



## **MINUTES**

**Tuesday, October 22, 2024**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**7:00 PM**  
**MS/HS Library Presentation Room**

**1. Video Conferencing Notice**

**1.01 Video Conferencing Notice**

S. Stringer participated via video conference.

**2. Call to Order**

B. Bass called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.

**3. Meeting Opening**

**3.01 Pledge of Allegiance**

**3.02 Roll Call**

Brooke Bass, President; Penny Sullivan-Nunes, Vice President; Jean Lucasey; Shannon Stringer; Darren Wood; Pavithra Nagarajan; Rebecca Hershberg; Kenneth Slentz, Superintendent; Ron Clamser, Jr., Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Facilities, and Operations; Darrell Stinchcomb, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, and Equity; Elizabeth Saperstein, District Clerk.

**3.03 Acceptance of the Agenda**

J. Lucasey moved and P. Nagarajan seconded, that the Board accept the October 22, 2024 Agenda.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

**3.04 Approval of Minutes**

J. Lucasey moved and D. Wood seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the October 8, 2024 meeting.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

D. Wood moved and R. Hershberg seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the October 10, 2024 special (audit) meeting.



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Vote: 5 ayes, 2 abstentions (P. Sullivan-Nunes and P. Nagarajan were absent from the meeting.)

### 4. Citizen Comments

#### 4.01 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.

### 5. Correspondence

The Board of Education acknowledged receipt of correspondence from the Goal Club.

### 6. Announcements

K. Slentz announced the annual Pumpkin Fair on Saturday, October 26 from 10:00 am - 2 pm.

K. Slentz announced that the Dobbs Ferry boys and girls Varsity soccer teams have qualified for sectionals and information regarding when those games will take place will be announced soon.

R. Hershberg announced, on behalf of the PTSA, that volunteers are still needed for the Pumpkin Fair. Interested persons may sign up directly via the PTSA website or by sending an email to [dobbsferryptsa@gmail.com](mailto:dobbsferryptsa@gmail.com). The PTSA website is <https://www.dobbsferryptsa.org>.

### 7. Superintendent Report

#### 7.01 2024-25 District Goals

K. Slentz presented the 2024-25 District Goals and the rationale behind those goals that will inform the 2024-2029 strategic plan. Six key goals have been identified:

- Reducing chronic absenteeism
- Retention of personnel
- Increasing family engagement
- Improving academic outcomes for all students
- Developing and implementing a comprehensive K-12 literacy plan



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- Developing and implementing a comprehensive professional learning plan.

K. Slentz noted that these goals do not reflect all the work being done throughout the District. Additionally, the strategic planning framework will evolve based on updates and plans from the New York State Department of Education and Board of Regents.

B. Bass asked for a motion to approve the 2024-25 District Goals and to direct the Superintendent to begin the process for developing the 2024-2029 strategic plan.

D. Wood moved and P. Sullivan-Nunes seconded, that the Board adopt the 2024-25 District Goals.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

*The 2024-25 District Goals are posted on the District website.*

## 8. Board Actions

### 8.01 Personnel - Professional/Certificated Staff

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District moves to approve the professional/certificated personnel actions.

P. Sullivan-Nunes moved and D. Wood seconded, to approve the personnel recommendations.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

#### 1. Mentor

Jessie Cooper, for Jennifer Prisco  
Location: Springhurst Elementary School  
Effective: October 21, 2024 - June 26, 2025  
Compensation: \$1,966.91 per annum

#### 2. Probationary Appointment Change

Robyn La Guardia, ENL Teacher  
Location: Springhurst Elementary School  
Action: Probationary period effective October 28, 2024 - October 20, 2027  
Note: shortened probation from four to three years based on verification of prior tenure

#### 3. FMLA Leave of Absence

Joe Cox, Physical Education Teacher  
Location: Dobbs Ferry High School  
Effective: November 20, 2024 and for up to 12 weeks



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### 4. Payroll Lane Changes

Leslie Marx, Science Teacher  
Location: Dobbs Ferry Middle School  
Effective: September 1, 2024  
MA +45 to MA +60

Kelley Evans, Social Studies Teacher  
Location: Dobbs Ferry High School  
Effective: September 1, 2024  
MA +15 to MA +30

### 5. Home Tutors

Location: Dobbs Ferry High School  
Effective: 2024-2025 School Year, as needed  
Compensation: \$75 per session during school day; \$65.00 per hour after-school

Kelley Evans	Kelly Ravo	Allison Cheung
Ryan Davis	Allison Burt	Jessica McCrane
Donna Kahl	Richard Gelles	Diana Castellano
Sarah Stern	Stephanie Mills	Eileen Cunningham
Craig Mach	Tom Falconetti	Laura Cosgrove

### 6. Co-Curricular Advisors - Springhurst

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Student Government	Donna Misrok	Cat A, Step 3 (\$4,017.06) incl. 15% longevity
Intro to Social Justice	Michelle Yang-Kaczmarek	Cat D, Step 3 (\$1,133.10)
Springhurst Times	Laura Metrano	Cat B, Step 2 (\$2,512.59)
Math Olympiads - Grade 4	Josh Rosen	Cat C, Step 3 (\$2,337.44) incl. 15% longevity
Math Olympiads - Grade 5	Josh Rosen	Cat C, Step 3 (\$2,337.44) incl. 15% longevity
Harmonnaires - Grade 4	Charlie Rhyner	Cat A, Step 2 (\$3,153.79)
Harmonnaires - Grade 5	Charlie Rhyner	Cat A, Step 2 (\$3,153.79)
Junior Green Team	Sara Sellitti	Cat D, Step 3 (\$1,133.10)
Orchestra	David Hertzberg	Cat A, Step 2 (\$3,153.79)

7. Co-Curricular Advisors - Dobbs Ferry Middle School

American Sign Language 101 Club	Tsha Gregory	Cat D, Step 3 (1,133.10)
Book Club	Ellen Elsen	Cat D, Step 3 (1,133.10)
Chess	Jin Park	Cat D, Step 1 (926.47)
Coder Z Club	Lynette Colon	Cat D, Step 3 (\$1,133.10)
Destination Imagination	Brandon Sealey	Cat B, Step 1 (\$2,244.52)
DFMS Online Newspaper	Ed Feller	Cat B, Step 3 (\$3,36.79) incl. 20% longevity
Drama Club	Brandon Sealey	Cat D, Step 2 (1,029.79)
Dungeons & Dragons	Noah Appleton	Cat D, Step 2 (1,029.79)
French Honor Society	Stephanie Gonzalez	Cat D, Step 3 (\$1,303.06) incl. 15% longevity
Gaming Club	Ross Wolosky	Cat D, Step 1 (926.47)
Girls Glee & Flight	Georgia DeFalco	Cat D, Step 3 (\$1,133.10)
Girls Who Code	Lynette Colon	Cat D, Step 3 (\$1,133.10)
Italian Honor Society	Maria Piparo	Cat D, Step 3 (\$1,246.41) incl. 10% longevity

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Jazz Band	Paul Huneke	Cat D, Step 3 (\$1,133.10)
Math Olympiads 6th	Julianne Laverty	Cat C, Step 3 (\$2,032.56)
Math Olympiads 7th/8th	Ross Wolosky	Cat C, Step 2 (\$1,839.30)
MS Musical Director/Choreographer (.5)	Katie Chancee (new)	Cat A, Step 1 (\$1,407.25)
MS Musical Director/Choreographer (.5)	Lauryn Ciardullo (new)	Cat A, Step 1 (\$1,407.25)
MS Orchestra	Adrienne Fuller	Cat A, Step 3 (\$4,191.72) incl. 20% longevity
MS Play Director	Brandon Sealey	Cat A, Step 2 (\$3,153.79)
Pit Band Director	Brandon Sealey	Cat D, Step 1 (926.47)
National Junior Honor Society	Rachael Lief	Cat C, Step 3 (\$2,032.56)
No Place for Hate 6th Grade	Michael Jaros	Cat D, Step 1 (\$463.25)
No Place for Hate 6th Grade	Sandra Hacker	Cat D, Step 3 (\$623.20) incl. 10% longevity
No Place for Hate 7th Grade	Sandra Hacker	Cat D, Step 3 (\$1,246.41) incl. 10% longevity
No Place for Hate 8th Grade	Michael Jaros	Cat D, Step 1 (926.47)
Peer Tutoring 7/8 (.5)	Michael Jaros	Cat D, Step 1 (\$463.25)
Peer Tutoring 7/8 (.5)	Sandra Hacker	Cat D, Step 3 (\$566.55)
Scenic Design MS	James Carney	Cat B, Step 1 (\$2,244.52)
Social Justice Alliance Club (.5)	Ellen Elsen	Cat D, Step 3 (\$566.55)
Social Justice Alliance Club(.5)	Michelle Yang-Kaczmarek	Cat D, Step 3 (\$566.55)
Spanish Honor Society	Jessica McCrane	Cat D, Step 3 (1,133.10)
Student Accounts	Lindsay Hutchinson	Cat C, Step 3 (\$2,032.56)
Student Activities Coordinator	Anthony Algieri	Cat D, Step 2 (1,029.79)
Student Government/ Student Council	Nycole Tobey	Cat A, Step 3 (\$3,493.10)
Technical Director (Musical) (.5)	Tsha Gregory	Cat B, Step 3 (\$1,598.85) incl. 15% longevity
Technical Director (Theater Arts Showcase)	Tsha Gregory	Cat D, Step 3 (\$1,133.10)
Theater Arts Showcase Asst. Director	James Carney	Cat D, Step 1 (\$926.47)



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Yearbook (.5)	Claudia Ducic	Cat B, Step 3 (\$1,390.33)
Yearbook (.5)	Jill Rosenblum	Cat B, Step 3 (\$1,390.33)
Youth to Youth	Juliana Caputo	N/A

8. Auditorium Facilitator (District)

Teri-Lynne Gregory  
 Cat B, Step 3 (including 15% longevity)  
 Compensation: \$3,197.70 per annum

9. Team Leader (Springhurst)

Amy Chiossi, Special Education Team Leader  
 Effective: 2024-2025 school year  
 Compensation: \$4684.52 per annum

**8.02 Personnel - Civil Service Staff**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District moves to approve the civil service personnel action.

D. Wood moved and P. Nagarajan seconded, to approve the civil service personnel recommendations.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

1. Permanent Appointment

Benjamin Mazza, Senior Custodial Worker  
 Location: Springhurst Elementary School  
 Effective date: September 25, 2024

Mr. Mazza was appointed as Senior Custodial Worker on a provisional basis effective September 1, 2023 and has already served the maximum (52 weeks) toward his probationary period. An amendment to New York State Civil Service Law Section 63 now provides that as a provisional employee appointed from a permanent certified eligible list on or after September 7, 2023, will receive credit for the time served as a provisional appointee toward the requisite probationary period of a minimum of twelve (12) weeks to a maximum of fifty-two (52) weeks.

2. Annual Appointment

Karen Silvestri, Deputy District Clerk  
 Location: District Office  
 Effective date: October 23, 2024 - June 30, 2025  
 Compensation: Hourly rate, per hour

**8.03 CSE/CPSE Recommendations**



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WHEREAS the Committee on Special Education and Committee on Preschool Special Education had issued to the Board by written confidential report dated October 15, 2024, 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 October 15, 2024.

J. Lucasey moved and R. Hershberg seconded, to approve the CSE/CPSE recommendations.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

### 8.04 Revision of Superintendent Contract

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the superintendent's salary agreement for the 2024-2025 school year will be revised from \$299,794 to \$299,704. (computational error)

D. Wood moved and P. Nagarajan seconded, to approve the agreement.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

### 8.05 Policy Revisions - Second Reading

The Board conducted a second reading and adoption of Policy Regulation 0115-R: Student Harassment and Bullying Prevention.

P. Sullivan-Nunes moved and J. Lucasey seconded, to adopt the policy regulation.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

*The policy regulation is available on the District website.*

### 8.06 REVISED District-wide Safety Plan

BE IT RESOLVED, that having satisfied the public hearing and 30-day public posting requirement, the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, hereby moves to adopt the REVISED District-wide Safety Plan for the 2024-25 school year.

B. Bass noted that the revision pertained to new requirements including establishment of a student behavior team and parent notification of fire and emergency drills.

K. Slentz noted that no public comments were received during either of the public comment periods.

D. Wood moved and P. Sullivan-Nunes seconded, to adopt the REVISED Districtwide Safety Plan.

Vote 7 ayes, 0 nays



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### 9. Citizens Comments

#### 9.01 Notice

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A district parent addressed the Board regarding the Bookworms program at Springhurst.

### 10. Old Business

2024 P. Sullivan-Nunes reported on the six-hour virtual NYSSBA business meeting of October 10, for which she was the board voting delegate.

The Board thanked Penny for serving in this role for the past two years.

### 11. New Business

J. Lucasey requested that Denise Connell, Claims Auditor, meet with the Board at an upcoming meeting as the Board typically meets with Denise every 18 months. K. Slentz agreed to arrange this.

### 12. Upcoming Meetings

#### 12.01 Calendar

- Tuesday, November 12, 2024 - 7:00 p.m. - MS/HS Library Business Meeting
- Tuesday, November 26, 2024 - 7:00 p.m. - MS/HS Library Business Meeting

### 13. Acknowledgements

#### 13.01 Warrants

The Board acknowledged the following warrant:

Warrant No. 0017 Multi



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### **14. Adjournment**

J. Lucasey moved and D. Wood seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 pm.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

Elizabeth Saperstein  
District Clerk