

**APPROVED MINUTES**



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

**1. Video Conferencing**

Ms. Stringer participated via videoconference.

**2. Call to Order**

Ms. Lucasey called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**3. Opening of the Meeting**

**3.01 Pledge of Allegiance**

**3.02 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 Clamser, Jr., Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Facilities and Operations; Dr. Darrell Stinchcomb, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, and Equity; Ms. Elizabeth Saperstein, District Clerk.

**3.03 Acceptance of the Agenda**

Ms. Hershberg moved and Mr. Wood seconded, that the Board accept the November 28, 2023 agenda.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

**3.04 Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Wood moved and Ms. Sullivan-Nunes seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the November 14, 2023 meeting.

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

**4. BOE Correspondence**

**4.01 BOE Correspondence**

The Board received correspondence on the following topics:

1. Concerns Regarding a Crosswalk
2. Proposed Car Parade

## **DRAFT MINUTES**

### **5. Notice**

#### **5.01 Citizen Comments**

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**

Mr. Slentz, on behalf of the Board and the administrative team, recognized and congratulated Board President Jean Lucasey for receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award from the New York State School Boards Association. Ms. Lucasey completed a number of programs, training, and service opportunities. Ms. Bass, on behalf of the other Board members, also acknowledged Ms. Lucasey's accomplishment and recognition by NYSSBA. Ms. Lucasey thanked everyone and encouraged her colleagues to participate in NYSSBA programs.

Mr. Slentz announced that the State of the District Community Forum will be held on December 6, 2023 at 7:00 pm in the HS Auditorium. It will be a 20-25 minute presentation, and the balance of the time will be a Q & A session.

Mr. Slentz announced that winter sports begin in early December and that the second year of the District's unified sports program will start in the spring.

Ms. Sullivan-Nunes complimented the staff and students for their work in the Middle School musical.

### **7. Superintendent's Report**

#### **7.01 Goals for the Development of the 2024-25 District Budget**

Mr. Slentz reviewed the draft Budget Goals for the upcoming budget development process and requested feedback from Board members. Based on feedback and internal discussions, administration will review the revised goals with the Finance Committee at the Committee's December 12 meeting.

### **8. Board Committee Reports**

#### **8.01 Committee Reports**

Ms. Sullivan-Nunes reported on the Policy Committee's November 15, 2023 meeting.

- Update on review process for revisions to the District Code of Conduct.
- Policies 5205 and 5225, which were discussed last year and tabled, will be reviewed at the next committee meeting on December 6, 2023.
- The following policies were reviewed in anticipation of being moved to a first reading at an upcoming board meeting:
  - Policy 0100 (Non-Discrimination and EEO)
  - Policy 4327 (Homebound Instruction)
  - Policy 9645 (Disclosure of Wrongful Conduct)
  - Policy 4321.9 (Declassification of Students with Disabilities)
  - Policy 6710 (Designating a Purchasing Authority)
  - Policy 5605 (Student Voter Registration).

## **DRAFT MINUTES**

- Policy 0110.2 (Sexual Harassment in the Workplace) and Policy 9520.6 (Rights of Employees to Express Breast Milk in the Workplace) will be updated and included in the Employee Handbook.
- The Committee will update various policies with common definitions from NYSED guidance documents.

Minutes from the Committee meeting are posted on the District website.

Ms. Nagarajan reported on the Curriculum, Instruction and Equity Committee's November 16, 2023 meeting.

- Policy 4000 - Student Learning Standards and Instructional Guidelines and Policy 4200 - Curriculum Management were discussed. Both policies are about maintaining integrity and rigor of academic standards.
- Preview of K-5 Literacy Pilot was presented by Dr. Tashia Brown and Dr. Darrell Stinchcomb. Twenty-six (26) staff members at Springhurst are interested in piloting the program.
- Mr. Slentz updated the Committee on the Dobbs Ferry Schools Foundation's anticipated donation to fund the pilot, including paying for training for instructors.
- Mr. Slentz provided information on the recent NYSED Blue Ribbon Commission on Graduation Measures.

Minutes from the Committee meeting are posted on the District website.

Ms. Stringer reported on the Special Education Committee's November 21, 2023 meeting:

- Administration provided updates on:
  - students currently placed out-of-district for current year
  - planning for programming to meet student needs in coming years
  - classroom/program space challenges in the District
- The Committee reviewed and revised the presentation on the Special Education Continuum of Services Program, which will be on the Board's December 19 meeting agenda.

Minutes from the Committee meeting are posted on the District website.

### **9. Board Actions**

#### **9.01 CPSE/CSE Recommendations**

WHEREAS the Committee on Special Education and Committee on Preschool Special Education had issued to the Board by written confidential report dated November 21, 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 November 21, 2023.

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

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

#### **9.02 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 Professional staff personnel recommendations.

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

Mr. Slentz highlighted Richard Gelles and Julie Straub's roles as leave replacements for teachers.

## **DRAFT MINUTES**

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

### **9.03 Policy Revision - Second Reading**

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

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

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

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

### **9.04 Supplemental Memorandum of Agreement with the Dobbs Ferry United Teachers (DFUT)**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District hereby move to approve the attached Supplemental Memorandum of Agreement between the District and the Dobbs Ferry United Teachers.

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

Ms. Lucasey noted that the Supplemental Memorandum of Agreement pertained to DFUT members who missed a deadline for receiving a health insurance buyout.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

## **10. Acknowledgements**

### **10.01 Warrants**

The Board acknowledged warrants No. 0016 and 0018 Multi.

### **10.02 Treasurer's Report**

The Board acknowledged receipt of the Treasurer's Reports for July, August, September and October, 2023.

Dr. Clamser explained the frequency, contents and purpose of the Treasurer's reports.

Ms. Lucasey explained the role of Denise Connell, the District Claims Auditor.

## **11. Citizen Comments**

### **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 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**

## DRAFT MINUTES

referred to the Superintendent for appropriate action.

None.

### 12. Old Business

Ms. Lucasey reported that the District Goals will be outlined at the next meeting on December 19, 2023 under new business.

### 13. New Business

None

### 14. Upcoming Meetings

#### 14.01 Calendar

- Tuesday, December 19, 2023 - 7:00 PM - MS/HS Library - Business Meeting
- Tuesday, January 9, 2024 - 7:00 PM - MS/HS Library - Business Meeting

Ms. Lucasey announced that the Board has a retreat on December 9, 2023. This is Board governance training with board members and Mr. Slentz.

### 15. Adjournment

Ms. Stringer moved, and Ms. Nagarajan seconded, that the Board adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

Elizabeth Saperstein  
District Clerk