



DRAFT MINUTES

Tuesday, September 16, 2025
Regular Meeting
7:00 p.m.
MS/HS Library Presentation Room

1. Call to Order - Special Meeting

B. Bass called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. Meeting Opening

2.01 Pledge of Allegiance

2.02 Roll Call

Brooke Bass, President; Darren Wood; Pavithra Nagarajan; Rebecca Hershberg; Mindy Walker; Sudha Reddy; Kenneth Slentz, Superintendent; Lisa Raymond, Assistant Director of Finance, Facilities and Operations; Elizabeth Saperstein, District Clerk

P. Sullivan-Nunes was absent.

2.03 Acceptance of the Agenda

B. Bass requested a motion to accept the September 14, 2025 agenda.

D. Wood moved and P. Nagarajan seconded, that the board accept the September 14,, 2025 agenda.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

2.04 Approval of Minutes

B. Bass requested a motion to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2025 meeting.

M. Walker moved and S. Reddy seconded, that the board approve the August 26, 2025 minutes.

Vote: 4 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absentions (Nagarajan and Hershberg)

3. Citizen Comments

3.01 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 the meeting's approved agenda.* If you



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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

4.01 Board Correspondence

The board acknowledged correspondence on the following topics:

1. Varsity soccer team
2. School tax
3. 5th grade class sizes

5. Announcements

The superintendent acknowledged Terance Huyter and Ray Rivera in honor of National IT Professionals Day (September 16).

6. Superintendent Report

6.01 School Opening Update

K. Slentz gave a presentation to the board highlighting work accomplished over the summer and plans for the 2025-26 school year including:

- Summer activities refresher from the August 26 meeting (facilities upgrades, summer professional learning, organizing for the new school year, staffing, enrollment tracking and budget development);
- New faculty and staff recognition celebration on September 9, 2025;
- New student schedules at Springhurst and MS/HS;
- New and revised policies and plans (Students and Personal Electronic Devices, Student Code of Conduct and District-wide Safety Plan); and
- Review of district goals for the 25-26 School Year.

The presentation is posted to the district website.

7. Board Committee Reports and Public Hearing

7.01 Committee Reports

B. Bass reported the following information and updates from the September 4, 2025 special education committee meeting:

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- Updates on current student placement and possible future placement;
- Overview of NYS Special Education Performance Plan and progress plans on indicators 8, 11 and 12, respectively;
- Update on summer 2025 extended school year program; and
- Update on staffing needs (teaching assistants).

M. Walker reported the following highlights from the annual building tour (September 10, 2025) including:

- Partitions in the gym and cafeteria, new offices for curriculum, instruction and technology, playground improvements at Springhurst;
- Renovations to room 117 and new security vestibule at the middle school; and
- Paving, curbing and landscape improvements, renovations to science room 301, class of 2025 mural, and new security vestibule at the high school.

D. Wood reported the following information and updates from the September 11, 2025 policy committee meeting:

- E-bike rules on campus;
- Review of Policy 5300: Student Code of Conduct to be presented later in the meeting; and
- Possible new policies for review.

Committee minutes are posted on the district website.

7.02 Code of Conduct Hearing

The superintendent presented an overview to the proposed changes to Policy 5300: Student Code of Conduct that are required by NYS law including:

- Changes to NYS Education Law;
- Changes to NYS Education Regulations;
- Guidance from the NYS Education;
- Changes recommended by the NYSSBA Policy Service;
- Recommendations from administrators; and
- Recommendations from policy committee.

The policy will be presented for a first reading later in the meeting.

The presentation is posted on the district website.

8. Board Actions

8.01 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.

B. Bass requested a motion to approve the professional personnel actions.



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D. Wood moved and P. Nagarajan seconded, to approve the professional personnel actions.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

1. Resignations

a. Lauren Feliciano, probationary K-12 Teaching Assistant, Dobbs Ferry School District, effective: August 25, 2025.

b. Amanda Pastor, temporary (leave replacement) Special Education Teacher, Springhurst Elementary School, effective September 29, 2025.

Note: A. Pastor replaced KC Gilson (child care leave of absence)

c. Yuanaid Bueno (Liriano), probationary K-12 Teaching Assistant, Dobbs Ferry School District, effective September 12, 2025.

2. Probationary Appointment

a. Feriza Coelho, K-12 Teaching Assistant

Location: Dobbs Ferry School District

Effective: September 3, 2025

Duration of Probationary Period: September 3, 2025 - September 2, 2029

Tenure Area: K-12 Teaching Assistant

Certification: Teaching Assistant Level III, Childhood Education 1-6

Compensation: Teaching Assistant, Step 6 (\$41,459) per annum prorated

b. Denise Shillue, K-12 Teaching Assistant

Location: Dobbs Ferry School District

Effective: September 11, 2025

Duration of Probationary Period: September 3, 2025 - September 2, 2029

Tenure Area: K-12 Teaching Assistant

Certification: Teaching Assistant Level I

Compensation: Teaching Assistant, Step 3 (\$32,596) per annum prorated

c. Jennifer Hurt, K-12 Teaching Assistant

Location: Dobbs Ferry School District

Effective: October 1, 2025

Duration of Probationary Period: October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2029

Tenure Area: K-12 Teaching Assistant

Certification: Teaching Assistant Level I

Compensation: Teaching Assistant, Step 5 (\$38,542) per annum prorated

3. Temporary, Seasonal or Annual Appointment

a. Mackenzie Zoller, temporary (leave replacement) Special Education Teacher



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Location: Springhurst Elementary School

Effective: approximately September 22, 2025 and for up to 12 weeks or upon the return of E. Perrotta, whichever is sooner.

Certification: Students with Disabilities (All Grades); Students with Disabilities 1-6; Childhood Education 1-6

Compensation: MA, Step 1 (\$67,291) per annum prorated

b. Mia Loran, temporary (leave replacement) Special Education Teacher

Location: Springhurst Elementary School

Effective: approximately October 14, 2025 through January 31, 2026.

Certification: Students with Disabilities 1-6; Childhood Education 1-6

Compensation: BA, Step 1 (\$61,015) per annum, prorated.

Note: replaces A. Pastor, who resigned (for KC Gilson)

c. Thaddeus Verhoff, Girls Modified Soccer Coach

Location: Dobbs Ferry School District

Effective: September 3, 2025

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

d. Kevin Messam, Per Diem Substitute Teacher (reappointment)

Location: Dobbs Ferry Middle School

Effective: September 2, 2025 - June 26, 2026

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

4. Overages

a. D. Green, School Psychologist, oversight of 504 plans for grades K-5

Location: Springhurst Elementary School

Effective date: August 27, 2025 - June 26, 2026

Compensation: \$13,112.72 per annum

b. C. Fitzmorris, English 9 - one class every day

c. M. Fahy, English 9 - one class every day

d. A. Fischbeck, IB English SL Year 1, one class every day

e. N. Confalone, IB English SL Year 1, one class every day

Location: Dobbs Ferry High School

Effective: September 17, 2025 and for up to 12 weeks or upon the return of D. Castellano, whichever is sooner.

Compensation: \$13,112.72 each per annum, prorated

5. Mentors and Team Leaders

a. M. Pagano, for Audrey Jones

Location: Dobbs Ferry High School

Effective dates: August 27, 2025 - January 31, 2026



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Compensation: \$1,996.91 per annum prorated

b. Jessica McCrane, 8th Grade Team Leader

Location: Dobbs Ferry Middle School

Effective dates: August 27, 2025 - January 31, 2026

Compensation: \$2,342.26 per annum

6. Diapering Compensation

- | | | |
|-------------|----------------|----------------|
| a. R. Boxer | b. L. Konstadt | c. N. Broccoli |
| d. S. Mohl | e. E. Tashoff | f. M. Corona |
| g. C. Reda | h. J. Pruthi | i. F. Coelho |

Substitutes (as needed): T. Brooks, A. Vaccaro, J. Ritch

Effective: September 2, 2025 - June 26, 2026

Compensation: \$4.00 per hour, for each day worked, as set forth in the CSEA Clerical, Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant CBA Article V (5). To the extent that the assumption of the diapering duties take place during part of the year, this extra compensation will either be prorated or discontinued.

7. Special Class Assignment

- | | | |
|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| a. R. Boxer | b. L. Konstadt | c. M. Leggiero |
| d. S. Mohl | e. L. Dever | f. M. Corona |
| g. L. Easton | h. R. Glynn | i. J. Pruthi |
| j. A. Manuele | k. A. Vaccaro | l. N. Gorman |
| m. I. Pipolo | | |

Effective: September 2, 2025 - June 26, 2026

Compensation: \$600 per annum as set forth in the CSEA Clerical, Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant CBA Article V (7). To the extent that the assignment to the special class take place during part of the year, this extra compensation shall either be prorated or discontinued.

8. Appointment Change

a. James Carney

Location: Dobbs Ferry High School

Effective: August 27, 2025 - June 26, 2026

Permanent Substitute FTE .9

Classroom Teacher (Stage Design) FTE .1

J. Carney will teach one section of stage design every other day.

Compensation: .9 Permanent Substitute (\$25,900) per annum prorated



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.1 MA, Step 1 (67,291) per annum prorated

9. Payroll Lane Changes

- a. M. Petruolo MA +60 to MA +75, effective September 1, 2025
- b. L. Cosgrove, MA to MA +15, effective September 1, 2025
- c. S. Marino, MA +15 to MA +30, effective September 1, 2025
- d. K. Bradford, MA +60 to MA +75 effective September 1, 2025
- e. C. Moccia, MA +60 to MA +75 effective September 1, 2025

10. Athletic Chaperones and Clock Operators.

(a) Various Staff Members (see attached list)

Location: Dobbs Ferry School District

Effective: August 27, 2025 - June 26, 2026

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

11. Fitness Center Supervisors

(a) Various Staff Members (see attached list)

Location: Dobbs Ferry High School

Effective: August 27, 2025- June 26, 2026

Compensation: \$48.11 per hour

12. Homework Help Center Supervisors

Location: Dobbs Ferry Middle School

Effective: September 2, 2025 - June 26, 2026

Hours: 2:55PM - 4:25PM

Compensation: \$48.11 per hour

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| (a) D. Cunningham | (b) M. Hanley | (c) D. Randone |
| (d) L. Marx | (e) E. Elsen | (f) T. Brooks |
| (g) J. McCrane | (h) D. Helgesen | (i) A. Vaccaro |
| (j) R. Wolosky | | |

13. Intramural Supervisors

Location: Dobbs Ferry Middle School

Effective: September 2, 2025 - June 26, 2026

Compensation: \$48.11 per hour prorated

(a) M. Hanley

(b) E. Feller



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14. Leaves of Absence

a. M. Canary, Special Education Teacher, Springhurst Elementary School

Effective: approximately December 15, 2025 and for up to 12 weeks

Note: FMLA

b. D. Castellano, ELA Teacher, Dobbs Ferry High School

Effective: September 17, 2025 and for up to 12 weeks

Note: FMLA

c. M. Loran, K-12 Teaching Assistant, Dobbs Ferry School District

Effective: August 27, 2025 - January 31, 2026

Note: for the purpose of accepting the leave replacement assignments for (1) A. Malfesi and (2) KC Gilson

d. M. Zoller, Permanent Substitute, Springhurst Elementary School

Effective: approximately September 22, 2025 and for up to 12 weeks

Note: for the purpose of accepting the leave replacement assignment for E. Perrotta

15. Establish Salary

a. Darrell Stinchcomb, EdD., Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Equity

Location: Dobbs Ferry School District

Effective: July 1, 2025

\$228,191 per annum

8.02 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.

B. Bass requested a motion to approve the civil service personnel actions.

D. Wood moved and S. Reddy seconded, to approve the civil service personnel actions.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

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

1. Resignation

(a) Caren Valente, Senior Office Assistant (Automated Systems)

Location: Dobbs Ferry High School



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Effective: September 9, 2025

2. Extra Hours

(a) Mercedes Dominguez, Office Assistant (Automated Systems) - Spanish Speaking

Location: Business Office

Effective: September 10, 2025 and as needed through June 30, 2026, for up to approximately five (5) hours per week

Reason: Assumption of additional duties (Middle School student attendance)

Compensation: Hourly rate, per hour

Note: Ms. Dominguez assumes the duties previously performed by an employee who resigned one week before the start of the school year. To the extent that the assumption of the additional duties stops during part of the year, this extra compensation will either be prorated or discontinued.

8.03 Establish Hourly Rates - Out of District Musical Accompanists

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approve the following compensation for out-of-district pit band musicians.

1. When professional musicians are hired to accompany student rehearsals or performances they will be compensated at the rate of \$125.00 per service.
2. A "service" is defined as one entire rehearsal or one entire performance.
3. Performances include: theatrical productions, theater arts showcases, and concert recitals.
4. No musician will exceed a total of six (6) services for any one performance without the written permission of the building principal.
5. The number of services is to be recommended by the coordinating music teacher to their building administrator prior to the performance.
6. The personnel recommended to perform in the pit band for the performances and/or rehearsals are subject to board of education approval.
7. The personnel appointed to perform in the pit band will be paid through the Dobbs Ferry School District payroll system and earnings will be subject to payroll taxes withheld at the following prescribed rates:
 - Federal withholding tax – 24.00%
 - State withholding tax – 11.70%

B. Bass requested a motion to approve the compensation regulation.

D. Wood moved and P. Nagarajan seconded, to approve the compensation regulation.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

8.04 Policy Revision - First Reading



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The presentation on Policy 5300: Student Code of Conduct served as first reading. The policy will be presented for second reading on October 14, 2025.

8.05 CSE/CPSE Recommendations and Proposed Stipulation Agreement

WHEREAS the Committee on Special Education and Committee on Pre-School Special Education had issued to the board by written confidential report dated September 15, 2025 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 authorizes and directs the administration to immediately arrange for the special programs and services as set forth in said report dated September 15, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District approves the proposed stipulation agreement for students 091625 and 091725 and hereby authorizes the superintendent to execute the agreement.

B. Bass requested a motion to approve the CSE/CPSE recommendations and proposed stipulation agreement.

D. Wood moved and R. Hershberg seconded, to approve the CSE/CPSE recommendations and proposed stipulation agreement.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

8.06 Acceptance of Donation

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, hereby move to accept the following donation:

\$500.00 from the Chestnut Petroleum Dist. Inc., Mobil Pump for a Cause.

B. Bass requested a motion to accept the donation.

M. Walker moved and R. Hershberg seconded, to accept the donation..

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

8.07 HRCE Instructors



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BE IT RESOLVED that the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District hereby approves the submitted list of instructors for the Hudson River Community Education (adult education) program for the 2025-26 school year.

B. Bass requested a motion to appoint the HRCE instructors.

S. Reddy moved and P. Nagarajan seconded, to appoint the HRCE instructors.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

8.08 Increase in Adult Breakfast and Lunch Prices

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of education, upon the recommendation of the superintendent of schools, does hereby increase the adult lunch prices for the 2025-2026 school year as follows:

Adult breakfast: \$3.25 + tax (up from \$3.00+ tax)

Adult lunch: \$5.44 + tax (up from \$5.20+ tax)

B. Bass requested a motion to approve the adult breakfast and lunch price increases.

D. Wood moved and S. Reddy seconded, to approve the adult breakfast and lunch price increases.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

8.09 Budget Transfer - CVA Payment

BE IT RESOLVED that the board hereby authorizes the transfer of \$650,000 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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the budget appropriations for the 2025–26 school year is hereby increased by the amount of \$650,000.

	Increase	Decrease
A1420.401.00.0000 - Legal Other	\$650,000	
A5999.861 - Property Loss Reserve		\$650,000

B.
Bass

requested a motion to approve the budget transfer.



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D. Wood moved and S. Reddy seconded, to approve the budget transfer.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

8.10 School Instructional Agreement - Irvington

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, hereby move to approve the attached Instructional Service Agreement between the Irvington Union Free School District and the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District for the 2025-26 school year, and authorizes the superintendent or the assistant superintendent for finance, facilities, and operations to sign for the district.

B. Bass requested a motion to approve the agreement.

P. Nagarajan moved and M. Walker seconded, to approve the agreement.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

8.11 School Instructional Agreement - Mahopac

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, hereby move to approve the attached contracts for educational services between the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District and the Mahopac Central School District for the 2025-26 school year.

B. Bass requested a motion to approve the agreement.

P. Nagarajan moved and M. Walker seconded, to approve the agreement.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

9. Citizens' Comments

9.01 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.



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None.

10. Old Business

None.

11. New Business

The board discussed the review and adoption process for the proposed 2025 NYSSBA resolutions and discussed the 2025 Annual Business Meeting. Any board member interested in serving as a delegate at this year's meeting should contact B. Bass or P. Sullivan-Nunes before October 9, 2025 to register.

12. Upcoming Meetings

12.01 Calendar

Tuesday, September 30, 2025 - 7:00 p.m. - MS/HS Library Presentation Room

- Regular Meeting

Tuesday, October 14, 2025 - 7:00 p.m. - MS/HS Library Presentation Room

- Regular Meeting

13. Acknowledgements

13.01 Warrants

The board acknowledged the following warrant:

#0010 - Multi

13.02 Required Reports from Administration

The board acknowledged written reports on policies 8800 - Sustainability and 8915 - Energy/Water Conservation.

14. Adjournment

B. Bass requested a motion to adjourn the September 16, 2025 meeting.

R. Hershberg moved and P. Nagarjan seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

Elizabeth Saperstein
District Clerk