



MINUTES

Tuesday, May 25, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Google Meet - Virtual Meeting, 7:00 PM

1. Call to Order

2. Opening of the Meeting – 7:02 PM

Rita Kennedy called the meeting to order.

2.01 Pledge of Allegiance

2.02 Roll Call

Ms. Rita Kennedy, Vice President; Ms. Shannon Johnson; Ms. Jean Lucasey; Ms. Tracy Baron; Ms. Shannon Stringer; Mr. Massimo Bufalini, 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.

Mr. Louis Schwartz was not in attendance.

2.03 Acceptance of the Agenda

Ms. Johnson moved, and Ms. Stringer seconded, that the Board accept the May 25th Agenda.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

3. Citizens Comments

3.01

Anyone wishing to make comments during the two Citizen's Comment portions of the meeting can do so by emailing their comments to boemeetingcomment@DFSD.org. Please include your name and address.

3.02 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.

4. Personnel

4.01 Personnel

Ms. Baron moved, and Ms. Lucasey seconded, that the Board approve the staff personnel recommendation.

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Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

5. Work Session Topic

5.01 NYS "Call to Action": Implications for Schools

Please review this Call to Action and Policy Statement in advance of our conversation.

<http://www.nysed.gov/diversity-equity-inclusion/diversity-equity-and-inclusion-framework-and-policy-statement>

Dr. Brady introduced Natalie Zwerger who facilitated the discussion.

- Ms. Zwerger noted that recommendations from the Race Matters Committee will be presented at the June 22nd Board meeting.
- She explained the NYS Board of Regents Framework on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the NY's Schools: A call to Action along with the associated Policy Statement that are available on the NYS Board of Regents website and in tonight's agenda in BoardDocs.
- Each district in our region has to tailor the framework to their specific community since each has different experiences with inequity and racism.
- This is an opportunity for community members to speak from their individual experience.
- What the words on these documents mean for you and to expect a level of non-closure.
- Next the attendees went into breakout rooms and were asked to keep two questions in mind during the conversations.
 - What was noteworthy to you about the guidance in these documents?
 - What do you think it means for our community here in Dobbs, what stands out to you in that regard?
- After 20 minutes the group reassembled and shared their thoughts.
- A few people felt the time was too short.
- Comments were made both for and against the discussions and the work that has been going on during the year.

Comments included:

- The best way to impact bias is by awareness
- This can be accomplished at school, at home and in the community
- It is not meant to be from a political lens
- School Boards should not implement national ideologies
- It is a call to action from the state
- There were concerns about how we address these topics in the elementary schools
- Why do we need to make so many changes since our school district has implemented many programs over the past years such as building bridges, etc.?
- Curriculum changes are recommended by the Board of Regents as guiding principles across the state but curriculum is developed and controlled at the local level.
- At the June 22nd Work Session, the Race Matters Committee will share their ideas on what does it mean to promote diversity, equity and inclusion here in Dobbs Ferry.

This meeting can be viewed on TV DFTV - Channel 77 & 47 or visit the website for the video of the complete meeting.

6. Citizens Comments

6.01

Anyone wishing to make comments during the two Citizen's Comment portions of the meeting can do so by emailing their comments to boemeetingcomment@DFSD.org. Please include your name and address.

6.02 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.

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None.

7. New Business

Westchester Putnam School Boards Association will hold a virtual evening program on June 17 for all new school board members. An email will be sent by WPSBA.

NYSSBA (New York State School Board Association) will be having a free webinar on July 14 - watch your emails.

Ms. Baron is a member of the Village's Affordable Housing Task Force and shared the following information:

- A community forum will be held on June 2 at 7:00 PM via zoom about the topic of housing and affordability in Dobbs ferry.
- Anyone is interested, please go to the Village's website and go to the link for the Affordable Housing Task Force for more information on what Westchester in the whole region is trying to do about it.

Old Business

The policy committee has been working on a diversity, equity and inclusion policy that will be reviewed by the Board and will be discussed at the next meeting. Along related Diversity, Equity and Inclusion policies that deal with hiring, professional learning and one or two other topics.

8.01 Calendar

Tuesday, June 8, 2021 - 7:00 PM - Virtual (EO 202-108 through 6/16)

- Demographic Report - Richard Grip
- Capital Projects Update - Tetra Tech

Tuesday, June 22, 2021 - 7:00 PM - TBD

9. Adjournment

At 8:19 PM, Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Stringer seconded, that the Board adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

10. Approved Minutes

10.01 Approved Minutes – April 20 and 27, 2021 meetings.



Loretta Tularzko
District Clerk