

MINUTES



**Tuesday, April 11 21, 2023
Business Meeting
7:00 PM**

1. Call to Order

Ms. Lucasey called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

2. Meeting Opening

2.01 Pledge of Allegiance

2.02 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; and Mr. Jason Balbo, Deputy District Clerk.

2.03 Acceptance of the Agenda

Mr. Bufalini moved and Mr. Wood seconded, to accept the April 11, 2023 Agenda.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

2.04 Approval of Minutes

Ms. Stringer moved and Ms. Bass seconded, to approve the minutes of March 21, 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

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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. Correspondence

4.01 Correspondence for April 11, 2023

The Board acknowledged receipt of correspondence regarding:

- Parent protest at Springhurst Elementary
- School Crossing Guards
- Proposed District Budget

5. Announcements

Mr. Slentz announced that the District Choral Workshop and Performance would be held on Wednesday, April 12, at 3 p.m. in the HS auditorium, directed by Ms. DeFalco and Mr. Wardlaw with a guest conductor.

Mr. Slentz announced that the Districtwide FAQ #DFSDinfo is now on that website. Each week, the district will post a new set of questions and associated answers.

5.01 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 8, 2023 between 3:30 pm and 7:30 pm in the High School 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 16, 2023.

5.02 Board Member Terms of Office: Two terms of office of the Dobbs Ferry Board of Education will be expiring on June 30, 2023:

Two seats for two three (3)-year terms, July 1, 2023-June 30, 2026

- *Ms. Tracy Baron, and Mr. Massimo Bufalini*

Forms for petitions to run for a seat on the Board of Education are available in the District Office. Petitions must be submitted by the close of business on Monday, April 17, 2023. Twenty-five (25) signatures of qualified voters in the district are required.

Ms. Baron announced various Westchester-Putnam School Boards Association activities including a workshop for community members interested in running for a seat on the Board of Education and the end-of-year dinner for Board members.

6. Committee Reports

6.01 Committee Reports

School and Community Relations

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Ms. Sullivan-Nunes updated the Board on the Committee's discussions, which included:

- Review of the ThoughtExchange survey and next steps including the framing of a second community forum
- Rollout of the #DFSDinfo page on the District website

Policy

Ms. Stringer updated the Board on the Committee's discussions, which included:

- Policies that had been reviewed and revised
- Upcoming discussion of policy implications for artificial intelligence software, including ChatGPT
- Policy manual updates are being addressed by Ms. Tularzko
- Future policy consideration includes Policy 5140, Age of Entrance; noted that Mr. Slentz would be discussing this with administration and regional school districts prior to committee review

7. Reports to the Board

7.01 2023-24 Budget Presentation

Dr. Clamser and Mr. Slentz presented the recommended 2023-2024 Budget to the Board as detailed on the slide deck posted on the District Budget Information webpage.

Board members discussed the implications of the tax levy on individual taxpayers and alternative revenue solutions that could be considered to offset the proposed tax levy.

Dr. Clamser reminded the Board that the 5.02% proposed increase to the tax levy was not a 5.02% increase in an individual tax bill and that the Board was not being asked to approve the proposed tax levy tonight but rather to approve the proposed expenditure plan. The Board approves the tax levy later in the school year or early summer.

7.02 BOCES Administrative Budget

Dr. Clamser provided an overview of the proposed 2023-2024 Southern Westchester BOCES administrative budget as detailed on the posted slide deck and information sheet.

8. Superintendent Report

8.01 Student Achievements and Performances

Mr. Slentz provided an overview of co-curricular and extracurricular student successes since our last meeting, including performances of Chicago: Teen Addition, and the recognition of five of our winter sports teams by Section 1 as Scholar Athlete Teams: women's basketball, bowling and indoor track; and men's bowling and indoor track. Mr. Slentz highlighted the success of the first season of Unified Bowling and the 100 goals scored by senior lacrosse player Jacqueline O'Connor.

9. Board Actions

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Ms. Lucasey asked for a motion to combine actions 9.01, 9.03, 9.04, 9.06, and 9.08 as a Consent Agenda.

Ms. Bass moved and Ms. Sullivan-Nunes seconded, to approve combining the above actions into a Consent Agenda.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

Ms. Stringer moved and Ms. Baron seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

9.01 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 Personnel recommendations.

Mr. Slentz highlighted the work of LisaMarie Pan who has been a temporary Office Assistant in the High School, and noted the qualifications of Alison Malfesi, candidate for MS mathematics.

Approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

9.02 2023-2024 Budget Adoption

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, hereby move to adopt the Proposed Budget of \$55,205,235 for the 2023-2024 school year.

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

The Board discussed what potential program changes might result from a slightly decreased budget bottom line.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

9.03 CSE/CPSE Recommendations

WHEREAS the Committee on Special Education and Committee on Pre-School Special Education had issued to the Board by written confidential report dated March 29, 2023, 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 March 29, 2023.

Approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

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9.04 Change Orders

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, hereby move to approve the following change orders:

Project #	Change Order #	Contractor	Amount	Description
660403-03-0001019	MC-MHS-3-01	J&M Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc.	- \$6,492.13	Credit for unused cost allowance.
660403-03-0001019	EC-MHS-4-23	Naber Electric Corp	\$6,732.97	Labor for investigating operation of existing exhaust fans.

Approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

9.05 Partial Tax Exemption for Qualified Persons Aged 65 or Older and for Qualified Persons with Disabilities and Limited Income

BE IT RESOLVED, that real property owned by one or more persons, each of whom is 65 years of age or over, or who qualify as persons with disabilities and limited income as defined by Section 459-c of the Real Property Tax Law, shall be exempt from taxation by the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry UFSD of the town of Greenburgh in Westchester County, State of New York, to the extent of 50% of the assessed valuation thereof, subject to the provisions and limitation contained in Sections 467 and 459 of the Real Property Tax Law of the State of New York; provided however, that the property is vested in either spouse, the combined income of both spouses for the income tax year immediately preceding the date of making the application for exemption is \$37,399.99 or less. This exemption would be in effect from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024.

<u>Annual Income</u>	<u>Percentage of Assessed Value</u>	<u>Exempt from Taxation</u>
Up to and including \$29,000.00		50%
\$29,000.01 to \$29,999.99		45%
\$30,000.00 to \$30,999.99		40%
\$31,000.00 to \$31,999.99		35%
\$32,000.00 to \$32,899.99		30%
\$32,900.00 to \$33,799.99		25%
\$33,800.00 to \$34,699.99		20%
\$34,700.00 to \$35,599.99		15%
\$35,600.00 to \$36,499.99		10%
\$36,500.00 to \$37,399.99		5%
\$37,400.00 or more		Not Eligible

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

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

9.06 Participation in SW BOCES Cooperative Bids Change Order

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, hereby move to agree that the District participate with other school districts of

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the Southern Westchester Board of Cooperative Educational Services in cooperative bidding for 2023-2024 as per the attached list.

Approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

9.07 Quad Management Transportation Services Agreement

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, hereby moves to approve a Quad Management Transportation Services Agreement between the Quad Villages (Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Hastings and Irvington) to a one (1) year municipal cooperation agreement, commencing on July 1, 2023 and terminating on June 30, 2024, for the purposes of providing the administration and management of transportation services to resident pupils attending schools within each of the Quad school districts or non-public schools.

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

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

9.08 Budget Transfers

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, hereby move to approve the following budget transfer to cover the increased cost of utilities:

Account	Decrease	Increase
A 9730-600-00-0000 BAN Principal	\$160,000	
A 1620-421-08-1000 Operations Fuel Oil SH		\$30,000
A 1620-424-08-3000 Operations Gas MS/HS		\$40,000
A 1620-425-08-1000 Operations Electric SH		\$50,000
A 1620-425-08-3000 Operations Electric MS/HS		\$40,000

Approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, hereby move to approve the following budget transfer to cover increased participation in BOCES CTE program offerings:

Account	Decrease	Increase
A 2250-470-01-0000 Spec Ed Tuition K-5	\$80,000	
A 2280-490-03-0000 Occupational Ed-BOCES		\$80,000

Approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, hereby move to approve the following budget transfer to reclassify from in-district transportation and attendants to out-of-district transportation:

Account	Decrease	Increase
A 5540-401-09-9000 Contr Trans-Attendants	\$10,000	
A 5540-436-09-0000 Contr Trans-In District	\$40,000	
A 5540-435-09-7200 Contr Trans-Out of Dist		\$50,000

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Dr. Clamser explained that our student participation in BOCES Occupational Ed in the last few years has doubled.

Approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

9.09 Settlement of a Tax Certiorari Proceeding

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the settlement of a tax certiorari proceeding as set forth in Consent Judgment captioned 72-75 Main Street LLC v. Town of Greenburgh

AND IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes the refund of taxes as required by the terms of the Consent Judgment.

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

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

10. Citizens Comments

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 district business. 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.

A community member expressed concern that residents of D'Assern housing at Children's Village are not considered residents of the Dobbs Ferry School District and are therefore ineligible to run for a Board of Education seat and asked the Board to consider this.

11. Old Business:

Ms. Lucasey reminded the community that because the NYS Budget had not yet been passed, community residents still had time to advocate for universal free school meals by contacting the Governor via information posted on the District website.

12. Upcoming Meetings

12.01 Calendar

Tuesday, April 18, 2023 - 7:00 PM - MS/HS Library
Business Meeting

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Tuesday, May 2, 2023 - 7:00 PM - MS/HS Library

Business Meeting

13. Acknowledgements

13.01 Warrants

The Board acknowledged the receipt of Warrant No. 46 Multi.

13.02 Treasurer's Report

The Board acknowledged the receipt of the Treasurer's Reports for January and February, 2023.

14. Adjournment

Ms. Bass moved and Mr. Bufalini seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 p.m.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

On behalf of the Board,

Ken Slentz
Superintendent