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Tuesday, March 11, 2025
Regular Meeting
7:00 PM
MS/HS Library Presentation Room

1. Videoconferencing Notice

1.01 Videoconferencing Notice

S. Stringer participated via videoconference.

2. Proposed Executive Session - 6:30 p.m.

2.01 Proposed Executive Session

B. Bass called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

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

P. Sullivan-Nunes moved and Pavithra Nagarajan seconded, that the board appoint K. Slentz as clerk pro tem for the executive session.

Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays

D. Wood and J. Lucasey were absent.

B. Bass requested a motion that the board recess to executive session to discuss the following topic: pending litigation and a proposed settlement agreement.

P. Nagarajan moved and R. Hershberg seconded, that the board enter executive session.

Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays

The board entered executive session.

D. Wood entered at 6:42 p.m.

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

P. Nagarajan moved and P. Sullivan-Nunes seconded, that the board move back to public session.



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Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

3. Call to Order - Regular Meeting (following executive session)

B. Bass called the regular meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

4. Meeting Opening

4.01 Pledge of Allegiance

4.02 Roll Call

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

S. Stringer participated via videoconference.

J. Lucasey was absent.

D. Stinchcomb was absent.

4.03 Acceptance of the Agenda

B. Bass requested a motion to accept the March 11, 2025 agenda.

P. Nagarajan moved and D. Wood seconded, that the board accept the March 11, 2025 agenda.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

4.04 Approval of Minutes

B. Bass announced the board would be approving three sets of minutes.

R. Hershberg moved and D. Wood seconded, that the board approve the minutes of the February 4, 2025 meeting.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

R. Hershberg moved and P. Nagarajan seconded, that the board approve the minutes of the February 12, 2025 meeting.

Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays

D. Wood abstained.



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P. Sullivan-Nunes moved and R. Hershberg seconded, that the board approve the minutes of the February 25, 2025 meeting.

Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays

S. Stringer abstained.

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

A parent spoke about the proposed 2025-2026 district calendar.

6. Correspondence

6.01 Board Correspondence

The board acknowledged correspondence on the following topics:

1. Student interest in the Navy;
2. Support of a potential applicant; and
3. Language acquisition induction ceremony.

7. Announcements

K. Slentz made the following announcement:

The elementary school musical "Seussical" will take place Friday, March 14, 2025 at 5:00 pm and Saturday, March 15, 2025 at 2:00 pm. This is a new activity and includes many student performers. Performances will be held at the MS/HS auditorium.

R. Hershberg reported on behalf of PTSA and president Alice DaBiri, the Harlem Wizards fundraiser event was sold out and raised over \$15,000. R. Hershberg thanked everyone that worked hard to put on such a successful evening.

K. Slentz thanked all who came out to support our girls basketball team last Sunday and the



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student athletes, parents and coaching staff for an exciting season.

B. Bass thanked the Dobbs Ferry administrators who participated in the Wizards game.

7.01 Private School Transportation Requests

B. Bass read the following announcement:

School bus transportation: Residents of the district whose students will attend a non-public school in 2025-26 and require bus service must submit a request form online by April 1, 2025 (even if placement has not yet been confirmed) to the Ardsley Transportation Department. To be eligible, students must be at least 5 years old, in grades K-12 (not preschool) and the school must be within 15 miles of their home. You must also meet the minimum district mileage requirements. To apply online, visit ardsleyschools.org and click on Departments >Transportation > Transportation To A Non-Public School. Parents should note that a separate request must be submitted for each school being considered. Requests may be withdrawn if a school is not selected, but may not be considered if submitted after the deadline.

The school board has established a firm policy of not considering requests submitted after the deadline.

7.02 Board Member Terms of Office

Three terms of office of the Dobbs Ferry Board of Education will be expiring on June 30, 2025. Three seats for three (3)-year terms, July 1, 2025-June 30, 2028:

Ms. Jean Lucasey, Ms. Shannon Stringer and Mr. Darren Wood

Forms for petitions to run for a seat on the board of education are available in the district office. Prospective candidates may contact the district clerk during business hours at (914) 693-1500 extension 3024 for more information. Petitions must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 21, 2025. Twenty-five (25) signatures of qualified voters in the district are required.

7.03 Personal Voter Registration

Any community resident not registered with the Westchester County Board of Elections may do so during Personal Registration which will take place on Monday, May 12, 2025 between 3:30 pm and 7:30 pm in the high school gymnasium foyer. Voter qualifications: (1) Must be a citizen of the United States; (2) Must be 18 years of age or older; and (3) Must have been a resident of the school district for a period of 30 days or more prior to May 20, 2025.

7.04 Absentee and Early Mail Ballot Applications

Any registered, qualified voter may vote by mail by submitting an application for an absentee or early mail ballot. Applications for absentee or early mail ballots may be downloaded from the District Budget section of the website, or may be requested in writing by emailing the district clerk at districtclerk@dfsd.org or 505 Broadway, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522. Applications for absentee or



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early mail ballots may be submitted after April 21, 2025. The application must be printed, signed in ink by the voter, and returned either in person or by mail to the office of the district clerk. The Application for an absentee or early mail ballot must be received by 2:00 p.m. on May 13, 2025 if the ballot will be mailed to the voter, or by 4:00 p.m. on May 19, 2025 if the ballot will be picked up in person by the voter or his/her designee. Absentee and early voting ballots will be available April 25, 2025. Completed absentee and early mail ballots must be received in the district office in person or U.S. mail no later than 5:00 PM on May 20, 2025.

8. Board Committee Reports

8.01 Committee Reports

P. Nagarajan reported the following information and updates from the February 11, 2025 meeting of the Board of Education Curriculum, Instruction and Equity Committee:

- Feedback on a previous presentation on curriculum implementation;
- Discussed overall use of computers and computer-related devices on learning;
- Discussed district goals four, five and six: improving academic outcomes for all students including subpopulations (English language learner [ELL], students with disabilities, and economically disadvantaged students); developing a comprehensive literacy plan; completion of the Professional Learning Plan.

S. Stringer reported the following information and updates from the February 12, 2025 meeting of the Board of Education Finance Committee:

- Update on current reserve balances and considerations for the 2025-26 budget;
- Update on employer contribution rates for both retirement systems (ERS and TRS) and potential impact on district budget;
- Review of budget presentation overview and status of the 3-part budget;
- Discussed tax exemption for volunteer firefighters/ambulance workers, which is allowed by NYS law.

P. Sullivan-Nunes reported the following information and updates from the March 5, 2025 meeting of the Board of Education Policy Committee:

- Review of changes to federal rules and regulations that could impact district policies;
- Discussed draft legislation regarding electronic devices and protocol for use of electronic devices at each building;
- Added two new conventions to the convention list: use proper “which” vs. “that” and replace all “utilized” with “use.”

Committee minutes are posted on the district website.

9. Superintendent Report

9.01 Budget Presentation

K. Slentz and M. Rubinstein updated the board on the major cost drivers of the administrative, capital and program components of the proposed 2025-2026 budget including: staffing, health care costs, curriculum materials to support new reading and math curricula, services to



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students with disabilities, employee retirement contribution rates, debt service on capital projects, transportation costs, district security and a legal settlement. K. Slentz emphasized our continued investment in professional learning for our instructional staff.

M. Rubinstein updated the board on projected revenues including: state aid, sales taxes, anticipated interest earnings, tuition and health services income, current fund balance and use of reserves; and tax base growth factor and tax cap projections. Property taxes and state aid comprise 93% of the district revenue.

Next steps: review of the program budget with finance committee, refine revenue budget and capital and administrative budget, and develop communications to faculty and staff.

The preliminary budget presentation is posted to the district website.

10. Board Reports

10.01 Districtwide MTSS Update

District administrators and faculty presented a detailed review of MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) that comprises our teaching and learning program. It is a structured system that provides varying level (tiers) of support based on a student's individual progress. The aim is to help educators identify and respond to students' academic and behavior needs at the earliest signs of difficulty. It relies on data-based decision-making, where educators regularly review each student's progress based on various measures, and adjust support as needed, and on collaboration among teachers, specialists, support staff and families.

Director of Special Education Shari Kaplan explained the three tiers in the MTSS and the various academic interventions that may take place within each tier.

Springhurst Principal Tashia Brown; Middle School Principal Patrick Mussolini, High School Principal John Falino and High School MTSS Coordinator Diana Castellano reviewed in detail how the MTSS process works at each building, including parent involvement, assessments, collaboration between classroom teachers and related services providers.

The presentation is posted to the district website.

11. Board Actions

11.01 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.

P. Nagarajan moved and P. Sullivan-Nunes seconded, to approve the personnel actions.

K. Slentz acknowledged the retirement of speech and language pathologist Beth Tyler next December.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays



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1. Resignation/Retirement

(a) Beth Tyler, Speech/Language Pathologist
Location: Dobbs Ferry Middle School
Effective: December 31, 2025

2. Resignation

(a) Max Rosen, School Psychologist
Location: Springhurst Elementary School
Effective: June 30, 2025

(b) Lauren Rodriguez, School Library Media Specialist
Location: Springhurst Elementary School
Effective: June 30, 2025

3. Temporary, Per Diem, and/or Seasonal Appointment

(a) Ashley Kurien, Per Diem Substitute Teacher
Location: Dobbs Ferry Middle School
Effective: March 12, 2025 - June 26, 2025
Compensation: \$125.00 per day, \$62.50 per half day

(b) Debbie Liu, Per Diem Substitute Teacher
Location: Dobbs Ferry Middle School
Effective: March 12, 2025 - June 26, 2025
Compensation: \$125.00 per day, \$62.50 per half day

(c) Bryan Laverty, Per Diem Substitute Teacher
Location: Dobbs Ferry Middle School
Effective: March 12, 2025 - June 26, 2025
Compensation: \$125.00 per day, \$62.50 per half day

(d) Lucy Ewing, Per Diem Substitute Teacher
Location: Springhurst Elementary School
Effective: March 12, 2025 - June 26, 2025
Compensation: \$125.00 per day, \$62.50 per half day

(e) Curtis Brown, Varsity Track Coach
Location: Dobbs Ferry School District
Effective: March 12, 2025* and for remainder of Spring 2025 Athletic Season
Compensation: Category B, Step 1 (\$5,679.41)
*Pending fingerprint clearance



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(f) Bobby Cerami, Boys Modified Lacrosse Coach

Location: Dobbs Ferry School District

Effective: March 12, 2025 and for remainder of Spring 2025 Athletic Season

Compensation: Category E, Step 1 (\$4,077.96)

(g) Marion Halberg, temporary (leave replacement) ENL Teacher

Location: Dobbs Ferry High School

Effective: approximately May 15, 2025 - June 30, 2025

Compensation: \$133,300 per annum, prorated

Note: replaces SJ Consiglio

(h) Steven Gates, Musical Accompanist - High School Winter Concert

Location: Dobbs Ferry High School

Effective: December 18, 2024

Compensation: \$283.75

(i) Charlie Rhyner, Musical Accompanist - Middle School Jazz Concert

Location: Dobbs Ferry Middle School

Effective: March 5, 2025

Compensation: \$183.08 (includes one performance, one rehearsal)

4. Mentor

Emily Mandel, for Cynthia Centeno

Location: Springhurst Elementary School

Effective: February 1, 2025- January 31, 2026

Compensation: \$1,966.91

5. Special Class Assignment

Teiranni Roberts, K-12 Teaching Assistant

Location: Springhurst Elementary School

Effective: January 14, 2025 - June 30, 2025

Compensation: \$600.00 per annum, prorated and in accordance with CSEA Clerical, Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant CBA Article V (7). To the extent that the assignment to the special class takes place during part of the year, this extra compensation will be either prorated or discontinued.

6. Diapering Compensation

Teiranni Roberts, K-12 Teaching Assistant

Location: Springhurst Elementary School

Effective: January 14, 2025 - June 30, 2025

Compensation: \$4.00 per hour, for each day worked, in accordance with CSEA, Clerical, Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant CBA Article V (5). To the extent that the assumption of the toileting



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duties takes place during part of the year, this extra compensation shall be either prorated or discontinued.

7. Leave of Absence

Alison Malfesi, Mathematics Teacher
Location: Dobbs Ferry Middle School
Effective: approximately May 25, 2025 and for up to 12 weeks
Note: FMLA

8. Re-appointment

Patrick Boynes, Permanent Substitute Teacher
Location: Dobbs Ferry High School
Effective: March 12, 2025 - June 30, 2025
Compensation: \$25,900 per annum, prorated

11.02 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.

D. Wood moved and P. Nagarajan seconded, to approve the personnel actions.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

1. Appointment

Stephanie Motts, HRCE Coordinator
Location: Dobbs Ferry School District
Effective: July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025
Compensation: \$5,394.00 per annum

2. Resignation

Dilshad Haji, School Monitor (probationary, part-time)
Location: Springhurst Elementary School
Effective: April 4, 2025

11.03 Budget Transfer - Special Education Staffing

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, hereby move to approve the following budget transfers to cover Special Education contractual services:



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Account	Decrease	Increase
2250-400-00-7200 Special Ed Contractual		15,000
2250-150-01-7200 Special Ed Teaching - SH	11,000	
2250-150-02-7200 Special Ed Teaching - MS	4,000	

R. Hershberg moved and D. Wood seconded, to approve the budget transfer.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

11.04 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 March 5,, 2025, 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 March 5, 2025.

P. Nagarajan moved and S. Stringer seconded, to approve the CSE/CPSE Recommendations.



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B. Bass noted that the recommendations were reviewed by the Special Education Committee.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

11.05 Acceptance of Dobbs Ferry Foundation Grant

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, hereby move to accept the following curriculum grant from the Dobbs Ferry Schools Foundation in an amount not to exceed \$1,524:

Name of Grant	Teacher(s)/Staff	School	Amount
4th Grade Science Curriculum	Alyssa Ortega	Springhurst	\$1,524

D. Wood moved and R. Hershberg seconded, to approve the foundation grant.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

11.06 Policy Revisions - First Reading

The board conducted first readings of the following policies:

1. 1120: School District Records
2. 2130: Public Comment at Board Meetings
3. 2210: Board Reorganization Meeting
4. 2310: Regular Meetings
5. 2410: Policy Development, Adoption, Implementation, and Review
6. 4321.12: Timeout and Aversives
7. 6710: Purchasing Authority
8. 8130: School Safety Plans and Teams

Revised policies are posted to the district website.

11.07 2025-2026 School Calendar



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BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District hereby move to adopt the 2025-2026 District Calendar.

P. Sullivan-Nunes moved and D. Wood seconded, to adopt the school calendar.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

The 2026-2026 school calendar is posted to the district website.

12. Citizens Comments

12.01 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 district business*. 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.

13. Old Business

None.

14. New Business

Information about the upcoming Southern Westchester BOCES Budget and Trustee Vote was shared with the board.

15. Acknowledgments

15.01 Warrants

The board acknowledged the following warrants:

No. 0035 - Multi

No. 0037 - Multi

15.02 Treasurer's Report

The board acknowledged the January 2025 Treasurer's report.

16. Upcoming Meetings



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16.01 Calendar

- Tuesday, March 18, 2025 - 6:00 p.m. - MS/HS Library
Special Meeting - Proposed Executive Session
- Tuesday, March 25, 2025 - 7:00 p.m. - MS/HS library
Regular Meeting

- Tuesday, April 8, 2025 - 7:00 p.m. - MS/HS library
Regular Meeting

17.. Adjournment

P. Nagarajan moved and R. Hershberg seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 9:34 p.m.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

Elizabeth Saperstein
District Clerk