



**Tuesday, August 22, 2023
Business Meeting
7:00 PM**

1. Proposed Executive Session

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

Ms. Stringer moved, and Ms. Bass seconded, that the Board enter executive session at 6:35 p.m.

Vote: 5 ayes - 0 nays

Ms. Stringer moved, and Ms. Nagarajan seconded, that the Board return to regular session at 7:10 p.m.

Vote: 5 ayes - 0 nays

2. Call to Order

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

3. Opening of the Meeting

3.01 Pledge of Allegiance

3.02 Roll Call

Ms. Jean Lucasey, Board president; Ms. Brooke Bass, vice president; Ms. Shannon Stringer; Dr. Pavithra Nagarajan; Dr. Rebecca Hershberg; Dr. Darrell Stinchcomb, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, and Equity; Dr. Ron Clamser, Jr., Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Facilities and Operations; Mr. Kenneth Slentz, Superintendent; Jessily Gonzalez, District Clerk.

Ms. Sullivan-Nunes and Mr. Wood were absent.

3.03 Acceptance of the Agenda

Ms. Bass moved and Ms. Stringer seconded, that the Board accept the August 22, 2023 Agenda.

Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays

DRAFT MINUTES

3.04 Approval of Minutes

Ms. Hershberg moved, and Ms. Stringer seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the July 11, 2023 meeting.

Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays

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 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. Correspondence

None.

6. Announcements

Ms. Lucasey announced the NYSSBA Annual Convention at the end of October. The deadline to sign up is 9/18/23.

Mr. Slentz announced the following:

- New staff orientation will be on 8/23/23.
- The fall sports season began this week for all sports.
- Superintendent /Conference days will be held on August 30 and 31.
- The first day for students is Tuesday, September 5.

Ms. Bass announced that the next PTSA meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on August 29 via Zoom.

7. Committee Reports

7.01 Facilities Committee

Ms. Bass highlighted the following:

DRAFT MINUTES

- The Phase II Building project, currently being developed using the remaining funds from the voter-approved Phase I project.
- The replacement of the Middle and High School hot water heater.
- The erosion occurring on the western boundary of the District's property adjacent to the Draper Lane apartments.
- An agreement with Children's Village regarding the placement of a portion of a fence at one of the CV residences.
- The inspection by an arborist of all trees on District property.

8. Superintendent Report

Mr. Slentz discussed the following items as detailed in the posted Superintendent Report:

- Facilities management and summer projects including replacement of sidewalks, painting, and grounds maintenance.
- Curriculum and instruction initiatives in world languages, literacy, extended school year program, and physical education.
- Student outcomes and systems development, including the introduction of our centralized data hub, *LinkIt*.
- Personnel management, including the hiring of 17 new staff members, the introduction of additional automated systems, and the ongoing development of systems in the office.
- Professional learning that occurred over the summer.

Mr. Slentz thanked the many employees involved in this work.

9. Board Actions

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

- 9.01 Creation of New Administration Position
- 9.03 Creation of New Confidential Management Position
- 9.04 Creation of New Office Assistant Position
- 9.05 Reclassification of Position
- 9.09 Personnel
- 9.11 MidWestchester Special Education Consortium
- 9.12 CSE/CPSE Recommendations
- 9.13 Budget Transfer
- 9.17 Agreement for Extended School Year Instructional Services
- 9.18 Agreement for Instructional Services for the 2023-24 School Year

Ms. Bass moved and Ms. Stringer seconded, that the Board approve the combination of items into a Consent Agenda.

Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays

DRAFT MINUTES

Ms. Bass moved and Ms. Hershberg seconded, that the Board approve the consent agenda.

Mr. Slentz highlighted the hiring of current staff members to serve as interim special-education director and interim assistant special-education director.

Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays

9.02 Creation of New Custodial Positions

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby creates two full-time positions of Senior Custodial Worker, effective September 1, 2023.

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

Mr. Slentz discussed the Civil Service list and explained that two related vacant positions would be hired later.

Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays

9.06 Amended Resolution Regarding Counsel for the District

BE IT RESOLVED, that the firm of Shaw & Perelson, LLP serve as Counsel for the District at an annual retainer of \$35,000. Hourly services shall be provided \$225 per hour.

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

Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays

9.07 Request for Defense and Indemnification

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby grants Employee # 082223 a legal defense and indemnification pursuant to New York State Education Law 3023 and/or 3811 in the matter of New York State Division of Human Rights Case No. 10227113.

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

Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays

9.08 Data Privacy Officer

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Amber Klebanoff as District Data Privacy Officer, at no additional compensation, effective July 1, 2023.

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

Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays

DRAFT MINUTES

9.10 Instructional Services Agreement - WCC Instructional Services Program

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, hereby move to approve the attached Instructional Services Agreement between the White Plains City School District and the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District for the 2023-24 school year, and authorize the Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Facilities and Operations to sign for the District.

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

Mr. Slentz explained details of the program, which will serve 19-to-21-year-old students and will include classroom work on the Westchester Community College campus and related services at DFHS.

Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays

9.14 Hudson River Community Education Budget proposal

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, hereby, move to adopt the Hudson River Community Education (HRCE) program budget for the 2023-24 School Year.

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

Mr. Slentz explained the long-running community-education program, run by staff in the business office.

Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays

9.15 2023-2024 School Lunch Fund Budget Proposal

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, hereby, move to adopt the School Lunch Budget for the 2023-24 School Year.

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

Dr. Clamser explained that the cafeteria budget is self-sufficient by law.

Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays

9.16 Proposed Tax Certiorari Settlement Agreement

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes its attorneys, Shaw, Perelson, May & Lambert, LLP to execute a Consent Judgment in a tax certiorari proceeding captioned *Bethel Holdings LLC and JJHS, LLC v. Town of Greenburgh and Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District*.

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

DRAFT MINUTES

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

Dr. Clamser explained how the business office tracks the certiorari claims.

Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays

9.19 Agreement for Consultant Services

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, hereby move to approve the attached Consultant Services Agreement between HMB Consultants and the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District.

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

Dr. Clamser explained that the 5-year food services contract expires this year and that the consultant has worked with the District in past years to draft required bids and to monitor the contract on an ongoing basis.

Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays

9.20 Acceptance of Donation

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, hereby move to accept the donation of a full-size cello from Beth Sutherland and Paul Kaplan.

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

Ms. Lucasey thanked the donors on behalf of the Board.

Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays

10. Citizen Comments

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DRAFT MINUTES

None.

11. Old Business

None.

12. New Business

None.

13. Upcoming Meetings

13.01 Calendar

Tuesday, September 12, 2023 - 7:00 PM - MS/HS Library
Business Meeting

Tuesday, September 26, 2023 - 7:00 PM- MS/HS Library
Business Meeting with introduction to new faculty and staff.

14. Acknowledgements

14.01 Warrants

The Board acknowledged the receipt of

1. Warrant No. 62 Multi (2022-23);
2. Warrant No. 1 Multi;
3. Warrant No. 3 Multi; and
4. Warrant No. 5 Multi.

15. Adjournment

Ms. Stringer moved and Ms. Nagarajan seconded, that the Board adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays

Jessily Gonzalez
District Clerk