



Tuesday, April 13, 2021
Regular Board Meeting
Google Meet - Virtual Meeting, 7:00 PM

1. Call to Order

2. Opening of the Meeting – 7:00 PM

Louis Schwartz called the meeting to order.

2.01 Pledge of Allegiance

2.02 Roll Call

Mr. Louis Schwartz, President; Ms. Rita Kennedy, Vice President; Ms. Shannon Johnson; Ms. Jean Lucasey; Ms. Tracy Baron; Ms. Shannon Stringer; Mr. Massimo Bufalini, Dr. Lisa Brady, Superintendent; Mr. Douglas Berry, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction ; Mr. Ron Clamser, Jr., Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Facilities and Operations; and Ms. Loretta Tularzko, District Clerk.

2.03 Acceptance of the Agenda

Mr. Bufalini moved, and Ms. Johnson seconded, that the Board accept the April 13th Agenda.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

2.04 Approval of Minutes

Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Johnson seconded, that the Board move to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2021 meeting.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Stringer seconded, that the Board move to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2021 meeting.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays – 1 abstention – Mr. Bufalini

3. Citizens Comments

3.01 Anyone wishing to make comments during the two Citizen's Comment portions of the meeting can do so by emailing boemeetingcomment@DFSD.org and you will be sent a link with additional details for joining the Google Meet for the Citizen's Comments portion of the meeting.

3.02 Notice

Members of the community may comment on any matter related to the meeting's approved agenda. The Board President may request a brief description of the topic the speaker plans to address. Any group or organization wishing to address the Board must identify a single spokesperson. Presentations should be as brief as possible and no speaker will be permitted to speak for longer than 3 minutes. It is expected that 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

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matters that are not on the agenda will be taken under consideration and referred to the Superintendent for appropriate action.

None.

4. Announcements

4.01 Board Member Terms of Office

Two terms of office of the Dobbs Ferry Board of Education will be expiring on June 30, 2021:

Two seats for three (3) year terms, July 1, 2021-June 30, 2024

- *Mr. Louis Schwartz and Ms. Shannon Johnson*

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 19, 2021. Thirty-eight signatures of qualified voters in the district are required.

Both Shannon Johnson and Louis Schwartz will not seek re-election.

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 10, 2021, 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 18, 2021.

5. Superintendent's Report

District

School Reopening

- Things are off to a great start in all three schools.
- School districts received confusing information that contradicts many of the things that districts had been told previously on Friday evening at 5 p.m. when NYSDOH issued new interim guidance for in-person instruction at Pre-K to Grade 12 Schools
- NYSDOH was insistent that barriers needed to be in place in order for schools to reopen with a reduction of the 6 feet to 3 feet standard. However, now not only are they "not required" but actually being discouraged or no longer recommended. We feel confident that we are adhering to the new guidance as we understand it since it speaks to the fact that decisions must be made with community input.
- Dr. Brady met with multiple parents in small groups from a variety of parent constituents. We had a community meeting on March 8th and answered many parents' questions via email. We met with teachers and staff on March 3rd we meet weekly with the WCDOH and in consultation with our school medical director. We also had a number of parents who have spoken at BOE meetings to express support for reopening to full-time instruction. The guidance does say that if a District has already done all of this prior to reopening for full-time instruction, this does not have to be repeated.
- We are waiting to hear back from the WCDOH following their meeting with the NYSDOH today. We will also be participating in a webinar being hosted by the NYSDOH tomorrow.
 - Westchester County Department of Health seems to feel that the transmission rates in Westchester County are met and actually managed and under control. But we're looking for some more clarity around what that actually means because reading the guidance as it does currently that could impact middle school and high school the elementary school is pretty solid and set.
 - But there is some conflicting information about middle school and high schools
- We anticipate that we will be removing the barriers following all of this based on the guidance and the fact that we have air purifiers in every space which is still considered the best practice along with opening windows when possible. The barriers are very difficult in the classrooms for both students and teachers. We anticipate that we will keep the barriers up on the cafeteria tables for now.

Important to Know:

- Face masks are still required at all times
- Face masks must be worn on school buses at all times
- Six feet must still be maintained in all areas other than classrooms

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- The requirement for 12 feet of distance for singing and wind instruments has been reduced to 6 feet
- Quarantine for Proximate Contact
- The requirement for implementing quarantine in the case of proximate contact remains at 6 feet radial distance away from an infected person.
 - Contact tracing is complicated and time consuming, we may find ourselves in situations where we may have to move to remote learning while contact tracing is completed.

Events:

- Large-scale ceremonies of more than 500 people will be limited to 20% of capacity.
- Medium-scale ceremonies of 201 to 500 people will be limited to 33% of capacity.
- Small-scale ceremonies of up to 200 people or two attendees per student will be limited to 50% of capacity. Proof of recent negative test result or proof of completed immunization is optional.

Indoor events:

- Large-scale ceremonies of more than 150 people will be limited to 10% of capacity.
- Medium-scale ceremonies of 101 to 150 people at indoor venues will be limited to 33% of capacity.
- Small-scale ceremonies of up to 100 people or two attendees per student at indoor venues will be limited to 50% of capacity. Proof of recent negative test result or proof of completed immunization is optional.
- We are working with our music teachers and instrumental teachers to accommodate the requirement change for singing and wind instruments from 12 feet of distance to 6 feet.

We are currently planning graduation at the Waterfront on June 26th at 10 a.m. with the same arrangement as last year.

Stepping Up at MS and Springhurst are being planned as car parades similar to last year

Greenburgh 11 Parent Concerns

- We will talk under New Business about the possible formation of a standing subcommittee of the BOE that could meet regularly with parent representatives from Greenburgh Eleven school district whose children attend Dobbs Ferry schools.

Testing

- ELA April 20-22
- Math May 3-5
- The curriculum committee will discuss it later but New York State did apply for a waiver but the waiver was not granted, so New York State will be administering exams but made it optional for administering book one and/or two. We will not administer book two and we have tremendous flexibility where in the past we've had to test all kids on a grade, on a very strict timeline and schedule. We now have much greater flexibility and we are offering to the opt out as we have in the past and they will be able to do that with more flexibility in that in that in the past we've had to identify a separate location for those who opted out, however, the State is not requiring us to do that now.

Staff Book Chats

- This week begins our first round of book chats for *The Warmth of Other Suns* - Isabel Wilkerson's story of the decades long migration of almost six million black citizens who fled the South for northern and western cities in search of a better life and to escape from being murdered and persecuted in their own land. We have book chats scheduled with staff until the middle of June and also setting up some summer book chats too.

6. Committee Reports

Curriculum & Instruction – 3/24

- Regents Exams - USDOE Rejected NYSED waiver request as a result NYS will:
 - Only administer the Regents Exams required under ESSA in June 2021 - ELA, Algebra1, Earth Science and Living Environment
 - August 2021 Regents exams are cancelled
 - There are Regents Exam Exemption Eligibility Requirements for students who don't sit for the exam or in courses where the exam is not being offered
- The status of 3-8 Assessments and Regents exams remains somewhat unclear, however, they tie into APPR
- Return to Full Time In-Person Instruction

Special Ed – 4/6

The Committee reviewed the CSE/CPSE recommendations on tonight's meeting for approval. Questions were asked and clarified.

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The SE Director provided the committee with an update on the success of the additional sub-chairs for CPSE/CSE and 504 meetings this year. The use of sub-chairs has allowed for the scheduling of meetings to be more accommodating to teacher schedules and in-person learning.

Finance – 4/8

There were no revenue updates for the current year; however, Ron provided the committee an update on the recently approved state budget and the projected increase in state aid for the 2021-22 budget.

Expense update – nothing unusual to report.

The committee reviewed the draft April 13 budget presentation.

Ron recommended changing the April 28 committee meeting to an Audit Committee to review the recently completed payroll audit.

This meeting can be viewed on TV DFTV - Channel 77 & 47 or visit the website for the video of the complete meeting.

7. Public Hearing

7.01 Veterans' Tax Exemption

- Real Property Tax Law (RPTL) 458-a – Alternative Veterans' Tax Exemption
- Qualifications
- Eligibility Categories
- Basic Exemption Levels
- Next

There were no public comments or questions regarding the Veterans' Tax Exemption.

Mr. Schwartz thanked Mr. Don Mara and all the veterans for their service.

Question:

If the veteran themselves passes away does the tax exemption go to their heirs?

Mr. Clamser will research and get back to the Board.

A Board member asked how many Gold Star parents are there in the District.

Mr. Clamser will research and get back to the Board but he doesn't think the number is very high.

8. Proposed 2021-2022 Budget Presentation

8.01 Proposed 2021-2022 Budget Presentation

Dr. Lisa Brady, Superintendent, and Mr. Ron Clamser, Jr., Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Facilities and Operations, presented the proposed 2021-2022 Budget for adoption.

Presentation included:

- What has changed since March 23, 2021?
- Project the Revenues
- Project the Expenditures
- Preliminary Tax Cap Calculation as of 3/23/21
- Preliminary Tax Rate Calculation as of 3/23/21
- Budget Summary
- Historical Trend
- General Fund Balance & Reserve History
- Budget Vote Timeline

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Highlights:

- State Aid increased by approximately \$405,000
- Budget Priorities added back in:
 - Restores:
 - One 1 K-12 contingency teaching position
 - One anticipated special education teaching position
 - One bilingual clerk to centralize student registration
 - Chromebook replacements
 - Restores some funds for Operations & Maintenance

Question:

- Will the bilingual clerk be able to translate documents for the District?
 - No, we would be utilizing the current vacant clerk position in the business office and assigning the central registration.
 - We would need to hire a certified bilingual clerk which is a title issued by civil service and civil service would need to reclassify the position which is a cumbersome process.
 - A certified bilingual clerk title by civil service would only be used for legal documents, i.e., an interpreter during a CSE meeting.

Mr. Schwartz thanked both Dr. Brady and Mr. Clamser for the balanced budget.

8.02 2021-2022 Budget Report

Detailed budget items for reference.

9. Board Actions

9.01 Budget Adoption

Ms. Baron moved, and Mr. Bufalini seconded, that the Board adopt the Proposed Budget of \$49,029,234 for the 2021-2022 school year.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

9.02 Capital Project Change Orders

Ms. Johnson moved, and Ms. Stringer seconded, that the Board determine that the following authorizations shall be required for change orders in conjunction with the District's Capital Projects:

- Up to and including \$100,000 - Authorization by the Superintendent of Schools or the Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Facilities, and Operations prior to Board approval at its next regular or special meeting;
- Over \$100,000 - Authorization by the Board of Education

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

9.03 Budget Transfer

Ms. Stringer moved, and Mr. Bufalini seconded, that the Board approve the following budget transfers to cover payroll code alignments:

Account	Decrease	Increase
1620-160-02-8131 Cust Security/Night MS	20,019.91	
1620-161-08-0000 Operations OT/Bldg Chk		56,236.35
2070-151-04-0000 Staff Development		57,093.70
2110-120-01-1100 Tch Reg 1st Gr Salary	76,762.08	

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2110-120-01-1200 Tch Reg 2nd Gr Salary		32,093.50
2110-120-01-1300 Tch Reg 3rd Gr Salary		60,902.00
2110-120-01-1400 Tch Reg 4th Gr Salary		82,616.14
2110-120-01-5100 Tch Reg Art Salary		19,374.36
2110-120-02-4000 Grade 6 Additional Work		17,750.25
2110-120-02-4306 Tch Reg Math Salary	82,245.80	
2110-130-02-2000 Tch Reg MS Homwrk Ctr	20,000.00	
2110-130-02-4000 Gr 7-8 Additional Work		47,889.45
2110-130-02-4307 Tch Reg Math Salary		79,117.00
2110-130-03-4300 Tch Reg Math Salary	104,555.00	
2110-130-03-4400 Tch Reg Science Salary		26,757.80
2110-130-03-4500 Tch Reg Foreign Lang		63,799.14
2110-140-01-1000 Tch Reg Perm Sub	20,160.00	
2110-140-02-2000 Tch Reg Perm Sub	23,380.00	
2110-140-03-0000 Tch Reg Per Diem Sub	20,000.00	
2110-153-03-0000 Tch Reg Ovrld/Extr Per		61,572.14
2110-160-01-8122 Aides/Monitors		31,233.68
2250-150-01-7200 Spec Ed Salary	13,868.21	
2250-150-02-6300 Spec Ed Salary Spch/Lng	46,297.84	
2250-155-03-8121 Teacher Assistant	30,759.22	
2610-150-02-4600 Library Salaries MS	23,094.02	
2610-150-03-4600 Library Salaries HS	23,093.98	
2850-150-01-7850 CoCurric Spr Stipends	43,444.18	
2850-150-02-7850 CoCurric MS Stipends	54,873.00	
2850-150-03-7850 CoCurric HS Stipends	33,882.27	
Total	636,435.51	636,435.51

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

9.04 Budget Transfer

Ms. Johnson moved, and Ms. Stringer seconded, that the Board approve the following budget transfer to cover additional school reopening expenses:

Account	Decrease	Increase
A 2110-402-03-3000 Tch Reg IB Program	\$40,000	
A 2110-512-03-0000 Tch Reg Testing IB	\$25,000	
A 1620-450-00-COVID COVID Materials & Supplies		\$65,000

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

9.05 2020-2021 Budget & Trustee Vote Vendor

Ms. Johnson moved, and Ms. Baron seconded, that the Board approve the following authorized vendor in connection with the 2021-2022 Budget & Trustee Vote:

Party Line Rentals

- 12 stanchions & 8 ropes

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Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

9.06 CSE/CPSE

Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Stringer seconded, that the Board authorize and direct 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 6, 2021, 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 April 6, 2021.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

9.07 Personnel

Ms. Kennedy moved, and Ms. Baron seconded, that the Board approve the civil service and staff personnel recommendations.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

10. Acknowledgements

10.01 Warrants

The Board acknowledged receipt of the following warrant:
Warrant No. 46 Multi.

11. Citizens Comments

11.01 Anyone wishing to make comments during the two Citizen's Comment portions of the meeting can do so by emailing boemeetingcomment@DFSD.org and you will be sent a link with additional details for joining the Google Meet for the Citizen's Comments portion of the meeting.

11.02 Notice

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No comments were received.

12. Old Business

None.

13. Upcoming Meetings

13.01 Calendar

Tuesday, April 20, 2021 – 7:00 PM – Virtual

- SWBOCES Vote
- Business Items

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Tuesday, April 27, 2021 –7:00 PM - Virtual

- Work Session - New York State Education Department Culturally Responsive - Sustaining Education Framework

14. New Business

14.01 SWBOCES 2021 Voting Material for voting on April 20, 2021

- The Southern Westchester BOCES voting material is attached for the Board's information in preparation for the actual vote at the April 20th meeting.
- The Board votes on the budget and trustees every year which Harold Coles and Steve Tibbets, from SWBOCES, explained at a Board meeting a few years ago.

Children's Village/Greenburgh Eleven Parent Committee

- Dr. Brady discussed creating a committee to meet regularly with CV/Greenburgh Eleven parents to ensure that we listen to their concerns, thoughts and comments and address some of the issues they have raised.
- Such committee would need to be established by resolution with the names of the board members who would be on that committee, and would include Dr. Brady and a couple of CV/Greenburgh Eleven parents identified as representatives from their group.

Question:

Our attorney had detailed the somewhat lengthy process that would be required for CV parents to be possibly allowed to run for school board elections. Would that also be a subject of discussion for the committee or would that have to be something that was pursued separately?

Response:

- The process our attorney explained at a previous board meeting made it clear that the board cannot change the eligibility requirements for board candidates.
- Dr. Brady will explore what we're permitted to do, as far as a Board Committee, sub-committee, etc., and have our attorney write a resolution to establish the committee

The Board asked that the District Clerk facilitate a meeting before the end of the school year between the Board and Claims Auditor Denise Connell. Loretta agreed to set up a meeting with Ms. Connell for about 30 mins before a regular Board meeting.

15. Adjournment

At 8:23 PM, Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Baron seconded, that the Board adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays



Loretta Tularzko
District Clerk