



APPROVED MINUTES

**Tuesday, December 10, 2024
Regular Meeting
7:00 PM
MS/HS Library Presentation Room**

1. Call to Order - Regular Meeting

B. Bass called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

2. Meeting Opening

2.01 Pledge of Allegiance

2.02 Roll Call

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

K. Slentz requested a motion to amend the agenda to include item 9.11 (Resignation of Administrator).

J. Lucasey moved and D. Wood seconded to amend the agenda.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

2.03 Acceptance of the Agenda

D. Wood moved and S. Stringer seconded, that the board accept the December 10, 2024 agenda.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

2.04 Approval of Minutes

R. Hershberg moved and D. Wood seconded, that the board approve the minutes of the November 26, 2024 meeting.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

3. Citizen Comments

3.01 Notice



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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 education 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

4. Correspondence

None

5. Announcements

5.01 Private School Transportation Requests

B. Bass read the following announcement regarding private school transportation requests.

School bus transportation: Residents of the district whose students will attend a non-public school in 2025-26 and require bus service must submit a request form online by April 1, 2025 (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.

K. Slentz made the following announcements:

The 5th Grade Winter Concert is at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, December 11th. Information is posted on the calendar on the district website.

Springhurst students will be dismissed at 11 am tomorrow in order for staff to participate in Bookworms training.

The Board of Regents adopted new regulations requiring that school districts meet certain criteria for grades K-3 reading. The district meets all requirements.



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All fall varsity sports teams qualify as Scholar Athlete Teams, a recognition by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association.

B. Bass announced that the PTSA will hold a “coffee chat” on December 19 at 6:30 pm for anyone who wants to attend. The chat will include a presentation by the District’s director and assistant director of special education.

6. Board Committee Reports

6.01 Committee Reports

J. Lucasey reported the following information and updates from the December 3, 2024 meeting of the Board of Education Student Activities and Athletics Committee:

- Student participation in sports has increased to 43% and participation in co-curricular activities is strong;
- All varsity teams have winning records and qualify as NYSPHSAA scholar-athlete teams;
- The first season of modified cross-country was completed, and the district fielded its first girls JV soccer team;
- Update on options for lights at Springhurst; this is not eligible for building aid;
- Update on student attendance and chronic absenteeism for each school;
- Review of athletic budget department requests for specific equipment and supplies and a request to add a modified indoor track team in 2026; and
- Update on costs of merged sports and a hockey team.

S. Stringer reported the following information from the December 4, 2024 meeting of the Board of Education Policy Committee:

- Review of Policy 2160: School District Offer and Employee Code of Ethics;
- Policy 2270: School Attorney Communications Protocol, to be recommended for a first reading later in tonight’s meeting; and
- Identification of additional policies to be discussed at upcoming meetings.

D. Wood reported the following information from the December 5, 2024 meeting of the Board of Education Facilities Committee:

- Review of parent requests regarding lighting, concessions, and batting cages at Springhurst fields;
- Discussion of upcoming facilities needs at Springhurst and possible addition of a Senior Mechanic position;
- Update on Springhurst turf repairs; and
- Preview of facilities presentation for tonight’s board meeting.

Committee minutes are posted on the district website.

7. Superintendent Report

7.01 Update on NYSED Regionalization Initiative



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K. Slentz reported that on account of the State Department of Education receiving 9,500 comments regarding the proposed Regionalization Initiative, the Board of Regents approved an amendment to the regulation that would make the participation in regionalization voluntary. The new regulations say if a district chooses not to participate, they may do so “in consultation” with the board of education. In preparation for the board’s January 7 meeting, K. Slentz said he anticipates consulting with leadership as to whether we should put it to the group. K. Slentz indicated that since we as a district are already doing many of the things required in the Regionalization Initiative, and because other downstate districts are also not in favor, he would recommend opting out.

D. Wood asked for some examples of areas where we already share services.

K. Slentz stated that we have examples of shared services all across our three-part budget, including the students participating in BOCES programs, payroll and benefits services, and professional development.

K. Slentz clarified that we can opt in at another time.

8. Board Reports

8.01 Districtwide Facilities Update

R. Clamser and Director of Facilities Denis Brazil provided an update on facilities improvements including:

- Phase 2 of the Capital Project;
- 2024 Capital Outlay Project;
- Energy Performance Contract; and
- Future Considerations.

Highlights include:

Reconstruction of middle school room M117 (special classroom). R. Hershberg asked for clarification on the ADA compliance and R. Clamser gave a history of the original use of the classroom, which was the district TV studio. As the special classroom needed bathroom facilities, this room satisfies that requirement but must be made ADA compliant because it is being upgraded.

R. Clamser clarified that we are still waiting for approval from SED but believes the work will start by summer 2025.

Upgrade of the hardware and software for a new building access control system took place over the weekend. K. Slentz thanked Terance Huyter and D. Brazil for their work on making this transition seamless.

B. Bass inquired whether this new system could be used for students and T. Huyter and D. Brazil confirmed that the new system does have this ability.



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Two energy services companies (ESCO) submitted proposals for the EPC. This would allow the district to pay for energy upgrades using the savings that are generated from those upgrades to pay for the project. A proposal will be presented to the board at its January 21 meeting.

The facilities update report is posted on the district website.

9. Board Actions

9.01 Creation of New Position: Bilingual Instructional Support Services - CPSE/CSE Chairperson

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the superintendent of schools, the board of education hereby creates the full-time Bilingual Instructional Support Services (ISS) Provider Position CPSE-CSE Chairperson, effective January 15, 2025.

D. Wood moved and R. Hershberg seconded to create the new position.

B. Bass clarified that this is a new position in terms of job description, but was previously budgeted.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

9.02 Personnel - Professional/Certificated Staff

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District moves to approve the professional/certificated personnel actions.

P. Nagarajan moved and S. Shannon seconded, to approve the personnel actions.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

1. Regular Appointment

Cynthia Centeno, Bilingual Instructional Support Specialist/CPSE-CSE Chairperson

Location: Dobbs Ferry School District

Effective: January 15, 2025

Duration of Probationary Period: January 15, 2025 - January 14, 2028

Tenure Area: Speech and Language Disabilities

Certification: Speech and Language Disabilities; Bilingual Education Extension; School Building Leader

Compensation: MA +75, Step 17 (\$136,951) prorated

Note: Replaces position held by L. Dwyer

2. Temporary/Seasonal Appointment



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(a) Steven Gates, Musical Theater Rehearsal Accompanist ("Alice by Heart")

Location: Dobbs Ferry High School

Effective: December 11, 2024 - April 5, 2025

Compensation: \$750.00

(b) Anna Dagmar, Musical Theater Rehearsal Accompanist ("Alice by Heart")

Location: Dobbs Ferry High School

Effective: December 11, 2024 - April 5, 2025

Compensation: \$750.00

(c) Anna Dagmar, Musical Accompanist (Pit Band "Alice by Heart")

Location: Dobbs Ferry High School

Effective: April 5, 2025

Compensation: \$283.75

(d) Dana Ryan, Winter Track Assistant Coach

Location: Dobbs Ferry School District

Effective: Winter 2024-25 Season

Compensation: Category E, Step 1 (\$4,077.96)

(e) Katie Laverty, Per Diem Substitute Teacher

Location: Dobbs Ferry Middle School

Effective: December 11, 2024* - June 26, 2025

Compensation: \$125.00 per day, \$62.50 per half day

*Pending fingerprint clearance

(f) Henry Peet, Per Diem Substitute Teacher

Location: Dobbs Ferry Middle School

Effective: December 11, 2024* - June 26, 2025

Compensation: \$125.00 per day, \$62.50 per half day

*Pending fingerprint clearance

(g) Eli Amantia, Per Diem Substitute Teacher

Location: Dobbs Ferry Middle School

Effective: December 11, 2024* - June 26, 2025

Compensation: \$125.00 per day, \$62.50 per half day

*Pending fingerprint clearance

(h) Kim Reznicek, Athletic Chaperone

Location: Dobbs Ferry School District

Effective: December 11, 2024 - June 26, 2025

Compensation: \$35.00 per hour, provided that a minimum of two hours pay is received

3. Resignation



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(a) Wendy Guagenti, Part Time Art Teacher
Location: Springhurst Elementary School
Effective: December 31, 2024

(b) Anthony Algieri, K-12 Teaching Assistant
Location: Dobbs Ferry Middle School
Effective: January 5, 2025

4. Leaves of Absence

(a) Patricia Giuliano, Elementary Classroom Teacher
Location: Springhurst Elementary School
Description: FMLA-supported leave of absence
Effective: December 4, 2024 and for up to 12 weeks
Note: Mackenzie Zoller, Permanent Substitute, replaces P. Giuliano at no additional compensation unless the assignment exceeds six weeks, per the Permanent Substitute Teacher Regulation, at which point M. Zoller would be eligible to receive the per diem rate of BA, Step 1 on the DFUT salary schedule retroactive to the first day of the assignment

(b) Teiranni Roberts, K-12 Teaching Assistant
Location: Springhurst Elementary School
Description: Unpaid leave of absence
Effective: January 28, 2025 - May 25, 2025
Note: Intermittent (Tuesdays)

9.03 Personnel - Civil Service Staff

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District moves to approve the civil service personnel actions.

J. Lucasey moved and S. Stringer seconded, to approve the civil service personnel recommendations.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

1. Leave of Absence

Keith Gelardi, Sr. Custodial Worker
Location: Dobbs Ferry MS/HS
Description: FMLA-supported leave of absence
Effective: retroactive to November 4, 2024 and for up to 12 weeks

2. Termination

Anne Kennedy, Part-Time School Monitor



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Location: Springhurst Elementary School

Status: Probationary

Effective: December 20, 2024

9.04 CSE/CPSE Recommendations

WHEREAS the Committee on Special Education and Committee on Preschool Special Education had issued to the board by written confidential report dated December 4, 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 December 4, 2024.

J. Lucasey moved and D. Wood seconded, to approve the CSE/CPSE Recommendations.

B. Bass noted that the recommendations were reviewed by the Special Education Committee.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

9.05 Proposed Settlement of of NYS Child Victims Act Case

BE IT RESOLVED that the board of education hereby authorizes the board president to sign an agreement to settle the litigation captioned Patrick Cocciardi v. Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District and Dobbs Ferry High School, pending in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, Westchester County, Index No.: 64701/2020, as presented to the board of education during an executive session at the November 26, 2024 meeting. A copy of said agreement shall be incorporated by reference within the minutes of the meeting.

R. Hershberg moved and P. Nagarajan seconded to authorize the proposed settlement agreement.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

9.06 Budget Increase Resolution for CVA Payment

BE IT RESOLVED that the board hereby authorizes the transfer of \$850,000 from the district's Education Law section 1709(8-c) Property Loss and Liability Claims Reserve Fund, general ledger code number 861.00, to the district's general fund for the purpose of paying for the costs of settling the case of Patrick Cocciardi v. Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District and Dobbs Ferry High School, the same constituting an unanticipated, ordinary contingent expense of the district; and



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the budget appropriations for the 2024–25 school year is hereby increased by the amount of \$850,000.

S. Stringer moved and D. Wood seconded, to approve the budget increase.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

9.07 Revised Supplemental Memorandum of Agreement - DFUT

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the superintendent, the board does hereby approve the Supplemental Memorandum of Agreement with the DFUT.

R. Hershberg moved and S. Stringer seconded that the board approve the revised SMOA.

B. Bass noted that the purpose of the revision was to clarify the provisions pertaining to step advancement and salary lane changes.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

9.08 Proposed Settlement Agreement for Student 112624

BE IT RESOLVED that the board hereby approves a Settlement Agreement dated October 21, 2024 in the matter of a Student with a Disability #112624; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the superintendent of schools is hereby authorized to sign this Settlement Agreement on the district’s behalf.

P. Sullivan-Nunes moved and J. Lucasey seconded, to approve the settlement agreement.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

9.09 Dobbs Ferry Schools Foundation Grant

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, hereby move to accept the following curriculum grants from the Dobbs Ferry Schools Foundation in the amount of \$3,719:

Name of Grant	Teacher(s)/Staff	School	Amount
3D Printers (grades 6-8)	JP Kaminski	Middle School	\$2,400
Black History Month & STEM Laser Show	Nycole Tobey	Middle School	\$1,319



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P. Sullivan-Nunes moved and D. Wood seconded, to approve the foundation grant.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

9.10 Policy Revision - First Reading

The board conducted a first reading of the following policy:

2270: School Attorney and Protocols for Communicating with School Attorney

9.11 Acceptance of Resignation

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, hereby move to accept resignation of Ron Clamser, Jr., from his position as Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Facilities and Operations, effective close of business January 31, 2025.

S. Stringer moved and D. Wood seconded to accept the resignation of R. Clamser.

B. Bass wished Ron well in his new position.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

10. Citizens Comments

10.01 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 education 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 referred to the superintendent for appropriate action.

None.

11. Old Business

None.



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12. New Business

None.

13. Upcoming Meetings

13.01 Calendar

- Tuesday, January 7, 2025 - 7:00 p.m. - MS/HS Library Business Meeting
- Tuesday, January 21, 2025 - 7:00 p.m. - MS/HS Library Business Meeting

14. Adjournment

D. Wood moved and P. Nagaran seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 pm.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

Elizabeth Saperstein
District Clerk