



**Thursday, March 19, 2015
Business Board Meeting
Commons, 7:00 PM**

1. Call to Order – 6:20 PM

2.0 Executive Session

2.01 Executive Session

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

Vote: 5 ayes - 0 nays

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

Vote: 5 ayes - 0 nays

Mr. Reiser arrived at 6:45 PM.

At 7:02 PM, Mr. Goldman moved, and Mr. Reiser seconded, to return to the Regular Meeting.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

3. Regular Meeting Opening 7:15 p.m.

Ms. Baron called the meeting to order.

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

Ms. Black was not in attendance.

3.01 Pledge of Allegiance

3.02 Acceptance of the Agenda

Ms. Lucasey moved, and Mr. Greengrass seconded, that the Board accept the March 19th Agenda.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

3.03 Approval of Minutes

Mr. Reiser moved, and Ms. Lucasey seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the January 22, 2015 meeting.

Vote: 4 ayes - 0 nays – 2 abstentions – Mr. Goldman and Mr. Schwartz

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Mr. Greengrass moved, and Ms. Lucasey seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the February 5, 2015 meeting.

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

Ms. Lucasey moved, and Mr. Greengrass seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the February 26, 2015 meeting.

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

4. Announcements

PTSA

- Thank you to the Board for attending the General Membership meeting on March 10th. The feedback was very positive. Attendees appreciated learning the Board of Education's process
- Thank you to everyone for attending the Soup Night and Used Book Sale
- The Board thanked everyone for two incredible events
- Dobbs Ferry Foundation's fundraiser will be held tomorrow night – March 20th

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 - 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 qualified 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

3/20 - Annual Madrigal Dinner will be held in The Commons at 7:00 p.m. Please contact Georgia DeFalco for ticket information.

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- 3/8 - Theater Arts Group went to NYC to see Wicked. Students participated in a pre-performance workshop facilitated by one of the Broadway actors.
- 3/25 - Grade 8 Career Day - March 25th at 8:30 a.m. Julie Cottineau, CEO of BrandTwist will be the keynote speaker.
- 3/7 – WSEF students won 13 different awards in multiple categories. One student qualified to attend Intel ISEF 2015! Congratulations to all!

DI - Dobbs had 3 HS teams, 2 MS teams and 3 Springhurst teams. This competition leads up to the State Tournament and the Global Finals, the biggest problem-solving competition in the world, held every year in Tenn. Dobbs Ferry has sent at least one team to the Globals every year!

Rivertown Parents March "Mathness" - It was very well attended and hosted this year in our Commons for parents across the Rivertowns. The focus for this year was measurement. Thanks to Lise Ann Schwartz, Mary McNamara and the other PTSA/Rivertown parents.

- 3/10 - Springhurst ELL Parent Workshop - ELL teachers coordinated with Michelle Kaczmarek and Robin Larkins from Cabrini Immigrant Services to provide a family workshop for parents of students in grades K-2. Focus was on Foundations, Raz-Kids, and reading with your child.
- 3/19 - School Schedule Workshop - Mike Rettig from School Scheduling Associates conducted a workshop for a group of MS/HS administrators, teachers and students today (Thursday). Mike works with school districts across the USA on the development of innovative school schedules. The purpose of the workshop was to explore new ideas for school schedules and to discuss some of the possible goals for any future scheduling changes for Dobbs Ferry.
- 3/23 - On Monday, Springhurst will host a study research lesson. Elizabeth Pinkava, 2nd grade teacher, will be teaching a lesson to her class about mental calculation with subtraction on March 23. Invited to the lesson are colleagues from Irvington and Ardsley, as well as Makoto Yoshida, a professor whose doctoral dissertation on the subject of Lesson Study has led to US schools engaging in the practice.

3/25 - 5th Grade Gilly Hopkins mock "Trial"

(9th & 10th Grade) Assembly - with the help of Justin Kamke, Justine Roberto, and the Youth-to-Youth Council. Speaker John Halligan will meet with our students to share "Ryan's Story." This presentation is part of our "No Place for Hate" and anti-bullying initiative at DFHS.

Communications Survey - The Communications Sub-Committee of the BOE met on Tuesday to discuss a parent, staff and community communications survey that has been developed to assess what communications strategies are working in school districts. Survey questions focus on communications from the district, schools and classroom. The Committee discussed partnering with the PTSA and DFSF to foster parent and community participation. The discussion involved the administration of the survey in mid-April.

Clarity Survey - This is our annual technology survey that is administered to parents, students and teachers to help make decisions about professional development and support. Students and teachers will take the survey in mid-April. The parent survey will be available beginning next week. We will use the survey information to ascertain what kind of support is needed by parents

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to help their children. We can also develop parent programs based on parent technology PD needs.

6. Correspondence

6.01 BOE Correspondence

The Board acknowledged the following:

- Thank you from the PTSA for the Board's participation at the March 10th meeting
- Email expressing appreciation for the DF HS Science Research Program
- Letter in support of Tenure

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.

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 Technology Update

Mr. Terance Huyter, Director of Technology, presented a Technology update.

- Highlights of 2014-2015 Accomplishments
- 2014-2015 Remaining Goals
- 2015-2016 Technology Initiatives
- Support Stats & Facts

Discussion:

- The Smart Schools Bond would equate to approximately \$367,000 for the District
- District WIFI cannot be used by residents living in close proximity to the school
- Chromebooks
 - Could we donate older Chromebooks to economically challenged students for personal use
 - Grade 11 and 12 students can use their own devices since the most important issue is access to Google Drive
 - Students may now purchase insurance
- Since technology changes so rapidly, a five-year technology plan is almost impossible to create

9. Board Actions

Mr. Goldman moved, and Mr. Reiser seconded, that the Board approve Items 9.03, 9.04, 9.06, and 9.07 as a consent agenda.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

Mr. Reiser moved, and Mr. Goldman seconded, that the Board approve Items 9.03, 9.04, 9.06, and 9.07.

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Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

9.03 Donation of Books

The Board of Education accepted a donation of books and other publications on the attached list from Virginia and Henry Posner in memory of their late daughter, Rachel B. Posner, to the High School.

The Board thanked Mr. & Mrs. Posner for their donation.

9.04 Disposition of Books

The Board approved the disposition of the books from the MS/HS Library collection.

9.06 Special Education Consultant

The Board approved a contract with the Westchester Institute for Human Development to provide a consultant specializing in working with students with autism and behavioral concerns to work with staff, review program/services and give suggestions. Consultation service is a service as listed on the IEP. The service will begin March 20, 2015 through June 30, 2015. The cost will not exceed \$2,775.00 and will be charged to Budget Codes: F2250.400.00.150611; A2250.465.00.7200 and A2250.450.03.3000.

9.07 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 March 12, 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 12, 2015.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

9.01 Proposition - Budget Vote May 19, 2015

Mr. Greengrass moved, and Mr. Goldman seconded, that the Board adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE DOBBS FERRY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT, IN THE COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER, NEW YORK, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. At the Annual District Meeting and Election of the qualified voters of Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, in the County of Westchester, New York (the "District"), to be held on May 19, 2015, a Bond Proposition in substantially the form as hereinafter set forth shall be submitted to the qualified voters of said District. Said Bond Proposition shall appear in the Notice of Annual District Meeting and Election to be held May 19, 2015, and the District Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to include such Bond Proposition in said Notice by inserting therein substantially the following paragraphs:

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that a Bond Proposition in substantially the following form shall be presented to the qualified voters of the District at such Annual District Meeting and Election:

BOND PROPOSITION

RESOLVED:

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WHEREAS, at a Special District Meeting on October 21, 2014, the voters of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District (the "District"), in the County of Westchester, New York, approved the expenditure of \$16,019,145 for various improvements to District facilities, including \$1,913,542 for window replacement at the Dobbs Ferry High School and retaining wall replacement at the Dobbs Ferry Middle School; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the District has now determined that it is in the best interest of the District to expend said previously approved \$1,913,542 to construct heating, ventilation and air conditioning improvements at the Springhurst Elementary School;

Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED:

(a) That the Board of Education is hereby authorized to construct additional heating, ventilation and air conditioning improvements at the Springhurst Elementary School, including the reconfiguration of the HVAC system and the original equipment, machinery, apparatus and ancillary or related work required in connection therewith, and to expend therefor not to exceed \$1,913,542; (b) that said cost shall be paid from the bonds previously authorized by the Board of Education of the District following the Special District Meeting on October 21, 2014; and (c) that such bonds and the interest thereon shall be paid from taxes to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as the Board of Education shall determine.

Such Proposition shall appear on the ballot label to be inserted in the voting machines used for voting at said Annual District Meeting in substantially the foregoing form.

The members from the Finance and Facilities Committees and Ms. Fassler-Wallach explained the details of the amended proposition to be presented to the voters. Their work was appreciated by the entire Board.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

9.02 Reform Governor Cuomo's 2015 Opportunity Agenda for Education Resolution

Mr. Goldman moved, and Mr. Greengrass seconded, that the Board adopt the following resolution:

Reform Governor Cuomo's 2015 Opportunity Agenda for Education

Whereas, there is agreement with Governor Cuomo that "access to education, from pre-kindergarten through college, can pave the way to economic and social opportunities- to better jobs and more successful lives," many of the proposals in the Governor's 2015 Opportunity Agenda are untenable and will have significant negative consequences.

Whereas, most schools in New York State successfully educate our children and prepare them for college, career and good citizenship, the Governor's proposals are based on a premise that our schools and our teachers are failing our students. While failing schools and the link to issues of poverty require special attention, this one size fits all approach is inappropriate, costly, and counter-productive.

Whereas, the Governor states that there has been an unprecedented increase in state education aid over the last three fiscal years, in reality, the State dramatically cut education aid in 2010 and, has continued to underfund education while addressing its own deficit by redirecting state education funding through the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA). In Westchester and Putnam, 47% of school districts received less state aid this year than in 2008. Since its inception, \$8.8 billion statewide, and \$403 million in Westchester and Putnam has been lost to the State under the GEA; the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District alone has lost \$ 2,749,862.

Whereas, the State has a surplus this year, there is no indication that the GEA will end in 2015-16. In point of fact, the \$1.1 billion which the Governor promises if his reform agenda is approved could cover the \$1.04 billion in GEA outstanding statewide for 2014-15.

Whereas, Governor Cuomo asserts that his proposed reforms would encourage the most talented college graduates to consider teaching as a career, the proposed lock-step, standardized evaluation system which has no parallel in any other profession, would dissuade, not encourage, the most talented.

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Whereas Congress, in working to re-authorize Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), is looking to de-couple high stakes assessments and teacher evaluations, address the punitive aspects of No Child Left Behind (NCLB), and allow for more local accountability and flexibility, the Governor is proposing a rigid, standardized test-oriented model that will further diminish local authority.

Whereas, Governor Cuomo proclaims that the State will “enhance the teacher evaluation system to accord teachers and the profession the respect they deserve,” he sets forth an evaluation system that denigrates the professionalism of teachers and administrators and establishes a narrow, one-size-fits-all model. For grades 4-8, the proposed evaluation system would base 50% of the score on an annual state assessment (with a sample size of approximately 25) and 50% on at least two observations, one of which must be done by a trained administrator, independent evaluator or SUNY/CUNY faculty member and will be weighted at 35% of the 50%, with the remaining 15% allocated to an observation by a school administrator. A class score on the standardized test must equate to effective or higher for the teacher to be rated effective or highly effective (thus the test score trumps everything else). Effective teaching is more than the sum of one standardized assessment and two formal observations. School boards and communities trust their local school district officials to implement an accountability system that appropriately evaluates staff and incorporates comprehensive professional supports. The requirement to employ an independent evaluator establishes a new, expensive unfunded mandate that compromises administrator authority and will siphon school district funds from the classroom and/or professional development.

Whereas, the Governor is proposing a new teacher tenure process which will require five *consecutive* years of an effective or highly effective rating, the evaluation system measures are problematic and policies such as LIFO remain in effect. Nevertheless, a five year probationary period is more appropriate, and the proposed language indicating that districts retain authority to dismiss probationary teachers at any time for any reason is a necessary clarification to 3012c.

Whereas, the current “expedited” 3020-a hearing process remains costly, time-consuming and often ineffective, the proposed changes would shift the presumption in favor of the administrator, strengthen evidentiary standards, and streamline the process. The same presumption of trust for the local administrator should be incorporated into the teacher evaluation proposal.

Whereas, we share a commitment to universal high-quality early education, the current practice of reimbursing districts rather than providing seed money makes it difficult for high need school districts to initiate or expand a pre-K program. It is imperative that future initiatives include start-up funding and a front-loaded payment schedule.

Whereas, Westchester is home to six Special Act School Districts which cannot appropriately meet the needs of their unique student population under the current tuition methodology, and there is no language in the 2015-16 NYS budget to address their needs, we support the inclusion of language establishing annual increases to the tuition rate.

Whereas, Governor Cuomo’s 2015 Opportunity Agenda includes the Education Investment Tax Credit which defacto shifts money from public education to private while public school districts are underfunded by NYS, we support using public dollars for public education.

Whereas, charter schools were initially intended as lab schools for innovation, have not proven to out-perform regular public schools and many do not mirror the local community in their enrollment and retention practices, and whereas, NYS grants the charter but local school districts are financially impacted, we rebuff the Governor’s proposal to raise the charter cap by 100.

Whereas, mayoral control has had mixed results nationally, we support the concept of local control and reject the Governor’s suggestion that it be expanded beyond New York City.

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District urges State Legislators to review these proposals in detail, gather input from research and from those in the field, and rebuff the elements of the Cuomo Education Reform Agenda which will instill inappropriate measures of accountability and negatively impact the classroom learning environment and local control.

The District will collaborate with the Rivertown Districts on a letter to the editor of the Enterprise regarding the resolution.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

9.05 Policy Revision

The Board conducted a first reading of the following policies in conjunction with NYSSBA's suggested policy revisions:

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- 5405 – Student Wellness

Mr. Schwartz moved, and Mr. Reiser seconded, that the Board forego a second reading and adopt the policy.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

- 5460 – Child Abuse, Maltreatment or Neglect in a Domestic Setting

The District will inquire about the Athletic Trainer's certification and if they can be added to the list of school officials.

Mr. Schwartz moved, and Mr. Reiser seconded, that the Board forego a second reading and adopt the policy.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

- 8520 – Free and Reduced Price Meal Services

Mr. Schwartz moved, and Mr. Goldman seconded, that the Board forego a second reading and adopt the amended policy to include an effective date of 7/1/15.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

9.08 Personnel

Mr. Greengrass moved, and Ms. Lucasey seconded, that the Board approve the Civil Service and staff personnel recommendations.

Dr. Brady and the Board congratulated Ms. Locascio and Mr. Lindsay for their upcoming retirement. They will be missed by the District.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

9.09 Extra Classroom Activity Fund Report

The Board acknowledged receipt of the Extra Classroom Activity Fund Report for the Middle and High Schools for July 1, 2014 - December 31, 2014.

9.10 Treasurer's Report

The Board acknowledged receipt of the Treasurer's Report for January and February, 2015.

9.11 Warrants

The Board acknowledged receipt of the following warrants:
Warrant No. 35 and 38 Multi.

10. Committee Reports

- Curriculum Committee will meet on March 25th
- Communications Committee met on Tuesday and discussed the Communications Survey as mentioned in the Superintendent's Report

11. Old Business

None

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12. New Business

The Board acknowledged Speaker Carl Heastie's advocacy for education.

13. Upcoming Meetings

13.01 Calendar

Thursday, April 9, 2015 – 7:00 PM – MS/HS Library – Work Session

- Proposed Budget Review
- Revenue Forecast

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

- MYP Update
- Review & Finalization of the 2015-2016 Budget
- 2015-2016 Budget Adoption

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

- BOCES Budget & Trustee Vote

14. Adjournment

At 9:32 PM, Mr. Greengrass moved, and Mr. Schwartz seconded, to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

15. Approved Minutes

15.01 Approved Minutes - December 18, 2014 and January 8, 2015

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