



**Tuesday, February 7, 2023
Business Meeting
7:00 PM**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

2. Meeting Opening

2.01 Roll Call

Ms. Jean Lucasey, President; Ms. Brooke Bass, Vice President; Ms. Tracy Baron; Mr. Massimo Bufalini; Ms. Shannon Stringer; Ms. Penny Sullivan-Nunes; Mr. Darren Wood; Mr. Kenneth Slentz, Superintendent; Dr. Ron Clamser, Jr., Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Facilities and Operations; Dr. Darrell Stinchcomb, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Equity; Ms. Kristina O'Gorman, District Clerk and Mr. Jason Balbo, Deputy District Clerk.

2.02 Acceptance of the Agenda

Ms. Lucasey requested an amendment to the agenda by eliminating item 14.02 and including it in item 4. Ms. Stringer moved to accept the amended agenda, and Ms. Sullivan-Nunes seconded the acceptance of the amended agenda.

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

2.03 Approval of Minutes

Mr. Bufalini moved, and Mr. Wood seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of January 10 and January 17, 2023.

Vote: 7 ayes – 0 nays

3. Citizen's 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

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appropriate action.

None.

4. Correspondence

4.01 Correspondence for February 7, 2023

The Board acknowledged a letter regarding a legal matter outside of the district, and emails regarding the recent community forum, the District's 2023-24 budget, and Board committees.

5. Announcements

The following announcements were made:

- Ms. Baron reminded Board members of Westchester Putnam School Boards Association's virtual legislative forum being held on February 9.
- Mr. Slentz acknowledged and thanked the District's seven school counselors as this is National School Counselors' Week.
- Mr. Slentz thanked members of the District staff and Spring Community Partners for hosting a parent night at Springhurst focused on how to access the parent portal to view report cards.

6. Committee Reports

6.01 Committee Reports

Curriculum, Equity, and Instruction

Mr. Wood updated the Board on items that the committee discussed including:

- Access to the IB program (IB for all).
- K-5 Reading and ELA programs.
- The districtwide MTSS framework.
- The implementation of the DEI plan including the DEI committee work at Springhurst.
- PBIS initiative at the Middle School.
- Work on chronic absenteeism.
- Graduation pathways policy work by Dr. Drake.

Finance

Mr. Bufalini updated the Board on items that the Committee discussed including:

- The work on District Goal 10.
- The development of the 2023-24 budget.
- Budget communications documents.
- Financing of capital projects.

School and Community Relations

Ms. Sullivan-Nunes updated the Board on items that the Committee discussed including the recent community forum and options for community members who wish to ask questions. The Committee will seek additional input from the community via a ThoughtExchange survey.

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Facilities

Ms. Bass updated the Board on items that the Committee discussed including:

- District Goal #4 (Long Range Facilities Plan).
- HVAC system functionality.
- Meeting with architects and engineers on the Phase 2 capital project.
- Support of a Children's Village energy project.
- Emergency communications at Springhurst.

7. Reports to the Board

Dr. Clamser and Mr. Slentz presented the 2023-2024 Budget Development Framework to the Board, which included:

- Major cost drivers.
- The impact of inflation on energy and transportation costs.
- The status of the Administrative and Capital budgets.
- Initial initiatives being considered for Program budget including Unified Sports for students with disabilities.
- The current status of the Revenue budget.

The framework presentation is posted on the District's Budget Information page for review.

8. Superintendent Report

Mr. Slentz provided an update on the ongoing implementation of the following initiatives:

- The DEI plan and curricular areas directly related to this including reading instruction and providing greater access to the curriculum for a greater number of students.
- The diversity of perspective within our curriculum in general and our literature selection in particular to ensure that our students see themselves represented within our curriculum.
- Chronic absenteeism particularly in underrepresented groups.
- School meals and student nutrition and how we can increase the number of students accessing our food service program.
- Training in adapted physical education.
- Personnel management and how the work is evolving under the direction of Elizabeth Saperstein.
- Participation in the regional Lower Hudson Diversity Fair on March 4.
- Data analysis work at Springhurst Elementary as a part of the reading and literacy curriculum review.

9. Board Actions

Ms. Lucasey requested that items 9.01 Personnel, 9.03 Sports Mergers, and 9.07 CSE/CPSE Recommendations be combined in a consent agenda.

Mr. Wood moved, and Mr. Bufalini seconded, that the Board approve the items to be included in a consent agenda.

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

9.01 Personnel, 9.03 Sports Mergers and 9.07 CSE/CPSE Recommendations were approved by the Board on consent.

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Ms. Baron moved, and Ms. Stringer seconded, that the Board approve the consent agenda.

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

9.02 Settlement Agreement

Ms. Lucasey requested an amendment to the resolution to read as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the terms of and authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to execute a Settlement Agreement between the District and Employee No. 272023, as presented to the Board at this meeting.

Ms. Bass moved, and Ms. Sullivan-Nunes seconded, that the Board approve the resolution as amended.

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

9.04 Revisions to the Code of Conduct

Ms. Lucasey provided an overview of the revisions made to the Code and the rationale behind them. Also discussed were anticipated next steps including a more detailed review of the Code this summer.

BE IT RESOLVED, that having satisfied the procedural requirements of policy 5300, the revised Code of Conduct is hereby adopted.

Mr. Bufalini moved, and Ms. Stringer seconded, that the Board approve the resolution.

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

9.05 Policy Revisions- Second Reading

Ms. Lucasey reminded the Board and those watching of policy-adoption process.

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

- **Policy 2112:** This policy sets forth the roles and responsibilities of the Superintendent and Board Education members and sets expectations for meeting attendance by Board members in accordance with applicable state laws.
- **Policy 2150:** This policy sets forth the processes to be used when a seat on the Board of Education is vacated.
- **Policy 2250:** This policy sets forth the processes and protocols used in the establishment and functioning of committees of the Board of Education.
- **Policy 2310:** This policy sets forth the rules for regular Board of Education meetings including public notice and accessibility.
- **Policy 2325:** This policy sets forth the rules for the use of videoconferencing at Board of Education meetings based on recent changes to the NYS Public Officers Law.
- **Policy 2340:** This policy sets forth the rules for public notice of meetings including when and under what circumstances videoconferencing is to be used.
- **Policy 2360:** This policy sets forth the processes and protocols for the development and management of the minutes of Board of Education meetings.

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- **Policy 9510.1:** This policy sets forth the rules for payroll distribution for certain district employees.

Ms. Baron moved, and Ms. Stringer seconded, that the Board approve the resolution.

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

9.06 Proposed Support for Geothermal Energy Initiative at Children's Village

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approve that the Superintendent execute the proposed letter of support for the geothermal energy network project at Children's Village.

Ms. Baron moved, and Mr. Wood seconded, that the Board approve the resolution.

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

9.08 Discussion of Resolution in Support of Universal Free Lunch and Breakfast

The Board discussed specific actions to be taken to advocate for universal free breakfast and lunch, which included:

- Engaging the PTSA to generate letters to our state and federal legislators.
- Use our Facebook page to call awareness to letter options.
- The Superintendent writing a letter of request to the Commissioner asking her to prioritize this in her advocacy at the state and federal levels.
- Using the NYSSBA advocacy website.
- Encouraging parents to write letters to legislators.
- Writing a letter to the Rivertowns Enterprise to share information and tools for the community to engage in advocacy.

10. Citizens Comments

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A DFSD teacher spoke of her intent to reach out to the DFUT to support universal free school meals for New York's schoolchildren.

11. Old Business:

None.

12. New Business

None.

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13. Upcoming Meetings

Calendar

Tuesday, February 7, 2023 - 7:00 PM - MS/HS Library Regular Meeting

Tuesday, February 14, 2023 - 7:00 PM - Boardroom Executive Session: Tenure candidates and probationary employee review

14. Acknowledgements

The Board acknowledged Warrant 36.

15. Adjournment

Ms. Bass moved, and Mr. Bufalini seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 PM.

7 ayes - 0 nays

16. Approved Minutes

None.

On behalf of the Board,

Ken Slentz
Superintendent