



APPROVED MINUTES

Thursday, February 15, 2024

Business Meeting

7:00 PM

MS/HS Library

1. Video Conferencing Notice

1.01 Video Conferencing Notice

Ms. Stringer participated via video conference.

2. Call to Order

Ms. Lucasey called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Ms. Lucasey requested a motion to appoint Mr. Slentz to serve as Clerk Pro Tem for the executive session.

Ms. Bass moved and Ms. Stringer seconded, that the Board appoint Mr. Slentz as Clerk Pro Tem for the executive session.

Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays (Darren Wood and Pavithra Nagarajan were absent)

3. Proposed Executive Session

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby recesses into Executive Session for the following purposes: to discuss a due process complaint for student #16 and to discuss the employment history of a particular probationary pedagogical employee.

___ moved and ___ seconded, that the Board enter executive session at 6:32 p.m.

Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays

___ moved and ___ seconded, that the Board return to public session at 6:58 p.m.

Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays

4. Resume Public Meeting

Ms. Lucasey resumed the public meeting at 7:03 pm.



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4.01 Pledge of Allegiance

4.02 Roll Call

Ms. Jean Lucasey, President; Ms. Brooke Bass, Vice President; Ms. Shannon Stringer; Ms. Penny Sullivan-Nunes; 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.

Mr. Darren Wood and Ms. Pavithra Nagarajan were absent.

4.03 Acceptance of the Agenda

Ms. Bass moved and Ms. Stringer seconded, that the Board accept the February 15, 2024 agenda.

Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays

4.04 Approval of Minutes

Ms. Bass moved and Ms. Hershberg seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the January 23, 2024 meeting.

Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays

5. BOE Correspondence

5.01 BOE Correspondence

The Board received correspondence on the following topics: (1) 5th Grade Stepping Up Ceremony, (2) Soccer Homecoming and (3) District clerk contact information.

6. Notice

6.01 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

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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.

7. Announcements

Mr. Slentz announced that schools are closed the week of February 19, 2024, for winter recess.

Mr. Slentz reported on the status of the Dobbs Ferry School District athletic teams success in post-season competition: Girls and Boys Basketball, Bowling, Hockey, and Winter Track. In particular, Mr. Slentz called attention to the winter track team, which competed at the Armory in Manhattan.

7.01 Private School Transportation

Ms. Lucasey read the announcement:

Residents of the district whose students will attend a non-public school in 2024-25 and require bus service must submit a request form online **by April 1, 2024** (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.

7.02 Personal Voter Registration

Ms. Lucasey read the announcement:

Any community resident not registered with the Westchester County Board of Elections may do so during Personal Registration which will take place on Monday, May 13, 2024 between 3:30 pm and 7:30 pm in the High School Gymnasium Foyer. Voter Qualifications: (1) Must be a citizen of the United States; (2) Must be 18 years of age or older; (3) Must have been a resident of the school district for a period of 30 days or more prior to May 21, 2024.

7.03 Board Member Terms of Office



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Ms. Lucasey read the announcement:

Two terms of office of the Dobbs Ferry Board of Education will be expiring on June 30, 2024: Two seats for two three (3)-year terms, July 1, 2024-June 30, 2027

- Ms. Brooke Bass
- Ms. Penny Sullivan-Nunes

Forms for petitions to run for a seat on the Board of Education are available in the District Office. Petitions must be submitted by the close of business on Monday, April 22, 2024. Twenty-five (25) signatures of qualified voters in the district are required, or 2 percent of the number of those who voted in the previous annual election, whichever number is greater.

7.04 Absentee and Early Mail Ballot Applications

Ms. Lucasey read the announcement:

Absentee and Early Mail Ballot Applications may be requested by emailing the District Clerk at districtclerk@dfsd.org or in writing to 505 Broadway, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522. Absentee and early voting ballots will be available April 26, 2024. Completed absentee and early voting ballots must be received in the District office in person or US Mail no later than 5:00 PM on May 21, 2024.

8. Board Reports

8.01 2024-2025 Budget Framework

Mr. Slentz summarized that the Board has adopted the Budget Goals and Budget Calendar and that the presentation to follow would be the initial foray into specifics regarding the Administrative, Capital and Program aspects of the general fund budget.

Mr. Clamser and Mr. Slentz provided a detailed overview of the cost drivers: personnel and staffing, curriculum-based instructional materials, service to students with disabilities, health insurance costs for active and retired employees, employee retirement contribution, debt service on capital projects, transportation costs and district security.

Mr. Clamser described the variety of revenue sources including State aid, County sales tax, anticipated interest earnings, fund balance and use of District reserves, tax base growth factors and tax cap projections.

Mr. Slentz reviewed next steps: refining the Capital and Administrative budgets and preparing the Program budget with the BOE Finance Committee; refining the Revenue budget; sharing details of the budget with the faculty, staff and community; and developing long-range plans. The next presentation will be at the March 5, 2024 Board meeting.

The 2024-2025 Budget Framework is posted on the District website.



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9. Board Committee Reports

9.01 Committee Reports

Ms. Sullivan-Nunes reported on the Policy Committee's February 7, 2024, meeting.

- Mr. Slentz reviewed the timeline for the implementation of the Workplace Violence Prevention Program as described in Policy 8130.2
- Code of Conduct committee has not met to make changes, but the Code of Conduct has been uploaded for Policy Committee to review as needed
- Continuing to review and provide feedback on Policy 5152 (Appeal of Student Residency Determination)
- Mr. Slentz updated the committee on changes to Title IX legislation and how it may impact our policy and/or vision.
- Policy 6700 (Purchasing) was discussed
- Three other policies that are up for first reading later in tonight's meeting.

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

10. Board Actions

10.01 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 February 8, 2024, 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 February 8, 2024.

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

Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays

10.02 Supplemental Memorandum of Agreement with the Dobbs Ferry United Teachers

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.



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

Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays

10.03 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 Professional staff personnel recommendations.

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

Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays

10.04 Adoption of New Courses

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board does hereby adopt the following courses to be added to the high school course catalog: Competitive Debate Course, Film Production Course, Science Fiction Course, and Set Design (Theater) Course.

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

Curriculum, Ms. Lucasey noted that these proposed classes were reported on by the Instruction and Equity Committee at the January 23, 2024, Board meeting.

Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays

10.05 Policy Revision - First Reading

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

- Policy 4321.9 - Declassification of Students with Disabilities. Ms. Lucasey noted that the sample NYSSBA policy was not materially different from our existing policy with the exception of references at the very end that cite other policies. Ms. Lucasey noted that gender neutral language is being added in all policies as they are being reviewed/revised and that the term “regular” education has been changed to “general” education.
- Policy 5605 - Student Voter Registration and Pre-Registration. Ms. Sullivan-Nunes reported this policy replaces 5139 (although same title). New policy requires that we indicate specific actions that the District will take to promote student voting registration and voting.
- Policy 6710 - Purchasing Authority. Ms. Sullivan-Nunes reported that the policy now names Ron Clamser as the purchasing authority. If Mr. Clamser is unable to



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perform, a new purchasing authority will be designated by the Board.

- Policy 9645 - Disclosure of Wrongful Conduct (Whistleblower Policy). Ms. Stringer reported that this policy has been significantly revamped. Significant changes: (1) public employees do not have to notify their employers of wrongful conduct and may go straight to the government authority and (2) teachers are required to report testing irregularities to NYSED. Ms. Lucasey and Ms. Stringer clarified the term “in good faith” to mean that malicious intent on the part of the whistleblower is not protected by the policy.

Ms. Bass inquired as to whether in addition to testing irregularities and child abuse there are any other mandated reporting (in reference to the first paragraph of the policy); Mr. Slentz indicated he would review and follow up.

Ms. Lucasey announced that the policies would be back for second reading.

10.06 Acceptance of Donations

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, hereby move to accept the following grants from the Dobbs Ferry Schools Foundation in the amount of \$30,296:

- 21st Century Classroom Seating (DFMS) in the amount of \$26,796.00
- 9th Grade Team Building (DFHS) in the amount of \$3,500.00.

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

On behalf of Sandy Hacker and Adrienne Bell, Mr. Slentz thanked the Foundation.

Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays

10.07 Authorization of a Tax Certiorari Refund

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 a tax certiorari refund to Luigi DePaola as consented to at the June 21, 2022, Board meeting:

Revenue Account to Increase	Amount	Expenditure Account to Increase	Amount
A5997.864 Appropriate Reserve for Tax Certiorari	\$41,328.59	A1930-434-99-8002 Tax Certiorari	\$41,328.59



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

Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays

10.08 Sports Mergers

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District hereby move to approve the following team merges:

- Varsity Girls Swim: Merge with Ardsley Fall 2024
- Varsity Boys Swim: Merge with Ardsley, Edgemont, Hastings-on-Hudson, Irvington (Winter 2024-2025)

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

Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays

11. Acknowledgements

11.01 Treasurer's Report

The Board acknowledged receipt of the Treasurer's Reports for December 2023.

11.02 Warrant

The Board acknowledged receipt of Warrant No. 31 Multi.

12. Citizen Comments

12.01 Notice

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No comments.

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13. Old Business

None.

14. New Business

Ms. Lucasey informed the Board that it will be asked to approve the administrative portion of the SW BOCES budget, and, when seats open on their board, vote on their candidates. Information will be forthcoming.

15. Upcoming Meetings

15.01 Calendar

Tuesday, February 27, 2024 - 7:00 PM - Board Room

- Executive Session

Tuesday, March 5, 2024 - 7:00 PM - MS/HS Library

- Business Meeting

16. Adjournment

Ms. Bass moved and Ms. Stringer seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 pm.

Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays

Elizabeth Saperstein
District Clerk