



MINUTES

Tuesday, November 26, 2024
Regular Meeting
7:00 PM
MS/HS Library Presentation Room

1. ~~Video Conferencing Notice~~

1.01 ~~Video Conferencing Notice~~

2. Proposed Executive Session

2.01 Proposed Executive Session

B. Bass called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

B. Bass requested a motion to appoint K. Slentz to serve as clerk pro tem for the executive session.

D. Wood moved and R. Hershberg seconded, that the board appoint K. Slentz as clerk pro tem for the executive session.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

B. Bass requested a motion that the board recess to executive session to discuss the following topics:

1. Proposed settlement agreement for student #112624;
2. Pending litigation under the Child Victims Act; and
3. The employment history of a particular district administrator.

P. Nagarajan moved and S. Stringer seconded, that the board move to executive session.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

The board entered executive session at 6:03 p.m.

B. Bass requested a motion that the board adjourn the executive session.

J. Lucasey moved and D. Wood seconded, that the board move back to public session at 6:44 p.m.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays



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3. Call to Order - Regular Meeting

B. Bass called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

4. Meeting Opening

4.01 Pledge of Allegiance

4.02 Roll Call

Brooke Bass, President; Penny Sullivan-Nunes, Vice President; Jean Lucasey; Shannon Stringer; Darren Wood; Pavithra Nagarajan; Rebecca Hershberg; Kenneth Slentz, Superintendent; Ron Clamser, Jr., Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Facilities, and Operations; Elizabeth Saperstein, District Clerk.

Dr. Stinchcomb was not present.

4.03 Acceptance of the Agenda

D. Wood moved and S. Stringer seconded, that the board accept the November 26, 2024 agenda.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

4.04 Approval of Minutes

R. Hershberg moved and P. Nagarajan seconded, that the board approve the minutes of the November 12, 2024 meeting.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

5. Citizen 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 education 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



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agenda will be taken under consideration and referred to the superintendent for appropriate action.

None.

6. Correspondence

None.

7. Announcements

Wednesday, November 27 is the district's annual early departure drill as required by the state. Parents, staff, and students have been notified.

8. Board Committee Reports

8.01 Committee Reports

B. Bass reported the following information from the November 18, 2024 meeting of the Board of Education Finance Committee:

- Review of long-range financial plan, including projections based on changes in enrollment and state aid, plan to have to board for review in December;
- Review revenues to date for sales tax and interest earnings;
- Discussion of foundation aid and impact on 2025-26 budget;
- Update on facilities overtime; and
- Discussion of budget impact documents to guide the budget process.

P. Sullivan-Nunes reported the following information from the November 19, 2024 meeting of the Board of Education Curriculum, Instruction and Equity Committee:

- Update on K-8 curriculum implementation including Illustrative Math and Bookworms;
- Update on changes to assessments at the elementary level;
- Discussion relating to potentially new career and technical education (CTE) courses; and
- Discussion of student feedback on potential school schedule change in 2025-2026.

Committee minutes are posted on the district website.

9. Board Actions

9.01 Personnel - Professional/Certificated Staff

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District moves to approve the professional/certificated personnel actions.

B. Bass requested a motion to table item number 3(c) until the December 10, 2024 meeting.

P. Nagarajan moved and D. Wood seconded, to table item number 3(c) to the December 10, 2024 meeting.



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Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays on the amendment.

B. Bass requested a motion to approve the remaining personnel actions.

P. Nagarajan moved and S. Stringer seconded, to approve the personnel actions.

J. Lucasey congratulated physical education teacher and coach Erik Bartell on his upcoming retirement and thanked him for his support of our students and student athletes.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

1. Resignation/Retirement

(a) Wendi Ferreira, Elementary Classroom Teacher

Location: Springhurst Elementary School

Effective: January 6, 2025

(b) Erik Bartell, Physical Education Teacher

Location: Dobbs Ferry Middle/High School

Effective: June 30, 2025

2. Probationary Appointment

(a) Kristin Cunniffe, K-12 Teaching Assistant

Location: Dobbs Ferry School District

Effective: November 18, 2024

Duration of Probationary Period: November 18, 2024 - November 17, 2028

Tenure Area: K-12 Teaching Assistant

Certification: Early Childhood Education Birth- Grade 2; SWD Birth- Grade 2

Compensation: Teaching Assistant, Step 2

3. Temporary/Seasonal Appointment

(a) Steven Gruber, Per Diem Substitute Teacher

Location: Dobbs Ferry High School

Effective: November 27, 2024 - June 26, 2025

Compensation: \$125.00 per diem, \$62.50 half day

(b) Sean Miller, Per Diem Substitute Teacher

Location: Dobbs Ferry Middle School

Effective: November 27, 2024* - June 26, 2025

Compensation: \$125.00 per diem, \$62.50 half day

*Pending Fingerprint Clearance

(c) Sara Sellitti, Outdoor Classroom Coordinator



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Location: Springhurst Elementary School
Effective: July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025
Compensation: \$4,682.52 per annum

(d) Steven Gates, Musical Accompanist

4th Grade Winter Concert
Weds., 1/22/25
Compensation: \$283.75

Middle School Winter Concert
Thurs., 12/12/24
Compensation: \$283.75

High School Theater Arts Showcase
Friday, 2/7/25
Compensation: \$283.75

4. Overages

(a) Michelle Yang-Kaczmarek, one additional class everyday (literacy), \$13,112.72 per annum
Effective: 2024-2025 school year

(b) Joshua Rosen, one additional class everyday (math), \$13,112.72 per annum
Effective: 2024-2025 school year

5. Home Tutors - Dobbs Ferry Middle School
Effective: November 18, 2024 - June 26, 2025

M. Hanley	J. McCrane
E. Feller	M. Gretczko
N. Tobey	K. Marques
N. Appleton	S. Gonzalez
L. Marx	

Compensation: \$75.00 per hour during school hours, provided that a minimum of one hour pay is received; \$65.00 after school hours, per hour

6. January Regents Review - Dobbs Ferry High School
Effective: November 27, 2024 - January 20, 2025

N. Confalone, up to 6 hours, English Language Arts
C. Mach up to 6 hours, Geometry
R. Davis, up to 3 hours, US History
K. Evans, up to 3 hours, US History



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M. Grzan, up to 6 hours, Algebra
J. Henry, up to 3 hours, Physics
D. Ryan, up to 3 hours, Physics
S. Stern, up to 3 hours, Global History
A. Burt, up to 3 hours, Global History
S. Mills, up to 6 hours, Living Environment

Compensation: 20% of daily rate, per hour

9.02 Personnel - Civil Service Staff

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District moves to approve the civil service personnel actions.

J. Lucasey moved and S. Stringer seconded, to approve the civil service personnel recommendations.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

1. Additional Hours

(a) Dilshad Haji

Location: Springhurst Elementary School

Effective: November 18, 2024 - December 20, 2024

Up to 2 hours and 15 minutes per day (8:45- 11:00 AM)

Compensation: Office Assistant (10-month), Step 1, per hour

(b) Kim Addis

Location: Springhurst Elementary School

Effective: November 18, 2024 - December 20, 2024

Up to 2 hours and 15 minutes per day (2:00 - 4:15 PM)

Compensation: Office Assistant (10-month), Step 1, per hour

Note: D. Haji and K. Addis are providing temporary support in the library.

2. Probationary Appointment

Keith Gelardi, Senior Custodial Worker

Location: Dobbs Ferry MS/HS

Effective: December 1, 2024

Status: Probationary (December 1, 2024 - November 30, 2025)

Compensation: Senior Custodial Worker, Step 8 (\$74,993) prorated

Note: As required by Westchester County Civil Service Rules, it is necessary for Mr. Gelardi to serve a probationary period of a minimum of 12 to a maximum of 52 weeks.



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9.03 CSE/CPSE Recommendations

WHEREAS the Committee on Special Education and Committee on Preschool Special Education had issued to the board by written confidential report dated November 19, 2024, 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 November 19, 2024.

R. Hershberg moved and S. Stringer seconded, to approve the CSE/CPSE Recommendations.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

9.04 2025-2026 School Budget Development Calendar

BE IT RESOLVED, that the 2025-2026 Budget Development Calendar is hereby approved.

J. Lucasey moved and P. Sullivan-Nunes seconded, to adopt the calendar.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

9.05 Partial Tax Exemption For Qualified Persons Aged 65 or Older and For Qualified Persons With Disabilities and Limited Income

BE IT RESOLVED, that real property owned by one or more persons, each of whom is 65 years of age or over, or who qualify as persons with disabilities and limited income as defined by Section 459-c of the Real Property Tax Law, shall be exempt from taxation by the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry UFSD of the town of Greenburgh in Westchester County, State of New York, to the extent of 50% of the assessed valuation thereof, subject to the provisions and limitation contained in Sections 467 and 459 of the Real Property Tax Law of the State of New York; provided however, that the property is vested in either spouse, the combined income of both spouses for the income tax year immediately preceding the date of making the application for exemption is \$58,399.99 or less. This exemption would be in effect as of the taxable status date of May 1, 2025.

<u>Annual Income</u>	<u>Percentage of Assessed Value Exempt from Taxation</u>
Up to and including \$50,000.00	50%
\$50,000.01 to \$50,999.99	45%
\$51,000.00 to \$51,999.99	40%
\$52,000.00 to \$52,999.99	35%
\$53,000.00 to \$53,999.99	30%
\$53,900.00 to \$54,799.99	25%
\$54,800.00 to \$55,699.99	20%



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\$55,700.00 to \$56,599.99	15%
\$56,600.00 to \$57,499.99	10%
\$57,500.00 to \$58,399.99	5%
\$58,400.00 or more	Not Eligible

D. Wood moved and S. Stringer seconded, to approve the tax exemption.

B. Bass explained that the finance committee had considered the factors supporting this move before recommending it to the full Board. In answer to a question from D. Wood, the superintendent further explained that, based on the experience of the Town of Greenburgh and the Village of Dobbs Ferry, the district expects the cost of the enhanced exemption to be modest.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

10. Citizens Comments

10.01 Notice

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None.

11. Old Business

None.

12. New Business

None.

13. Upcoming Meetings

13.01 Calendar

- Tuesday, December 10, 2024 - 7:00 p.m. - MS/HS Library Business Meeting



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- Tuesday, January 7, 2025 - 7:00 p.m. - MS/HS Library Business Meeting

14. Acknowledgements

14.01 Warrants

The board acknowledged Warrant No. 0024 Multi.

14.02 Treasurer's Reports

The board acknowledged receipt of the October 2024 treasurer's report.

15. Adjournment

J. Lucasey moved and P. Sullivan-Nunes seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 pm.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

Elizabeth Saperstein
District Clerk