

APPROVED MINUTES



**Tuesday, October 10, 2023,
Business Meeting
7:00 PM**

1. Call to Order

Ms. Lucasey called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

1.01 Clerk Pro-Tem

Ms. Lucasey requested a motion to appoint Ms. Saperstein as Clerk pro-tem for the meeting.

Mr. Wood moved and Ms. Bass seconded, to approve the motion.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

2. Opening of the Meeting

2.01 Pledge of Allegiance

2.02 Roll Call

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

Ms. Stringer was absent from the meeting.

2.03 Acceptance of the Agenda

Ms. Nagarajan moved and Ms. Bass seconded, that the Board accept the October 10, 2023 Agenda.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

2.04 Approval of Minutes

Ms. Nagarajan moved and Ms. Hershberg seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the September 26, 2023 meeting.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

3. Citizen's Comments

3.01 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.

No comments.

4. Correspondence

4.01 BOE Correspondence

The Board received correspondence regarding out-of-district transportation concerns.

5. Announcements

Ms. Bass announced that the PTSA's Pumpkin Fair will be held on October 21 from 10:00 am to 2:00 p.m. at Springhurst Elementary. Volunteers are needed and are asked to contact the PTSA.

Mr. Slentz announced that on Wednesday, October 18, the District will be dismissing students at half-day for staff training.

Ms. Lucasey reminded Board members to notify Ms. Saperstein if they were interested in attending the New York State School Boards Association's annual convention in Buffalo.

6. Board Reports

6.01 District Data Systems Update

Ms. Klebanoff, Director of Instructional Technology; and Dr. Stinchcomb, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, and Equity, updated the Board on the use of the LinkIt data management platform and the types of data that are available for teachers and administrators to access and analyze. The purpose of this platform is to utilize data on assessments, attendance, and interventions to determine how we can improve our instructional practices and student support.

7. Board Committee Reports

7.01 Committee Report

- **School and Community Relations:** Ms. Hershberg reported on the Committee's September 27th meeting that included:
 - Revising the Committee's Structure and Function document
 - Discussing ways to better communicate with community members who do not have school-aged children
 - The purpose and design of the *Who to Contact?* document that is being developed to assist parents in determining who to contact for specific information
 - The December 6 community forum and ideas for how we can make it more accessible to more community members
 - The Committee will meet again on October 24

8. Board Actions

8.01 Surveying Services Proposal

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, hereby move to accept the proposal from Terracon Consultants-NY, Inc. for Geotechnical Surveying services for the Phase II Capital Project and Authorize Ron Clamser, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Facilities, and Operations, to the sign for the District.

Mr. Wood moved and Ms. Bass seconded, to approve the resolution.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

8.02 CPSE/CSE Recommendations

WHEREAS the Committee on Special Education and Committee on Pre-School Special Education had issued to the Board by written confidential report dated October 3, 2023, 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 3, 2023.

Ms. Sullivan-Nunes moved and Mr. Wood seconded, to approve the resolution.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

8.03 Personnel

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, hereby move to approve the Civil Service and staff personnel recommendations.

Ms. Hershberg moved and Ms. Sullivan-Nunes seconded, to approve the resolution.

Mr. Slentz noted the appointment of Ms. Saperstein as District Clerk, to be performed in addition to her existing key role in the district.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

8.04 Annual Audit Report

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District hereby move to accept the Independent Auditors Report, performed by PFK O'Connor Davies, LLP, for the 2022-2023 school year.

Ms. Bass moved and Mr. Wood seconded, to approve the resolution.

Ms. Lucasey explained that, prior to this meeting, the Audit Committee met with the Independent Auditor to review the draft audit report and pose questions about its contents.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

8.05 New York State School Boards Association Proposed Resolutions

The Policy Committee completed an extensive review of the resolutions by NYSSBA in conjunction with Westchester-Putnam School Board Association's (WPSBA) suggested actions. The Committee recommended that the Board discuss the following resolutions where the Committee did not agree with the WPSBA consensus:

- **Resolution 3:** legislation that would allow districts to adopt an earlier start to the instructional year with those dates being eligible for state aid and also allow for extending the school year beyond the last Regents exams
- **Resolution 8:** legislation that would allow the date of the annual reorganizational meeting to be on or before the Monday following the 20th of July
- **Resolution 10:** legislation that would substantially increase the earning limitations for retired police and other law enforcement officers who are serving as school resource or safety officers
- **Resolution 17:** legislation that would enact a requirement to have district-supplied naloxone (Narcan) available for use in all school buildings
- **Resolution 20:** legislation to eliminate Regents Exam testing at the high school level in favor of State Final Exams that comply with ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act)

regulations in 10-11th grade for ELA (1 exam), Math (1 exam), and Science (1 exam)

- **Resolution 25:** legislation at the state level that would allow school districts whose prekindergarten programs are oversubscribed to show enrollment preference to students who would be eligible for free and reduced-price lunch and/or are English language learners.
- **Resolution 26:** advocate that the State research if New York students who are already being administered the grades 3-8 tests via computer perform better on computer-based tests vs. paper-based tests, and for full-funding of such computer-based testing
- **Resolution 44:** legislation that would require the state to develop and fully fund climate change curriculum for all public elementary and secondary schools in New York State

Ms. Bass moved and Mr. Wood seconded that the Board authorize Penny Sullivan-Nunes to serve as Voting Delegate at NYSSBA's Annual Business Meeting, to cast the votes as agreed to by the Board, and to exercise her discretion to modify the Board's position if needed.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

9 Citizen Comments

9.01 Notice

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No comments.

10. Old Business

None.

11. New Business

None.

12. Upcoming Meetings

12.01 Calendar

- Tuesday, October 24, 2023 - 7:00 PM - MS/HS Library
Business Meeting
- Tuesday, November 14, 2023 - 7:00 PM - MS/HS Library
Business Meeting

13. Adjournment

Ms. Nagarajan moved, and Ms. Bass seconded, that the Board adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays