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Tuesday, October 27, 2020 Regular Board Meeting Google Meet - Virtual Meeting, 7:00 PM

1. Call to Order

2. Opening of the Meeting – 7:00 PM

Louis Schwartz called the meeting to order.

2.01 Pledge of Allegiance

2.02 Roll Call

Mr. Louis Schwartz, President; Ms. Rita Kennedy, Vice President; Ms. Shannon Johnson; Ms. Jean Lucasey; Ms. Tracy Baron; Ms. Shannon Stringer; Mr. Massimo Bufalini, 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

Ms. Stringer moved, and Ms. Johnson seconded, that the Board accept the October 27th Agenda.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

2.04 Approval of Minutes

Ms. Baron moved, and Ms. Kennedy seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the October 6, 2020 meeting.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

3. School Board Recognition

3.01 School Board Recognition Week - October 19 - 23, 2020

The Dobbs Ferry School Board was acknowledged for their dedication and service to the District.

Dr. Brady thanked the Board on behalf of the staff, students, families and the administration for their selfless work especially this year with more challenges in the last ten months than the last ten years. The Board has provided steady and smart guidance and helped us get the schools opened on September 8th and the District couldn't have done it without the Board.

Mr. Schwartz thanked everyone on behalf of the Board.

Anyone wishing to make comments during the two Citizen's Comment portions of the meeting can do so by emailing their comments to boemeetingcomment@DFSD.org. Please include your name and address.

Ms. Kennedy read an email from Marcia Heffler and the entire DFUT thanking the Board for helping us get through these strange times. They truly appreciate the efforts that the Board has made with the District as a collaborative unit for the enhancement of teaching and learning via the various modes of instruction. The countless hours that have been exerted by all have not gone by unnoticed.

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Ms. Kennedy also commented on the nice comments made by the community on Facebook.

Mr. Schwartz thanked the DFUT.

4. Citizens Comments

4.01 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. There is another opportunity for comments later on in the meeting.

5. Announcements

PTSA

- Jean Lucasey, on behalf of the PTSA, reminded everyone that there is still time to sign up for membership at the PTSA website dobbsspsa.org.
- Ms. Lucasey recognized the PTSA Diversity Committee for their support along with Spring Community Partners for their participation in the Mirrors & Windows book readings at Springhurst. The PTSA Diversity Committee's next meeting will be held on 11/19.

Information from Tracy Baron

WPSBA

- All Board members should have received a chalkboard email on 10/22 regarding a series of small group topic virtual conversations that will take place between 11/16 – 20 with different districts sharing their experiences.
- On 11/2 at 6:30 PM – next Advocacy Meeting.
- On 10/26 you should have received an email about Foundation Aid
- Last Town Call information
 - A district was hacked by Ransomware
 - "Vocal parents in some districts pushing for less than 6 feet of social distancing to allow more students in person at one time". G. Latimer is being pushed to sign an Executive Order making 6-foot social distancing mandatory in Westchester County.
 - Some districts are holding community forums for parents to gather feedback
 - Revisiting flex Wednesdays
 - Districts during remote Board meetings are allowing comments from citizens in advance of Board meetings – Dr. Brady explained that she spoke with counsel and we are doing it correctly.

NYSSBA

- Series of three sessions on Equity & Inclusion
 - She attended the 10/7 session. Not sure of the other dates.
 - Very well done
 - In Equity & Inclusion works, what is tracked measured and communicated
 - Culture of Schools what type we have - different types – more individualistic, collective culture – more interrupting can create issues
 - Some reports of some BIPOC kids learning better from home – at home not marginalized
 - Revisit mission – vision in this context
- Challenge Success – three events
 - Meshes well with Equity & Inclusion work and the culture of schools and what kids feel
 - COVID time give a time to pause rethink what is important
 - Lori Gotlieb, author, parents should try not to fix children's problems but should ask "tell me more"
- Convention – Pre-Communication Workshop was fantastic. Focused on communicating in times of risk such as COVID

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- Frequent, clear, honest, no acronyms, honest – trust is key – such as Lisa's effective videos this past summer
- Community will forgive mistakes but won't forgive not being transparent

Mr. Schwartz thanked Tracy for her update.

Anyone wishing to make comments during the two Citizen's Comment portions of the meeting can do so by emailing their comments to boemeetingcomment@DFSD.org. Please include your name and address.

6. Superintendent's Report

District

- Election Day - November 3rd
No school for students, Virtual Parent Teacher Conferences
- Thank You to Mercy College for their generous partnership with the Springhurst Children's Center!
- Federal Lunch Program extended until June 30th – for all students.

Springhurst

- ELA Academy has started again at Springhurst (virtually) serving students in grades 1-3. ELA Academy is an after school program providing small group instruction to students in the areas of phonics and reading to increase their decoding and comprehension skills.
- Josh Rosen periodically writes in a blog. He just wrote a post about strengths-based teaching and the language we might use to describe students. Josh is quite passionate about this subject. The post is the first one that shows up when you click on the link: <http://mathman287.blogspot.com/>
- There are still a few more weeks left before the garden goes dormant for the winter. Classes are taking advantage of opportunities (ex. Harvesting, weeding, composting, etc.) to assist in the Garden before it is too late. Sara Sellitti has done a wonderful job keeping our **Outdoor Garden** vibrant and educational during these COVID times.
- Social Justice Book Club for Kids
 - The Windows and Mirrors: Social Justice Book Club for Kids is to present BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) voices and experiences through books and discussions. These books provide a window into the multicultural world the students live in and to learn and honor differences of others. Each book is read by a guest reader and the discussion is facilitated by the K-8 Literacy Coordinator Michelle Yang-Kaczmarek. So far, we have had the pleasure of hearing from Dr. Jeremy Kohomban and Principal Drake and look forward to read aloud from Teiranni Roberts, Alyssa Santana and Katia Marques at future book chats.
- Halloween @ SH
 - SH will be celebrating with spiritwear on Friday, October 30th! This can include Halloween and/or Autumnal themed shirts/hats or simple costumes that do not require assembly/props. Costumes should be comfortable enough to wear throughout the AM or PM, as there will not be any time for changing. In addition, make up, props, and masks (other than COVID masks) will not be permitted.
 - A member of the Springhurst staff will make their way to each classroom to photograph any students and staff that would like (except for our "no photograph" students) in both the AM and the PM. "100% remote" students will also have the opportunity to be photographed. Before the end of each cohort day, we will share a schoolwide slideshow with each class so the students can view it and enjoy a sense of community celebration and see one another.
- Veteran's Day @ SH
 - We will be leading another "Springhurst Challenge" soon to express our gratitude for our Veterans! Stay tuned!

MS

- Our new School Media Specialist, Ellen Elsen, is meeting with students. We have carefully created Covid-19 safe protocols to allow students to check out books. She has a library newsletter Library Buzz.
- Clubs are beginning this year. We are happy to report that we have a variety of clubs for all types of students.

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DFHS

- Remote Only Survey and Next Steps:
 - The high school is working on an enhancement to the existing Student Need Hybrid Schedule which will give students more regular in-person contact time. A survey was sent to parents asking that they respond if they are planning for a “remote-only” option. We currently have 23 who have responded for remote-only and we are discussing how we can provide this along with bringing students back to school with more “in-person” classes. Although there are many logistics to be worked out, we are hoping to have something in place by the beginning of Quarter 2 on November 16th.
- Mental Wellness Workshops: This continues to be an area of focus for the high school, and we have added in-person and remote experiences for students during our Wednesday “flex” days. Last week Kelly Foster ran several workshops on topics such as transitioning in 9th grade, staying connected as 12th graders, and navigating the challenges of the pandemic. Tomorrow, we are excited to welcome back John Tessitore from the JCK Foundation who will lead three in-person workshops and one remote workshop.
- Blue Ribbon: The Blue Ribbon Award Ceremony will be held virtually this year on November 12 and 13. We are awaiting more information on the itinerary. John Falino will attend with Candace Reim. In addition, both a banner and flag is being sent.
- PSAT/SAT Success: We successfully administered the PSAT and SAT to nearly 200 students in-person a few weeks back. This is significant for our students as so many of our schools and testing sites have been forced to cancel. A special thanks to Candace Reim and Kerri Kastanis for organizing the logistics of this testing administration.
- Financial Aid Night Success: We held a successful virtual financial aid night last week. A special thanks to Will Palmer and our guidance department for organizing this event.
- Picture Day Success: We only have our juniors left, and they are tomorrow! A special thanks to Rita Kennedy for all of her hard work.

Athletics

- On Monday, October 26th the Section One Executive Committee has adopted a basic league alignment which consists of regionalized leagues. The fall sports postseason will consist of regionalized championships as opposed to the traditional sectional championships that would normally take place. The structure and schedules for post season are now being discussed. The committee approved off season workouts for all sports to begin.
- The winter season is scheduled to begin on Monday, November 30th. NYSPHSAA and Section 1 are still awaiting guidance from the state on the authorization of competitions of high risk sports. The Section One Executive Committee is set to next meet on November 16th and will review any new state guidance available at that time.
- In lieu of modified soccer the middle school has been running a 7th and 8th grade soccer intramurals that takes place four days a week from 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM. We have 60 students registered and the intramural program has been extremely successful. The season will end on Friday, October 30th.
- Our fall sports have been in full swing and competitions are currently underway. The students, staff and fans have done a fantastic job following all safety protocols that have been put in place by the district. It has been great to watch our student athletes compete with their classmates!

7. Correspondence

7.01 BOE Correspondence

The Board acknowledged the following:

- Twelve emails regarding “The Landing” tax classification
- Letter regarding a Southern Westchester BOCES Board Vacancy

8. Committee Reports

School & Community Relations – 10/8

- The Committee asked Kevin Ridley if he would like to join the committee. We do so much work with videos and Kevin’s expertise would be a welcome addition.
- The committee discussed a Race & Equality website where important information can be “housed.” This would include resources for parents, a catalogue of books (staff book reads) and other texts, a

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timeline of the work that the District has engaged in over the past years as well as the plan for to 2020-2021 school year,

- The committee also talked about working with Kevin to produce a video capturing student's voices and experiences and teacher voices and experiences with race issues in the school and community. Lisa will work with Natalie Zwerger to identify appropriate resources.
- The committee also discussed that socioeconomic issues are a large part of equity challenges in Dobbs Ferry and that Spanish speaking parents need additional support.
- The Reopening Website will review the recent guidance from the NYS Department of Health and make the necessary changes to the Reopening Plan and associated materials that are on the Reopening Website.
- Ms. Hausman will begin working on the fall e-newsletter and will send a draft to the committee to review.

Finance – 10/20 – Ron Clamser updated the committee on the following:

- An analysis on how legislative changes in the STAR Reimbursement Program has changed over the past few years which resulted in fewer DFSD residents receiving the STAR exemption:
 - It included the dollar amounts associated with the changes and how it affects the school tax bill for the last three years and the required qualifications
- COVID-19 and School Reopening Expenses
 - There is nothing new to report from last month.
- A budget analysis of transportation costs
- Monthly Financial Reports which included a revenue and expense update
 - The full amount of the first property tax payment from the Town of Greenburgh was received and it was not necessary to borrow for cash flow.
 - State Aid cuts are still unknown at this time; we are continuing to monitor the situation.
 - Thus far, 2020-21 expenses are in line with previous years.

Anyone wishing to make comments during the two Citizen's Comment portions of the meeting can do so by emailing their comments to boemeetingcomment@DFSD.org. Please include your name and address.

9. Board Actions

9.01 Settlement Agreement

Ms. Lucasey moved, and Mr. Bufalini seconded, that the Board approve the following:

"BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education does hereby approve the Settlement and Release Agreement in regard to Student No. 7; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education does hereby authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute such Settlement and Release Agreement on behalf of the District."

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

9.02 Corrective Action Plan to the Management Letter

Ms. Stringer moved, and Ms. Johnson seconded, that the Board accept the Corrective Action Plan to the Management Letter issued by PFK O'Connor Davies, LLP, for the audit of the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

9.03 Budget Transfer

Ms. Baron moved, and Ms. Kennedy seconded, that the Board approve the following budget transfer to cover a student tuition move from BOCES to non-BOCES placement:

Account	Decrease	Increase
A 2250-490-02-72000 Spec Ed-BOCES 6-8	\$82,000	

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A 2250-470-02-0000 Spec Ed-Tuition 6-8		\$82,000
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Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

9.04 Policy - First Reading

The Board conducted a first reading of the following policy:

- 5500 - Student Records

It will be moved to second reading at the next board meeting.

10. Acknowledgements

10.01 Treasurer's Report

The Board acknowledged receipt of the Treasurer's Reports for July, August and September 2020.

10.02 Warrants

The Board acknowledged receipt of the following warrants:

Warrant No. 15 and 16 Multi.

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11. Citizens Comments

11.01 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.

Ms. Kennedy read 3 minutes and 30 seconds of a comment from Mitchel Shornick (40 Deerfoot Lane) regarding the Landing tax case and expressing his support for the Motion of Dobbs Ferry Taxpayers for Fair Cost Sharing ("DFTP") to Intervene. Mr. Shornick is a Dobbs Ferry homeowner and attorney, who urges the Board to instruct their counsel to consent to the Motion, brought by district resident Matt Rosenberg on behalf of DFTP.

12. Old Business

Ms. Lucasey attended the NYSSBA Delegate Meeting training to be prepared for the voting session on October 31st.

13. New Business

13.01 District Goals 2020-2021

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the goals. It included:

- It was agreed at the Board Retreat that because this was a challenging year, we should be mindful of the fact to not create any additional work for the administration because keeping our school open is a most consuming task
- Should we have separate sets of goals—one for the District and one for the BOE? No.
- How many goals should we have? Consensus was four is enough.
 - Equity, Pandemic Response, Finances and Human Resources
- Dr. Brady and Mr. Berry will work on a draft and distribute it to the Board.

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14. Upcoming Meetings

14.01 Calendar

Tuesday, November 10, 2020 - 7:00 PM - TBD

Tuesday, November 17, 2020 - 7:00 PM - TBD

- Work Session

15. Adjournment

At 8:59 PM, Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Johnson seconded, that the Board adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

16. Approved Minutes

16.01 Approved Minutes September 22, 2020



Loretta Tularzko
District Clerk