



**Thursday, April 9, 2015
Business Board Meeting
MS/HS Library, 7:00 PM**

1. Call to Order

2. Meeting Opening 7:04 p.m.

Ms. Baron called the meeting to order.

In attendance, Ms. Tracy Baron, Board President; Mr. Robert Reiser, Board Vice 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.

2.01 Pledge of Allegiance

2.02 Acceptance of the Agenda

Mr. Greengrass moved, and Mr. Goldman seconded, that the Board accept the April 9th Agenda.

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

2.03 Approval of Minutes

Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Black seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the March 7, and March 26, 2015 meetings.

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

Mr. Greengrass moved, and Mr. Schwartz seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the March 19, 2015 meeting.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays – 1 abstention – Ms. Black

3. Announcements

The PTSA has four positions open for the Executive Committee – MS and HS Vice President, Communications Vice President and Treasurer. Anyone interested in joining the Executive Committee please contact the PTSA.

Ms. Marcia Heffler, President of the DFUT, praised the Board, Dr. Brady and Mr. Berry for encouraging parents not to Opt Out of the state assessments.

3.01 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 - Lynne Black and Jonathan Greengrass
- One term ending on May 19, 2015 - Jean Lucasey

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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, 2015**. Twenty-five signatures of qualified voters in the district are required.

Both Mr. Greengrass and Ms. Lucasey will be running for the School Board. Ms. Black, after many years of service on the Board, has decided not to run again.

3.02 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.

4. Citizen's Comments

4.01 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.

5. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Brady and Mr. Berry presented the State Aid Analysis released by NYSSBA. At this time, no regulations are available for any of the changes. The State Education Dept. should have further guidelines available by June 30th.

Highlights:

- Probationary Educators and Tenure Award Changes
- Testing Reduction Report – by the Board of Regents by June 30th
- Teacher Evaluation Changes
 - Scoring components
 - Observation criteria
 - Scoring ranges
 - Student performance based on student growth score

Discussion included:

- Probation changes from 3 to 4 years
- State will centralize measurement and assessment
 - Rubrics
 - Growth targets for Student Learning Objectives
- APPR Evaluations will have to be performed by independent evaluators (internal or external)
- Cost of new regulations is not known at this time
- Would there be penalties to a District if they do not abide with the changes?
 - Most likely, but unknown at this time
- The District and the Union will work together to negotiate the terms once the actual terms and conditions are available.
- NYS is creating a state controlled education

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6. Reports to the Board

6.01 Revenue Forecast

Ms. Fassler-Wallach, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Facilities and Operations, reported on the Revenue Forecast.

- Proposed budget
- Sources of revenue
- General Fund – State and Federal Aid
- Gap Elimination Adjustment History
- Assessed Valuation
- Tax Levy Cap Calculation
- Tax Calculation
- Star
- Additional Tax Exemptions

Ms. Fassler-Wallach also explained the Governor's state aid funds to the District.

6.02 Proposed 2015-16 Budget Review

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

- Budget Terms
- Sources of Revenue
- Expenditures
- Taxable Assessments
- Assessed Valuation
- Tax Levy Cap Calculation
- Historical Tax Rate – Budget Increase
- Reserve Fund Balances
- Proposed Budget

Dr. Lisa Brady, Superintendent explained the need to contract an Instructional Technology Coach from the LHRIC (Lower Hudson Regional Information Center) for a one year contract. This would not be a permanent employee of the District. The coach would support teachers in all three schools as well as help the administration with a new three year plan for Technology.

7. Board Actions

7.01 Settlement Agreement

Mr. Goldman moved, and Mr. Greengrass seconded, that the Board waive the reading of the resolution.

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

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

RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZING THE SCHOOL DISTRICT TO ENTER INTO SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WITH STAR INSURANCE COMPANY REGARDING THE CAFETERIA RENOVATION AT DOBBS FERRY MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL AND THE RELATED TENDER AGREEMENT WITH ROK-BUILT CONSTRUCTION INC.

WHEREAS, the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District (the "District") Board of Education (the "Board"), by resolution, entered into an agreement for the construction services relating to the Cafeteria Renovation at the

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Dobbs Ferry Middle/High School Complex (SED No. 66-04-03-03-0-001-016) (the "Project") with A&J Construction of NY, Inc. ("A&J") for a fixed stipulated sum in the amount of \$1,379,000.00 (the "Contract");

WHEREAS, on April 10, 2013, pursuant to the Contract, Star Insurance Company (the "Surety") issued a performance bond on behalf of A&J and in favor of District, bearing bond number SSB0753664 and a separate payment bond bearing the same bond number;

WHEREAS, on or about July 31, 2014, the Board, by resolution, terminated, for cause, A&J's involvement on the Project for failing to: (i) cooperate with the District in implementing the plan to complete the Project, and (ii) discharge six (6) mechanic's liens filed by A&J's subcontractors and a sub-subcontractor against the Project (the "Mechanic's Liens"), as required by the Contract;

WHEREAS, following the for cause termination of A&J, it became necessary for the School District to promptly call on the Surety to remove the Mechanic's Liens and to complete the work previously commenced on the Project;

WHEREAS, the Surety has proposed a plan in the form of a settlement agreement involving the Surety and the District, which: (i) resolves all claims between the Surety and the District, which includes an exchange of releases between the Surety and the District, and (ii) includes the Surety and the District entering into a tender agreement with Rok-Built Construction Inc. ("Rok-Built") to complete a portion of the Project, in exchange for the Surety: (a) paying fifty-one thousand dollars (\$51,000.00) to the District, (b) discharging the Mechanic's Liens on the Project, and (c) releasing and/or defending and indemnifying against all present and future claims by A&J's subcontractors, sub-subcontractors, suppliers and vendors against the School District on the Project;

WHEREAS, the settlement agreement and the related tender agreement do not address present and potential claims between A&J and the School District;

WHEREAS, the Surety and Rok-Built are agreeable to the tender agreement, and the Surety is agreeable to the settlement agreement, and the District's attorneys, John E. Osborn P.C., following negotiations with the Surety and Rok-Built, recommend entering into the settlement agreement and tender agreement;

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, hereby authorizes the President of the Board to execute the settlement agreement and tender agreement, substantially in the forms attached, as may be modified by counsel.

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

The Board thanked Ms. Fassler- Wallach for a great job.

7.02 Bid Rejection

Ms. Lucasey moved, and Mr. Greengrass seconded, that the Board reject the previously awarded Bid #1415-09 Paving Services previously awarded to M & S Construction due to unresponsiveness.

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

7.03 Budget Transfer

Mr. Schwartz moved, and Ms. Black seconded, that the Board approve the following budget transfer to pay for facilities supplies for the remainder of the year:

Account to Decrease	Amount	Account to Increase	Amount
A1621.401.08.0000	\$30,000.00	A1621.450.08.0000	\$30,000.00
Maintenance Projects - Large		Maintenance Supplies	
Total	\$30,000.00	Total	\$30,000.00

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Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

7.04 Music and Movement in the Kindergarten Classrooms

Mr. Greengrass moved, and Ms. Black seconded, that the Board approve Erica Itzkowitz, to facilitate music and movement in the classroom sessions for the six Kindergarten classes to be held on April 7, 8, 14, 15, 21 and 22. The fee is \$450.00/day not to exceed \$2,700.00.

The Board has requested that we survey our surrounding district to see what limit they set for consultant services for discussion prior to the July reorganizational meeting.

If dollar limits change, a monthly list of all consultant contracts would be sufficient for the Board's information.

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

7.05 Special Education Consultant

Ms. Lucasey moved, and Mr. Greengrass seconded, that the Board approve Beyond Communication, LLC for a clinician to conduct an independent reading and speech language evaluation for a special education student. The fee is not to exceed \$1,150.00 and will be effective April 10, 2015 - June 30, 2015. It will be charged to A2250-465-00-7200.

The Board has requested that we contact Mr. Silveira, from Shaw Perelson, to see if a limit on Special Education consultants can be changed or if all Special Education consultants have to be approved by the Board.

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

7.06 CSE/CPSE

Ms. Black moved, and Mr. Goldman seconded, that 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 March 27, 2015 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 March 27, 2015.

Note – clerical errors are to be corrected in the IEPs.

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

7.07 Personnel

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

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

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7.08 Warrants

The Board acknowledged receipt of the following warrants:
Warrant No. 41 and 43 Multi.

8. Committee Reports

Finance Committee met this evening to discuss the additional state aid funds as mentioned during the Revenue/Budget presentations

Curriculum Council meeting on 3/25 and 4/8. Items discussed:

- MYP authorization progress update for presentation at a future Board meeting
- Field Testing – the District has decided to opt out
- State Assessments in grade 8 – Algebra 1 and Math 8
- 2013-2014 NYS Report Card data

9. Old Business

- Calendar of Events
- Committees
 - Do we need a clarifying paragraph?
 - Committee structure needs to be revisited
 - At this point in the year, changes should wait until next school year
 - Structure should be a topic for a Work Session
- April 16th Board meeting will be a work session to discuss cause and affects of students sleep and start time
 - No action will be taken

10. New Business

11. Upcoming Meetings

11.01 Calendar

Thursday, April 16, 2015 – 7:00 PM – MS/HS Library

- Work Session
- 2015-2016 Budget Adoption

Tuesday, April 21, 2015 – 8:00 AM – Board Room

- BOCES Budget & Trustee Vote

Thursday, May 7, 2015 – 7:00 PM – MS/HS Library

- Budget Public Hearing

12. Executive Session

12.01 Executive Session - Immediately following the Public Meeting if required.

Mr. Goldman moved, and Ms. Black seconded, to convene to Executive Session for the following purposes: to discuss the employment history of specific personnel and contract negotiations.

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

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

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Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

Mr. Goldman moved, and Ms. Lucasey seconded, to return to the Regular Meeting.

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

13. Adjournment

At 10:00 PM, Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Black seconded, to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

14. Approved Minutes

14.01 Approved Minutes - January 22, February 5 and February 26, 2015



District Clerk