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**Tuesday, January 21, 2025
Regular Meeting
7:00 PM
MS/HS Library Presentation Room**

1. Proposed Executive Session

1.01 Proposed Executive Session

B. Bass called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

B. Bass requested a motion to appoint P. Sullivan-Nunes to serve as clerk pro tem for the executive session.

R. Hershberg moved and S. Stringer seconded, that the board appoint P. Sullivan-Nunes as clerk pro term for the executive session.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

B. Bass requested a motion that the board enter executive session to discuss the mid-year evaluation of the superintendent

D. Wood moved and P. Nagarajan seconded, that the board enter executive session.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

B. Bass requested a motion that the board adjourn the executive session.

J. Lucasey moved and D. Wood seconded, that the board move back to public session at 7:02 p.m.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

2. Call to Order - Regular Meeting

B. Bass called the regular meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

3. Meeting Opening

3.01 Pledge of Allegiance

3.02 Roll Call



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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; Elizabeth Saperstein, District Clerk.

Darrell Stinchcomb was absent.

3.03 Acceptance of the Agenda

B. Bass requested a motion to amend the agenda to table the following items:

10.01 Curriculum Implementation Update Presentation
10.03 Literacy consultant contract
10.04 First Reading Policy 1120

R. Hershberg moved and D. Wood seconded, to amend the agenda.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

B. Bass requested a motion to accept the amended January 21, 2025 agenda.

P. Nagarajan moved and S. Stringer seconded, that the board accept the amended January 21, 2025 agenda.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

3.04 Approval of Minutes

R. Hershberg moved and J. Lucasey seconded, that the board approve the minutes of the January 7, 2025 meeting.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstention (P. Nagarajan)

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 education 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.

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None

5. Correspondence

None

6. Announcements

K. Slentz acknowledged the following:

- Achievements of Lily Williams-Ameen who is an accomplished musician and Regeron 300 scholar;
- Merged hockey team is 12-0 and ranked number six in Division 1 in New York State; and
- Indoor track team participated at the Armory Track event on January 20 setting individual and team records.

6.01 Private School Transportation Requests

B. Bass read the following announcement:

School bus transportation: Residents of the district whose students will attend a non-public school in 2025-26 and require bus service must submit a request form online by April 1, 2025 (even if placement has not yet been confirmed) to the Ardsley Transportation Department. To be eligible, students must be at least 5 years old, in grades K-12 (not preschool) and the school must be within 15 miles of their home. You must also meet the minimum district mileage requirements. To apply online, visit ardsleyschools.org and click on Departments > Transportation > Transportation To A Non-Public School. Parents should note that a separate request must be submitted for each school being considered. Requests may be withdrawn if a school is not selected, but may not be considered if submitted after the deadline.

The school board has established a firm policy of not considering requests submitted after the deadline.

7. Board Committee Reports

7.01 Committee Reports

S. Stringer reported the following information and updates from the January 13, 2025 meeting of the Board of Education Finance Committee:

- Discussion of anticipated state budget and potential impact on district;
- Discussion of decrease in expenditures and increase in revenues for the district;
- Discussion of budget projections, specifically related to personnel, including health insurance and retirement system contribution increases and legal settlements; and
- Discussion of write-off of uncollected health services bills for out of district students attending Master's School.

P. Nagarajan reported the following information from the January 14, 2025 meeting of the Board of Education Curriculum, Instruction and Equity Committee:



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- Review of the new (proposed) AP Introduction to Psychology course presented by Dr. Falino and Social Studies Teacher Kelley Evans;
- Review and discussion of new (proposed) evidence-based RULER program and Responsive Classroom approach to social and emotional learning which would replace most of the PBIS program; and
- Updates on Bookworms and Illustrative Math programs.

P. Sullivan-Nunes reported the following information from the January 15, 2025 meeting of the Board of Education Policy Committee:

- Overview of the impact of recent changes to federal rules and regulations on district policy, specifically related to Title IX and the possible restructuring of federal agencies;
- Discussion of role of federal funding in the district's annual budget;
- Brief discussion of the district's approach to the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in school, including protocols that are in place at the High School; and
- Discussion of policies that are on hold for review on account of the recent federal court ruling that found the recent changes to Title IX regulations unconstitutional.

J. Lucasey reported the following information from the January 17, 2025 meeting of the Board of Education Special Education Committee:

- Programming update for at-risk students being served both in-district and out-of-district placements;
- Update on staff training for integrated co-taught classes planned at the Middle School in the 2025-2026 school year; and
- Status of district Special Education Plan, anticipated to be adopted later in tonight's meeting.

Committee minutes are posted on the district website.

8. Superintendent Report

8.01 2025-26 Budget Development update.

K. Slentz and R. Clamser updated the board on the development of the administrative and capital components of the 2025-26 budget.

- Recap of district's strategic points of focus;
- Review of the key cost drivers of the administrative and capital components of the budget:
 - curriculum based instructional materials
 - services to students with disabilities
 - staffing, health care costs, retirement (pension systems) contributions
 - debt service, transportation, security and a legal settlement
- Key elements of the revenue budget (state aid, county sales tax, interest earnings, fund balance and use of reserves, tax base growth factor and tax cap projection)
- An estimated tax levy projection may be available for review by the February 4, 2025 meeting.
- Next steps: program budget review with finance committee, refine revenue budget,



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development of communications to faculty and staff

9. Board Reports

9.01 Grades K-8 Curriculum Implementation Update

B. Bass noted that the curriculum implementation update is postponed because one of the presenters is not available.

10. Board Actions

10.01 Appointment of Interim Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Facilities and Operations

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, under the recommendation of the superintendent of schools, hereby appoints Meryl Rubinstein, EdD., as interim assistant superintendent for finance, facilities and operations, effective February 3, 2025 through June 30, 2025, at the per diem rate of \$1,350.00. M. Rubinstein holds NYSED certification as a school district administrator and school business administrator, which allows her to serve in the public schools of the state of New York.

J. Lucasey moved and S. Stringer seconded, to approve the appointment of M. Rubinstein.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

B. Bass noted that M. Rubinstein will replace R. Clamser until a permanent person is found.

10.02 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. Nagarajan moved and D. Wood seconded, to approve the personnel actions.

B. Bass noted the upcoming retirements of R. Tuman and D. Briscoe and wished them well.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

1. Resignation/Retirement

(a) Ronit Tuman, Elementary Classroom Teacher (Retirement)

Location: Springhurst Elementary School

Effective: June 30, 2025

(b) Denise Briscoe-Hoffman, Physical Education Teacher (Retirement)

Location: Springhurst Elementary School

Effective: June 30, 2025

2. Temporary, Per Diem and/or Seasonal Appointment



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(a) James Carney, Permanent Substitute

Location: Dobbs Ferry High School

Effective: January 22, 2025 - June 30, 2025

Compensation: \$25,900 per annum prorated

(b) Michelle Guerrero, Permanent Substitute

Location: Springhurst Elementary School

Effective: February 1, 2025 - June 30, 2025

Compensation: \$25,900 per annum prorated

Note: M. Guerrero has served as M. Jandovitz's leave replacement.

(c) Julia Bashark, Temporary (Leave Replacement) Special Education Teacher

Location: Springhurst Elementary School

Effective: March 30, 2025 or upon the anticipated leave of absence of KC Gilson, whichever is sooner through June 30, 2025

Compensation: MA, Step 1 (\$65,331) prorated

(d) Pit Orchestra Musicians, High School Musical "Alice by Heart"

Location: Dobbs Ferry High School

(i) Nate Brewster

(ii) Charles Rhyner

(iii) David Hertzberg

(iv) Mike Teglas

(v) Jonathan Hart

Compensation: N. Brewster, C. Rhyner & D. Hertzberg will each receive \$549.23 (three rehearsals, three performances) and M. Teglas and J. Hart will each receive \$425.63 (three rehearsals, three performances).

(e) Steven Gates, Musical Accompanist, High School Theater Arts Showcase

Location: Dobbs Ferry High School

Date: February 7, 2025

Compensation: \$283.75

(f) Alyssa Fernandes, Per Diem Substitute Teacher

Location: Springhurst Elementary School

Effective: January 22, 2025* - June 26, 2025

Compensation: \$125.00 per day, \$62.50 per half day

*Pending fingerprint clearance

(g) Marisa Segarra, Permanent Substitute Teacher

Location: Dobbs Ferry Middle School

Effective: January 22, 2025 - June 26, 2025

Compensation: \$25,900 per annum, prorated

Note: M. Segarra has worked as a per diem substitute at the MS since 2023.



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(h) James Moran, Fitness Center Supervisor
Location: Dobbs Ferry High School
Effective: January 22, 2025 - June 30, 2025
Compensation: \$48.11 per hour

3. Leaves of Absence

(a) Douglas DiStefano, Elementary Classroom Teacher
Location: Springhurst Elementary School
Effective: February 24, 2025 and for up to 12 weeks
Description: FMLA

(b) Francesa Eisenhut, K-12 Teaching Assistant
Location: Springhurst Elementary School
Effective: January 14, 2025 - May 15, 2025
Description: Unpaid LOA for student teaching

4. Mentors

(a) Terence Brennan, for Eileen Cunningham
Location: Dobbs Ferry School District
Effective: February 1, 2025 - June 30, 2025
Compensation: \$1,966.91 prorated

(b) Kara Walker, for Patricia Kelly
Location: Springhurst Elementary School
Effective: February 1, 2025 - June 30, 2025
Compensation: \$1,966.91 prorated

5. Home Tutors

Location: Dobbs Ferry Middle School
Effective: 2024-2025 school year, as needed.
Compensation: \$75.00 per hour during the school day, provided that a minimum of one hour pay is received; \$65.00 per hour after-school.

N.Delvecchio-Molina A.Crug C. Grenier
L. Alfonzetti K.Shine R. Wolosky
A. Malfesi

6. Special Class Assignment - K12 Teaching Assistants

Location: Springhurst Elementary School
Effective: January 14, 2025 - June 26, 2025



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Compensation: \$600.00 per annum as set forth in the CSEA Clerical, Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant CBA Article V (7). To the extent that the assignment to the special class takes place during part of the year, this extra compensation shall either be prorated or discontinued.

L. Easton
T. Roberts
K.Cunniffe

7. Payroll Lane Changes

- (a) N.Tobey, MA +30 to MA +45, effective September 1, 2024
- (a) M.Tapia, MA to MA +30, effective February 1, 2025
- (c) S.Hacker, MA +30 to MA +45 effective February 1, 2025
- (d) S. Consiglio, MA to MA +15, effective February 1, 2025
- (e) A. Crug, MA to MA +15, effective February 1, 2025
- (f) J. Pirraglia, MA +30 to MA +45, effective February 1, 2025
- (g) C. Grenier, MA +30 to MA +45, effective February 1, 2025
- (h) S. Marino, MA to MA +15, effective February 1, 2025
- (i) R. Gannecilli, MA to MA +15, effective February 1, 2025

10.03 Literacy Consultant Contract Approval - Tabled

10.04 Policy Revision - First Reading - Tabled

10.05 Policy Revisions - Second Reading

BE IT RESOLVED, that having satisfied the requirements of policy 2410, the board of education approved policy 2270 - School Attorney Communications.

J. Lucasey moved and P. Sullivan-Nunes seconded, to adopt policy 2270.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

10.06 Use of Reserve/Budget Increase

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, hereby move to approve the following budget increases to enable the district to pay for additional unemployment claims and;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, hereby move to approve the following budget increase to enable the district to pay for accrued benefits per contract.

S. Stringer moved and R. Hershberg seconded, that the board approve the budget increases.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays



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Revenue Account to Increase	Amount	Expenditure Account to Increase	Amount
A815 / A5997.815 Reserve for Unemployment	\$30,000	A9050-850-00-0000 Unemployment Insurance	\$30,000

Revenue Account to Increase	Amount	Expenditure Account to Increase	Amount
A867 / A5997.867 Reserve for Accrued Benefits Liability	\$24,460.48	A9089.150.99.0000 Accrued Benefits – Staff	\$15,058.50
		A9089.400.00.0000 Other Employee Benefits (403b)	\$8,250.00
		A9030.830.99.0000 – FICA	\$1,151.98

10.07 Budget Transfer

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, hereby move to approve the following budget transfers to cover payroll code alignments.

S. Stringer moved and P. Sullivan-Nunes seconded, to approve the budget transfers.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0

nays

Account	Decrease	Increase
2110-130-03-3000 Teaching Grades 9-12		108,831.94
2820-150-00-6500 School Psychologists	108,831.94	
	108,831.94	108,831.94



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10.08 CSE/CPSE Recommendations

WHEREAS the Committee on Special Education and Committee on Preschool Special Education had issued to the board by written confidential report dated January 15, 2025, 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 January 15, 2025.

J. Lucasey moved and S. Stringer seconded, to approve the CSE/CPSE Recommendations.

B. Bass noted that the recommendations were reviewed by the Special Education Committee.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

10.09 Approval of Proposed Tax Certiorari Settlement

RESOLVED, that the board of education authorizes its attorneys, Shaw, Perelson, May & Lambert, LLP to execute a consent judgment in a tax certiorari proceeding captioned Muhammed Faraz Khan NKA Faraz Ayaz Khan and Alla Khan 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.

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

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

10.10 Acceptance of Donation - Touchdown Club

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, hereby move to accept the following donation:

- Fitness center equipment from the Touchdown Club.

R. Hersberg moved and S. Stringer seconded, to accept the donation.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

10.11 Acceptance of Donation - Little League

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, hereby move to accept the following donation:



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- Softball uniforms from the Little League.

D. Wood moved and R. Hershberg seconded, to accept the donation.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

10.12 Acceptance of Dobbs Ferry Schools Foundation Grant

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, hereby move to accept the following curriculum grant from the Dobbs Ferry Schools Foundation in an amount not to exceed \$4,000:

Name of Grant	Teacher(s)/Staff	School	Amount
Happy Hearts Yoga & Mindfulness for Kindergarten	Tricia Zarro	Springhurst	\$4,000

D. Wood moved and S. Stringer seconded, to accept the Foundation grant.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

10.13 Approval of Districtwide Special Education Plan

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of education hereby adopts the 2024-2027 District Special Education Plan. The board directs the superintendent to post the plan to the district website as required by NY-CRR 200.2(c) and district policy 4321.

B. Bass noted that S. Kaplan and S. Grosso presented this plan at the last board meeting.

S. Stringer moved and J. Lucasey seconded, to approve the Special Education Plan.

J. Lucasey thanked the director and assistant director for developing the comprehensive plan.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

10.14 Donation of Materials

WHEREAS, the assistant superintendent for finance, facilities, and operations has declared the Wit & Wisdom curriculum pilot program materials to be of no further use or value to the district, and;

WHEREAS, the North Salem Central School District is in need of said materials,



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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, hereby move to approve donating the Wit & Wisdom curriculum pilot program materials to the North Salem Central School District in accordance with policy 6900.

J. Lucasey moved and S. Stringer seconded, to donate the reading materials.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

11. Citizens Comments

11.01 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 education business meetings, we are listening. Members of our school district community may comment on *any matter related to district business*. 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.

Several members of the community spoke about restricting students use of cellphones in schools.

12. Old Business

None

13. New Business

None

14. Acknowledgments

14.01 Warrants

The board acknowledged the following warrants:

1. No. 0026 - Multi
2. No. 0029 - Multi

14.02 Treasurer's Report

The board acknowledged the November 2024 Treasurer's report.

15. Upcoming Meetings



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15.01 Calendar

- Tuesday, February 4, 2025 - 7:00 p.m. - MS/HS Library
Business Meeting
- Tuesday, February 25, 2025 - 7:00 p.m. - boardroom
Executive Session - Review of tenure and probationary faculty and administration

K. Slentz thanked R. Clamser for his seven years of service and wished him well at PNW Boces.

16. Adjournment

J. Lucasey moved and D. Wood seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 pm.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

Elizabeth Saperstein
District Clerk