



Tuesday, December 18, 2018
Work Session
MS/HS Media Center, 7:00 PM

Dr. Brady and the Board asked for a moment of silence in memory of our departed Board Member Jonathan Greengrass.

Jonathan passed away yesterday after a long battle with cancer. He served on the Dobbs Ferry School Board for seven years and was active on key committees helping the District to develop our new strategic plan, bring MYP to fruition, expand technology and communications, support facilities improvements, and was committed to the success of our students and schools. He will be greatly missed.

1. Call to Order

2. Meeting Opening 7:06 p.m.

Ms. Jean Lucasey, President; Ms. Tracy Baron; Mr. Robert Reiser; and 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, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Facilities and Operations; and Ms. Loretta Tularzko, District Clerk.

2.01 Pledge of Allegiance

2.02 Acceptance of the Agenda

Mr. Reiser moved, and Ms. Johnson seconded, that the Board accept the December 18th Agenda.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

2.03 Approval of Minutes

Ms. Kennedy moved, and Ms. Baron seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the November 27, 2018 meeting.

Vote: 5 - ayes - 0 nays – 1 abstention – Mr. Schwartz

Mr. Reiser moved, and Mr. Schwartz seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the December 4, 2018 meeting.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

3. Announcements

None.

4. Correspondence

4.01. eMail

The Board acknowledged correspondence from a parent regarding the formation of a parent's group promoting smart use of screen time.

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5. Citizen's Comments

5.01 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.

6. Board Actions

6.01 Tax Certiorari Refunds

Ms. Johnson moved, and Ms. Baron seconded, that the Board authorize the following Tax Certiorari Refunds:

\$91,504.76* to be transferred from the District's Appropriated Reserve for Tax Certiorari to its General Fund to enable it to pay a tax certiorari refund in that amount to 110-150 Drapers Owners Corp. as previously consented to at the March 27, 2018 Board meeting.

(*Note that this amount is higher than the amount originally projected due to delays in obtaining the approval of the Town and the Court. It does not change the terms of the original settlement, which has previously been approved.)

\$39,132.86 to be transferred from the District's Appropriated Reserve for Tax Certiorari to its General Fund to enable it to pay a tax certiorari refund in that amount to Gramercy Capital Corp. as previously consented to at the March 27, 2018 Board meeting.

\$9,209.93 to be transferred from the District's Appropriated Reserve for Tax Certiorari to its General Fund to enable it to pay a tax certiorari refund in that amount to Hudson House Tenants Corp. as previously consented to at the July 2, 2018 Board meeting.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

6.02 ExxonMobil Educational Alliance Program Donation

Ms. Kennedy moved, and Ms. Johnson seconded, that the Board approve a donation in the amount of \$500 from ExxonMobil Educational Alliance Program to support Math and/or Science programs in the high school.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

6.03 CSE/CPSE Recommendations

Ms. Baron moved, and Mr. Reiser seconded, that 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 13, 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 13, 2018.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

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6.04 Personnel

Ms. Kennedy moved, and Mr. Reiser seconded, that the Board approve the staff personnel recommendations.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

7. Acknowledgements

None.

*Please visit the website for the video of the meeting under the News & Views tab
TV Programming & Video for the complete discussion*

8. Work Session Topic

8.01 Civic Engagement

Dr. Brady began by explaining that this topic was one of the topics the Board expressed interest in during their retreat.

Dr. Brady introduced Dr. Giselle Martin-Kniep, Ph.D., President, Learner-Centered Initiatives, Ltd., who facilitated the session. Dr. Brady and Dr. Martin-Kniep presented this topic two weeks ago at the Learning Forward Conference in Dallas.

Discussion:

- Civic education has been mandatory since the beginning of the public school system.
- Civic engagement is not really clear – there are differences and similarities in individual ideas.
- It needs a curiosity and willingness to engage; being informed of community issues; making a difference; volunteering in organizations; recognition of our own bias; not afraid to get into a difficult conversation; and a willingness to be offended.
- The participants explored the following questions and were asked in what curriculum contexts (i.e., social studies, ELA, etc.) or settings (i.e., student government, service learning, etc.) could students engage with each of these questions?
 - What is civic engagement?
 - What are the questions that a civically engaged student/person would ask?
 - What conclusions can we draw about the role of schools in civic engagement?

Questions to think about:

- How do you help kids to learn to discuss in a difficult conversation?
- What opportunity do we give kids to care?
- What are other schools doing?
- What are we doing already or not doing?

Dr. Martin-Kniep gave three sheets of selected resources on Civic Engagement that the group could read on their own.

Dr. Brady and the Board thanked Dr. Martin-Kniep for the work session.

9. Citizen's Comments

9.01 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.

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10. Old Business

Graduation – the HS will be sending out a survey to students regarding a time change.

11. New Business

None.

12. Upcoming Meetings

12.01 Calendar

Tuesday, January 8, 2019 - 7:00 PM - MS/HS Media Center

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

- Work Session - School Schedule

13. Executive Session

13.01 Executive Session

At 8:55 PM, Ms. Kennedy moved, and Mr. Schwartz seconded, that the Board recesses into Executive Session for the following purpose: *to discuss a Supplemental Memorandum Agreement between the District and the DFUT.*

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

Mr. Reiser moved, and Mr. Schwartz seconded, to appoint Ms. Kennedy as Clerk Pro Tem.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

At 9:07 PM, Ms. Lucasey moved, and Mr. Reiser seconded, to move back to the Public Meeting.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

14. Board Action

14.01 Supplemental Memorandum of Agreement

Ms. Kennedy moved, and Ms. Baron seconded that the Board ratify the Supplemental Memorandum of Agreement between the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, and the Dobbs Ferry United Teachers.

WHEREBY, the District and the DFUT agree it to be in their mutual best interests to offer a special retirement incentive for the 2018-2019 school year only, subject to the specific agreed upon terms.

Vote: 6 ayes - 0 nays

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15. Adjournment

At 9:08 PM, Ms. Kennedy moved, and Ms. Johnson seconded, that the Board adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 6 - ayes - 0 nays

16 Approved Minutes

16.01 Approved Minutes – November 13, 2018



District Clerk