



APPROVED MINUTES

**Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2023
Business Meeting
7:00 PM**

1. Call to Order

Ms. Lucasey called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

2. Opening of the Meeting

2.01 Pledge of Allegiance

2.02 Roll Call

Ms. Jean Lucasey, President; Ms. Brooke Bass, Vice President; Ms. Shannon Stringer; Ms. Penny Sullivan-Nunes; Mr. Darren Wood; Ms. Rebecca Hershberg; Mr. Kenneth Slentz, Superintendent; Dr. Ron Clamser, Jr., Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Facilities and Operations; Ms. Elizabeth Saperstein, District Clerk.

Ms. Nagarajan and Dr. Stinchcomb were absent.

2.03 Acceptance of the Agenda

Mr. Wood moved and Ms. Stringer seconded, that the Board accept the January 23, 2024 Agenda.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

2.04 Approval of Minutes

Ms. Hershberg moved and Ms. Bass seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the January 11, 2024 meeting.

Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstention (Mr. Wood was absent from the Jan. 11 meeting)

3. BOE Correspondence

- 3.01** The Board received correspondence regarding the 5th Grade Stepping Up Ceremony, budgetary support for soccer homecoming games, and student attendance communications.

4. Citizen's Comments

4.01 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

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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.

5. Announcements

Mr. Slentz announced that the District's concert season commences on Wednesday, January 24 at 6 pm with the 4th Grade concert at Springhurst. The concert will also be live streamed at 9 am. The 5th Grade concert is next Wednesday, January 31 at 6:00 pm.

Ms. Lucasey announced information about Private School Transportation Requests:

Residents of the district whose students will attend a non-public school in 2024-25 and require bus service must submit a request form online **by April 1, 2024** (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.

6. Superintendent's Report

6.01 Student Support Services

Mr. Slentz gave a presentation on the District's Student Support Services: Alignment with the schools goals, specifically Goal #3 (K-12 MTSS plan) and Goal #6 (Wellness Framework); personnel involved (school counselors, school psychologists, school social workers, behavior specialist, student assistance counselor, school nurses, and coordinator of K-5 student support services) and programs at K-5, Middle School and High School, Instruction and Training.

Ms. Lucasey asked for clarification on the distribution of personnel across the buildings.

The presentation is posted on the District website.

7. Board Committee Reports

7.01 Committee Reports



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The following committees reported:

Policy Committee

Ms. Sullivan-Nunes reported on the Policy Committee's January 17, 2024 meeting:

- Mr. Slentz updated the committee on the review of Code of Conduct. The committee will discuss the changes throughout the year
- Policy 5152 - Appeal of Student Residency Determination. The committee made recommendations to make the exhibits to the policy more user friendly. The new exhibits will be reviewed at a future meeting.
- A revised District Organization chart for supervisory roles in the District was reviewed. This will be added to the Policy Manual.
- Policy 8130.2 - Workplace Violence Prevention. Ms. Lucasey announced that this policy is up for first reading later on the agenda, and that there will be a recommendation to waive the second reading and adopt, as we are facing a mandatory deadline.

Special Education Committee

Ms. Stringer reported on the Special Education Committee meeting of January 19, 2024.

The committee was given updates on the following topics:

- Out of District Students
- Challenges in recruiting and hiring teaching assistants
- Progress of the part-time Behavior Specialist position
- Anticipated expansion of classes at Springhurst and the Middle School for students with disabilities

Minutes from the meeting are posted on the District website.

Finance Committee

Ms. Bass reported on the Finance Committee meeting of January 10, 2024. The committee was given updates on the following topics:

- Increasing the budget to to match a corresponding increase in revenue in connection with proposed settlement agreements;
- Overtime billing in the facilities department;
- Internal audit next steps.
- Revised Draft Budget Goals
- Budget Coding Project

Minutes from the meeting are posted on the District website.

Curriculum, Instruction & Equity

Ms. Bass reported on the Curriculum, Instruction & Equity meeting of January 11, 2024.

- Dr. Falino provided an overview of the rationale for four new student- interest-based high school courses for 2024-25 and the course progression sequence for physics.
- Mr. Slentz provided an overview of the District's progress on its DEI plan.

Minutes from the meeting are posted on the District website.



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8. Board Actions

8.01 Personnel

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District hereby move to approve the Civil Service and Professional Staff Personnel resolutions.

Ms. Sullivan-Nunes moved and Ms. Stringer seconded, to approve the resolution.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

Mr. Slentz and Ms. Lucasey acknowledged and congratulated Joseph Cox, who was awarded tenure this evening. Mr. Cox is a Physical Education and Health teacher and long-time football coach for the District.

8.02 Adoption of District Goals 2023-2024

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District hereby move to approve the 2023-2024 District Goals.

Mr. Wood moved and Ms. Stringer seconded, to approve the resolution.

Mr. Wood noted a grammatical error on the presentation, which would be corrected.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

The District Goals 2023-2024 are posted on the District website.

8.03 Disposition of MS/HS Library Books

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, hereby move to approve the disposal of the books shown on the list that are part of the Middle/High School library.

Ms. Hershberg moved and Ms. Bass seconded, to approve the resolution.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

8.04 CPSE/CSE Recommendations

WHEREAS the Committee on Special Education and Committee on Pre-School Special Education had issued to the Board by written confidential report dated January 19, 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



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arrange for the special programs and services as set forth in said report dated January 19, 2024.

Ms. Sullivan-Nunes moved and Ms. Hershberg seconded, to approve the resolution.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

8.05 Budget Development Calendar

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District hereby move to approve the 2024 Budget Development Calendar.

Ms. Stringer moved and Ms. Hershberg seconded, to approve the resolution.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

Ms. Lucasey and Mr. Slentz noted that if the Rivertowns Enterprise doesn't publish again by April, the District can publish the required legal announcements in the Journal News as approved at the Board's July 11, 2023, reorganization meeting.

The Budget Development Calendar is posted on the District website.

8.06 Budget Goals

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby adopts the proposed goals for the 2024-2025 budget development process.

Ms. Hershberg moved and Ms. Bass seconded, to approve the resolution.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

Mr. Slentz noted that adopting the goals for the budget development process helps the District meet the obligations of Policy 6110.

8.07 Increase to 2023-2024 Budget.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby directs the Superintendent of Schools to move monies from the Unassigned Fund Balance of the District's 2023-24 School Year Budget, in the amount of \$472,812 (Budget Code A5997.917), to pay for unanticipated costs, which constitute ordinary contingent expenses, incurred after voter approval of the 2023-24 School Year Budget as described in the chart below; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District's 2023-24 School Year Budget is hereby increased by the appropriation of \$472,812.00 from unassigned fund balance.

Ms. Stringer moved and Ms. Hershberg seconded, to approve the resolution.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

8.08 Policy Revision - First Reading



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The Board will conduct a first reading of the following policies:

1. Policy 4327 - Homebound Instruction. Ms. Lucasey reported that this policy was revised to reflect the requirements of new state regulations.
2. Policy 8130.2 - Workplace Violence Prevention. Due to the state-required timeline for the adoption of this policy by February 3, 2024 the Board waived the second reading of this policy in accordance with the rules set forth in Policy 2410. Ms. Stringer gave an overview of the policy, which is required by all school districts.

BE IT RESOLVED, that having satisfied the procedural requirements of policy 2410, the following policy is hereby adopted:

1. Policy 8130.2 - Workplace Violence Prevention

Ms. Sullivan-Nunes moved and Ms. Bass seconded, to approve the resolution.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

8.09 Policy Revision - Second Reading

BE IT RESOLVED, that having satisfied the procedural requirements of policy 2410, the following policies are hereby adopted:

1. 5205 Eligibility for Co-Curricular and Extracurricular Activities
2. 5225 Student Personal Expression

Ms. Stringer moved and Mr. Wood seconded, to approve the resolution.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

9. Acknowledgments

None.

10. Citizen Comments

10.01 Notice

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None.

11. Old Business



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None.

12. New Business

None.

13. Upcoming Meetings

13.01 Calendar

- Saturday, January 27, 2024 - 9:00 AM -
Board Retreat (governance training and team building)
- Tuesday, February 13, 2023 - 7:00 PM - MS/HS Library Business Meeting
- Tuesday, February 27, 2023 - 7:00 PM - Boardroom Executive Session

14. Adjournment

Ms. Sullivan-Nunes moved, and Ms. Bass seconded, that the Board adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

Elizabeth Saperstein
District Clerk