



## MINUTES

### **Tuesday, October 25, 2022 Work Session Meeting 7:00 PM**

#### **1. Call to Order**

#### **2. Opening of the Meeting – 7:00 PM**

##### **2.01 Pledge of Allegiance**

##### **2.02 Roll Call**

Ms. Jean Lucasey, President; Ms. Brooke Bass, Vice President; Ms. Tracy Baron; Ms. Shannon Stringer; Mr. Massimo Bufalini; Ms. Penny Sullivan-Nunes; Mr. Darren Wood; Mr. Kenneth Slentz, Superintendent; Dr. Darrell Stinchcomb, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Equity; Dr. Ron Clamser, Jr., Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Facilities and Operations; and Ms. Loretta Tularzko, District Clerk.

##### **2.03 Acceptance of the Agenda**

Ms. Baron moved, and Mr. Bufalini seconded, that the Board accept the October 25th Agenda.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

#### **3. School Board Recognition**

The Dobbs Ferry School Board will be formally acknowledged for their dedication and service to the District.

Ken Slentz began with October is the celebration of School Board Members Month.

- Oftentimes, there is not a true understanding of what Board members do.
- We have seven volunteers that are charged with running a 52 plus million dollar budget and are charged with the overall care of over 1500 students, staff members, salaries and grounds that have an incredible value.
- It is remarkable work. The service calling is not for the faint of heart because there are incredibly difficult decisions to be made.
- Seven of you have decided and the community in turn has chosen.
- You represent the community when making decisions and guiding our students and staff doing good work on their behalf and we are incredibly grateful.
- The Board received a certificate of appreciation and a book entitled "The Knowledge Gap."
- He thanked the Board for their service.

Next, he invited Frank Ferri and Jen Hickey from the DFUT to say a few words.

- The DFUT made a contribution in the name of the Board to SPRING, PTSA and the Foundation.
- The DFUT appreciates all that you do
- Thank you for all you do and all your support for us, the students and for the community as a whole.

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Christina Galluzzo, on behalf of the PTSA, gave the Board a small token of appreciation and thanked them for all their work and support as one of the hardest working group of volunteers. She also thanked them on behalf of the Dobbs Ferry Schools Foundation.

The Board members thanked Mr. Slentz, Ms. Hickey, Mr. Ferri and Ms. Galluzzo for their kind words.

### 4. Citizen's 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. Announcements

Next Thursday, November 3, WPSBA will hold their first regional superintendent /board symposium and there's an interesting panel discussion about mental health and the latest research.

If anyone didn't receive the email and would like to go, please let Tracy know and she will forward the email to you.

Anyone interested, must register through Loretta.

*To view the entire meeting visit our website under the BOE tab and click on View Live Board of Education Meeting*

### 6. Superintendent's Report

#### 6.01 Review of Draft District Goals

- Everything the district has already established the vision, the mission, the core values, has not been changed.
- We want to make sure that our goals are a reminder of all the work that sits underneath the large body of work that we do each day.
- Our Goals are in line with our Vision; Mission; Core Values; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Plan; Strategic Plan; and Board Policy, the Dobbs Ferry School District and Board of Education have developed the following goals to guide our work in the 2022-23 school year.
- Some goals are extensions or refinements of prior year's goals.
- Each goal is aligned to a strands(s) of the District's Strategic Plan.
  - Focus on Teaching and Learning
  - Safe Secure and Welcoming Facilities
  - A Safe, Welcoming, and Affirming Environment
  - A Culture of Continuous Improvement
  - Recruiting & Retaining Excellent Employees
  - Long Range Financial Planning
- For each goal, he gave the following:
  - Background
  - Goal
  - The policy reflected in the goal
  - Strategies to meet the goal
  - Dates for progress status reports

Comments/Questions during the discussion:

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- Is it possible to stagger the progress status rather than all the goal status reports are in January, March and June?
  - People in the committees are going to need to be up to speed on their particular strands.
  - As a board member, I feel it's a lot of work and I want to be able to absorb it.
- Where is the communication strand?
  - I think we need to really think about having something specific in the strategic plan about how we communicate or that we will develop a plan to communicate our findings in progress.
- This document by no means reflects all of the work that we're doing.
- We should let our communities know about the communications tools we use, assuring the effectiveness of our communication.
- A complete review of the K-5 literacy – is it because we haven't done one in a while or is that something particular that had been brought to your attention?
- are we going to get a report on the testing data?
  - The state finally released all of the data just this week. So yes you will get a report.
- We need to be very cognizant of the load on teachers right now by adding one more thing.
  - It's October and people are feeling January tired already.
- The long range facilities plan and the long range finance plan are probably pretty intimately connected.
- We should hold a focus group on the safety component of these goals. Nothing else matters when safety is in jeopardy for a parent.
- Do we envision having a front page with simple goals similar to what we have done in the last four or five years?
- What about the DEI task force or Race Matters committee that is in our policy?
  - We would want to mention that somewhere in the goals since this is a high priority.
- It is important to make sure that our instructional staff in particular feels very well-supported in terms of their professional learning.
- Tonight is not your only shot at this. Send in comments to Jean or myself if you have them.
- Next steps after this evening will be to continue to take feedback on this, have conversations with respective administrative teams around this and then we anticipate coming back with a revised document November 1<sup>st</sup> for Board adoption.
- This document will probably remain as a draft as we continue to add strategies along the way and again as we build the January, March and June updates.

## 7. Acknowledgements

### 7.01 Warrant

The Board acknowledged the following warrants:  
Warrant No. 15 and 18 Multi.

## 8. Citizen's Comments

### 8.01 Notice

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None.

## 9. Old Business

### NYSSBA Resolutions

10/25/22

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Shannon Stringer attended the annual business meeting of the New York State School Boards Association last week on behalf of the Board.

- It was a 5 1/2 hour meeting. There were many passionate discussions around several of the resolutions.
- A lot of people had a lot to say, especially on the ten resolutions that were not supported by the Board.
- The ones that had the most discussion were the ones that we discussed.
  - Support for universal pre-K. There was an amendment that was added and approved that was said it would be fully funded by the state,
    - It passed 86% to 3%.
  - Providing specialized training to security guards on the regulations of education.
    - It was 46% yes and 54% no.
  - The one about school board stipends.
    - Did not pass 36%, 64%.
  - The gun law resolution amendment to include storage was not passed.
    - The resolution itself did not pass 45 to 55.
  - The other interesting ones were not recommended for adoption which included things like allowing reinstatement of religious or moral objection to immunization.
  - Another was to allow every child in New York State to be covered for free under the Child Health Plus program.
    - The child health care one did not pass 43 to 57
  - Having some kind of alternative form of assessment for certain students for whom the regents were a psychological or physical burden.
    - It did not pass, but it was close 47 to 53.

Shannon stated that it was worthwhile and really interesting.

### 10. New Business

### 11. Upcoming Meetings

#### 11.01 Calendar

**Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM – Board Retreat in the MS/HS Library, please come at 6:15 pm to have your dinner.**

**Tuesday, November 1, 2022 - 7:00 PM - MS/HS Media Center**

**Tuesday, November 15, 2022 - 7:00 PM - MS/HS Media Center**

- Work Session

### 12. Adjournment

At 8:11 PM, Mr. Wood moved, and Ms. Sullivan-Nunes seconded, that the Board adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

### 13. Approved Minutes

#### 13.01 Approved Minutes – September 13 and 20, 2022



Loretta Tularzko  
District Clerk