



**Tuesday, December 21, 2021
Virtual Board Meeting – Work Session
7:00 PM**

1. Call to Order – 7:02 PM

2. Work Session Opening

2.01 Pledge of Allegiance

2.02 Roll Call

Ms. Tracy Baron, President; Ms. Shannon Stringer, Vice President; Ms. Rita Kennedy; Ms. Jean Lucasey; Mr. Massimo Bufalini; Ms. Brooke Bass; Ms. Penny Sullivan-Nunes; Dr. Lisa Brady, Superintendent; Mr. Ron Clamser, Jr., Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Facilities and Operations; Dr. Darrell Stinchcomb, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum, Instruction and Equity; and Ms. Loretta Tularzko, District Clerk.

2.03 Acceptance of the Agenda

Ms. Bass moved, and Ms. Sullivan-Nunes seconded, that the Board accept the December 21st Agenda.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

3. Citizens 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 appropriate action.

None.

4. Announcements

None.

5. Work Session

5.01 Student Mental Health

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The focus of our discussion will be student mental health needs and concerns both pre and post-pandemic. Participants are asked to read and be familiar with the following articles which will frame our discussion.

[Why mental health is the key to dealing with learning loss | EdSource](#)

[Students' Mental Health Is Not Alright | Psychology Today](#)

[AAP, AACAP, CHA declare national emergency in children's mental health | AAP News | American Academy of Pediatrics](#)

[Surgeon General advisory: Youth mental health crisis looms - Los Angeles Times](#)

Dr. Brady welcomed everyone and thanked the staff, Board of Ed and the community for attending the work session.

After the last almost two years, our kids are not alright and neither are the adults.

Dr. Brady shared the agenda for the evening, which included:

- Watch both videos (10 minutes)
- Pair Share in Breakout Rooms (10 min.)
- Report Out to Larger Group (10 min.)
- Discussion - Shared Resources
- Breakout Rooms (20 min.)
- Report Out to Larger Group (20 min.)
- Connect, Extend Challenge (20 min.)

Next we viewed two videos entitled "Numb" and "Then and Now".

The attendees went into breakout rooms for ten minutes to share their thoughts on the videos.

The group reassembled and shared their discussions and their thoughts from their smaller groups.

Discussion included:

- Kids need a social environment for development.
- How will we catch up after the last almost 3 years?
- Preschool kids have been isolated.
- Speech articulation has been stunted due to mask coverings.
- Younger students have been in a controlled world – how will they handle a bigger world?
- Self-care for kids, teens and adults.
- Recognize patterns of students to try to help them keep it together.
- Kids were bored and lonely when learning remotely.
- They were overwhelmed with all the homework, tasks, classes.

Dr. Brady asked the group to enter into breakout rooms for twenty minutes to discuss their thoughts on the articles that were supplied prior to the meeting.

The group reassembled and shared their discussions and their thoughts from their smaller groups.

Discussion included:

- The mental health of Mental Health professionals.
- It is a whole school/district that needs to concentrate on wellness.
- A lot of work had begun prior to the pandemic around mindfulness, wellness, etc.
- The counselors have been working non-stop.
- The counseling departments need to be redesigned.
- Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) is a systemic, continuous-improvement framework in which data-based problem solving and decision-making is practiced across all levels of the educational system for supporting students.

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- We need to reach out to our parents with information on how to spot anxiety in their children and give them tools to work with the children.
- Before the pandemic, the District was engaged in student/staff wellness, i.e., yoga, meditation, breathing to self-regulate anger.
- Schools need to elevate their arts, music and physical education programs.

The last task for the group was to share their thoughts on the following:

- CONNECT:** How are the ideas and information presented CONNECTED to what you already know?
- EXTEND:** What new ideas did you get that EXTENDED Or pushed your thinking in new directions?
- CHALLENGE:** What is still CHALLENGING or confusing for you to get your mind around? What questions, wonderings or puzzles do you now have?

Thoughts included:

- There is a challenge due to exhaustion in adults and kids. Now, with another wave of COVID, it will be a heavy lift to come out of the pandemic.
- Administrators are exhausted from the rough last couple of years.
 - Connect: The importance of SEL
 - Extend: The idea of a whole class intervention
 - Challenge: Staffing needs, how to provide and augment staff in alignment with parents? It can't be rushed.
 - Connect: Depth of issues
 - Extend: School wide approach
 - Challenge: Finding time and how do we accomplish the task?
- Kids follow what the adults do
 - Connect: Personally at the building level
 - Extend: Visualize experience of students
 - Challenge: Being a top Westchester school district, how do we reduce student workload and pressure while still achieving high grades, etc.
- Listening – catch up and slow up – need flexibility – MTSS - Better together than apart

Dr. Brady and Ms. Baron thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and participating in the work session.

6. Executive Session

6.01 It is anticipated that the Board will act upon the following resolution to convene an Executive Session

At 8:37 PM, Ms. Lucasey moved, and Mr. Bufalini seconded, that the Board recess into Executive Session for the following purpose: to discuss matters leading to the employment of a particular corporation.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

Ms. Lucasey moved, and Mr. Bufalini seconded, to appoint Ms. Stringer as Clerk Pro Tem.

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

At 8:44 PM, Ms. Kennedy moved, and Ms. Bass seconded, to move back to the Public Meeting.

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

7. Board Action

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7.01 Agreement

Ms. Kennedy moved, and Ms. Bass seconded authorize its President to sign an agreement with Hazard Young Attea Associates as presented to the Board at this meeting. A copy of said agreement shall be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

8. Citizens Comments

8.01 Notice

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None.

9. Old Business

None.

9. New Business

None.

10. Upcoming Meetings

10.01 Calendar

Tuesday, January 4, 2022 - 7:00 PM - MS/HS Library

Tuesday, January 18, 2022 - 7:00 PM

- Work Session

11. Executive Session

11.01 It is anticipated that the Board will act upon the following resolution to convene an Executive Session

At 8:47 PM, Ms. Lucasey moved, and Mr. Bufalini seconded, that the Board recesses into Executive Session for the following purposes: to discuss the ongoing litigation - The Landing on the Water at Dobbs Ferry Condominium v. Town of Greenburgh and the *employment history of particular pedagogical and non-pedagogical employees*.

The Board would not be returning to public session to take any action(s).

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays.

At 8:49 PM, Ms. Kennedy moved, and Ms. Lucasey seconded, to appoint Ms. Stringer as Clerk Pro Tem.

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Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

At 10:26 PM, Ms. Kennedy moved, and Ms. Lucasey seconded, to move back to the Public Meeting.

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

15. Adjournment

At 10:27 PM, Ms. Lucasey moved, and Mr. Bufalini seconded, that the Board adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

16. Approved Minutes

16.01 Approved Minutes – November 9, 2021



Loretta Tularzko
District Clerk