

MINUTES



Tuesday, May 2, 2023
Business Meeting
7:00 PM

1. Call to Order

Ms. Lucasey called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

2. Proposed Executive Session

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby recesses into Executive Session for the following purpose: *to discuss a due process complaint for student #12 with legal counsel.*

Ms. Stringer moved and Ms. Baron seconded, to recess to executive session.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

Ms. Sullivan-Nunes moved and Mr. Bufalini seconded, to appoint Mr. Slentz as clerk pro tem.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

3. Return to Regular Session

Mr. Bufalini moved and Ms. Stringer Baron seconded, to return to the regular meeting.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

4. Meeting Opening

MOTION to appoint Ms. Saperstein, Assistant to the Superintendent, as the clerk pro tem for tonight's meeting

Ms. Baron moved and Ms. Sullivan-Nunes seconded, to appoint Ms. Saperstein, assistant to the Superintendent, as clerk pro tem.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

4.01 Pledge of Allegiance

4.02 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. Kenneth Slentz, Superintendent; Dr. Ron Clamser, Jr., Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Facilities and Operations; Dr. Darrell Stinchcomb, Assistant Superintendent of

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Curriculum, Instruction and Equity; and Ms. Elizabeth Saperstein, clerk pro tem.

Mr. Wood was absent.

4.03 Acceptance of the Agenda

Ms. Bass moved and Ms. Stringer seconded, to accept the May 2, 2023 Agenda.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

4.04 Approval of Minutes

Ms. Sullivan-Nunes moved and Ms. Baron seconded, to approve the April 18, 2023 minutes.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

5. Citizen's Comments

5.01 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 appropriate action.

No comments.

6. Correspondence

6.01 Correspondence for May 2, 2023

The Board received correspondence on the following topics:

- Email regarding the resignation of a building administrator
- Email regarding absentee ballot

7. Announcements

Ms. Baron announced the following:

- The Youth Services Coalition is sponsoring a forum for the Rivertowns entitled The Potent Truth that will be held on May 18 at 6:30 p.m. at the Sleepy Hollow High School Auditorium.
- The Westchester-Putnam School Boards Association Annual Business Meeting will be held on May 22 followed by a June 8 Board Night Out.

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Ms. Lucasey announced the following:

- 7.01 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.
- 7.02 Meet the Candidates Forum:** The League of Women Voters of the Rivertowns announces a virtual Candidates Forum for the School Board election for the Dobbs Ferry School District. The event is co-sponsored by the Dobbs Ferry PTSA.

The Forum is scheduled for Sunday, May 7, 2023, at 8:00 p.m. and can be viewed live by pre-registration. To register for the Forum, go to <https://bit.ly/DobbsFerry SB>. There will be no audience participation. Questions should be submitted before 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 6, either at registration or by email to info@lww-rivertowns.org. Questions will be vetted by a committee of PTSA and League members who will submit them to the moderator of the Forum.

Candidates include Rebecca Hershberg, Pavithra Nagarajan, and Antonio Treglia. These three candidates are vying for two open seats. The event will be recorded and made available on the LWV Rivertowns YouTube page, the school district website, and other media locations.

Mr. Slentz announced the following:

- 7.03 Springhurst Principal Search:** The search for the replacement of Dr. Drake has begun and information is posted on the "Principal Search" page of the Springhurst website. The timeline details the processes and input that students, parents and community members, faculty and staff, administration, and the Board of Education can participate in/offer.
- 7.04 2023 Tri County Science and Technology Fair:** The Tri County Science and Technology Fair is an annual Science Fair Competition for students in Elementary, Middle, and High School. The competition is organized by the Putnam Children's Discovery Center and sponsored locally by PepsiCo Research and Development. This year the fair was held virtually. DFMS entered 6 great projects this year and we are pleased to announce the results:

Wiley Weinmann - 3rd Place in Engineering and Technology.
Project Title - Investigating Household Materials for DIY Records.

Mira Williams-Ameen - 2nd Place in Psychology.
Project Title - Do Screens Affect Learning? The Difference in Memory Retention Between Screen-Based and In- Person Presentations.

Both of these students went on to be selected to participate in, or be an alternate, a larger national competition, the Thermo Fisher Junior Innovators Challenge. Mira Williams Ameen as the Selected Participant and Wiley Weinmann as the Alternate. The Thermo Fisher JIC is the nation's premier STEM research competition for middle school students.

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8. Committee Reports

8.01 Curriculum, Instruction, and Equity

Ms. Baron updated the Board on the Committee's discussions that included:

- An overview of the MTSS framework and Faculty and Staff Handbook development presented by Ms. Grasso
- An overview of the transition to computer-based testing for the NYS 3-8 ELA and Mathematics assessments presented by Ms. Klebanoff
- An overview of the professional development planning that will take place this summer presented by Dr. Stinchcomb
- A review of the IB parent night that was held at the high school in March

9. Public Hearing: the 2023-24 Adopted Budget

Mr. Slentz and Dr. Clamser reviewed the key concepts of the adopted 2023-24 Budget.

10. Reports to the Board:

10.01 Data Protection Officer Annual Update: Ms. Klebanoff updated the board on key areas of policy and practice related to the protection of student and district data. Ms. Klebanoff also highlighted two new technology tools that the District is putting in place that will make student and staff access to our platforms and student performance data more accessible and useful, while still maintaining rigorous levels of protection.

11. Superintendent Report:

11.01 District Goals Overview: Mr. Slentz provided an update on progress toward the completion of the 2022-23 district goals, which serve as a transition to the District's next strategic plan. A more in-depth presentation will be made at the May 23 meeting.

12. Board Actions

Ms. Lucasey asked for a motion to combine the following actions as a consent agenda item:

- 12.03 CSE/CPSE Recommendations
- 12.04 Student Athletic & Field Trip Transportation Contract Piggybacking
- 12.05 Student Out-of-District & Summer Transportation Contract Piggybacking
- 12.06 Budget Transfer
- 12.07 Budget Increase
- 12.10 Board of Ed Election and Budget Vote Clerks

Ms. Stringer moved and Ms. Bass seconded the combination of items into a Consent Agenda.

Ms. Lucasey explained that 12.04 marked the first time the District is participating/piggybacking on the contract w/Hastings schools and that 12.05 represents a contract that the Board regularly approves for piggybacking. She further

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noted that 12.06 and 12.07 involve the Bond Anticipation Note and emphasized that the budget increase relates to the 2022-2023 school year and does not impact the 2023-2024 budget.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

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

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

12.01 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 noted the resignation of Dr. Drake from her position as principal of Springhurst and thanked her for her 12 years of service and dedication to the District.

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

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

12.02 Authorization of District Grievance Response

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes its President to execute a Step 3 Grievance Response dated May 2, 2023 on its behalf, for issuance to the President of the Dobbs Ferry UFSD Clerical, Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistants Unit of the Civil Service Employees Association, as presented to the Board at this meeting.

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

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

12.03 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 April 28, 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 April 28, 2023

Approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

12.04 Student Athletic and Field Trip Transportation Contract Piggybacking

WHEREAS, the Hastings on Hudson Union Free School District (“Hastings”) has

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made available to public school districts located in Westchester County its Student Athletic and Field Trip Transportation through a provision in the bid specifications permitting “piggybacking” as well as a resolution of the Hastings Board of Education authorizing participation in the Student Athletic and Field Trip Transportation on the same terms and conditions as the contract with Hastings; 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 Athletic and Field Trip 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 Hastings to piggyback onto Hastings’s Student Athletic and Field Trip Transportation Contract with Academy Bus Company Inc. for the 2023-2024 school year on the same terms and conditions as the contract with Hastings; and

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

Approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

12.05 **Student Out-of-District and Summer Transportation Contract Piggybacking**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education does hereby move to approve the following:

WHEREAS, the Ardsley Union Free School District (“Ardsley”) has made available to public school districts located in Westchester County its Student Out-of-District and 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 Out-of-District and 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, that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District determines that the contract cost for the Student Out-of-District and 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 Out-of-District and Summer Transportation Contract with Royal Coach for the 2023-2024 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

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required by the New York State Education Department to facilitate approval of the contract.

Approved as part of the Consent aAgenda.

12.06 Budget Transfer

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 BAN Principal & Interest payment due June 2, 2023:

Account	Decrease	Increase
A 9730-600-00-0000 BAN Principal	\$158,759	
A 9730-700-00-0000 BAN Interest		\$158,759

Approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

12.07 Budget Increase

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, hereby move to approve decreasing the Reserve for Debt Service and increasing the budget in the amount of \$116,946 to pay for the BAN premium received on June 2, 2022 and payable on June 2, 2023:

Reserve Account to Decrease	Amount	Expenditure Account to Increase	Amount
A884 Reserve for Debt Service	\$116,946	A9730-700-00-0000 BAN Interest	\$116,946

Approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

12.08 Policy Revision - First Reading

Policies 5205 and 5225 were tabled until further notice. Policy 5500 was accepted for first reading and will be moved to the May 23 meeting agenda for second reading.

12.09 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 on the attached list that are currently part of the MS/HS Library collection.

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

The Board noted that, per Board policy, culling of library books required Board approval and that the books are culled based on age and condition, whether they have been checked out recently, etc., and not based on viewpoints expressed in them.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

12.10 Board of Education Election and Budget Vote Clerks

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BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, hereby move to appoint the Board of Education Election and Budget Vote Clerks on the attached document for the May 16, 2023 Annual Election and Budget Vote.

Approved as part of the Consent Agenda.

12.11 Proposed Settlement Agreement Student #12

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves a Settlement Agreement dated May 2023 in the matter of a Student with a Disability No. 12; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent of Schools is hereby authorized to sign this Settlement Agreement on the District's behalf.

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

In discussion, the Board noted this settlement was discussed in the Executive Session convened tonight with legal counsel.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

13. Citizens Comments

13.01 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 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.

No comments.

14. Old Business:

None.

15. New Business:

Ms. Lucasey polled the members to see who would be attending the June 17 commencement ceremony.

16. Upcoming Meetings

16.01 Calendar

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Wednesday, May 17, 2023 - 9:00 AM - Board Room
Certification of Budget Vote and Board Member Elections

Tuesday, May 23, 2023- 7:00 p.m. - MS/HS Library
Work Session

17. Acknowledgements

17.01 Warrants

The Board acknowledged the receipt of Warrant No. 50.

17.02 Treasurer's Report

The Board will acknowledge receipt of the Treasurer's Reports for March 2023.

18. Proposed Executive Session

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby recesses into Executive Session for the following purpose: *to discuss the employment history of specific non-pedagogical employees.*

Ms. Stringer moved and Ms. Baron seconded, to recess to executive session.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

Ms. Sullivan-Nunes moved and Mr. Bufalini seconded, to appoint Ms. Bass as clerk pro tem.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

19. Adjournment

Ms. Baron moved and Ms. Stringer seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

On behalf of the Board,

Ken Slentz
Superintendent