



Tuesday, April 20, 2021
Regular Board Meeting
Google Meet - Virtual Meeting, 7:00 PM

1. Call to Order

2. Opening of the Meeting – 5:00 PM

Louis Schwartz called the meeting to order.

2. Executive Session - 5:00 PM

2.01 Executive Session

At 5:00 PM, Ms. Stringer moved, and Ms. Lucasey seconded, that the Board recesses into Executive Session for the following purpose: to discuss the candidates for the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Equity position.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

At 5:04 PM, Ms. Stringer moved, and Ms. Baron seconded, to appoint Ms. Kennedy as Clerk Pro Tem.

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

At 6:58 PM, Mr. Bufalini moved, and Ms. Lucasey seconded, to move back to the Public Meeting.

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

3. Meeting Opening 7:03 p.m.

Louis Schwartz called the meeting to order.

3.01 Pledge of Allegiance

3.02 Roll Call

Mr. Louis Schwartz, President; 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.

3.03 Acceptance of the Agenda

Ms. Baron moved, and Mr. Bufalini seconded, that the Board accept the April 20th Agenda.

4. Announcements

4.01 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 10, 2021, 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*

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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 18, 2021.

4.02 Absentee Ballot Information

The Governor continued to extend the Education Law provisions regarding absentee ballots (2018-a and 2018-b) to include 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 in writing or by email:

District Clerk
Superintendent's Office
Dobbs Ferry High School
505 Broadway
Dobbs Ferry, New York 10522
tularzkol@dfsd.org

Upon receiving a timely application for an absentee ballot, the District Clerk will send it to the voter via US Mail or email. Completed applications must be received by the District Clerk no more than thirty (30) days and at least seven (7) days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election if the ballot is to be emailed or picked up personally by the voter or the voter's authorized agent set forth in the application at the District Clerk's Office.

Completed absentee ballots must be received in person or US Mail no later than 5:00 PM, prevailing time, on May 18, 2021.

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 18, 2021.

4.03 In-Person Voting Guidelines for the Trustee and Budget on May 18th

Individuals entering the school for in-person voting

- Must be in good health:
- Have not been in close contact in the past 10 days with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19, or who had symptoms of COVID-19
- Have not tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 10 days
- Have not experienced any symptoms of COVID-19, including a temperature of greater than 100.0°F, in the past 10 days
- Have not traveled internationally per the New York State Travel Advisory in the past 10 days
- Must enter the school via the HS Gym Entrance
- Wear a mask - masks will be provided should you need one
- Maintain six feet social distance while waiting in registration lines, for privacy booths and for voting machines
- Refrain from lingering and socializing with others
- Hand sanitizing gel and wipes will be provided
- Barriers will be installed at registration tables
- Pens will be sanitized after each use and surfaces will be sanitized throughout the day
- During busy times, voters may need to wait in line outside the Gym and possibly the building

5. Citizen's Comments

5.01 Anyone wishing to make comments during the two Citizen's Comment portions of the meeting can do so by emailing boemeetingcomment@DFSD.org and you will be sent a link with additional details for joining the GoogleMeet for the Citizen's Comments portion of the meeting.

5.02 Notice

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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.

6. Superintendent's Report

- Next Tuesday night's Board Meeting on April 27 at 7:00 PM will be a work session.
 - It will be one of our race and equity scheduled work sessions.
 - Natalie's Zwerger will facilitate with us and we will be looking at the Culturally Responsive Sustaining Education Framework and probably will have a short discussion on the Chancellor's recent communication to schools in support of the work.
 - A K 12 will go out and hopefully folks will be joining us.

7. Committee Report

7.01 Committee Report

School & Community Relations - 4/14

- Reviewed the copy for the 2021-2022 Budget Newsletter. A number of edits were made and sent to Liz Hausman to share with Loretta.
- Diane and Liz have revised the Reopening Website to reflect the recent schedule changes and new interim guidance document

Facilities – 4/15

- Capital Project Update - The bid opening was at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 12 in the MS/HS Commons. A total of 24 bids were opened for various components of the project. The review of the bids looks to be below budget. Virtual reference interviews with the lowest bidders were on Tuesday and Wednesday. Tetra Tech & Calgi provided the committee with an analysis of the bids. Bids recommended for approval by the board will be on the April 20, 2021 meeting agenda.

Question:

How much under budget did the bids come in?

- Approximately, \$2M which will be used for some work flexibility and any additional change orders.

Personnel – 4/16

- The Committee met to develop the questions for the BOE to ask of the two candidates for the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Equity.

8. Board Actions

8.01 Capital Project Bids

Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Stringer seconded, that the Board award the following contracts and authorize the Board President and Superintendent to sign them:

Contract Number	Trade	Contractor	Amount
SES-1	General Construction Single Prime Contract	Vinco Builders LLC	\$963,000
SES-2	Site Work Construction Single Prime Contract	DeRosa Sports Construction Inc.	\$1,187,000

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Add: Alternate SES-01	Site Lighting at SH Elementary	DeRosa Sports Construction Inc.	\$68,000
Add: Alternate SES-02	Sod Varsity Softball Field at SH Elementary	DeRosa Sports Construction Inc.	\$18,000
		Total Contract Amount	\$1,273,000
MHS-1	General Construction Prime Contract	APS Contracting, Inc.	\$2,582,000
Add: Alternate MHS-02	HVAC Improvements to Facilities, Accounting and Admin Office	APS Contracting, Inc.	\$40,000
		Total Contract Amount	\$2,622,000
MHS-2	Roofing Construction Prime Contract	Niko K. Construction Corp.	\$1,490,000
Add: Alternate MHS-01	30 Year Warranty at DF MS/HS	Niko K. Construction Corp.	\$23,000
		Total Contract Amount	\$1,513,000
MHS-3	Mechanical (HVAC) Construction Prime Contract	J&M Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc.	\$3,356,000
Add: Alternate MHS-02	HVAC Improvements to Facilities, Accounting and Admin Office	J&M Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc.	\$116,000
		Total Contract Amount	\$3,472,000
MHS-4	Electrical Construction Prime Contract	Naber Electric Corp.	\$765,432
Add: Alternate MHS-02	HVAC Improvements to Facilities, Accounting and Admin Office	Naber Electric Corp.	\$2,250
		Total Contract Amount	\$767,682

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

8.02 Veterans' Tax Exemption

Ms. Johnson moved, and Mr. Bufalini seconded, that the Board adopt the following:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District wishes to adopt the provisions of Section 458-a of the Real Property Tax Law which would grant a partial exemption from taxation for school district purposes of certain real property situated in the School District and owned and used as the primary residence by eligible veterans (Alternative Veterans' Exemption); and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board, after having conducted a public hearing on April 13, 2021 and having given the public an opportunity to be heard on the issue of the Board's proposed adoption of the Alternative Veterans' Exemption pursuant to Section 458-a of the Real Property Tax law, hereby adopts the Alternative Veterans' Exemption for assessment rolls prepared on the basis of the taxable status date occurring on or after May 1, 2021, at the following basic maximum levels:

1. Basic Exemption - Tax exemption of 15% of the assessed value of the property, not to exceed \$12,000 or the product of \$12,000 multiplied by the latest state equalization rate for the assessing unit, whichever is less.
2. Combat Zone - An additional tax exemption of 10% of the assessed value of qualifying residential property of veterans who are documented to have served in a combat zone, not to exceed \$8,000 or the product of \$8,000 multiplied by the latest state equalization rate, whichever is less.

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3. Disabled Veterans - In addition to the above exemptions, where the veteran received a compensation rating from the Veterans' Administration or Department of Defense based upon a service-related disability, the qualifying residential property will be exempt to the extent of the product of the assessed value multiplied by 50% of the veteran's disability rating, not to exceed \$40,000 or the product of \$40,000 multiplied by the latest state equalization rate, whichever is less; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board directs the District Clerk to provide a certified copy of this resolution to Westchester County and the assessors for the other taxing jurisdictions located within this School District.

Mr. Schwartz thanked the Veterans for their service and their patience in waiting for this exemption to be approved.

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

8.03 SWBOCES Trustee & Budget Vote

Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Baron seconded, that the Board approve the following:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District hereby move to approve the resolution for one Trustee for Southern Westchester Board of Cooperative Educational Services - John V. Filiberti Eastchester Union Free School District for the time period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024.*

AND IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board move to approve the resolution for the 2021-2022 Estimated Administrative Budget of \$12,280,511 for the Southern Westchester Board of Cooperative Educational Services.

*There are two seats available and only one trustee nomination.

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

9. Acknowledgements

9.01 Treasurer's Report

The Board will acknowledge receipt of the Treasurer's Report for March 2021.

10. Citizen's Comments

10.01 Anyone wishing to make comments during the two Citizen's Comment portions of the meeting can do so by emailing boemeetingcomment@DFSD.org and you will be sent a link with additional details for joining the GoogleMeet for the Citizen's Comments portion of the meeting.

10.02 Notice

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None.

11. Old Business

None.

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12. New Business

- WPSBA Town Hall summary - board members were reporting on some increased quarantines that are happening in schools around the area.
 - We've had to quarantine kids un Dobbs Ferry
- Some districts report parents are pushing back either saying no, I refuse to quarantine my kid, or the opposite.
- Some folks are talking about trying to have board meetings in person and some are not.
- Some are trying to figure out ways to combine an in person meeting and also allowing members of the public to participate through a zoom or a Google meet type of thing - which is complicated to do.
- A lot of the districts on the call are doing surveillance testing.
 - Generally, they seem to be doing around between 5% and 10% random testing among people whose parents have agreed on each week. Irvington, as an example, is doing that and is doing extra random sampling testing of student athletes.
 - Dr. Brady explained that the feedback from her colleagues is that they are not picking up very many positive kids via surveillance testing.
 - We decided to take more of a wait and see kind of approach. If we were beginning to see an elevated number of students testing positive for COVID.
 - It's something we could do. We are approved to get the Binax cards from the state. We completed that paperwork and we will wait and see.
 - We did have to quarantine students this week, in the middle school in the high school, but our positive number of positive student cases is very low.
 - And one of the things that we talked about Monday in our Department of Health phone call is that overall transmission rates inside of schools is almost non-existent.
 - It's coming from the outside, but it's not happening inside of school. So we'll see if we need to go down that road. We're prepared to do that. And we can and we will.
- Residents have received notifications from Tyler Technologies regarding their assessment, and there's a lot of confusion about it means?
 - Their new estimated assessed value of their property may have increased and some property values may have decreased which may cause a change in their property taxes.
 - This will be for the next taxing cycle.

13. Upcoming Meetings

13.01 Calendar

Tuesday, April 27, 2021 - 7:00 PM - Virtual

- Work Session - New York State Education Department Culturally Responsive - Sustaining Education Framework

Tuesday, May 4, 2021 - 7:00 PM - Virtual

- Public Hearing - 2021-2022 Adopted Budget

14. Adjournment

At 7:30 PM, Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Kennedy seconded, that the Board adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

15. Approved Minutes

15.01 Approved Minutes - March 9 and 23, 2021



Loretta Tularzko
District Clerk