

MINUTES



Tuesday, January 8, 2019
Regular Board Meeting
MS/HS Media Center, 7:00 PM

1. Call to Order

2. Meeting Opening 7:03 p.m.

Ms. Lucasey welcomed everyone and extended a Happy New Year.

2.01 Pledge of Allegiance

2.02 Roll Call

Ms. Jean Lucasey, President; Ms. Tracy Baron; Mr. Robert Reiser; Mr. Louis Schwartz; Ms. Shannon Johnson; Ms. Rita Kennedy; Dr. Lisa Brady, Superintendent; Mr. Douglas Berry, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction; Mr. Ron Clamser, Jr., Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Facilities and Operations; and Ms. Loretta Tularzko, District Clerk.

2.03 Acceptance of the Agenda

Mr. Reiser moved, and Ms. Johnson seconded, that the Board accept the January 8th Agenda.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

2.04 Approval of Minutes

Ms. Baron moved, and Ms. Kennedy seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the December 18, 2018 meeting.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

3. Board Action

3.01 Election of Vice President of the Board of Education

Mr. Reiser motioned to nominate Ms. Shannon Johnson, and Ms. Kennedy seconded, for the position of Vice President of the Board of Education by the District Clerk.

There were no other nominations.

Therefore, the motion carried with 6 – ayes and 0 – nays.

The audience congratulated Ms. Johnson and she was sworn in by the District Clerk.

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4. Announcements

PTSA

- Addy and Uno is a heartwarming musical about disability, friendship and kindness that is currently enjoying a wonderful run off-Broadway. February 2nd - Doors Open at 11:30, Show Begins at 1:00pm in the Auditorium.
- January 26th - 12:00 - 3:30 – the Dobbs Ferry Diversity Committee presents the Intercultural Festival - Middle and High School Commons.
- The used book fair will be held during the last weekend of March. Boxes for donated books will be available in all three schools.

WPSBA

- 1/10/19 - 6:30 PM - 7:45 PM WPSBA Board of Directors Meeting
- 1/10/19 - 7:45 PM - 9:15 PM - Legislative Advocacy Meeting
 - Both meetings will be held at the Ardsley High School Library

Lower Hudson Special Education Task Force

- ADHD Panel Discussion event with our Dr. Halie Malbin – January 24 & January 31 (snow date) at 7:PM in the Dobbs Ferry MS/HS Library Presentation Center

5. Superintendent's Report

District

Reminder - Schools are closed on Monday, January 21 for MLK Day.

Dr. Brady's column on Social Media in Education will appear in the March publication of The School Administrator - Journal of the American Association of School Administrators.

We are meeting in the next two weeks to put together a dress code draft for discussion. Once we have a draft we will share with some teachers and students for additional feedback. We will pilot a draft in the spring for inclusion in the Code of Conduct for the next school year.

Our District Cohort will begin working with the Civic Engagement 3 day program being conducted by Giselle Martin Kniep at Putnam Westchester BOCES January through March. There will be 8 teachers from the three schools plus Lisa. We are also talking about doing the audit discussed at our December Work Session.

The Board was engaged, impressed and thanked Ms. Martin Kniep and the administration for a great work session.

Springhurst

Family Math Night is this Friday at Springhurst from 6:30pm - 8pm! While we encourage everyone to attend, space is limited so please be sure to RSVP to the PTSA in advance. Thank you to Mr. Rosen and the numerous teacher volunteers for giving of their time to help make this beloved family event possible!

Springhurst Studies Science at DFHS! The IB Biology, Chemistry, and Physics classes collaborated with the second-grade team at Springhurst to present mini interactive science stations to the second graders in the district. The second graders learned about waves, cells, pH, and many more science topics connected to the curriculum. Special thanks to the IB science students for creating the stations, and the IB Science Teachers - Ms. Ravo, Ms. Molloy, and Mr. Cottingham for coordinating a great event!

Heading into the month of February Springhurst will be focusing on Random Acts of Kindness. We will also be hosting a character education assembly in conjunction with the DFPD - Omegaman! Also in February Springhurst and the PTSA Diversity Committee are co-sponsoring what is sure to be an incredible assembly: Alvin Ailey Dance Troupe performs on Feb 8th!

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Compost kids' lessons began this week in Kindergarten! Children got to learn about composting and touch and examine worms! Many parent volunteers assisted us with this effort led by Master Composter Pamela Davis.

Building Bridges started in 1st grade this week. Students are learning about blindness and participating in simulations to experience what it might be like to live with that disability. A number of parent volunteers assisted us with this effort as well which was wonderful and deeply appreciated!

A number of Springhurst students submitted essays and art projects to honor Dr. King's legacy as part of the Rivertowns MLK Essay writing contest.

Middle School

DFMS student Erin Kazmierczak came to speak to Springhurst Student Govt. again yesterday (for the 2nd year) and introduced her Be-A-Friend letter-writing project to bullying victims. Our representatives wrote letters yesterday to a 14-year-old boy.

High School

Midterm Week: January 22-25.

Gingerbread Tradition! Ms. Buschi's art classes competed in the annual holiday gingerbread contest. The annual DFHS tradition brings such joy to our entire school community. Our classes were also visited by a team from Pelham who were investigating creative ideas for implementing STEAM. We are going to continue communications with them and do similar work here at DFHS.

Student Leadership Luncheon! Ms. Foster, Student Assistance Counselor and Youth to Youth Club Adviser, had the great opportunity to bring 2 student leaders of the Y2Y club to a Student Leadership Luncheon. This event gave Gabriela Guadalupe and Seoyun Lee the chance to network with other student leaders from high schools in Westchester County. Ideas were shared, bonds were made, and these ladies represented DFHS and made us proud! #DFHSIB20

Athletics

Both the Varsity Boys and Girls Basketball teams won the Mayclim Basketball Tournament in Croton Harmon.

The Varsity Girls Basketball team came in first place in the Dobbs Ferry Winter Classic Basketball Tournament.

The Varsity Cheerleaders have come in first place in their last two competitions.

6. Committee Reports

6.01 Committee Reports

Facilities - 12/11

It was an extensive meeting. Tetra Tech Architects & Engineers discussed the updates to tentative schedule and potential project scope list.

- Evaluation phase has been completed
- Reviewed Capital Project Planning Process
 - This phase is intended to develop consensus on the project and finalize budgets
- Project Design and SED Review takes time. SED review bar should be much longer.
- Vote to occur early October (in advance of the voting machines being used for general election)
- Reviewed Capital Project Timeline
- Planning for Board Resolution in June so the District has the summer and early fall to effectively communicate the project to the community
- Scope Development process will be ongoing up to Board Resolution (June 2018)

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- Communication process is ongoing and will ramp up during the summer months (after the Board Resolution)
- Debt drop is coming in 2021. The goal is to bring on new debt at the same time the drop occurs
- Debt drop will minimize cost impact to tax payers
- Tetra Tech completed a comprehensive list of work that would/could be completed
 - The committee is prioritizing the necessary projects and those we would like to do
- Approximately \$20 million bond which is in line with other Districts

Special Ed - 1/2

- The Committee reviewed the CSE/CPSE recommendations and questions were asked and clarified.
- The Committee reviewed the Special Education numbers and the numbers for 504 Plans (which have increased). Erin shared that this is predominantly due to mental health issues and needs of students.
- We are still looking for the replacement for Nancy Donofrio.

Personnel - 1/2

- The Committee reviewed the Personnel Recommendations on the agenda.
- MS Secretary, Paula Cox, will be retiring at the end of the school year. This appears on the agenda.

7. Correspondence

7.01 Letter from Paul Feiner

The Board acknowledged correspondence from Paul Feiner regarding dealing with technology that could improve emergency response time.

8. Citizen's Comments

8.01 Notice

Members of the community may comment on any matter related to the meeting's approved agenda. The Board President may request a brief description of the topic the speaker plans to address. Any group or organization wishing to address the Board must identify a single spokesperson. Presentations should be as brief as possible and no speaker will be permitted to speak for longer than 3 minutes. It is expected that 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.

The meeting can also be viewed on TV DFTV - Channel 77 & 47 or visit the website for the video of the meeting

9. Reports to the Board

None.

10. Board Actions

Mr. Schwartz moved, and Ms. Baron seconded, that the Board approve Items 10.01, 10.02 and 10.03 as a consent agenda.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

Mr. Reiser moved, and Ms. Kennedy seconded, that the Board approve 10.01, 10.02 and 10.03.

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Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

10.01 Acting District Clerk

The Board appointed Ms. Stephanie Motts, Account Clerk, as Acting District Clerk, to serve in the absence or disability of the District Clerk, at no additional compensation.

10.02 CSE/CPSE Recommendations

The Board authorized and directed the following:

WHEREAS the Committee on Special Education and Committee on Pre-School Special Education had issued to the Board by written confidential report dated December 20, 2018 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 December 20, 2018.

10.03 Personnel

The Board approved the Civil Service and staff personnel recommendations.

11. Acknowledgements

11.01 Warrants

The Board acknowledged receipt of the following warrants:
Warrant No. 30, 32 and 36 Multi.

12. Citizen's Comments

12.01 Notice

Members of the community may comment on any matter related to district business. The Board President may request a brief description of the topic the speaker plans to address. Any group or organization wishing to address the Board must identify a single spokesperson. Presentations should be as brief as possible and no speaker will be permitted to speak for longer than 3 minutes. It is expected that 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.

13. Old Business

The Board requested an update on possibly changing the time of graduation.

Dr. Brady explained that a survey was sent out to the HS seniors and their parents regarding the change in time for graduation and the use of a bus to return to the school after the prom. As soon as the results are tallied a decision will be made and shared with the Board.

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14. New Business

14.01 Procedures for Filling a Board Vacancy

There are basically three options to fill the position:

1. Appoint a member
2. Do nothing until the May Trustee Vote
3. Hold a Special Vote.

The Board discussed the pros and cons of each option.

- Appointment – advertisement, resumes, interviews, appointment and term would end 5/21/19.
- Do nothing – could have SWBOCES appoint a candidate but highly unlikely, may cause a tie in a contentious vote of Board business, only approximately 3 months until the May vote.
- Special Vote – required timing, advertisement, cost, term would end 6/30/2021.

The Board polled their choices:

Two members – Appoint – Nothing – Vote

Three members – Nothing – Appointment – Vote

One member –Vote – Nothing – Appoint

Ms. Lucasey called for a motion.

Ms. Baron moved, and Mr. Reiser seconded, that the Board seat will remain open until the May 21, 2019 Trustee Vote.

Vote: 4 - ayes - 2 nays – Ms. Lucasey – Ms. Johnson

15. Upcoming Meetings

15.01 Calendar

Tuesday, January 22, 2019 - 7:00 PM - MS/HS Media Center

- Budget Status Report
- Work Session - School Schedule

Tuesday, February 5, 2019 - 7:00 PM - MS/HS Media Center

- Proposed Superintendent's Budget

16. Executive Session

16.01 Executive Session

At 8:14 PM, Mr. Reiser moved, and Ms. Baron seconded, that the Board recesses into Executive Session for the following purpose: to discuss possible settlement of a due process claim. It is not anticipated that the Board will return to public session to take any action(s).

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Baron seconded, to appoint Ms. Johnson as Clerk Pro Tem.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

At 8:23 PM, Ms. Baron moved, and Ms. Kennedy seconded, to move back to the Public Meeting.

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Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

18. Adjournment

At 8:24 PM, Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Baron seconded, that the Board adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

17 Approved Minutes

17.01 Approved Minutes – November 27 and December 4, 2018



Loretta Tularzko
District Clerk