



**Tuesday, May 5, 2020
Business Meeting
Google Meet - Virtual Meeting, 7:00 PM**

1. Call to Order

2. Virtual Business Meeting Opening 7:01 p.m.

2.01 Pledge of Allegiance

2.02 Roll Call

Ms. Shannon Johnson, President; Ms. Rita Kennedy, Vice President; Ms. Jean Lucasey; Ms. Tracy Baron; Mr. Louis Schwartz; Ms. Shannon Stringer; Mr. Matthew Rosenberg; 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. Rosenberg moved, and Ms. Baron seconded, that the Board accept the May 5th Agenda.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

2.04 Approval of Minutes

Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Kennedy seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the April 21, 2020 meetings.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

3. Announcements

Shannon Johnson thanked all the Veterans for their service after the Memorial Day

WPSBA

- The weekly town hall meetings are continuing so if any Board member has a question or comment they would like to share please let Tracy Baron know
- There will be a Virtual "Considering Running for the School Board" session this Friday – L. Tularzko has sent the information to the three candidates
- The Annual Virtual End of Year Meeting – Will be held on Thursday, 5/28 just prior to the town call
- Rita Kennedy will present our votes to for the WPSBA Budget & Trustee Slate
- There will be a Virtual New Board Officer training session – sometime in mid-June

PTSA

- Teacher Appreciate Week – Ms. Bass sent a link to a padlet to encourage students to share their thanks for their teachers

4. Superintendent's Report

District

It is Teacher Appreciation Week.

5/5/20

MINUTES

The Administration and the District thank you for the tremendous job you do for our students in our normal classroom situation and now with our virtual teaching.

School Closing for the remainder of the academic year - we do not have any guidance yet on when the school year will end. We are working on a schedule for students to clean out their lockers and cubbies.

School Reopening

The Administrators met with representatives from our Security Company, Altaris, to begin preliminary discussions about the many areas of focus that will need to be considered with the eventual reopening of schools. The Commissioner of Education, Chancellor, and Board of Regents is assembling a State-Wide Task Force comprised of superintendents, principals, teachers, school board members, parents, students, and health and medical professionals to serve as a guidance and advisory committee. This will be a complicated and challenging process but the District is keeping out in front of this and planning ahead as prudently as possible at this time.

Meal Distribution

1,680 meals last week. We did a record of 744 meals on Friday. Thanks again to Kathy Weinborg, Rita Kennedy, Loretta Tularzko, and Denise Cunningham for their weekly help in the kitchen.

Childcare Program

We have 7 children attending currently. Thank you to Kelli Cronin, Noreen, and Mark Leggiero and Noimi Cortez for all of their hard work and nurturing of the children attending. They are doing an amazing job.

Retrieval of Items from lockers and cubbies

We are working on a schedule for students to be able to retrieve items from their lockers, classrooms and cubbies. We recognize that there were many things left behind when we closed because we had no way of knowing that the closure would end up being permanent for this school year. The principals will be in touch with parents and students regarding how this will work once we have things figured out. We hope to do this sooner rather than later.

Chromebooks for Grades K-3

Terance is currently working on a plan for getting computers to students/families in grades K-3 who need them. Currently, we have provided about 115 devices to families.

High School

- NYS Recognition School: DFHS has been named a NYS "Recognition School" (formerly "Reward School") for 2019-20. Only 313 K-12 schools in NYS (not including NYC) received this distinction. This recognition is always special because it factors in performance on Regents exams along with the graduation rate of all populations, with a specific focus on all subgroups including economically disadvantaged students.
- Class of 2020 Signs: All of the seniors in the Class of 2020 received a beautiful sign in front of their homes last week. A special thanks to our "Spirit Squad" (Candace Reim, Maria Addona, Scott Patrillo, and Connor Cohn) for working with the PTSA to plan this experience for our students. Thank you as well to the many teachers and staff who showed up to assist. Dr. Brady helped drive the signs to the seniors' homes.
- DFHS Spirit--"Clash of the Grades": Thank you so much for your support of our "DFHVirtualCommons" Instagram page. We now have over 500 followers. This week we are pleased to share that we will be hosting the "DFHS Clash of the Grades - A Friendly Competition." This will be a MAC Day type competition with different challenges each day.
- Senior Experience: Please note that this is the last official week of classes for seniors and that all seniors will begin our new "Senior Experience" starting next Monday, May 11th. Our social studies teachers will review the criteria for this four-week experience in their social studies Google Meet classes this week. In addition, Ms. Reim will send out a detailed email that outlines the requirements to parents and students by the end of this week.
- Mental Health and Wellness Month in being recognized in all three schools to provide information to families and resources they can access.
- DFHS Graduation: Our team is investigating any and all options with regard to graduation. Our graduations are always a point of pride for our district, and the richness of our ceremonies are a major part of our school's beautiful history. Please know that we do not take this lightly and will do all that we can to ensure that our students receive the very best memorable experience for our students.

MINUTES

Middle School

- Stepping up ceremonies for both the Middle School and Springhurst are in discussion. Once we have plans in place, they will be shared with parents.
- Fifth Grade Parent Orientation - On Wednesday, 4/29, Mr. Mussolini hosted a Google Meet with the parents of our incoming 6th grade. The parents were introduced to DFMS and what to expect from their young adolescent as they navigate middle school.
- End of year events - We have already started designing plans on how to convert our end of year activities and ceremonies into appropriate formats for our current situation.
- DFMS Thanks Local Health Care Workers - The County shared our video on their social media and websites.

Springhurst

- Last week's Springhurst Challenge focused on Mindfulness - students and staff engaged in various activities and posted to our padlet.
- This week's Springhurst Challenge is part 2 of our effort to support Essential Workers.
- Springhurst has been conducting virtual interviews for vacancies and is continuing to do so this week.
- Springhurst is sending a special video message to all students made by Springhurst staff this week.
- As you see on tonight's agenda, the DF Foundation has generously granted Springhurst money to support an enhancement of our Kindergarten Playground (\$31,856.65). This grant was written by Julia Drake, Christine Brennan and Patricia Zarro in collaboration with SH Head Custodian Rob DiFiore. We are so grateful for this generous gift and CANNOT WAIT to see children playing on this again sometime soon. We hope to have construction start as soon as possible so the new playground can open in the fall.
- Extensive planning is happening K-5 across the content areas and departments in order to provide families with a deep trove of learning resources and activities each week. To familiarize yourselves with the various learning opportunities across the grade levels and departments (updated weekly.) we encourage you to take a moment to visit the DFSD Student/Parent website <https://sites.google.com/dfsd.org/dfsd-resources/k-5-parents/fifth-grade>. In addition to the vast and varied programming for each grade level you'll see the extensive plans provided by our support staff and related service providers. Here are SOME of the highlights of this week's programming:
 - Kindergarten: Kindergarteners are sharing their love of school, nature and play through our class Padlets. They are learning about maps and creating some of their own to share during our live lessons. Along with their families, they are participating in our daily activities such as planting, math/literacy games, and social emotional learning.
 - 1st Grade: Students in first grade are learning about our community. They created posters to welcome people to Dobbs Ferry. Students decorated their posters with illustrations of their favorite places around the community. The students shared those with their classmates during a live session. Students are using FlipGrid to share with one another as well.
 - 2nd Grade: Second Grade has implemented a grade-wide Animal Fair using FlipGrid. Students were able to virtually share their animal research reports and projects, and were thrilled to receive feedback from their teachers and peers as well. They've been engaged in online read-alouds, Screencastify science demonstrations, and interactive Smart Notebook lessons in all subjects. Although teachers can't physically be with our students, we are enjoying checking in with them during our morning meetings wherein the children are given opportunities to talk about their feelings, chat with their peers, and share. We have also incorporated mindfulness activities through our Steps to Respect program, recognizing the importance for children to become aware of their inner and outer being.
 - 3rd Gr. The third grade teachers and many 3rd grade families are participating in our beloved butterfly life cycle unit at home. Students were able to use coupons to order caterpillars at home. The teachers are documenting the growth and change in their own homes and sharing this experience via google slides with their classes.

Athletics:

- Spring sports have been canceled by the NYSPHSAA. A Commission has been established to study the fall sports season and recommendations will be made at a later date. We know that all of this is very upsetting for our student-athletes and families.
- Community Project:

MINUTES

Thank you to the class of 2020 in partnership with the Dobbs Ferry Athletic Department in supporting our essential workers.

- On April 29th, food was delivered to essential workers at the Dobbs Ferry Hospital, Police Department, and EMS Workers (Fire Department will be at a later date). Thank you for the continued support and generous donations of our booster clubs (listed below).
 - Senior, Samantha Arone, will be organizing all the photos and sharing them with the essential workers to show our gratitude and support.
- JV and Varsity Spring Coaches continue to meet with their teams via Google meet to setup workouts, drills, hangouts etc. This past week major league Texas Rangers pitcher, Taylor Hearn, joined our baseball Google Meet and spoke with our baseball team, sharing his passion for baseball, process and motivation.
- Scholar Athlete Teams:
 - At the end of each sports season, the New York State Public High School Athletic Association honors those students/teams that excel within the classroom. The following winter varsity teams have been recognized by the NYSPHSAA as Scholar-Athlete teams at Dobbs Ferry High School. The scholar-athlete team is defined as 75% of the team receiving a 90% GPA or higher :
 - Girls Basketball
 - Girls Winter Track and Field
 - Boys Winter Track and Field
 - Ski
- Congratulations to our student-athletes for their hard work in achieving this prestigious award.

Question: Did we receive any guidance about continuing meals and child care during the summer?

Not yet.

5. Committee Reports

5.01 BOE Committees

Curriculum & Instruction -4/22

- The committee discussed efforts to maintain programs and “special events MYP Project – discussion with John Falino, Candace Reim and Jen Hickey
 - MYP Personal Project Expo
- The HS has been exploring various options that would allow for a “virtual” version of the EXPO
 - Both “live” and “pre-corded” options are being explored.
- Senior Internship
 - Traditional Internships are not an option this year
 - Moving to a “Senior Experience” in its place
 - Design has been collaborative between Admin, Teachers and Students with bulk of ideas coming from the students
 - Menu of Options - (Careers, Health and Wellness, Creative, Legacy, International Mindedness)
 - May 11 - June 5
 - Week 1 - Post Secondary Transition - Led by the Counseling Dept.
 - Week 2 - Menu Choice
 - Week 3 - Menu Choice
 - Week 4 - Legacy (a project that will have a lasting impact on the school/community)
 - Student Requirements
 - An artifact (a product that was made, produced etc.)
 - A written piece (process journal or reflection)
 - Attend a weekly seminar
- Instructional Focus
 - Getting students “September ready”
 - Identifying “essential content”

MINUTES

- Assessments vs. Assignments
- Providing Meaningful Feedback
- Role of revision and reflection
- Performance Tasks teacher can see

School & Community Relations - 4/22

- Student-Athlete Essential Workers Slideshow (Samantha Arone)
- Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week
 - Reach out to PTSA to check on their plans.
 - Can we get students to engage with this?
- Letter to the editor of the Enterprise from the BOE thanking our school community for their support and patience during this time – was in last week's paper
- Weekly Superintendent Communications Lisa continues to send weekly community communication using both written and video. FB Live was piloted but will be saved for use at a different time.
- Budget Communications
 - No longer relevant.
- Voter Voice K-12
 - Lisa and Diane are working on this and it will be sent to the community on Thursday 4/23. Lisa will also talk about it in her end of the week video that will be sent on Saturday 4/25

Special Ed - 4/28

- The Committee reviewed the CSE/CPSE recommendations for tonight.
- The Committee discussed the various supports provided by Teaching Assistants and the important role they play in supporting student success in various learning environments. Included was discussion of some of the challenges of supporting students with IEPs working in an eLearning environment and how TAs are helping to address those issues.
- The committee discussed ways in which the district is supporting students Social and Emotional Health during the period of school closure. On the District Student/Parent resource website resources to support SEL can be found including among others a "virtual relaxation room".
- Teacher parent resource page tremendous resources for students, parents, students and all community members. Under "Spotlight" on the District Home Page.

Personnel – 4/29

- The Committee discussed the Personnel Recommendations on the agenda.

6. Correspondence

None.

7. Citizen's Comments

7.01 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.

Community members may address questions to the Board during the meeting at boemeetingcomment@dfsd.org.

None.

Please go to the District Website under the News Views Tab and then TV Programming /Video to watch the entire meeting.

MINUTES

8. Reports to the Board

8.01 Special Education Report to the Board

Ms. Jean Gismervik, Special Education Director, presented an update of the following

- Jean Gismervik the Board, Dr. Brady and the Administration and the community for welcoming her into the District.
- Acronyms
- Tonight's Areas of Focus
- Special Education Totals in District
- Out of District Placements
- Number of Special Educations Students (In & Out of District) compared to Total Enrollment
- Number of 504 Accommodation Plans
- CPSE to CSE
- Snapshots of Success
 - Mental Health
 - Reading
 - Life Skills Class Development

Comments:

- Looking for research based models – PAF and PTA - decoding – how do they navigate sounds - multi sensory

8.02 Budget Vote Update

Dr. Brady gave an update on the revised Budget/Trustee Vote timeline.

- May 12 – Notice of Annual Meeting
- May 15 – Military Ballots
- May 19 – Proposed Budget Adoption
- May 21 – Deadline to Adopt Budget
- May 22 – Last day to Submit Property Tax Report Card
- May 25 – Deadline for mailing Absentee Ballots
- May 26 – 1st date for Budget Hearing
- June 2 – Last date for Budget Hearing
- June 9 – Budget Vote

There will be no Personal Registration. They must register through the Board of Elections.

Can you use another entities permit? Loretta will check with the Foundation.

Can we have a story in the Enterprise?

9. Board Actions

9.01 Dobbs Ferry Schools Foundation Grant

Mr. Rosenberg moved, and Ms. Kennedy seconded, that the Board accept the following grants from the Dobbs Ferry Schools Foundation in the amount of \$39,555.65:

Dobbs Ferry School Foundation Grants				
Name of Grant	Type of Grant	Teacher(s)/Staff	School	Amount

MINUTES

Kindergarten Playground	Curriculum	Tricia Zarro, Christine Brennan & Julia Drake	Springhurst	\$31,856.65
NASP Prepare Workshop 2 - Mental Health Crisis Intervention	Professional Development	Lauren Dwyer	District	\$7,000.00
3D Printer	Curriculum	John Kaminski	Middle School	\$699.00
Total				\$39,555.65

Thanks once again to the Foundation for their constant support.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

9.02 Financial Advisory Services Agreement

Mr. Schwartz moved, and Ms. Stringer seconded, that the Board accept the proposal from Fiscal Advisors & Marketing, Inc. for financial advisor services, and authorize the Superintendent to sign for the District.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

9.03 CSE/CPSE

Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Baron seconded, that the Board authorize and direct 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 April 28, 2020 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 April 28, 2020.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

9.04 Personnel

Mr. Rosenberg moved, and Ms. Stringer seconded, that the Board approve the staff personnel recommendations.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

9.05 Policy Revision - First Reading

The Board conducted a first reading of the following policy:

8635 - Information and Data Privacy Security, Breach and Notification

It will be brought back as a second reading at the next

10. Acknowledgements

10.01 Treasurer's Report

The Board acknowledged receipt of the Treasurer's Report for March 2020.

10.02 Warrants

MINUTES

The Board acknowledged receipt of the following warrant:
Warrant No. 52 Multi.

11. Citizen's 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.

Community members may address questions to the Board during the meeting at boemeetingcomment@dfsd.org.

None.

12. Old Business

Distance Learning

Have we had any new reports or concerns (HS/MS) on how students are coping with the expectations of distance learning?

- Teachers are reaching out like they normally do to students that appear to be having issues
- Counselors are on hand if need be
- Some students are more challenged
- Most kids find it stressful and are coping in different ways
- Everyone is trying their best
- We are hearing some students are struggling in the environment since it requires more with self-direction; some kids seem to like it better
- Teachers are trying to find the right balance
- Virtual teaching is a learning process
- It is a fallacy to think we can take an assignment or activity from the classroom environment and just use it virtually
- It is taking a lot of redirection and revision
- Students learn in different ways – some students are stressed in the normal environment and are less stressed in a virtual classroom, as well as our teachers
- Not an equal exchange of students coping versus not coping
- Primary concerns of the administrators and teachers are the students welfare

WPSBA Town Hall Information

Districts are starting to plan for fall. They are putting together taskforces for certain areas such as academic, social & emotional & mental health, physical safety, medical procedures, and logistics.

13. New Business

WPSBA Slate and Budget

- Slate – Victoria Tipp is stepping down and Frank Schneckner seeking President seat – other officers are continuing
- Budget - small increase in District dues approximately \$40 for a district our size – it's a lean budget
- They are still providing good services for the districts

14. Upcoming Meetings

MINUTES

14.01 Calendar

Tuesday, May 26, 2020 - 7:00 PM

Tuesday, June 23, 2020 - 7:00 PM

15. Executive Session

15.01 Executive Session

At 8:29 PM, Ms. Lucasey moved, and Ms. Baron seconded, that the Board recesses into Executive Session for the following purpose: To discuss ongoing litigation, The Landing on the Water at Dobbs Ferry Condominium v. Town of Greenburgh.

The Board does not expect to return to Public Session, they will adjourn the meeting from the Executive Session.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

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

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

At 8:44 PM, Ms. Johnson moved, and Ms. Stringer seconded, to move back to the Public Meeting.

Vote: 7 ayes - 0 nays

16. Adjournment

At 8:45 AM, Mr. Rosenberg moved, and Ms. Lucasey seconded, that the Board adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 7 - ayes - 0 nays

17. Approved Minutes

17.01 Approved Minutes – March 14 and April 3, 2020