



## **APPROVED MINUTES**

**Tuesday, September 10, 2024**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**7:00 PM**  
**MS/HS Library Presentation Room**

**1. Video Conferencing Notice**

**1.01 Video Conferencing Notice**

S. Stringer participated via video conference.

**2. Call to Order**

B. Bass called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

**3. Meeting Opening**

**3.01 Pledge of Allegiance**

**3.02 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; Darrell Stinchcomb, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, and Equity; Elizabeth Saperstein, District Clerk.

**3.03 Acceptance of the Agenda.**

J. Lucasey moved and P. Nagarajan seconded, that the Board accept the September 10, 2024 Agenda.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

**3.04 Approval of Minutes**

P. Nagarajan moved and D. Wood seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the July 9, 2024 meeting.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstention (D. Wood)

D. Wood moved and P. Sullivan-Nunes seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the August 27, 2024 meeting.



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Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absentions (P. Nagarajan and R. Hershberg)

### **4. Citizen Comments**

#### **4.01 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 Ed 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.

None.

### **5. Correspondence**

#### **5.01 BOE Correspondence**

The Board acknowledged receipt of correspondence regarding out of district transportation.

### **6. Announcements**

K. Slentz announced that the back-to-school nights would be taking place in the next couple weeks and to please check the District calendar and email for further information.

K. Slentz informed the Board of a document created in connection with the School and Community Relations Committee titled "Who Do I Contact?" which is intended as a guide to help families know who in the District to contact when they have questions or concerns. It is posted on the Quick Links section to the District website.

### **7. Superintendent Report**

#### **7.01 School Opening Update**

K. Slentz updated the Board on the opening of the new school year:

- Student musicians from G. DeFalco's vocal groups and A. Fuller's orchestra performed at the opening of the first Superintendent's Conference Day;
- Current enrollment is 1,489 students to start the year;
- Staffing - still hiring for unfilled positions at Springhurst;
- Transportation challenges and improvements to communications;
- Facilities committee will do its tour of the buildings on Wednesday, September 11;
- The revised district safety plan will be discussed in a later meeting. Staff training is taking place with our partners including Arrow, the new security firm, and the Dobbs Ferry Police Department. He emphasized that we need to hear from parents, kids, and the



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community to report information, such as a Rivertown Student Association to help drive efforts to make our schools and communities safer.

- Cell phone procedures are in place at all three buildings and are posted on the website.

Next report: October 8, 2024 update on first month by each school.

### **8. Board Reports**

#### **8.01 Required Reports from Administration**

K. Slentz reviewed the last two reports required from the 2023-24 school year.

K. Slentz reviewed The Technology Plan that is in place through Spring 2025.

K. Slentz discussed the Special Education Personnel Report that includes detailed information on the District's Special Education staff, including teachers and related services providers, their certifications and employment status held, and types of professional development staff participated in during the 2023-24 school year.

K. Slentz discussed two reports combined into one: the District's Sustainability efforts and implementation of Energy Conservation, as these topics run parallel. The District has taken steps ahead in energy conservation and sustainability and will likely focus on the energy conservation portion.

All annual reports and notifications are complete.

### **9. Board Reports**

#### **9.01 Board Committee Reports**

P. Sullivan-Nunes reported on the September 4, 2024 meeting of the Board of Education Policy Committee. The committee:

- Reviewed the policy statuses and NYSSBA recommendations;
- Prepared two policies and one regulation for first reading tonight including 0115-R: Bullying and Harassment, Prevention and Intervention.
- Four policies will be ready for Second Reading on September 24, 2024.

### **10. Board Actions**

#### **10.01 Creation of Instructional Support Services (ISS) Provider: CPSE/CSE Chairperson**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby creates the full-time Instructional Support Services Provider Position of CPSE/CSE Chairperson, effective August 28, 2024.

R. Hershberg moved and P. Nagarajan seconded, to approve the creation of the position.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nay

#### **10.02 Creation of Instructional Support Services (ISS) Provider: Instructional Coach**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board



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of Education hereby creates the full-time Instructional Support Services Provider Position of Instructional Coach, effective August 28, 2024.

P. Sullivan-Nunes moved and D. Wood seconded, to approve the creation of the position.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nay

### **10.03 Designation of Energy Manager**

BE IT RESOLVED, that Denis Brazil be appointed as Energy Manager, at no additional compensation, in accordance with Policy 8915:Energy/Water Conservation.

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

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nay

### **10.04 Personnel - Professional/Certificated Staff**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District moves to approve the following professional/certificated personnel actions:

J. Lucasey moved and P. Sullivan-Nunes seconded, to approve the personnel recommendations.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nay

#### **1. Resignation**

- a. Jessica Jordan, ENL Teacher, Springhurst Elementary School. Effective: September 28, 2024.
- b. Megan Brady, K-12 Teaching Assistant, Dobbs Ferry School District. Effective: July 31, 2024.
- c. Dana Campisi, K-12 Teaching Assistant, Dobbs Ferry School District. Effective Sept. 24, 2024.

#### **2. Leave of Absence**

- a. Carol Yeske, Special Education Teacher, Dobbs Ferry Middle School. FMLA.  
Effective August 28, 2024 through September 23, 2024.

#### **3. Temporary, Seasonal and Part-Time Appointment**

- a. Donna Zaicek, temporary (leave replacement) Special Education Teacher.  
Effective September 3, 2024 through September 23, 2024.  
MA, Step 2 (\$68,347) prorated per annum.  
Certification: Special Education K-12.  
Replaces C. Yeske
- b. Allison Feller, Per Diem Substitute Teacher, Dobbs Ferry Middle School.  
Effective September 11, 2024 and as needed for the 2024-25 school year. \$125.00 per day; \$62.50 per half day.



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c. Julian Espinosa, JV Boys Soccer Coach, Dobbs Ferry School District.  
Effective August 26, 2024 (Fall Season). Category C, Step 1 (\$5,066.47).

d. Subivonne Ho-Shing, Per Diem Substitute Teacher, Springhurst Elementary School.  
Effective September 11, 2024 and as needed for the 2024-25 school year. \$125.00 per day; \$62.50 per half day.

### **4. Mentors**

- a. Laura Cosgrove, for Jaclyn Broccoli
- b. Michelle Yang-Kaczmarek, for Eileen Horan
- c. Lisa Serrone, for Mary Dent
- d. Karen LaPorte, for Olivia Kavanaugh
- e. Patricia Clifford, for Savannah Orta
- f. KC Gilson, for Chrissy Hart
- g. Deanna Mullen\*, for Julia Bashark
- h. Vinny Garofalo\*, for Michelle Guererro
- i. Sarah Thomson, for Gina DeCecco
- j. Terence Brennan, for Jennifer Lotito
- k. Lisa Alfonzetti, for Nathalie Del Vecchio-Molina
- l. Kristine Shine, for Jennifer Duran

Effective: August 28, 2024 - June 26, 2025.

Compensation: \$1,966.91 per annum.

\*Effective August 28, 2024 - January 31, 2025, prorated \$983.45

### **5. Teacher Leaders / Content Leaders - Dobbs Ferry Middle School**

- a. Claudia Ducic, Team Leader Grade 6, \$4684.52 per annum.
- b. Katia Marques, Team Leader Grade 7, \$4684.52 per annum.
- c. Melissa Gretczko, Team Leader Grade 6, \$4684.52 per annum.
- d. Kristine Shine, Team Leader Special Education, \$4684.52 per annum.
- e. Michael Hanley, Content Leader Science, \$2342.26 per annum.
- f. Nycole Tobey, Content Leader Individuals & Societies, \$2342.26 per annum.
- g. Julianne Laverty, Content Leader Mathematics, \$2342.26 per annum.
- h. Jill Rosenblum, Content Leader Language & Literature, \$2342.26 per annum.
- i. Stephanie Gonzalez, Content Leader Language Acquisition, \$2342.26 per annum.
- j. Katia Marques, MTSS Coordinator, \$4684.52 per annum.

### **6. Coordinators - District**

- a. Michelle Yang-Kaczmarek, K-12 DEI Coordinator,
- b. Sarah Joy Consiglio, K-12 ELL Coordinator,
- c. Jennifer Hickey, Grades 6-10 Middle Years Program Coordinator, \$4684.52 per annum.

### **7. Teaching Overage**



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a. Adrienne Fuller, one additional class every other day (Orchestra), \$6,556.36 per annum.

### 8. Summer 2024 Appointments - Retroactive

Melinda Canary	Troya Barghen-Hewlett	Patti Giuliano
Meagan Murray	Ronit Tuman	Kristin Bradford
Samantha Mayrose	Tricia Zarro	Dawn Watson
Melissa Meyer	Laura Metrano	Victoria Coren
Sheri Aronowitz	Kristin Bashark	Christine Brennan

Compensation: 80% of 1/200 of annual salary, with a maximum of \$273.19 and a minimum of \$207.62 prorated if a partial day is worked.

### 9. Diapering Compensation

Randi Boxer	Lisa Konstadt	Nancy Broccoli
Sandi Mohl	Emma Tashoff	Margie Corona
Frankie Eisenhut	Elizabeth Felix	Jehona Pruthi
Jenny Ritch		

Substitutes (as needed): Tonya Brooks, Amy Vaccaro

Effective: 2024-2025 School Year. Compensation: \$4.00 per hour, for each day worked, as set forth in the CSEA Clerical, Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant CBA Article V (5). To the extent that the assumption of the diapering duties take place during part of the year, this extra compensation will either be prorated or discontinued.

### 10. Special Class Assignment

Randi Boxer	Lisa Konstadt	Mark Leggiero
Sandi Mohl	Linda Dever	Margie Corona
Frankie Eisenhut	Elizabeth Felix	Jehona Pruthi
Andrew Manuele	Amy Vaccaro	Anthony Algieri
Yuanaid Liriano	Nadine Gorman	

Effective: 2024-2025 School Year. Compensation: \$600 per annum as set forth in the CSEA Clerical, Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant CBA Article V (7). To the extent that the assignment to the special class take place during part of the year, this extra compensation will either be prorated or discontinued.

### 11. Appointment Changes/Corrections

a. Savannah Orta, probationary School Psychologist: to MA, Step 5 (\$83,570).



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- b. Jaclyn Broccoli, probationary Special Education Teacher: Probationary Start Date to September 23, 2024
- c. Jennifer Lotito, probationary CSE/CPSE Chairperson: Probationary Start Date to September 9, 2024.
- d. Chrissy Hart, probationary Special Education Teacher: Probationary period from four to three years (prior tenure).

### **12. Payroll Lane Changes**

- a. Will Palmer, MA +45 to MA +60, effective September 1, 2024.
- b. Jessica Swart, MA +45 to MA +60, effective September 1, 2024.

### **10.05 Personnel - Civil Service Staff**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District moves to approve the following Civil Service personnel actions:

P. Nagarajan moved and P. Sullivan-Nunes seconded, to approve the civil service personnel recommendations.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nay

#### **1. Probationary Appointment**

- a. Jisun Shin, Part-Time (FTE .3686/155 minutes per day) School Monitor, Springhurst Elementary School.

Effective: September 9, 2024 - November 8, 2025.

Compensation: Aide/Monitor, Step 1 (\$8,850.09)

- b. Julian Espinosa, Part-Time (FTE .4286/180 minutes per day) School Monitor, Dobbs Ferry Middle School

Effective: September 9, 2024 - November 8, 2025.

Compensation: Aide/Monitor, Step 1 (\$10,288.29)

### **10.06 Independent Contract Renewals**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District moves to approve the contract for the Assistant to the Superintendent.

P. Hershberg moved and J. Lucasey seconded, to approve the contract.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nay

### **10.07 DFAA Memorandum of Agreement**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Supplemental Memorandum of Agreement between the District and The Dobbs Ferry Administrators' Association regarding membership is hereby approved.



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D. Wood moved and J. Lucasey seconded, to approve the memorandum of agreement.

K. Slentz explained that the new version includes the Director of Special Education position, which previously had an independent contract.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nay

### **10.08 CSE/CPSE Recommendations**

WHEREAS the Committee on Special Education and Committee on Preschool Special Education had issued to the Board by written confidential reports dated September 4, 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 reports dated September 4, 2024.

D. Wood moved and J. Lucasey seconded, to approve the CSE/CPSE recommendations.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nay

### **10.09 Policy Revision - First Reading**

The Board conducted a first reading on the following policies:

#### **1. 0115-R: Student Harassment and Bullying Prevention and Intervention**

The Board announced that even though the Board does not usually adopt regulations, it is doing so in this case because this regulation is important to the health and welfare for our students and the Board is invested in bullying prevention. Changes to note: Cleaned up language, including definition of bullying, clarified district policy for filing a complaint and/or appeals; clarified confidentiality aspects of a complaint; and that students must be notified annually that the policy exists and where they can find it.

K. Slentz explained that policy language is driven by state regulations (the law) and what may not be explicit in a regulation (e.g. sensitivity in approach), will be covered in a training component. The role of the committee and the policy revision process is to make sure that policies are clearly written to retain the intent of the legislation.

J. Lucasey noted that each policy has an indication as to whether it is Required, Local, or Notice on the upper right hand side of each document and with Local policies there is more flexibility in the policy revision process.

S. Stringer expanded on the sourcing of Barbara Colorosa as the reference for the bullying definitions.

#### **2. 1120: School District Records**

P. Sullivan-Nunes reported that the changes recommended to the policy concerned conformance with Education Law 2d which further restricts the use of personally identifiable





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information; and relating to confidentiality and security of District information.

### 3. 4773: Diploma and Credential Options for Students with Disabilities

P. Sullivan-Nunes reported that the regulations concerning students receiving a Skill and Achievement Commencement Credential (SACC) or Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) commencement have changed from having the right to stay in school until they turn 21 or until the credential is conferred, whichever is first; to having the right to stay in school until the school year that they turn 22 or receive their certification, whichever comes first.

These policies will be presented for Second Reading on October 8, 2024.

### 10.10 Approval of Merged Hockey Team

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District hereby move to approve the following team mergers for the winter 2024-25 season:

Varsity Boys Hockey - Merged with Irvington, Leffel, Ardsley, Ossining, and Sleepy Hollow.

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

K. Slentz explained the role of the booster clubs in connection with supporting athletics on behalf of all the students. There is no hockey booster club so the support will come from another existing booster club. Booster clubs are not funded by the District thus the District has no authority over them.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nay

### 11. Citizen Comments

#### 11.01 Notice

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None.

### 12. Old Business

### 13. New Business

#### 13.01 NYSSBA Resolutions



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B. Bass reminded the board that if it wishes to send a delegate to the NYSSBA business meeting it must register a voting delegate by October 4 for the virtual meeting to be held on October 10, 2024.

### **14. Upcoming Meetings**

#### **14.01 Calendar**

- Tuesday, September 17, 2024 - 6:00 pm in HS Commons  
New Staff Introduction and Tenure Recognition
- Tuesday, September 24, 2024 - 7:00 p.m. - MS/HS Library  
Business Meeting
- Tuesday, October 8,, 2024 - 7:00 p.m. - MS/HS Library  
Business Meeting

### **15. Acknowledgements**

#### **15.01 Warrant**

The Board acknowledged the following warrants:

1. Warrant No. 009 Multi
2. Warrant No. 0011 Multi

#### **15.02 Revised District-Wide Safety Plan**

The Board acknowledged the REVISED District Wide Safety Plan and directed the Superintendent to post the plan for public comment for 30 days. A public hearing on the plan will be held on October 22, 2024 during the regular Board meeting.

### **16. Adjournment**

J. Lucasey moved and R. Hershberg seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 pm.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

Elizabeth Saperstein  
District Clerk