

APPROVED MINUTES



**Tuesday, October 24, 2023,
Business Meeting
7:00 PM**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Opening of the Meeting

2.01 Pledge of Allegiance

2.02 Roll Call

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

2.03 Acceptance of the Agenda

Ms. Stringer moved and Mr. Wood seconded, that the Board accept the October 24, 2023 Agenda.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

2.04 Approval of Minutes

Ms. Sullivan-Nunes moved and Ms. Hershberg seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the October 10, 2023 meeting.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstention (Ms. Stringer)

3. School Board Appreciation Week Recognition

Mr. Slentz, on behalf of the Dobbs Ferry School District Administrative team and over 300 employees, thanked the members of the Board of Education for their service to the District.

DFUT President Frank Ferri and Vice-President Jennifer Hickey thanked the Board for their hard work. In appreciation, DFUT has made a donation in each of their names to the following organizations: SPRING Community Partners, PTSA, and the Dobbs Ferry Schools Foundation.

PTSA President Erica Malko on behalf of its Executive Committee and its members thanked the Board of Education and acknowledged with a gift.

Education Foundation Co-president Christina Cohen presented Board members with a token of appreciation for their service.

4. BOE Correspondence

4.01 The Board acknowledged correspondence regarding the High School Yearbook photo.

5. Citizen's Comments

DRAFT MINUTES

5.01 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.

6. Announcements

Ms. Penny Sullivan-Nunes announced that the Dobbs Ferry Youth Services Coalition is hosting an Open Gym Night on Friday, October 27, 2023 from 7 to 9 pm for all Middle School Students in the High School Gymnasium. She also announced that the Coalition is increasing the frequency of its meetings and changing its meeting times. Upcoming meetings are November 2 at 7pm; November 9 at 12:00pm; December 7 at 7pm; and December 21 at 12pm. Meetings will still be held virtually.

Mr. Slentz announced that October is National Principals' Month and thanked Dr. Tashia Brown, Mr. Patrick Mussolini, and Dr. John Falino for their professionalism, care, and work.

7. Superintendent's Report

7.01 District Goals and Strategic Planning

Mr. Slentz updated the Board on the recent meeting of the Strategic Planning Leadership Committee and the resulting draft framework for consideration. Board members gave feedback on the Strategic Points of Focus and on the draft goals.

8. Board Committee Reports

8.01 Committee Reports

- **Policy Committee:**

Ms. Stringer reported on the Committee's October 11 and October 18 meetings, which included:

- A presentation by Dr. Falino on the results of a questionnaire sent to teachers on cell phone use in classrooms and the policy currently in place.
- Non-Discrimination and Sexual Harassment in the workplace.
- Ms. Stringer referred to the policies discussed on Oct. 11 and indicated they would be discussed later in tonight's meeting.

Ms. Sullivan-Nunes reported on the outcomes of the virtual NYSSBA Annual Meeting, in which she served as Voting Delegate on behalf of the Board.

- **Curriculum, Instruction, and Equity Committee:**

Mr. Wood reported on the Committee's October 19 meeting, which included:

- Student assessment results and interpretations
- Strengthening our curricula in reading and mathematics
- Developing knowledge and capacity of teachers, interventionists, and administrators through trainings

DRAFT MINUTES

- DIBELS Screeners - DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) helps measure and assess student reading skills.

9. Board Actions

9.01 Annual Audit Corrective Action Plan

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District hereby move to accept the Corrective Action Plan to the Management Letter issued by PFK O'Connor Davies, LLP, for the audit of the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023.

Ms. Stringer moved and Ms. Bass seconded, to approve the resolution.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

9.02 CSEA Clerical/Teaching Assistant Collective Bargaining Memorandum of Agreement

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby ratifies the provisions of a Memorandum of Agreement dated September 19, 2023, between the District and the Civil Service Employees Association, Inc., Local 1000, AFSCME, Westchester County Local 860 (Dobbs Ferry UFSD Clerical, Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistants Unit #8210-02), for a four-year successor Collectively Negotiated Agreement to the one that expired on June 30, 2023, effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2027; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the expenditure of monies necessary to implement the economic provisions of the parties 2023-2027 Collectively Negotiated Agreement.

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

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

9.03 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 17, 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 17, 2023.

Ms. Hershberg moved and Ms. Stringer seconded, to approve the resolution.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

9.04 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.

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

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

9.05 Policy Revision – Second Reading

DRAFT MINUTES

BE IT RESOLVED, that having satisfied the procedural requirements of policy 2410, the following policies are hereby adopted:

1. 6680 - Internal Audit Function

Ms. Stringer moved and Ms. Bass seconded, to approve the resolution.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

9.06 Policy Revision – First Reading

The Board conducted a first reading and engaged in discussion of the following policies:

- 0115 - Student Harassment and Bullying Prevention and Intervention
- 4321.5 - Confidentiality and Access to Individualized Education Programs, Individualized Education Services Programs and Service Plans
- 4532 - Volunteers
- 5710 - School Safety and Educational Climate (SSEC) Reporting
- 6645 - Fixed Assets Accounting
- 6900 - Disposal of District Property

Ms. Stringer noted that the amendments to Policy 4321.5 included a broadening of the scope of people who have access to a student's IEP, such as support services staff.

Ms. Lucasey noted that the amendments to Policy 5710 referred to a name change from VADIR to SSEC.

Ms. Lucasey noted that the amendments to Policy 4532 included the addition of college-based student teachers and interns who would be subject to security and fingerprint clearances as described in the policy.

Ms. Stringer noted that the amendments to Policies 6645 and 6900 were a result of recommendations from the internal audit for improving inventory processes.

9.07 Request for Defense and Indemnification

BE IT RESOLVED, that under the authority granted by Section 18 of the Public Officers Law of the State of New York, the Board of Education hereby grants Employees # 1024231, #1024232, # 1024233, # 1024234, and # 1024235 legal defense and indemnification pursuant to New York State Education Law 3023 and/or 3811 in the matter of New York State Division of Human Rights Case No. 10227729.

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

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

10. Citizen Comments

10.01 Notice

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None.

DRAFT MINUTES

11. Old Business

None.

12. New Business

None.

13. Upcoming Meetings

13.01 Calendar

- Tuesday, November 14, 2023 - 7:00 PM - MS/HS Library Business Meeting
- Tuesday, November 28, 2023 - 7:00 PM - MS/HS Library Business Meeting

14. Adjournment

Ms. Bass moved, and Mr. Wood seconded, that the Board adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

Elizabeth Saperstein
District Clerk