



**Tuesday, September 22, 2020
Regular Board Meeting
MS/HS Media Center, 7:00 PM**

1. Call to Order

2. Opening of the Meeting – 7:04 PM

Louis Schwartz called the meeting to order. It has been 192 days since our last in-person Board meeting.

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

Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Johnson seconded, that the Board accept the September 22nd Agenda.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

2.04 Approval of Minutes

Ms. Baron moved, and Mr. Bufalini seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the September 8, 2020 meeting.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

3. 2020-2021 School Year

3.01 New Tenure Staff

Dr. Brady welcomed everyone to this favorite, yet different due to COVID-19 guidelines, Board meeting each year.

Next, each school principal introduced their respective tenured teacher with a description of their experience, their classroom performance and contribution to our schools and/or their unique qualifications.

Dr. Falino, High School Principal, and Ms. Jean Gismervik, Special Education Director, introduced the following:

Mallory Cairo	Social Studies
Keith Galante	Special Education
Stephanie Mills	Special Education

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Ms. Julia Drake, Springhurst School Principal, introduced the following:

Victoria Coren	Kindergarten
Meagan O'Toole	3rd Grade

3.02 Montage of New Teachers

Joseph Cox	Physical Education
Ellen Elsen	HS/MS Library Media Specialist
Clair Wang	MS Math Teacher
Alyssa Santana	First Grade Teacher
Lauren Rodriquez	SH Library Media Specialist
Nathaniel Wardlaw	SH Music Teacher
Molly Connett	SH Leave Replacement Elementary Teacher
Caitlyn West	SH Leave Replacement Elementary Teacher

Due to COVID-19 Guidelines, instead of meeting the new teachers in person the Board and audience watched a brief montage of all the new teachers.

Dr. Brady thanks Liz Hausman, Kevin Ridley and Loretta Tularzko for the video.

4. Announcements

Anyone wishing to make comments online during the two Citizen's Comment portions of the meeting can do so by emailing their comments to boemeetingcomment@DFSD.org. Please include your name and address.

There will be two sections for Citizens' Comments – the first pertaining to anything on the agenda and the second for any District business.

Mr. Schwartz welcomed Mr. Bufalini to his first in-person Board meeting.

PTSA

- The membership drive is still on. Everyone interested can sign up at the PTSA website dobbptsa.org.
- Those that have already join can pick-up their PTSA 2020-2021 Calendar tomorrow outside the Commons tomorrow from 5-7 PM and Saturday from 10 AM to 12 Noon.

WPSBA

- Tracy Baron will continue to join the Town Hall calls every two weeks and will advise the Board of any helpful news. If any Board member has questions to raise please let Tracy know.
- Tracy also forwarded the Legal Advocacy focal points for the year to the Board.

5. Superintendent's Report

District

Day 11 in school – we are taking one day at a time.

Thank you to parents, teachers, and students for staying safe.

Schools Closed - Monday 9/28 Yom Kippur
Monday, 10/12 Columbus Day

Administrative Retreat - Today and Tuesday 9/29
NYU Steinhardt Metro Center (Natalie Zwerger) with Cabinet along with other key administrators/supervisors in the District. The main purpose of our work this morning was to define equity and racial justice and our role in leading the work to promote them in the District. We are looking at the NYSED Culturally Responsive-

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Sustaining Education Framework to assist us. Natalie Zwerger will also meet with Board at the BOE Retreat on October 6th. They will discuss the role of the BOE in supporting Race and Equity work in the District.

Staff Book Read - The Warmth of Other Suns - Isabel Wilkerson.

The District currently has a BIPOC Affinity group which is meeting as well as a BIPOC Allies group with about 20 teachers/staff who have been meeting weekly throughout the summer and will meet twice monthly over the course of the school year.

Springhurst

- As of 9/21:
 - 594 Students In-Person in School
 - 108 Remote
 - 35 students unenrolled/homeschooled due to COVID

High School

- In Person Learning:
 - We had a few technical issues to work through
 - Over 200 students attended our first "flex" Wednesday. Scheduling went well with PickATime.
 - First Day of School: Both in-person and remote orientations were well attended. Approximately 55 students attended our remote only orientation.
 - We are investigating more opportunities for students to attend in-person.
 - Students have been coming into school for small group and individual learning during the week.
 - Our special education/advisory students are attending in-person on set days each week.
- Co-Curricular Club Fair:
 - October 7, 2:30-3:20. In-Person. Front of high school and on campus. (outdoors).
- Senior T-Shirts: Our Activities Branch (Addona) and our Senior Class Advisor (Cairo) have worked with students to create a senior Class of 2021 t-shirt. These will be distributed in the next couple of weeks.
- Seniors: College Meetings with admissions representatives are now beginning. All will be conducted virtually. The information was shared with our seniors on Naviance.
- PSATs for juniors and SATs for seniors will be given at the HS on Oct 14th. Information was sent out through the guidance office regarding ordering. Please email your child's counselor with any questions.
- In Person Fitness: The high school physical education department is hosting students on the turf for three days this week. Today (Tuesday), 9/ 22, and Thursday 9/24, have 32 slots that have been opened on PickATime for outdoor circuits with stations including ladder work, box jumps, jump ropes and more. On Wednesday, 50 slots have been opened up for a 45 minute yoga class. For all three days if attending students arrive at 2:30 with classes beginning at 2:45. Riverstone Yoga will guest teach the yoga class.

Middle School

- Prior to the opening of school, we had a successful 6th grade Orientation with parents and students. The incoming 6th graders got to visit their classrooms, tour the school, and meet their teachers. Parents were provided with an update on our hybrid program and COVID 19 safety protocols, in addition to a question and answer period with administration and teachers. Mr. Mussolini and Ms. Pecunia also met virtually with both the 7th and 8th grade to discuss the steps taken to keep them safe and our expectations for the coming school year. There was also a question and answer period at the end.
- We had a successful opening of our hybrid school. It was wonderful to have our students back in the building, learning again.
- There are 42 students enrolled in our remote option program.
- Blue Shirt Day (World Day of Bullying Prevention) takes place on October 5th and 6th. We are spreading it over two days to ensure that both cohorts of students can participate. Our faculty is making a video ways to promote a positive school culture (be inclusive, kind, generous, informed, speak up, respect for all, get help, get involved, expand your friendship group, examine your biases, and have integrity. MS will celebrate our solidarity with music and popcorn.

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- The school counselors and Ms. Pecunia are meeting with each grade on the students' at-home days, to discuss DASA and our No Place For Hate Initiative. Students will sign the No Place for Hate Resolution of Respect at the end of the meeting. This is our 7th year of being an ADL No Place for Hate school.

Thanks to all for making this very different school year off to a good start.

Mr. Berry wanted to thank the building administrators, teachers and custodians for the tremendous effort that was undertaken to opening the schools safely.

6. Correspondence

6.01 BOE Correspondence

The Board acknowledged the following:

1. An email regarding questions/concerns from a substitute teacher
2. Letter from Paul Feiner regarding School Taxes
3. An email thank you note for all the work involved in this year's unique school opening
4. An email regarding the DFSD & The Landing

Louis Schwartz thanked everyone for their correspondence.

7. Committee Reports

Facilities – 9/15

- The Capital Project Forms for SED have been signed by Louis & Lisa. Tetra Tech sent the documents to the SED (plans, drawings, etc.) and received confirmation of their receipt.
- We are about a month behind schedule in getting the forms submitted but still on track overall. A few things contributed to the delay, but COVID closures and safety protocols slowed the process considerably. We also had to change the vendor that was doing our environmental testing because they were unable to perform all of the requirements that Tetra Tech needed.
- A few things are worth noting relating to facilities and the opening of school:
 - We have added an additional contract cleaner that focuses on cleaning and disinfecting the buses at Springhurst in between each bus run along with cleaning the cafe after breakfast and lunch.
- Portable hand washing stations have been installed at all entrances and common areas like the cafeteria.
- HEPA filtered air purifiers have been installed in 20 interior classrooms or classrooms that don't have access to open windows or doors. We have 15 more purifiers on order, but product availability is scarce.
- All signage, traffic flow markings, and polycarbonate shields have been installed.
- Although it has been recommended to disable hand dryers in bathrooms, this has not yet been completed because it has been difficult to get paper towel dispensers.
- We are in the process now of completing marking all of the desk locations with tape on the floor. This will help to realign furniture in the correct spot after cleaning or inadvertent moving.
- Desk dividers for the SPED classes were installed on student desks. Along with the portable desk dividers that were ordered 1 per every classroom.
- We have been able to cover the expenses for all of the above mentioned items out of our planned Operations & Facilities budget.

School & Community Relations – 9/16

- Reopening Website
 - The Committee will continue to keep up with revisions necessary to keep the website current.
 - The Reopening Plan, which lives on both the District website as well as the Reopening Dobbs Ferry Schools Website, will also be kept current by the committee. Some of the early content from the website will be archived to make room for newer content as needed.

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- Communicating about positive COVID cases when necessary
- They discussed the new format for this year's BTS Nights and how it will be communicated to the community. Dr. Brady will include this as part of her end of the week K-12 this week.
- The committee discussed how to communicate about in-person BOE meetings and the protocols which Dr. Brady will include in the Agenda Snapshot for anyone attending.
- Should we address all the issues around racism that are swirling around DF right now?
 - The Committee decided that this was not necessary at this point, but discussed all the work that is taking place regarding this issue.

Personnel - 9/17

- The committee discussed the Personnel recommendations on the September 22nd agenda.

Student Activities & Athletics - 9/21

- The committee received an update for the fall
 - NYSPHSAA moved the high risk sports of football and volleyball to a Fall 2 season that will begin on March 1
 - Low and Moderate Risk JV and Varsity fall sports are set to begin in Section 1 on September 29
 - The Executive Committee of Section 1 will be making a decision on fall modified sports on Wednesday, September 23
 - There are ongoing discussions addressing return to athletics protocols such as mask wearing, spectators, transportation, pre-game health screening, schedules, awards and post season play. The section will be providing additional guidance over the next several days to provide clarification on these topics.
 - The winter season has been pushed back to a start date of November 30th.
 - Mr. Klaich will be sharing updates with coaches, student athletes and spectators on COVID-19 protocols as they become available
 - If fall modified sports receive clearance, Dobbs Ferry is planning on fielding modified boys and girls soccer teams.

Tracy Baron is personally concerned about contact sports like soccer and social distancing protocols. Dr. Brady explained that it doesn't make sense when you look at the rules in place for physical education. Section 1 can either say it won't run or that it is a local decision.

8. Citizens Comments

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

Two members of the community expressed their disappointment in the District not making a statement regarding the issues of racism taking place in the town.

Two emails were received regarding tax litigation with The Landing.

9. Board Actions

9.01 Settlement Agreement

Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Baron seconded, that the Board approve the following:

"BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education does hereby approve the Settlement and Release Agreement in regard to Student No. 6; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education does hereby authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute such Settlement and Release Agreement on behalf of the District."

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

9.02 Summer Transportation Piggybacking Resolution

Ms. Kennedy moved, and Ms. Stringer seconded, that the Board approve the following:

WHEREAS, the Ardsley Union Free School District ("Ardsley") has made available to public school districts located in Westchester County its Student Summer Transportation through a provision in the bid specifications permitting "piggybacking" as well as a resolution of the Ardsley Board of Education authorizing participation in the Student Summer Transportation on the same terms and conditions as the contract with Ardsley; and

WHEREAS, said transportation contract was bid in accordance with Education Law Section 305(14);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District determines that the contract cost for the Student Summer Transportation is appropriate and will result in cost savings to the District; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education requests authorization from Ardsley to piggyback onto Ardsley's Student Summer Transportation Contract with Royal Coach for the 2020-2021 school year on the same terms and conditions as the contract with Ardsley; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the Board President to execute a contract with Royal Coach as well as any documents and forms required by the New York State Education Department to facilitate approval of the contract.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

9.03 Budget Transfer

Ms. Lucasey moved, and Mr. Bufalini seconded, that the Board approve the following budget transfers to align payroll codes with changes in staff assignments:

Account	Decrease	Increase
2110-120-01-1400 Tch Reg-4th Gr Salary	128,506.00	
2110-120-01-1100 Tch Reg-1st Gr Salary		128,506.00
2110-160-01-8121 Teacher Assistant	15,367.00	
2250-155-01-8121 Teacher Assistant	11,815.00	
2110-155-01-8121 Teacher Assistant		27,182.00
2250-155-01-8122 Teacher Aide	31,718.00	
2250-160-01-8122 Teacher Aide		31,718.00
2250-155-03-8121 Teacher Assistant	37,543.00	
2250-155-02-8121 Teacher Assistant		37,543.00
2250-155-01-8121 Teacher Assistant	41,219.00	

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2250-155-03-8121 Teacher Assistant		41,219.00
	266,168.00	266,168.00

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

9.04 Special Education Consultant

Ms. Stringer moved, and Ms. Johnson seconded, that the Board approve the attached consultant contract of Stephanie Bader, Ph.D.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

9.05 Personnel

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

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

9.06 ESSA Waiver for State Testing

Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Johnson seconded, that the Board adopt the attached resolution.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

9.07 Policy - First Reading

The Board conducted a first reading of policy 5100 - Student Attendance and all agreed to bring it back for a second reading at the next Board meeting

10. Acknowledgements

10.01 Warrants

The Board acknowledged receipt of the following warrants:
Warrant No. 10 and 12 Multi.

11. Citizens Comments

11.01 Notice

Members of the community may comment on any matter related to district business. 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 matters that are not on the agenda will be taken under consideration and referred to the Superintendent for appropriate action.

None.

12. Old Business

Ms. Baron asked for the clarification about the Star Exemption letter received from the Town of Greenburgh.

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Mr. Clamser explained that some residents are seeing an increase in their school taxes and it is due to a decrease in Star Rebates they are receiving. The State has been decreasing the star rebates over the past few years.

Star Rebates are out of the District's control, they are mandated by Albany.

The Greenburgh website has detailed information.

13. New Business

NYSSBA 2020 Proposed Bylaw Amendments and Resolutions and other information.

The Board will vote on the Amendments and Resolutions at the October 6th meeting.

Districts will only be able to vote if attending the Virtual Convention.

- Rita Kennedy will attend
- Any other Board member wish to attend please contact Loretta.

Mr. Schwartz asked the Policy Committee to review the resolutions prior to the October 6th meeting and give their recommendations.

14. Upcoming Meetings

14.01 Calendar

Tuesday, September 22, 2020 - 7:00 PM

- New Staff

Tuesday, October 6, 2020 - 7:00 PM

Tuesday, October 27, 2020 - 7:00 PM

The Board Retreat will take place on October 6 at 4:00 PM with Natalie Zwerger – NYU Steinhardt - prior to the Board meeting.

- Board Self Evaluation - Shannon Johnson will send out a reminder to those who haven't completed their evaluation and then she will send a consolidated report.

15. Executive Session

15.01 Executive Session

At 8:39 PM, Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Johnson seconded, that the Board recesses into Executive Session for the following purpose: *To discuss ongoing litigation, The Landing on the Water at Dobbs Ferry Condominium v. Town of Greenburgh.*

It was not anticipated that the Board return to public session to take any action(s).

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

Ms. Baron moved, and Ms. Kennedy seconded, to appoint Ms. Kennedy as Clerk Pro Tem.

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

At 10:22 PM, Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Johnson seconded, to move back to the Public Meeting.

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

16. Adjournment

At 10:23 PM, Mr. Bufalini moved, and Ms. Baron seconded, that the Board adjourn the meeting.

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Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

17. Approved Minutes

176.01 Approved Minutes September 8, 2020



Loretta Tularzko
District Clerk