000

9.06 Participation in Joint Bidding

The Board approved the following:

WHEREAS it is the desire of the participating school districts of the Southern Westchester Board of Cooperative Educational Services, adopting this Resolution to bid jointly in those supplies, commodities, materials and equipment set forth below.

Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District School District agrees to participate with other school districts of the Southern Westchester Board of Educational Services, Westchester County, New York adopting this in the joint bidding of:

		Yes	No
1.	Art Supplies	x	
2.	General School Supplies	x	
3.	Office Supplies	x	
4.	Fine Paper Supplies	x	
5.	Audio Visual Supplies & Equipment	x	
6.	Bakery Goods		x
7.	Cafeteria Food Supplies		x
8.	Custodial Supplies	x	
9.	Custodial Paper Supplies	x	
10.	Lumber Supplies	x	
11.	Laser & Ink Jet Toners	x	
12.	Laser & Ink Jet Toners, Compatibles	x	
13.	Microcomputer Hardware	x	
14.	Office & Classroom Furniture	x	
15.	Graphing Calculators	x	

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall remain in effect until August 31, 2016, and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is agreed that the specifications as presented will be used, and that this Board agrees to bid its required amount of said commodities jointly with other participating school districts in Southern Westchester and the Southern Westchester Board of Cooperative Educational Services. The recommendation of the Purchasing Steering Committee will be considered when this Board acts on the purchase of said Commodities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the invitation to bid will be advertised by BOCES in the Journal News in accordance with the provisions of Section 103 to the General Municipal Law.

9.07 Budget Transfer - MS Funds

The Board approved the following budget transfer to reallocate funds within the Middle School budget:

Account to Decrease	Amount	Account to Increase	Amount
A2110.512.02.2000	\$ 6,898.41	A2110.450.02.2000	\$6,898.41
Tch Reg - Testing - MS		Tch Reg - Supplies - MS	
Total	\$ 6,898.41	Total	\$ 6,898.41

9.08 Budget Transfer - SPR Funds

The Board approved the following budget transfer to reallocate funds to purchase Wilson/Fundations, Respect/Anti-Bullying Curriculum and Raz-Kids:

Account to Decrease	Amount	Account to Increase	Amount
A2110.512.01.1000	\$ 23,804.49	A2110.482.01.1000	\$ 11,950.44
Tch Reg - Testing - SPR		Tch Reg - Wkbs - SPR	
		A2110.401.01.1000	\$ 10,070.10
		Tch Reg - Spec Prg - SPR	
		A2630.460.01.5500	\$ 1,783.95
		Comp Software - SPR	
Total	\$ 23,804.49	Total	\$ 23,804.49

9.10 Special Education Contract

The Board approved the Westchester Institute for Human Development (WIHD) to conduct Assistive Technology Evaluation for an Augmentative Communication Device for a Special Education student with multiple disabilities. The fee is not to exceed \$1,425.00 and will be charged to F2250-400-00-150611.

9.11 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 29, 2015 its IEP recommendations for the students who are identified therein; and

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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 29, 2015.

9.02 Amendment of a Board Member Appointment

Ms. Black moved, and Mr. Greengrass seconded, that the Board amend the appointment resolution dated June 24, 2014 appointing Jean Lucasey to the Board vacancy caused by the resignation of Meg Lauer, *to serve until the next annual election of Board members in May, 2015.*

To read:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby move to amend the appointment resolution dated June 24, 2014 appointing Jean Lucasey to the Board vacancy caused by the resignation of Meg Lauer, *to serve until the next annual election of Board members on May 19, 2015.*

Ms. Tularzko will check with the District's attorney clarifying the timing and expiration of the board seat.

Vote: 6 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. Greengrass moved, and Mr. Schwartz seconded, to waive the reading of the resolution.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

Mr. Goldman moved, and Ms. Black seconded, that the Board approve the following:

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, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

<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%
\$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: 6 ayes - 0 nays

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9.09 2015-2016 District School Calendar

Ms. Black moved, and Mr. Schwartz seconded, that the Board adopt the 2015-2016 District Calendar.

Dr. Brady explained the highlights of next year's calendar. This was a very challenging calendar due to various elements, i.e., a late Labor Day, three religious holidays in September and Easter and Passover not coinciding this year.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

9.12 Personnel

Mr. Goldman moved, and Mr. Greengrass seconded, that the Board approve the personnel recommendations.

Budgeting for tutoring should be considered. Total cost for tutoring approximately \$6,000 per session.

Criteria for SPRING tutoring – economic need

SH – 1-2 grade SPRING funded tutoring based on economic and academic need

3rd grade District funded tutoring – based on academic need

HS – SPRING Regents tutoring – recommendations from the Guidance Department

Can FLES success be tracked? Not easily measured.

Vote: 5 ayes - 0 nays – 1 abstention – Ms. Black

9.13 Treasurer's Report

The Board acknowledged receipt of the December, 2014 Treasurer's Report.

9.14 Warrants

The Board acknowledged receipt of the following warrants:

Warrant No. 31 and 33 Multi.

10. Committee Reports

- Combined Finance and Facilities Committees meeting February 11th
- Student Activities and Athletics Committee meeting February 23rd

11. Old Business

None

12. New Business

12.01 Releasing of State Aid letter to Governor Cuomo

- Change the closing of the letter to "Sincerely"
- Tracy Baron will sign on behalf of the entire board

12.02 Notification of Teacher Tenure Schedule

- Notification was part of fall newsletter that is no longer printed by the District
- Not a legal requirement to post a schedule

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- Not all Districts share a schedule with the community
- Feedback should be ongoing during the 3 year process
- It will be added under the BOE tab on the website under Tenure List

13. Upcoming Meetings

13.01 Calendar

The PTSA meeting will be held on February 9th at 7:30 PM in the Library Presentation Center.

The Board Retreat will be held on February 24 with a snow date of February 25.

Thursday, February 26, 2015 – 7:00 PM - Work Session - MS/HS Library

- Book Read - *The Test: Why Our Schools are Obsessed with Standardized Testing—But You Don't Have to Be* by Anya Kamenetz.

Saturday, March 7, 2015 – 9:00 AM - Business - Commons

- Presentation of Proposed Budgets 2015-2016

14. Adjournment

At 9:56, Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Black seconded, to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

IF INTERESTED IN REVIEWING BACK UP MATERIALS PERTAINING TO ANY ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA, ONCE APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION PLEASE CONTACT LORETTA TULARZKO AT 693-1506.



District Clerk