



**Tuesday, April 21, 2020
Business Meeting
Virtual Meeting, 7:00 PM**

1. Call to Order

2. Virtual Business Meeting Opening 7:03 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

Mr. Rosenberg moved, and Ms. Baron seconded, that the Board accept the April 21st Agenda.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

2.04 Approval of Minutes

Mr. Rosenberg moved, and Ms. Stringer seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the February 4 and 25, 2020 meetings.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

3. Announcements

3.01 Future Board Meetings

In light of the declaration of a Statewide and local State of Emergency pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governor issued Executive Order 202.1, suspending certain requirements of the Open Meetings Law, including the provision that the public be allowed to attend.

Additionally, Board Members are permitted to attend the meetings through telephone or video-conferencing.

3.02 Budget/Trustee Vote

The May 19, 2020 Budget/Trustee Vote has been postponed per Executive Order 202.13. Once a decision is made on the new date, the public will be notified.

3.03 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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No further direction has been received regarding voting for the Open Trustee Seats.

3.04 Personal Voter Registration

A new date will be announced once a final Budget/Trustee Vote date is decided.

4, Superintendent's Report

District:

Trying to maintain as much normalcy and "business as usual" as possible.

Meal Distribution:

As of Friday, April 17th, we have distributed over 4,100 meals. We distributed more than 1000 meals during the week of the canceled Spring Break. The number of meals fluctuates but, in general, we are distributing about 100 meals daily. Meals are distributed on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 8:30 to 11 a.m. A special thank you to Kathy Weinborg, Rita Kennedy, Loretta Tularzko and Denise Cunningham who are working in the kitchen to assist with meal preparation. Also, thank you to the team from SPRING Community Partners who are delivering meals to families who cannot get to the pickup location.

Springhurst Children's Center (partnership with Irvington):

We have anywhere from 4 - 6 children daily. Currently, all children are from Dobbs Ferry. This program runs from 8 to 4 p.m. daily. There are some opportunities for partnering with even more districts since everyone's numbers are low. We plan to discuss this at the end of this week.

Chromebook Distribution:

Tomorrow we will be distributing Chromebooks to Grades 4 and 5 families that indicated that they need the device at home. We have 50 computers that will be distributed to families that have pre-registered. We already distributed 55 Chromebooks a few weeks ago to any families from the District that indicated that they needed devices. A special thank you to Terance Huyter who has been beyond accommodating, kind and gracious with all of the requests for families and also every day from teachers and staff for all kinds of technology needs.

Thank You to Teachers, Staff, and Administrators!

It is almost impossible to explain the level of professionalism, hard work and flexibility and team work being exhibited across the District. Thanks to the administrators and teachers for reinventing themselves in a short period of time.

Dr. Brady has been in constant contact with the other Superintendents and the NYSED. As of now, there is no new information on budget voting, APPR and tenure issues, Board of Regents will meet on May 1. The Governor does not want the schools to exceed the 180 days so there are a lot of issues regarding the end of the school year. There should be more information next week.

On behalf of the Board, Ms. Johnson thanked Dr. Brady, the Administration and teachers for all their hard work

High School

- **National Rankings:** We are pleased to share that DFHS did exceptionally well once again in the high school rankings that were shared earlier today in *U.S. News and World Reports*. Highlights include:
 - Ranked 34 out of 1342 high schools in NYS.
 - Ranked 274 out of 17,792 high school in the nation
 - Thank you to everyone that made this happen
- **Senior Experience:** Will be planning a "senior experience" that will be in place for seniors in lieu of senior internship. Teachers and students planning the concept. The last "official" day for seniors will be May 8th. Senior Experience will begin on May 11th. High School parents will be receiving more information.

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- **Distance learning** is going smoothly at the high school. Dr. Falino and Ms. Reim have been meeting with all teachers weekly to monitor progress, to provide professional development, and to make any necessary adjustments. A detailed Google Meet schedule has been posted to the high school website.
- **Instagram Page:** "DFHS Virtual Commons"--A special thanks to Ms. Reim, Ms. Addona, Mr. Patrillo, Mr. Cohn, and the students in our Activities Branch for creating this amazing "spirit" page. We have been having weekly "spirit weeks" as well! This week is "Cooking and Baking" week. And May 1st will be "Senior College Decision Day," also on Instagram.
- **DFHS Video:** The faculty video that we shared with our students and community has been an amazing success. Overall, it reached over 2,800 people and had over 27 "shares." This was our most viewed Facebook post in our school's history since we started with Facebook in 2013.
- **Scheduling:** Our counselors are scheduling students for next year. We are right on track with all aspects of scheduling as it relates to staffing, student needs, and the development of our master schedule.

Middle School

- **Guardian Summaries**
We activated a feature in Google Classroom called guardian summaries. Parents/guardians will be able to see missing work, upcoming work and classroom announcements. They will not have access to attached documents, links and websites, but will be able to see what work has yet to be completed and what is coming up the next week. Guardians will be able to opt into receiving daily or weekly summaries. Here is a tutorial video Amber created to show you how to activate this feature: <https://youtu.be/SEs1dQP0Gxk>
- **Mindfulness May**
As these are trying times for all of us, both adults and children alike, the Dobbs Ferry School District mental health staff would like to invite everyone to participate in daily wellness activities throughout the month of May. Wellness and self-care, when coupled with mindfulness (focusing one's awareness in the present moment) (thoughts, feelings, body) in a nonjudgmental manner, can directly improve our ability to overcome difficulty and maintain optimal physical and mental health.
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/14O1EL8vih-5QxIKRjtzkXRLMFAGhA1HF/view?usp=sharing>
- **DFMS Thanks Local Health Care Workers**
Our School Counseling department created a digital Thank You to our health care workers. DFMS students submitted pictures of themselves and their thank you creations.
<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1sjMu0Bkb3mqzDoQ14pKFfueFtDopaFEZ0ldcbTEtqmE/edit?usp=sharing>
- **DFMS Virtual Spirit Week**
Our School Counseling department hosted a Virtual Spirit Week. DFMS students and staff submitted pictures for each day.
- **April Fool's Day**
As we couldn't do pranks, Ms. Hickey hosted an April Fool's Flipgrid on April 1st. Students posted their best [April Fool's jokes](#).
- **Distance learning** is going smoothly at the middle school. Mr. Mussolini and Ms. Pecunia have been meeting with teachers regularly to provide professional development and make adjustments as necessary. Administration, school counselors, and teachers meet weekly in Grade Level Teams. A detailed Google Meet schedule was emailed to all parents.
- **Fifth Grade Transition Parent Night**
Mr. Mussolini will host a Google Meet for the parents of our incoming sixth graders on April 29 from 5-6 pm. Mrs. Hutchinson will share the link to the meet early next week.

Springhurst

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Virtual teaching for Elementary school students is a big task. Embarked on live instruction last week and are in week two now. Teachers have been extremely creative with both the live instruction as well as the pre-recorded video.

Teachers are working hard to adapt to this new virtual classroom environment and striving to strike a balance determining what is most essential to impart to students in this way. Teachers are really happy making "live" connections with their students.

Teachers have made innovative use of what's available to them in this virtual environment. They've transformed sections of their homes into classrooms, started working with new apps (most of which are new to them) watching tutorial videos to learn about new systems/approaches to online teaching and learning and experimenting w/new devices and approaches.

Everyone is working through the glitches of live instruction and getting better with time.

Springhurst Principal's Challenges have been going well and eliciting a lot of involvement and feedback from the community. The library of videos from each week's challenge are available on the SH FB page and include contributions from various members of the school community - this week's challenge is making music at home with everyday objects, last week's challenge was writing letters/pictures to essential workers with Justin Kampke (many of which are hung in the DF Police Station now!).

We had a school spirit week the week of March 30th and we are currently having a Mindfulness Week. There is also a padlet linked to the activities that students can post to.

Challenges and theme weeks involve padlets on which numerous students have posted wonderful examples of their engagement.

Kindergarten registration is continuing and we will have a virtual orientation this Friday at 10:00 am. We are expecting about 90 participants.

Athletics

Right now we are still awaiting some direction from Section One about Spring Sports. Our Varsity and JV coaches are working remotely with their teams keeping them fit with workouts and other motivational activities. Modified sports are not running at this time. At this point in time, there wouldn't be enough time to schedule all the sports.

5. Committee Reports

5.01 BOE Committees

Curriculum & Instruction - 2/26

- New courses under development next year at the High School
 - Creative Writing and Film Studies
 - Personal and Professional Skills/What's Next?- Life after HS – personal reflection on their strengths
 - Leadership and Service – assist students in selecting a community service – different theories of leadership and to develop leadership skills

Finance - 4/1 & 4/14

- 4/1 – reviewed District's year to date performance and the COVID 19's impact on this fiscal year on both revenues and expenses.
 - Sales tax and interest will be less than expected
 - Expenses down slightly
- 4/14 – reviewed the previously proposed budget for next year
 - State aid will be 313K less than expected
 - Governor said there could be additional cuts
 - Sales tax will be approximately 170K less

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- Another 100K less in interest income
- Recommended bringing next year's budget up to the tax cap level adding an additional 30K
- Various additional expenses approximately 136K
- Bringing the gap up to approximately 700K
- The Administration is working hard to find potential reductions
- RFP for Fiscal Advisors – it will be on the next agenda

Do we have any intelligence on how to plan for reopening sometime in the future and how that will impact the District?

Conversations are just beginning to surface. We will need to get guidance from the SED.

Facilities - 4/14

- All Board members along with the Administrators and Tetra Tech and Calgi were in attendance.
- Robust meeting with Tetra Tech and Calgi who gave an update on the Capital Project. The project is on schedule and on budget. The effect of COVID-19 and the economic downturn is yet to be determined, but Tetra Tech and Calgi will continue to monitor the situation and keep the board apprised of any changes in market conditions.
- Presentation and documents available on the website.

Special Ed - 3/10 & 4/14

3/10

- Reviewed the recommendations on tonight's agenda
- The Special Ed Recommendations Format has been changed in the IEP Direct Program
- 2019-2020 Special Ed numbers were reviewed
- They discussed the need to identify and hire an alternate CSE meeting Chairperson in case of cancellations due to COVID-19 school closings

4/14

- Reviewed the recommendations on tonight's agenda
- Hats off to Jean Gismervick and her team for holding 90 meetings since the beginning of January and mid-March. Over 50 meetings were held over the last two weeks. These numbers do not include the 504 accommodation plan meetings.

Personnel - 4/15

- Discussed Personnel items that will be discussed during Board Actions.

6. Correspondence

None.

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.

None.

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8. Board Actions

Consent Agenda

Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Baron seconded, that the Board approve Items 8.03, 8:05, 8.06, 8.08, and 8.09 as a consent agenda.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

Mr. Schwartz moved, and Ms. Kennedy seconded, that the Board approve 8.03, 8:05, 8.06, 8.08, and 8.09.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

8.03 Budget Transfer

The Board approved the following budget transfer to cover BOCES special education tuitions:

Account	Decrease	Increase
A 2250-470-01-0000 Spec Ed-Tuition K-5	\$50,000	
A 2250-490-01-7200 Spec Ed-BOCES K-5		\$50,000

8.05 Quad Management Transportation Services Agreement

The Board approved a Quad Management Transportation Services Agreement between the Quad Villages (Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Hastings and Irvington) to a one (1) year municipal cooperation agreement, commencing on July 1, 2020 and terminating on June 30, 2021, for the purposes of providing the administration and management of transportation services to resident pupils attending schools within each of the Quad school districts or non-public schools.

8.06 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.

8.08 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 April 14, 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 April 14, 2020.

8.09 Personnel

The Board approved the staff personnel recommendations.

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8.01 Public Participation at Board Meetings

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

Be It Resolved, that the Board of Education hereby suspends the provisions of Board Policy 1230, Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings and the provisions of Policy 2310 Regular Meetings, and 2350 Board Meeting Procedures, regarding public meetings, videoconferencing and public participation at meetings, for tonight's Board Meeting, and until Governor Cuomo determines that a state of emergency no longer exists in New York State due to COVID-19.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

8.02 Dobbs Ferry Schools Foundation Grant

Ms. Kennedy moved, and Ms. Stringer seconded, that the Board accept a grant from the Dobbs Ferry Schools Foundation in the amount of \$58,000 to be used for the Innovative Classroom Initiative.

Thanks to the Foundation for this grant from last year's gala. We are thrilled to be able to support our efforts in ICI by funding things that we may not have been able to do such as having Trevor MacKenzie hold a professional development day for all teachers.

We have created a process, to be approved by administration, for teachers to request small funds for their individual classroom needs.

Again, thank you to the Foundation for being there for us in the past, present and future.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

8.04 IPA Agreement with SWBOCES

Ms. Stringer moved, and Ms. Baron seconded, that the Board agrees to enter into a contract with the Southern Westchester BOCES, for the provision of computer services requiring the purchase of hardware and software in an amount not to exceed \$268,000 plus applicable interest for a period of five years.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

8.07 Sports Mergers

Ms. Lucasey moved, and Mr. Schwartz seconded, that the Board approve the following team merges:

Varsity Girls Swim: Merged with Ardsley season: Fall
Varsity Ice Hockey: Rivertown Legends (Ardsley, Leffel, Ossining, Irvington, Tarrytown)

Thank you to Ardsley and the Rivertown Legends.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

8.10 SWBOCES Trustee & Budget Vote

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District hereby move to cast one vote for Sheryl Brady and Valarie D. Williams to serve as Trustees on the Southern Westchester Board of Cooperative Educational Services for the time period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023.

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AND IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board move to cast one vote to approve the resolution for the 2020-2021 Estimated Administrative Budget of \$12,041,981 for the Southern Westchester Board of Cooperative Educational Services.

9. Acknowledgements

9.01 Warrants

The Board acknowledged receipt of the following warrant:
Warrant No. 47 & 50 Multi.

10. Citizen's Comments

10.01 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.

11. Old Business

None.

12. New Business

Voter Voice:

- WPSBA sent an email along with a template to encourage community members to contact their Congressional legislators to seek more federal funds for education in New York State.
- New York State is taking a huge hit.
- There is federal Pandemic aid that is available and we hope that school districts will be included in New York State's share.
- We will send out a K-12 tomorrow with a link to the Voter Voice.
- Dr. Brady will reach out to the PTSA to help spread the word.

Distance Learning

Have we had any reports (HS/MS) on how students are coping with the expectations of distance learning?

We do not have actual statistics; however, this is anecdotal information:

- Along with regular daily attendance reporting by parents/guardians, teachers are taking daily virtual classroom attendance.
- Teachers will reach out to parents if students are not completing assignments, as they normally do, to check to see if there are underlying reasons.
- If they do not reach parents, they will notify administration.
- Majority of students in the MS/HS are doing well in the virtual environment.
- The District has reached out to the DFPD to do a couple of wellness checks, if parents could not be reached and all options have been exhausted.
- We had a couple of behavioral situations.

MINUTES

13. Upcoming Meetings

13.01 Calendar

Tuesday, May 5, 2020 - 7:00 PM

Tuesday, May 26, 2020 - 7:00 PM

Thanks to Terance Huyter, Ray Rivera and Kevin Ridley for coordinating this Virtual meeting.

14. Executive Session

14.01 Executive Session

At 8:03 PM, Mr. Rosenberg moved, and Ms. Stringer seconded, that the Board recesses into Executive Session for the following purpose: To discuss ongoing litigation, The Landing on the Water at Dobbs Ferry Condominium v. Town of Greenburgh.

The Board does not expect to return to Public Session, they will adjourn the meeting from the Executive Session.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

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

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

At 8:47 PM, Mr. Rosenberg moved, and Ms. Lucasey seconded, to move back to the Public Meeting.

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

15. Adjournment

At 8:48 AM, Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Stringer seconded, that the Board adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

16. Approved Minutes

16.01 Approved Minutes – February 4 and 25, 2020

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.