



Tuesday, May 10, 2022
Business Board Meeting
7:00 PM

1. Call to Order

2. Opening of the Meeting – 7:07 PM

2.01 Pledge of Allegiance

2.02 Roll Call

Ms. Tracy Baron, President; Ms. Shannon Stringer; Vice President; Ms. Jean Lucasey; Mr. Massimo Bufalini; Ms. Penny Sullivan-Nunes; Ms. Brooke Bass; Dr. Lisa Brady, Superintendent; Mr. Ron Clamser, Jr., Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Facilities and Operations; Dr. Darrell Stinchcomb, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Equity and Ms. Loretta Tularzko, District Clerk.

Ms. Rita Kennedy was not in attendance.

2.03 Acceptance of the Agenda

Ms. Lucasey moved, and Mr. Bufalini seconded, that the Board accept the May 10th Agenda.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

2.04 Approval of Minutes

Ms. Bass moved, and Ms. Lucasey seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the April 12 and 26, 2022 meetings.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

3. Citizens Comments

3.01 Notice

The Board of Education values input from the entire Dobbs Ferry School District community. Although we do not engage in dialogue with the public at our Board of Ed business meetings, we are listening. Members of our school district community may comment on any matter related to the meeting's approved agenda. If you wish to address the board, please sign in with the District Clerk. Any group or organization wishing to address the Board must identify a single spokesperson. Please state your name for the record and keep your remarks to 3 minutes or less. 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.

4. Announcements

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4.01 Board Member Terms of Office

Three terms of office of the Dobbs Ferry Board of Education will be expiring on June 30, 2022:

Three seats for three (3) year terms, July 1, 2022-June 30, 2025

- Ms. Rita Kennedy, Ms. Jean Lucasey, and Ms. Shannon Stringer

The following candidates will be on the May 17, 2022 ballot for the School Board next year:

Jean Lucasey

Jacqueline Huffman

Darren Wood

Shannon Stringer

Antonio Treglia

Tim Cunningham

4.02 Absentee Ballot Information

The Governor extended the potential for contracting the COVID-19 virus as an illness as a legitimate reason for receiving an absentee ballot. It means that if someone checks the "illness or disability" box on the absentee ballot application, fear of having COVID-19 is included within that category.

Absentee Ballot Applications may be requested by email or found on the District website:

District Clerk

Superintendent's Office

Dobbs Ferry High School

505 Broadway

Dobbs Ferry, New York 10522

tularzkol@dfsd.org

Completed applications must now be brought to the District Clerk in the Superintendent's Office. The cut off for mailing in applications and mailing ballots ended today May 10.

The last day for applications and absentee ballots to be requested in person is May 16th, the day before the election.

Completed absentee ballots must be received in person or US mail no later than 5:00 PM, prevailing time, on May 17, 2022.

Voter Qualifications:

- Must be a citizen of the United States.
- Must be 18 years of age or older.
- Must have been a resident of the school district for a period of 30 days or more prior to May 17, 2022.

5. Superintendent's Report

Springhurst Time Capsule

It was a wonderful morning at Springhurst today. A time capsule from 1987 was dug up and opened and the contents shared with the Fourth graders since it was a Fourth Grade Class who buried the time capsule in 1987. There were many guests including Dr. Castro who was the principal at Springhurst in 1987, Don Marra who was the Mayor in Dobbs Ferry (both had letters in the time capsule), Sgt. Justin Kamke who was in fourth grade at the time and put memorabilia into the time capsule, also talked to the students about his experiences at Springhurst. News 12 has been covering the story today and the Enterprise was here as well. Kevin filmed all of the activities of the day.

Thank you to Holly Mair, Julia Drake her and staff.

Tri-States Visit

We had an excellent experience last week with the Tri-State visit. We had 17 educators from a variety of districts in NY, NJ and CT who comprised the visiting team. Our essential questions were:

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- To what extent has the implementation of the DEI Plan been successful in supporting the creation of a Welcoming and Affirming Environment in the Dobbs Ferry School District?
- To what extent has the implementation of the DEI Plan been successful in providing professional development and learning for the faculty, staff, and students in the Dobbs Ferry School District?

Thank you to Darrell, Amber and the principals and teachers who opened up their classrooms and met with the visiting team. Thank you also to BOE members (Jean and Tracy) and parents who participated in the interviews.

We should have a report in 2-3 weeks.

Memorial Day Weekend

We have extended the Memorial Day weekend to include Friday, May 27th. School will reopen on Tuesday, May 31st.

Graduation

Saturday, June 18th at 10 a.m. at the Waterfront

MS Stepping Up

Thursday, June 23 at 9 a.m. in the Auditorium

Springhurst Stepping Up Parade

Friday, June 24 at 9 a.m.

Last week was Teacher Appreciation Week

Thank you to our wonderful teachers and staff. Thanks also to the PTSA for the amazing lunches in all three buildings and to the DFSF for the banners and good wishes.

6. Correspondence

6.01 BOE Correspondence

The Board acknowledged the following:

- An email regarding the Public Participation Policy
- A Thank You concerning pest management and the Springhurst Outdoor Classroom & Garden

7. Committee Reports

7.01 Committee Reports

Curriculum & Instruction - 4/7

- The committee received a brief overview of the TriStates visit.
- The bulk of the meeting was devoted to the Math pilot programs in grades K-8.
 - Two programs being considered.
 - There are twenty-one K-8 teachers who have implemented one unit of each program.
 - Mr. Rosen discussed all the results with the teachers, however, there is a lot of data to look at to decide which program they think is best.
 - Discussions will be ongoing with Dr. Drake and Mr. Mussolini to discuss what program they think we should consider.
 - It should be decided in the next few weeks.

Finance - 5/3

- The committee went through the monthly financial report
- There was nothing new on the revenue side
- On the expense side, July through March expenses:
 - Utilities continue to spike
 - Gas being substantially more expensive
 - This March versus the last electricity bill was significantly higher as well
 - We reviewed the Draft 22-23 budget hearing presentation that will be presented later on tonight.

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Special Ed - 4/7

- The committee reviewed the Committee on Special Ed and the Committee on Preschool Special Ed recommendations that appear on tonight's agenda.
 - Questions were asked and answered.
- Jean Gismervik expects an even greater number of IEP meetings in June
- With the retirement of our longtime Special Education attorney, Mr. Gary Silveira, Special Ed is now working with Beth Harris from Shaw Perelson who is a partner at the firm and has extensive experience in Special Education including presenting at NYSSBA's pre conference law program.

Personnel - 5/5

- The committee reviewed the personnel recommendations for tonight's meeting and discussed the resolution for the new superintendent.

Student Activities & Athletics - 5/9

- The committee discussed the shortage of officials which is happening all over Westchester County.
 - Sometimes we don't have officials for JV games or modified games because they favor the varsity games.
 - We are even playing the games without officials because the kids need to play their games and it's being worked out.
 - There are continuing transportation and busing challenges that continue to cause some lateness to games. It is being alleviated somewhat with extended daylight.
 - We are appointing fall coaches and have a full roster of coaches which is an improvement.
 - There is a student bowler who is currently on a merged team and he would like to see if there are others interested in creating a team. It could possibly be a high school club. There's a process for creating a club but the key is how many students are interested.
 - The committee also discussed the equity between the girls' and boys' programs.
 - Some parents, especially parents of female athletes, are asking about equity between the programs in the district and whether the teams are being treated the same.
 - The boys and girls and programs are funded equally in the district.
 - It's difficult to see it when it's completely different sports, for example, you can't really compare volleyball to football. They're not the same game.
 - We also talked about parents concern about school administrators and fans attending different sports venues. An effort was made to get to those games today. We are especially happy to see the softball team be able to play on our home field today.

To view the entire meeting visit our website under the News and Views tab and click on TV Programming/Video

8. Public Hearing

8.01 2022-2023 Adopted Budget

Dr. Lisa Brady, Superintendent, and Mr. Ron Clamser, Jr., Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Facilities and Operations, reviewed the Adopted 2022-2023 Budget Preparation.

- 2022-2023 Budget Highlights

The School District is required by law to have one more time where we go through the budget within a certain number of days before vote even though the budget has already been adopted.

Dr. Brady reviewed the budget highlights:

- The proposed budget stays below the tax cap.

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- We are hoping to add an additional school counselor at the high school; two special education teachers one at the high school and one at Springhurst; administrative support for Springhurst of a teacher as a Dean.
- In addition, the budget provides support for student mental health and social and emotional learning.
- Through the Cares Act money and our budget, we will be adding:
 - A school psychologist, the Behavior Intervention Monitoring Assessment System (BEMIS), for collecting data from the students
 - It supports and expands current curriculum with a teaching assistant, expanded ELA and Math academies. After school programs at Springhurst and the summer academic enrichment, with continued work with Spring Community Partners,
- It increases building security guards and cameras and additional security staff and cameras.
- We will be adding back cleaners that have removed from the ranks of cleaning in the building just due to budgetary issues.

Dr. Clamser reviewed the budget and components as follows:

- Budget Summary
- Proposed Expenditures
- Proposed Revenues
- Proposition #1 budget - \$51,377,271
- Board of Trustees
- Budget Timeline

The Board thanked Dr. Clamser for his work throughout the extended budget process this year.

9. Reports to the Board

9.01 COVID Update

Dr. Brady reviewed the latest COVID numbers.



Vaccination	Springhurst	Number	Percentage	Middle	Number	Percentage	High	Number	Percentage
Students		63	11%		86	24%		180	40%
Staff		117	95%		61	97%		79	94%
COVID CASES (year totals)	Springhurst Year Total			MS Year Total			HS Year Total		
Students	218			140			153		
Staff	43			20			47		
Quarantine (year totals)	Springhurst			Middle			High		
Students	14			0			14		
Staff	0			0			1		
Surveillance testing	Springhurst	Number	Percentage	Middle	Number	Percentage	High	Number	Percentage
Students		430	61%		162	35%		173	38%
Staff		90	73%		48	47%		30	35%

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POSITIVE COVID CASES SINCE 4/12	Springhurst Total	MS Total	HS Total
Students	54	24	47
Staff	14	5	9

9.02 Transportation Update

Joe Urbanowitz updated the Board on the status of electric school buses.

- By 2027, all new school bus purchases will be zero-emissions
- By 2035, all school buses on the road will be zero emissions
- New York State Energy Research and Development Authority NYSERDA will provide technical assistance to school districts during the transition
- The legislation will enable school districts to contract for longer than the current 5-year limitation
- The budget legislation does allow the SED to delay the 2027 deadline if costs are too high or if parts aren't available
- School districts can also apply for a one-time two-year waiver from the requirement
- Current cost of a bus is \$100,000; electric bus cost \$350,000
- Cost will be paid from the school district's operating budget as well as federal stimulus funds
- Potential Concerns
 - Infrastructure for the school or contractor
 - Possible issue for the utility company
 - Winter charging could reduce capacity
 - Distance for out of district transportation or other extracurricular activities
 - We may have to think about owning the buses
 - Not sure how many smaller companies could afford the required infrastructure with no guaranteed contracts
 - Bus driver shortage
 - Royal Coach is actively recruiting including TV ads and a bonus
 - Current average fleet age – 10 – 15 years

The Board thanked Mr. Urbanowitz for coming to the meeting and his presentation.

9.03 Data Protection Officer Annual Update

Amber Klebanoff, Instructional Innovation Support Specialist Data Protection Officer, presented the Data Protection Officer Annual Update.

- Education Law 2-D Requirements
- District Data Privacy – Public Information
- Protection of PII/Employee Training
- National Institute of Standards & Technology Cybersecurity Framework
- Incident Response Plan
- Next Steps

There are nine requirements for New York State, for EDD law today. Some are "one and done" type requirements, but most of them are repetitive or ongoing.

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Some information is available to the public on our Dobbs Ferry website, you can access this information in two different locations. You can either go to district info, and then data privacy and security, or to parents and data privacy and security.

It is important to have the public information in multiple locations, in case the state decides to audit and look at our website, it needs to be easily accessible for both parents and the state to find.

This information includes:

- The parents Bill of Rights for data privacy and security.
- The Dobbs Ferry unauthorized disclosure complaint form - can be used for parents, students and staff if they feel that their data has been breached unnecessarily in some way.
- The technology software inventory is a list of all the software that we use in the district, along with the vendor signatures on the parent Bill of Rights as well as our supplemental information.
- The data privacy security policy is what the Board approves.
- Our technology software inventory list.
- The most important part of the Data Protection Officer role is protection of PII (Personally Identifiable Information)
- All staff participate in annual training through GCN.
- An incident response plan is in place if an incident does occur. It includes people in the district that will be ready, if an incident does occur, how to mitigate it, and then how to follow through with the community vendors, and other required people.
- NIST – National Institute of Standards and Technology – Cybersecurity Framework – we have created a gap analysis using the LHRIC GST tool to gain a better understanding of the District in comparison to the NIST Alignment.

Question:

Are most attacks happening to the vendors, software providers or third parties rather than directly to the district?

There have been vendor attacks. We did see this in New York City, but it was the tool they used to transfer data into their network that got hacked.

The Board thank Ms. Klebanoff for coming to the meeting and her presentation.

10. Board Actions

10.01 Appointment of the Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Bass moved, and Ms. Sullivan-Nunes seconded, to appoint Mr. Kenneth Slentz as Superintendent of Schools for the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District for the period from August 15, 2022 through August 14, 2025, with annual compensation at the rate of \$282,500.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board President is hereby authorized to execute an Employment Agreement with Mr. Slentz covering the period from August 15, 2022 through August 14, 2025.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

Ms. Baron welcomed Mr. Kenneth Slentz. After going through quite a rigorous process, congratulations are definitely appropriate.

Welcome to Dobbs Ferry, you're going to learn a lot about how special we are. But I'll let you learn that on your own.

Mr. Slentz, who attended the meeting in person, thanked the Board for the time they took, in an impressive process. He stated that he had gone through five of them over the course of his career, and this was the tightest process he experienced. The community should feel very comfortable with how the Board ran this process, the amount of time that was involved.

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Also, with the departure of someone like Dr. Brady, it becomes not only technically difficult, it becomes emotionally difficult.

Mr. Slentz thanked Dr. Brady for making a smooth pathway for him. He expressed his gratitude to Lisa for her commitment to the district and to the children.

He is excited to be here and cannot wait for August 15. Thank you very much for this great opportunity.

10.02 Dobbs Ferry Schools Foundation Grant

Mr. Bufalini moved, and Ms. Bass seconded, to accept a grant in the amount of \$6,000 from the Dobbs Ferry Schools Foundation to support the professional development course Writing Revolution - Advancing Thinking Through Writing.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

10.03 Dobbs Ferry PTSA Grant

Ms. Sullivan-Nunes moved, and Mr. Bufalini seconded, to accept a donation in the amount of \$80,000 from the Dobbs Ferry PTSA to support the installation of a climbing wall at Springhurst and other climbing structures in the district.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

10.04 Dobbs Ferry Springhurst Library Books Donation

Ms. Lucasey moved, and Mr. Bufalini seconded, to accept a donation in the amount of \$100 from Carol Kyner for the purchase of library books for Springhurst, in memory of Susan Weyburn.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

Mr. Bufalini moved, and Ms. Lucasey seconded, that the Board approve the items 10.05, 10.06, 10.07, 10.08, 10.09, 10.14, and 10.15 as a Consent Agenda.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

Ms. Bass moved, and Ms. Sullivan-Nunes seconded, that the Board approve items 10.05, 10.06, 10.07, 10.08, 10.09, 10.14, and 10.15

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

10.05 Consent Judgment - Tax Certiorari

The Board accepted the following resolution:

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District authorizes its attorneys, Shaw, Perelson, May & Lambert, LLP to execute a Consent Judgment in a tax certiorari proceeding captioned Francesco Racanelli/Craig Savage and Nadia Savage v. Town of Greenburgh and Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District.

AND IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes the refund of taxes as required by the terms of the Consent Judgment.

10.06 Budget Increase

The Board approved the following budget increase to enable the District to pay a tax certiorari refund to Vin and Han Nguyen as consented to at the May 26, 2020 Board meeting:

Revenue Account to Increase	Amount	Expenditure Account to Increase	Amount
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A864 Appropriated Reserve for Tax Certiorari	\$14,929.49	A1930-434-99-8002 Tax Certiorari	\$14,929.49
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10.07 Budget Increase

The Board approved the following budget increase to enable the District to pay a tax certiorari refund to Jerkan Realty Associates as consented to at the August 21, 2019 Board meeting:

Revenue Account to Increase	Amount	Expenditure Account to Increase	Amount
A864 Appropriated Reserve for Tax Certiorari	\$41,403.27	A1930-434-99-8002 Tax Certiorari	\$41,403.27

10.08 Budget Increase

The Board approved the following budget increase to enable the District to pay a tax certiorari refund to The Landing Homeowners Association, Inc. as consented to at the May 04, 2021 Board meeting:

Revenue Account to Increase	Amount	Expenditure Account to Increase	Amount
A864 Appropriated Reserve for Tax Certiorari	\$6,227.94	A1930-434-99-8002 Tax Certiorari	\$6,227.94

10.09 Budget Transfer

The Board approved the following budget transfers to cover the cost of utilities and HVAC repairs:

Account	Decrease	Increase
A 9730-600-00-0000 BAN Principal	\$275,000	
A 1620-421-08-1000 Operations Fuel Oil - SH		\$60,000
A 1620-421-08-3000 Operations Fuel Oil - MS/HS		\$40,000
A 1620-424-08-3000 Operations Gas - MS/HS		\$30,000
A 1620-425-08-1000 Operations Electric - SH		\$45,000
A 1620-425-08-3000 Operations Electric - MS/HS		\$60,000
A 1621-407-08-0000 Maintenance/Repairs-HVAC		\$40,000

10.10 Transportation Piggybacking Resolution

Mr. Bufalini moved, and Ms. Bass seconded, to approve the following:

WHEREAS, the Ardsley Union Free School District (“Ardsley”) has made available to public school districts located in Westchester County its Student Out-of-District and Summer Transportation through a provision in the bid specifications permitting “piggybacking” as well as a resolution of the Ardsley Board of Education authorizing participation in the Student Out-of-District and Summer Transportation on the same terms and conditions as the contract with Ardsley; and

WHEREAS, said transportation contract was bid in accordance with Education Law Section 305(14);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District determines that the contract cost for the Student Out-of-District and Summer Transportation is appropriate and will result in cost savings to the District; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education requests authorization from Ardsley to piggyback onto Ardsley’s Student Out-of-District and Summer Transportation Contract with Royal Coach for the 2022-2023 school year on the same terms and conditions as the contract with Ardsley; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the Board President to execute a contract with Royal Coach as well as any documents and forms required by the New York State Education Department to facilitate approval of the contract.

Vote: 5 - ayes - 0 nays – 1 abstention – Jean Lucasey

10.11 2022-2023 Service Bids

Mr. Bufalini moved, and Ms. Sullivan-Nunes seconded, to accept the following bids to the vendors as noted on the attached, subject, however, to the ability of the School District to use cooperative purchasing networks and piggybacking for such services if the cost of the services is lower than the rates noted below.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0

10.12 Cleaning Services Bid

Mr. Bufalini moved, and Ms. Sullivan-Nunes seconded, to accept the proposal from A&A Maintenance Enterprise, Inc. for contract cleaning and maintenance services as per the Notice of Bid 2022-2023 Cleaning Bid #2223-24.

Vote: 5 - ayes - 1 nay – Jean Lucasey

10.13 Disposition of MS/HS Library Books

Ms. Bass moved, and Ms. Sullivan-Nunes seconded, to approve the disposal of the books on the attached list that are currently part of the MS/HS Library collection.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

10.14 CSE/CPSE Recommendations

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 29, 2022, 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 29, 2022.

10.15 Personnel

The Board approved the civil service and staff personnel recommendations.

10.16 Policy Revision - Second Reading

The Board conducted a second reading and Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Bass seconded, to adopt the following policy:

- 1260 - School District Officer and Employee Code of Ethics

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0

10.17 Policy Revision - First Reading

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The Board conducted a first reading of the following policies.

- 1230 - Public Comment at Board Meetings – will be brought back for another first reading once the Policy Committee makes a few changes.
- 2330 - Executive Sessions - will be moved to a second reading at the next Board Meeting.

11. Citizens Comments

11.01 Notice

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One community member commented on the Citizens Comment sections of the agenda and the process.

12. Old Business

None.

13. New Business

The Certification Meeting on May 18th will be held virtually at 9:00 AM.

Once the new trustees are on Board, the Board will send out a Doodle to see what day will work best for the July Reorganizational Meeting.

Any Board member wishing to attend the WPSBA Annual Dinner, please contact Loretta.

14. Upcoming Meetings

14.01 Calendar

Tuesday, May 17, 2022 - 7AM - 9PM - HS Gym

- Budget & Trustee Vote

Wednesday, May 18, 2022 - 9AM - Board Room

- Certification of the Budget & Trustee Vote Results

Tuesday, May 24, 2022 - 7:00 PM - MS/HS Library

- Work Session

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 - 7:00 PM - MS/HS Library

Tuesday, June 21, 2022 - 7:00 PM - MS/HS Library

15. Adjournment

At 9:14 PM, Ms. Lucasey moved, and Mr. Bufalini seconded, that the Board adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

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Loretta Tularzko
District Clerk