



**Tuesday, May 26, 2020
Business Meeting
Google Meet - Virtual Meeting, 7:00 PM**

1. Call to Order

2. Virtual Business Meeting Opening 7:04 p.m.

2.01 Pledge of Allegiance

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.

2.02 Acceptance of the Agenda

Mr. Rosenberg moved, and Ms. Kennedy seconded, that the Board accept the May 26th Agenda.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

2.03 Approval of Minutes

Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Baron seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the May 5 and 18, 2020 meetings.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

3. Announcements

3.01 2020-2021 Budget & Trustee Vote by Absentee Vote Only

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE DOBBS FERRY UFSD

Date of Annual Meeting: June 9, 2020

In accordance with Executive Order No. 202.26, the Budget Vote and School Board Election will be held remotely, by Absentee Ballot only. Qualified, registered voters of this School District will receive absentee ballots by mail. You will receive an absentee ballot from the School District in the mail.

Budget information is available on the website (<https://www.dfsd.org>).

Please note: You will be receiving an Absentee Ballot Application in the mail from the Westchester County Board of Elections for the June 23 Presidential Primary Election and Congressional races and Westchester County DA.

The application from the County Board of Elections is not for the School Budget/Trustee Vote.

There will be a secure drop box available on June 9th until 5:00 PM for anyone who cannot mail their ballot.

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Veterans Tax Exemption

- The Dobbs Ferry Board of Education wants to acknowledge our Veterans for their service and was happy to host the celebration of Memorial Day at our campus. Also, our Board of Education was looking forward to having a presentation in March as a follow up to Don Marra's presentation in January. Due to our virtual meetings during the COVID crisis, the Board presentation will now take place in the fall. Thank you again for your service.

WPSBA

- The Annual Virtual End of Year Meeting – Will be held on Thursday, 5/28 just prior to the town call
 - Tracy Baron and Rita Kennedy will attend. Ms. Kennedy will present our votes to for the WPSBA Budget & Trustee Slate
- There will be a Virtual training session for newly elected School Board members on 6/22 at noon

We have two Citizen's Comments periods on tonight's agenda. Please send comments to BOEmeetingcomment@dfsd.org and Rita Kennedy, VP, will read them.

4. Superintendent's Report

District

Last Day of School - Wednesday, June 17th

We are beginning to organize and strategize for the opening of schools in September. Obviously, this is a complicated situation with many scenarios that need to be considered. We will be working with subcommittees within a larger organizing structure based on specific health, safety and learning goals aligned with the District vision and mission. There will be much more to share regarding this in the weeks ahead. We have not received any specific guidance yet from SED or NYS.

Springhurst

There is always a lot happening "behind the scenes" during this time of year; and this year is no exception. We are enrolling new students, collaborating virtually as part of our lengthy and extensive student placement process (administration meeting with every staff member numerous times to review student placement options), conducting interviews for anticipated vacancies, and meeting as teams and departments to plan and develop lessons.

Enrolling new students

- Huge "shout out" to Brittany Bucci who is working tirelessly to register the vast number of incoming kindergarten students which is a very challenging endeavor in this virtual environment. Literally thousands of pieces of paperwork and hundreds of emails later Brittany and other office staff are still smiling and kind working so hard to help make the Springhurst registration experience a good one for our newest students and families - thank you to all.
- If any incoming K families watching we ask that you please continue to strive to obtain notarization on your documents and get all remaining required materials to Ms. Bucci as soon as possible. Thank you.
- We have also shifted the manner in which we communicate with pre-schools over the course of this closure moving our practice to a digital platform. Thank you to the pre-schools for completing our questionnaires and thank you to Springhurst administrators and staff for reviewing the vast amount of incoming data as we always do

Online instruction continues with both synchronous and asynchronous plans that are aligned to grade level standards/curriculum and find creative and innovative ways to deliver instruction across the content areas. We encourage you to review the work available on the DFSD Student/Parent website.

One of our Springhurst art teachers, Wendy Guagenti, filmed a video of herself reading the newly released book [GloWings and Luke](#) by Glo Dio Dati. What is extra exciting about this is that Ms. Guagenti is the illustrator of the book.

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Mr. Rosen held the first Weekly LIVE Puzzle Club on 5.14.2020 (and again on 5/21...) for students who love puzzles. The puzzles are designed for 3-5 grade students, although all are welcome who would like to participate. Each week Mr. Rosen will send out a batch of puzzles to print out and solve. Please have them ready to go for the meetings on Thursdays at 9:30AM each week. During the meetings, Mr. Rosen teaches everyone how to solve the puzzle, and then spends some time solving with students while answering questions.

Last week Springhurst staff reported to the building over a number of days to pack up student belongings, and clean/close classrooms for the year. Thank you to the administration, our custodial staff, and our teachers for working so thoroughly and quickly to get this done.

This week the schedule begins for people to come to Springhurst to retrieve student items. This process is going to take a number of days with a grade level pick up scheduled each day. Precautions are in place to ensure staff and family safety during this process. Thank you to the administration, custodial staff and our staff volunteers for assisting in this effort which involves significant orchestration and moving of materials for over 700 students.

If you do not have a vehicle and will be walking to Springhurst to pick up student materials, you may do so on Wednesday, June 3rd between the hours of 10:00 am - 12:00 pm.

Students helping students:

Springhurst Student Government members put together a wonderful list of things that Springhurst students can do during our "Stay at Home/Social Distancing" time. Thank you to our 4th and 5th grade Student Government members and Mrs. Misrok for creating this important resource and for coming up with such creative and thoughtful ideas.

Springhurst Weekly Challenges continue (10th week going strong. See SH FB Page for all related videos)
Our two Essential Workers Challenges were featured in the Enterprise. Following Essential Worker Part II, the following week's challenge was a challenge to find art in nature and was made in collaboration with the Springhurst Art teachers. The week of May 18th was dedicated to Health & Nutrition and was made in collaboration with Springhurst Nurse Gina DiMaria. This week's Springhurst Challenge is dedicated to supporting the men and women who have sacrificed their lives for our country. We've partnered with some of our Veteran friends for this project who were also part of our November Veteran's Day Springhurst event from DFSD, the Dobbs Community, and beyond. Students are encouraged to post pictures and videos of support on our padlet which we will share with the veterans.

High School

Please be sure to check out the article that appeared in Friday's (5/15) edition of *The Enterprise*. The article highlights the work of our faculty "Spirit Squad," and how our new DFHSVirtualCommons Instagram page has promoted unity and positive school spirit for all of Dobbs Ferry during this difficult time. The page has now been in existence for a little over a month and already has nearly 700 followers and over a 1000 posts. It's been truly amazing to see how this page has taken off and how it has served as a positive outlet for our students. Special thanks go out to Connor Cohn, Candace Reim and Maria Addona.

The DFHS Activities Branch, in partnership with the Athletics Department, will be conducting a fundraiser by selling facemasks with the "DF" Athletic Logo. A link will be sent out this week to the entire district. A special thanks to Ms. Addona for organizing this with the students in our Activities Branch.

DFHS was named a No Place for Hate School once again. This is our sixth straight year of earning this distinction.

DFHS will hold a virtual Science Symposium on Friday, June 6th. More information will be sent out this week

DFHS will go digital with this year's MYP Personal Project Expo. All sophomores will present their Personal Project using "flipgrid" and it will be posted to the high school website the first week of June.

DFHS will have locker cleanout Wednesday and Friday of this week. Ms. Reim sent out a schedule to ensure small numbers of students and proper distancing. All people who enter the building must wear a mask.

75 of our sophomores took the AP World exam last Thursday online. The test was adapted and was 45 minutes in length. A special thanks to Mr. Meagh for preparing our students.

The plan for Senior Week and our Graduation was sent out to parents and students on Friday.

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Middle School

Virtual Field Day

On Friday, May 22nd, we partnered with OPEN (Online Physical Education Network) to conduct a Virtual Field Day. All of the day's events were designed to be done indoors or outdoors using everyday household items. [Explanatory videos](#), scorecards, and directions were posted in the classroom. Students completed a minimum of 5 events to a maximum of 21 events. Many students had their families join in the fun and compete with them. Students and teachers posted pictures of their performance on our [Virtual Field Day](#) padlet. We received a lot of emails from students about how much fun they had and it provided a nice mental health break for everyone.

Student Locker Clean Out

A survey was sent out to determine who needed to retrieve personal belongings from their lockers. A schedule will be sent out this week that will ensure appropriate social distancing. Locker clean out will occur next week, the first week of June. All people who enter the building must maintain appropriate social distance and wear a mask.

National Junior Honor Society

Twenty students were selected for induction into the National Junior Honor Society. Congratulatory letters were mailed out last week.

No Place for Hate

DFMS was named a No Place for Hate School with the added distinction of the Gold Star school. We are proud of our school's commitment to creating a safe and inclusive learning environment for all students. This is the 6th straight year of earning this distinction.

Stepping Up

We are planning a fun and socially distant Stepping Up event on June 16th. Students and families will participate in a car parade around the middle school/high school campus as staff cheers them on from a safe distance.

5. Correspondence

The Board acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence:

5.01 Letters from Paul Feiner

1. Census Count
2. Various Informational Topics

5.02 Memorandums from the School Attorney

1. Legal Aspects of Closing out the School Year
2. New Federal Regulation Regarding Title IX

6. Citizen's Comments

6.01 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.

Community members may address questions to the Board during the meeting at boemeetingcomment@dfsd.org.

None.

7. Committee Reports

5/26/20

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7.01 BOE Committees

School & Community Relations – 5/9 & 5/13

- Budget and Trustee Election were finally announced by the Governor. The committee discussed a communications strategy.
- The Committee worked on the narrative for the Budget Newsletter and reviewed and revised multiple versions and edits.
- Lisa has reached out to both the Dobbs Ferry Schools Foundation and the PTSA to discuss the budget challenges. Both groups have pledged support and assistance. The Foundation is writing a Letter to the Editor of the Enterprise and so will the PTSA. Lisa and Ron are doing a Zoom Budget Presentation for the PTSA General Membership on June 2 at 7 p.m. so that the PTSA can endorse the budget and have an ad in the Enterprise endorsing the budget as they do each year.

Finance – 5/15

- Entire board attended
- 2019-20 Budget Update
 - Revenue projections:
 - State Aid
 - As projected - approximately \$650,000 lower than budgeted.
 - Sales Tax
 - Sales tax receipts for the Jan - March 2020 quarter did much better than expected and came in equal to the Oct - Dec 2019 quarter. Total sales tax revenues received to date are \$30,000 above budget. The April-June quarter is expected to be much lower.
 - Interest
 - As expected, interest revenue dropped significantly in April (50% lower than March) and will continue to drop through June.
 - Adding an additional \$500,000+ to the fund balance
 - 2020-21 Budget Development
 - Proposed revenues
 - Proposed expenses
 - Potential additional cuts in state aid
 - Contingency Budget would result in a reduction of \$1,484,027

7. Committee Reports –

7.01 BOE Committees

Curriculum & Instruction- 5/20

- The committee discussed ways in which the district is supporting students Social and Emotional Health during the period of school closure. On the District Student/Parent resource website resources to support Update
- Springhurst Math Pilot - Illustrative Math
 - Decision has been made to delay piloting due to a variety of factors and challenges related to COVID 19
 - Possible truncated pilot in Spring or full pilot in 2021-22
- Panorama Survey – they developed this survey
 - Plans underway to survey student and teachers in grades 4-12

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- Survey questions to understand how to best support students in the distance learning environment, with specific focus on well-being/social-emotional learning and distance learning support.
- District will send out a survey to parents and families about distance learning
- Summer 2020
 - Professional Development - all distance learning
 - Structured approach to learning and curriculum planning
 - Will model all best practices of Blended Distance Learning “this is how it’s done.”
 - Run 4 Differentiated Courses (May change course titles)
 - Blend of Synchronous and Asynchronous
 - Will include addressing the needs of our most vulnerable populations
 - Distance learning is part of our future
 - Possible ENL course focused on addressing needs of ENL virtually - possibly follow
- K-12 Summer Learning Resources/Options
 - May include
 - HS - Summer Reading Assignments
 - MS - Summer reading lists
 - Spr - Grade Level Choice Boards
 - Google Applied Digital Skills - open source technology skills courses
 - Possible joint venture with Rivertown neighbors in developing a list of opportunities for parents
 - Outschool website - small group classes there will be a cost
- ESY- Extended School Year
 - Planning underway to provide ESY to students whose IEPs call for it
 - Approximately 35 students k-12
 - Exploring format options including possibility of providing individual sessions as opposed to group
- Incoming Kindergarten
 - DIAL - Developmental Indicators for the Assessment of Learning
 - Usually takes place in Spring - in person
 - In many cases our first opportunity to interact with students and their families
 - Essential to the class creation process - supports our ability to balance classes
 - Option 1
 - Planning for options that may allow for this in mid/late summer
 - Will need to bring in staff (\$)
 - Challenges - social distancing etc.
 - Parents/students may not be around
 - Option 2
 - Utilize half days in Fall
 - Hurts ability to balance classes

Personnel – 5/20

- The Committee reviewed the Personnel recommendations which will appear on today’s agenda
- Busy hiring the following which are on the agenda tonight
 - The library media specialist at Springhurst (non-renewal of the current librarian),
 - Springhurst general education (Joan Burmester position)
 - Springhurst music (George Swietlicki position),
 - MS math (Lucia Palladino)
- Tenure appointments (reviewed by the BOE in February) will also appear on the agenda.
- The administration discussed proposed settlements with the CSEA Clerical and Custodial Units.

At approximately 7:20pm, the Live Streaming of the meeting encountered technical issues. In order to allow for troubleshooting the issue, the Board moved up the Executive Session to this point in the meeting to allow for moving to another avenue for Public Participation.

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14. Executive Session

14.01 Executive Session

At 7:45 PM, Ms. Baron moved, and Mr. Schwartz seconded, that the Board recesses into Executive Session for the following purposes: To discuss the CSEA Custodial and Clerical Contracts and ongoing litigation regarding the Landing on the Water at Dobbs Ferry Condominium v. Town of Greenburgh.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

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

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

At 8:26 PM, Mr. Rosenberg moved, and Ms. Lucasey seconded, to move back to the Public Meeting.

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

8. Public Hearing - Continued at 8:26 PM

8.01 2020-2021 Adopted Budget and Trustees

The Board of Education conducted a Public Hearing on the adopted 2020-2021 Budget.

Ron Clamser, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Facilities & Operations presented the following:

- Revised Estimated Sources of Revenue
- Revised 2020-2021 Proposed Expenditures
- Tax Cap Calculation
- Projected Tax Rate Calculation
- Budget Summary
- Historical Trend
- Proposition #1
 - Budget - \$47,065,725
 - Board Members – Two seats for three year terms
 - Candidates
 - Tracy Baron
 - Massimo Bufalini
 - Hudson Trader
- Revised Budget Vote Timeline

9. Board Actions

9.01 2019-2020 School District Calendar Modification

Ms. Stringer moved, and Mr. Rosenberg seconded, that the Board adopt the revised 2019-2020 School Calendar to reflect June 17, 2020, as the last day of school for this year.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

9.02 Settlement of a Tax Certiorari Proceeding

Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Stringer seconded, that the Board authorize its attorneys, Shaw Perelson, May & Lambert, LLP to execute a Consent Judgment in a tax certiorari proceeding captioned Vinh and Han Nguyen v. Town of Greenburgh and Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District;

And it is Further Resolved, that the Board authorize the refund of taxes as required by the terms of the Consent Judgment.

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Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

9.03 2020-2021 Budget & Trustee Absentee Vote Vendors

Mr. Schwartz moved, and Ms. Baron seconded, that the Board approve the following authorized vendors in connection with the 2020-2021 Absentee Budget & Trustee Vote:

Westchester Board of Elections
Poll Books
Poll Lists - Active - Permanently Disabled - Military

AlphaGraphics
Envelope Creation - Ballot Printing - and Mailing

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

9.04 2020-2021 Election Inspectors & District Staff

Ms. Kennedy moved, and Mr. Rosenberg seconded, that the Board appoint the Election Inspectors and District Staff for June 9, 2020 Absentee Vote tallying on the attached list.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

9.05 Personnel

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

Congratulations to Annette Gonzalez for her retirement after 22 years at the MS/HS Librarian and to the five tenure recipients.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

9.06 Policy Revision - Second Reading

The Board conducted a second reading and Mr. Rosenberg moved, and Ms. Stringer seconded, that the Board adopt the following policy:

- 8635 - Information and Data Privacy Security, Breach and Notification

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

9.07 Westchester Putnam School Boards Association (WPSBA) Proposed Budget and Nominating Committee Slate

Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Kennedy seconded, that the Board cast their vote for the 2020-21 Westchester Putnam School Boards Association (WPSBA) Proposed Budget and Nominating Committee Slate.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

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

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concerning matters that are not on the agenda will be taken under consideration and referred to the Superintendent for appropriate action.

Community members may address questions to the Board during the meeting at boemeetingcomment@dfsd.org.

None.

11. Old Business

12. New Business

12.01 2020 Reorganizational Board Meeting and Board Meetings

The Board requested to have the calendar emailed to them for review.

13. Upcoming Meetings

13.01 Calendar

Wednesday, June 11, 2020 - 11:00 AM - Certification of Budget/Trustee Vote Results

Tuesday, June 23, 2020 - 7:00 PM

15. Adjournment

At 9:12 AM, Ms. Lucasey moved, and Mr. Rosenberg seconded, that the Board adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

Thanks to the community and Terance Huyter and Kevin Ridley for their technical assistance.

16. Approved Minutes

16.01 Approved Minutes – April 21, 2020