



**Tuesday, April 12, 2022
Business Board Meeting
7:00 PM**

1. Call to Order

2. Opening of the Meeting – 7:02 PM

2.01 Pledge of Allegiance

2.02 Roll Call

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

2.03 Acceptance of the Agenda

Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Bass seconded, that the Board accept the April 12th Agenda.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

2.04 Approval of Minutes

Ms. Kennedy moved, and Ms. Lucasey seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the March 8, 16, 21 and 22, 2022 meetings.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

3. Citizens 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 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.

4. Announcements

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PTSA General Membership Meeting will be held on 4/25 at 7:30 PM. Both Lisa and Ron will present the 2022-2023 adopted school district budget.

Les Miserables was wonderful and the auditorium looks great.

SPRING Fling Fund Raiser will be held on 4/30 – 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM. They will be honoring Dr. Brady for her years at Dobbs Ferry.

4.01 Board Member Terms of Office

Three terms of office of the Dobbs Ferry Board of Education will be expiring on June 30, 2022:

*Three seats for three (3) year terms, July 1, 2022-June 30, 2025
Ms. Rita Kennedy, Ms. Jean Lucasey, and Ms. Shannon Stringer*

Forms for petitions to run for a seat on the Board of Education are available in the District Office. Petitions to run as a candidate for the School Board next year must be submitted by the close of business on Monday, April 18, 2022. Twenty-five signatures of qualified voters in the district are required.

Both Ms. Lucasey and Ms. Stringer announced that they will be running for reelection.

4.02 Personal Voter Registration

*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 9, 2022, between 3:30 PM and 7:30 PM** in the HS 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 17, 2022.*

5. Superintendent's Report

High School

1. Les Miserables: Congratulations to Georgia DeFalco and the entire production team on an absolutely spectacular three nights of *Les Miserables*. The house was packed for all three nights and we had a full balcony on Saturday which is a first for our high school. A special thank you as well to Tim Carrier for overseeing the construction of the "Broadway" type set and Paul Huneke for leading the pit. Thank you to all of the teachers and staff who came out (there were so many!) and for always supporting our students and the theater arts here at DFHS.
2. Art Show: Congratulations to Serena Buschi and her students on last week's Art Show! We had a packed room.
3. Destination Imagination: Congratulations to Justine Henry and her students for placing first in their category over the weekend in Binghamton. The team has been competing together since middle school and Justine has been their coach since eighth grade.
4. Interdisciplinary Service Learning: Sarah Grosso is leading an eleventh grade "IB CAS for All" learning project that aims to raise money for clean water in Africa. The project will begin when we return from spring break and will include lessons across the disciplines to support the experience for students. This includes clean water labs in science, readings in English, and a "clean water unit" in Spanish.
5. WESEF (Science Research): Our science research students did exceptionally well at last week's WESEF competition! Overall, we had one 1st place winner, three 2nd, two 3rd, and seven 4th place finishes. In addition, our students won numerous additional awards, including the "Association of Women Geoscientist Award," the NASA Earth System Science Award, the "Innovation in Biological Science Research Award," and the "Momentive Solutions for a Sustainable World Award."
6. DFHS Service: The DFHS Fundraising Club and our Activities Branch collected hygiene supplies for Ukrainian Refugees to donate to the Afya Foundation. The Afya Foundation delivers life- saving medical supplies, equipment, and humanitarian goods to those in need around the world. A special thanks to Rebecca Wing and Maria Addona for organizing this fundraiser.

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7. Classroom Spotlight: The students in Tom Falconetti's IB English classes met with Vietnam veteran Jim Schmidt to discuss his experiences and the novel *The Things They Carried*. The students were eager to ask questions of Schmidt and all agreed that listening to his story was a worthwhile experience.

Middle School

1. Language Honor Society Inductions are scheduled for Friday, April 22 at 9 a.m. in the Auditorium.
2. The Grade 8 Community Project is progressing well. Students are working either individually or in teams. We are looking forward to these culminating projects from the MS MYP experience.
3. Grade 6 students are finishing up their recordings on the green screen project for their Individuals and Societies project.

Springhurst

1. Reading Without Walls - Dr. Brady and HS Seniors, Ava Solis and Sofia Zamora-Morales visited three K classes today to read to the students as part of the Reading Without Walls program. The students and Dr. Brady visited four Springhurst classes in mid-March and have about 20 more classes that are signed up so we will have a busy next few weeks before senior internships begin.
2. Springhurst celebrates Earth Day this year in an exciting way - Today and tomorrow, students are going to be given the opportunity to raise awareness and participate in hands on learning and become inspired to think about their school, their village and the world in a more sustainable way. Focus Areas will address human impact on the natural world and the importance of trusting nature.
 - a. Kindergarten through second grade will be given the opportunity to learn from an educator from Lenoir preserve, who's going to talk about pollinators with a focus on bee education.
 - b. Third grade through fifth grade will be learning all through a series of mini lessons in three interactive stations designed around the theme of respecting the earth and thought provoking digital visual displays.
3. Springhurst Celebrates World Book Day (4/23) with a Spirit Week the week we return from Spring Recess.
4. Next Month we are honoring First Responders Month and holding an event to honor our First Responders! We will also be holding a Time Capsule unveiling event that was buried by the DFSD Class of 1995.
5. Springhurst Destination Imagination teams shared their improv challenge solutions along with teams from all over New York State in Binghamton NY w/Coaches: Tobacco, Canary & Ferri. 6. Public Service Announcements (PSAs) were created by our very own Springhurst students & shared with all Springhurst faculty/students. Quick informational videos on sustainability and waste management in the cafeteria (Jr. Green Team), and influential figures in Black History (Intro to Social Justice) that complimented our work with Black History Month.

Tomorrow is surveillance testing day. Also, we will be sending test kits home with every student and every staff member tomorrow. We hope that parents will use the test kit to test their children. Our staff will test themselves next Tuesday, the last day of the break, and report any positive test results to the COVID portal, so we can start to deal with what is a monstrous task on the day before a return to school. We are seeing a significant increase in cases not just here but everywhere in our area and also in New York State.

6. Correspondence

6.01 BOE Correspondence

None.

7. Committee Reports

7.01 Committee Reports

Special Education - 4/5

- The committee reviewed and discussed the CSE/CPSE recommendations on tonight's agenda.

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- Director Jean Gismervik reported that Meghan Brady is doing a great job developing new partnerships for the school based enterprise program in the high school special class.
- Also, Ms. Gismervik reported an increase in out of district applications for our primary special class at Springhurst.

Finance - 4/5

- The Finance Committee gave their input on the budget for adoption on tonight's agenda. They also discussed the monthly financial report.

School & Community Relations - 4/7

Most of the meeting was spent discussing communication strategies around the budget.

- The budget newsletter – Liz has started on her proposition write up - Tracy has started the Board President's letter
- We are purchasing new lawn signs
- The Committee also discussed the DEI project for the collection of student voices. Kevin is meeting with Sheila Kusi-Asare this week to discuss this and how we can get students involved.

To view the entire meeting visit our website under the News and Views tab and click on TV Programming/Video

8. Report to the Board

8.01 BOE - COVID Update and Information



Vaccination	Springhurst	Number	Percentage	Middle	Number	Percentage	High	Number	Percentage
Students		63	11%		86	24%		180	40%
Staff		117	95%		61	97%		79	94%
COVID CASES (year totals)	Springhurst Year Total			MS Year Total			HS Year Total		
Students	42			34			32		
Staff	7			6			15		
Quarantine (year totals)	Springhurst			Middle			High		
Students	14			0			14		
Staff	0			0			1		
Surveillance testing	Springhurst	Number	Percentage	Middle	Number	Percentage	High	Number	Percentage
Students		430	61%		125	35%		173	38%
Staff		90	73%		30	47%		30	35%

Dr. Brady reviewed the latest numbers.

8.02 2022-2023 Budget for Adoption

Dr. Lisa Brady, Superintendent, and Mr. Ron Clamser, Jr., Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Facilities and Operations, reviewed the Preliminary 2022-2023 Budget Preparation.

What has changed since March 22, 2022?

- Revenue Changes
 - Changes are highlighted in yellow on the next slides
- Proposed Revenues
- Proposed Expenditures
- Tax Cap Calculation

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- Proposed Tax Rate Calculation
- Budget Summary
- Historical Trend
- General Fund Balance & Reserve History
- Budget Vote Timeline

Ron Clamser explained that the budget slides reflect the same dollar totals that we first presented on March 8, and discussed on March 22, with just one change.

- During the March 22 meeting, and the April 5 Finance Committee meeting, the Board discussed lowering the tax levy, staying below the maximum allowable tax levy, and using funds from the District's tax certiorari reserve fund, to decrease any tax increase from the settlement of The Landing case.
- The District effectively lowered the tax levy by \$900,000, from a proposed 2.84% increase down to just a 0.48% increase.
- This calculation is the estimate of what the average taxpayer would absorb through the shift in assessed value from The Landing settlement.

Questions:

As a clarification, the proposed tax levy 0.48% increase, amounting to \$41,139,244 directly comes from the taxpayer. Correct?

Yes, this is the amount that the taxpayers are asked to pay. Our actual budget is \$10 million more, so the remaining amount is funded from other sources.

What is a tax warrant?

It is a letter or a form that the Treasurer of our District sends to the Town of Greenburgh to let them know how much money we need to get back from our district from the taxpayers.

Can you summarize why we feel comfortable about using the \$900,000?

After issuing the refund to The Landing, there was approximately \$1.4 million remaining in reserve for the potential payout. The remainder gets liquidated and becomes available either to go to fund balance or other reserves. So the Board decided to take a portion of that to mitigate the increase in taxes and then apply that to the tax levy.

Anytime you use reserves, it creates some uncertainty for the future. We had a lot of discussions about using the reserves. Since we had almost an equivalent increase in our state aid funding through the state budget of about \$968,000, the logic was if we are creating a revenue shortfall next year, theoretically, a \$900,000 in additional aid would offset that. So we would be leveling out our revenues over the next years. The Board did not want to put the district in a position where we were not going to be fiscally responsible, or financially viable in the future years.

The Board thanked Ron, Lisa, Darrell and the entire team. Ron thanked the Board for all their support.

8.03 2022-2023 Budget Report

Information only.

9. Board Actions

9.01 Budget Adoption

Ms. Kennedy moved, and Ms. Bass seconded, that the Board adopt the Proposed Budget of \$51,377,271 for the 2022-2023 school year.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

9.02 2022-2023 Board of Registry and Election Inspector

MINUTES

Ms. Sullivan-Nunes moved, and Ms. Bass seconded, that the Board appoint the Board of Registry and Election Inspectors for the May 9, 2022 and May 17, 2022 Annual Election and Budget Vote.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

9.03 Budget Increase

Ms. Bass moved, and Ms. Sullivan-Nunes seconded, that the Board approve the following budget increase to enable the District to pay a tax certiorari refund to The Landing Homeowners Association, Inc. as consented to at the February 15, 2022 Board meeting:

Revenue Account to Increase	Amount	Expenditure Account to Increase	Amount
A864 Appropriated Reserve for Tax Certiorari	\$877,339.90	A1930-434-99-8002 Tax Certiorari	\$877,339.90

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

9.04 Instructional Service Agreement

Ms. Kennedy moved, and Ms. Bass seconded, that the Board approve the attached Instructional Service Agreement.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

9.05 CSE/CPSE Recommendations

Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Sullivan-Nunes seconded, that the Board authorized and directed the following:

WHEREAS the Committee on Special Education and Committee on Pre-School Special Education had issued to the Board by written confidential report dated April 5, 2022, 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 authorizes and directs the administration to immediately arrange for the special programs and services as set forth in said report dated April 5, 2022.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

9.06 Personnel

Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Sullivan-Nunes seconded, that the Board approve the Civil Service and staff personnel recommendations.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

Dr. Brady reviewed the personnel recommendations and congratulated the tenure candidates and Lynn Sudak, Camille Schiavone and Maureen Linder on their upcoming retirements.

10. Acknowledgements

10.01 Treasurer's Report

The Board acknowledged receipt of the Treasurer's Reports for February, 2022.

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10.01 Warrant

The Board acknowledged the following warrants:
Warrant No. 49 and 52 Multi.

11. Citizens Comments

11.01 Notice

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None.

12. Old Business

None.

13. New Business

Our Dobbs Ferry Streets Group is asking us to advocate on behalf of the school district for their requests to the Village. Lisa, Tracy and Shannon will discuss to see how we want to respond.

14. Upcoming Meetings

14.01 Calendar

Tuesday, April 26, 2022 - 7:00 PM - MS/HS Library

Tuesday, May 10, 2022 - 7:00 PM - MS/HS Library

- Public Hearing - Budget

15. Executive Session

15.01 Executive Session

At 7:57 PM, Ms. Bass moved, and Ms. Kennedy seconded, that the Board recesses into Executive Session for the following purposes: *to discuss the employment history of particular candidates for appointment to the position of superintendent of schools.*

The Board would not be returning to public session to take any action(s).

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

Mr. Bufalini moved, and Ms. Bass seconded, to appoint Ms. Stringer as Clerk Pro Tem.

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

At 9:46 PM, Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Bass seconded, to move back to the Public Meeting.

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

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16. Adjournment

At 9:47 PM, Ms. Sullivan-Nunes moved, and Ms. Kennedy seconded, that the Board adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays



17. Approved Minutes

17.01 March 1, 3, 4, 5 6, and 7, 2022

Loretta Tularzko
District Clerk