



APPROVED MINUTES
Tuesday, March 19, 2024
Business Meeting
7:00 PM
MS/HS Library

1. Video Conferencing Notice

1.01 Video Conferencing Notice

Ms. Stringer participated via video conference.

2. Call to Order

Ms. Lucasey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

3. Public Meeting

3.01 Pledge of Allegiance

3.02 Roll Call

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

3.03 Acceptance of the Agenda

Ms. Hershberg moved and Ms. Sullivan-Nunes seconded, that the Board accept the March 19, 2024 Agenda.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

3.04 Approval of Minutes

Mr. Wood moved and Ms. Nagarajan seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the March 5, 2024 meeting.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays



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4. BOE Correspondence

4.01 BOE Correspondence

The Board received correspondence regarding quality control concerns by a manufacturer of certain building materials.

5. Notice

5.01 Citizen Comments

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.

6. Announcements

Mr. Slentz announced that on Saturday, March 23, 2024 the High School and Elementary Destination Imagination teams will participate in the New York State competition. If either team succeeds they will advance to the National Competition in Kansas.

6.01 Private School Transportation

Ms. Lucasey read the announcement:

Residents of the district whose students will attend a non-public school in 2024-25 and require bus service must submit a request form online **by April 1, 2024** (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



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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.

6.02 Personal Voter Registration

Ms. Lucasey read the announcement:

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 13, 2024 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; (3) Must have been a resident of the school district for a period of 30 days or more prior to May 21, 2024.

6.03 Absentee and Early Mail Ballot Applications

Ms. Lucasey read the announcement:

Absentee and Early Mail Ballot Applications may be requested by emailing the District Clerk at districtclerk@dfsd.org or in writing to 505 Broadway, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522. Absentee and early mail ballots will be available April 26, 2024. Completed absentee and early mail ballots must be received in the District office in person or via U.S. Mail no later than 5:00 PM on May 21, 2024.

6.04 Board Member Terms of Office

Ms. Lucasey read the announcement:

Two terms of office of the Dobbs Ferry Board of Education will be expiring on June 30, 2024: Two seats for three (3)-year terms, July 1, 2024-June 30, 2027.

- Ms. Brooke Bass
- Ms. Penny Sullivan-Nunes

Forms for petitions to run for a seat on the Board of Education are available in the District Office. Petitions must be submitted by the close of business on Monday, April 22, 2024. Twenty five (25) signatures of qualified voters in the district are required.

7. Board Reports

7.01 2024-2025 Budget Update

Mr. Slentz and Mr. Clamser provided an update on the 2024-2025 budget. They discussed the major cost drivers of the Administrative, Capital and Program components of the budget that include inflationary costs, special education out-of-district placements, and staffing. They also highlighted key elements of the revenue budget.

Mr. Slentz reviewed the next steps: a revised Administrative, Capital, Program and Revenue budgets will be presented at the next Board meeting on April 2, 2024;

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sharing details of the budget with the faculty, staff and community; and developing long-range plans.

The 2024-2025 Budget Framework, as well as information about the budget process in general, is posted on the Budget Information Page on the District website.

8. Board Committee Reports

8.01 Committee Reports

Ms. Sullivan-Nunes reported on the Facilities Committee's March 5, 2024 meeting.

- The committee received updates on building maintenance initiatives at Springhurst and the MS/HS; Capital Project timelines and outlay; custodial overtime tracking; an anticipated RFP (request for proposal) for the District security contract, and requests for equipment replacement.
- The committee discussed a proposal for an Energy Performance Contract; results of a Building Condition survey and how that impacts long-range facilities planning; and the retention of artwork in relation to Policy 5222 (Public Art).
- The committee's next meeting is June 11, 2024.

Ms. Lucasey reported on the Policy Committee's March 6, 2024 meeting.

- The committee reviewed Policy 5222 (Public Art) in relation to the High School murals and Policy 4200 (Curriculum Management) in relation to proposed regulations.
- The committee finalized Policy 5152 (Appeal of Student Residency Determination) and began work on Policy 9260 (Conditional Appointment and Emergency Conditional Appointment - Student Safety).
- The following policies are in various stages of review:
 - Policy 4810: Teaching of Controversial Issues
 - Policy 5410: Students - Head Lice
 - Policy 5695: Students and Personal Electronic Devices
 - Policy 6690: Audit Committee Exhibits
 - Policy 5280: Interscholastic Activities.

Ms. Nagarajan reported on the Curriculum, Instruction and Equity Committee's March 14, 2024 meeting.

- The committee discussed aspects of Policy 4200 (Curriculum Management) including a Professional Learning Plan committee and the status of a curriculum advisory committee.
- The committee received updates on the District DEI plan, selection of field trips, the K-5 Schedule, and NYS testing for grades 3-8.
- The next committee meeting is April 11, 2024.

Ms. Stringer reported on the Special Education Committee's March 15, 2024 meeting.

- The committee was updated on a new format for CSE/CPSE recommendations,



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reevaluations and annual reviews; potential impact of a recent NYS Supreme Court ruling increasing the age from 21 to 22 with respect to students with disabilities receiving services; and out-of-district placements.

- The committee was updated on the 19-22 continuum of services plan and tentative staffing requests for the 2024-2025 school year.
- The next committee meeting is April 19, 2024.

Ms. Bass reported on the Finance Committee's March 12, 2024 meeting.

- The committee was updated on the District's current year fund balance projections, close-out process for the 2023-2024 school year, and the Senior Tax Exemption status.
- The committee reviewed the anticipated 2024-2025 revenue budget as it will be impacted by the changes to state aid proposed by the NYS Senate and Assembly.
- The committee discussed program budget priorities and the impact on our students and budget communications documents.
- The next meeting will be April 9, 2024.

Minutes from the Committee meetings are posted on the District website.

9. Board Actions

9.01 CSE/CPSE Recommendations

Ms. Sullivan-Nunes moved and Ms. Stringer seconded, to approve the 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 13, 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 March 13, 2024.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

9.02 Appointment of District Physician



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BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby appoints Tribeca Pediatrics, and Willeatha Taylor, MD., as school physician at an annual fee not to exceed \$22,000.

Ms. Bass moved and Mr. Wood seconded, to appoint the school physician.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

9.03 Personnel

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, hereby move to approve the Civil Service and Professional staff personnel recommendations.

Ms. Hershberg moved and Ms. Stringer seconded, to approve the resolutions.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

9.04 Capital Outlay Project

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District hereby move to accept a proposal from Tetra Tech Architects & Engineers for a proposed Capital Outlay Project and authorize the Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Facilities, and Operations to sign for the District.

Mr. Wood moved and Ms. Bass seconded, to approve the resolution.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

9.05 Proposals for Energy Contracts

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District hereby move to accept the following proposals for a proposed Energy Performance Contract and authorize the Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Facilities, and Operations to sign for the District:

- Tetra Tech Architects & Engineers
- Calgi Construction Company, Inc.

Mr. Wood moved and Ms. Nagarajan seconded, to approve the resolution.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

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

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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 \$37,399.99 or less. This exemption would be in effect from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025.

| <u>Annual Income</u> | <u>Percentage of Assessed Value Exempt from Taxation</u> |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Up to and including \$29,000.00 | 50% |
| \$29,000.01 to \$29,999.99 | 45% |
| \$30,000.00 to \$30,999.99 | 40% |
| \$31,000.00 to \$31,999.99 | 35% |
| \$32,000.00 to \$32,899.99 | 30% |
| \$32,900.00 to \$33,799.99 | 25% |
| \$33,800.00 to \$34,699.99 | 20% |
| \$34,700.00 to \$35,599.99 | 15% |
| \$35,600.00 to \$36,499.99 | 10% |
| \$36,500.00 to \$37,399.99 | 5% |
| \$37,400.00 or more | Not Eligible |

Ms. Bass moved and Mr. Wood seconded, to approve the resolution.

Ms. Lucasey explained that the finance committee asked the administration to assess the potential impact of increasing the income levels for senior citizens to qualify for the partial tax exemption and that the committee plans to review that information in the fall.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

10. Acknowledgements

10.01 Warrants

The Board acknowledged receipt of Warrant No. 39 and 41 - Multi.

10.02 Treasurer's Report

The Board acknowledged receipt of the February 2024 Treasurer's Report.

11. Citizen Comments



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11.01 Notice

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None.

12. Old Business

None.

13. New Business

Southern Westchester BOCES Budget and Trustee Vote information is available for the Board to review. The vote takes place on April 16, 2024.

14. Upcoming Meetings

14.01 Calendar

Tuesday, April 2, 2024 - 7:00 PM - MS/HS Library

- Business Meeting

Tuesday, April 16, 2024 - 7:00 PM - MS/HS Library

- Business Meeting - Budget Adoption

15. Adjournment

Ms. Sullivan-Nunes moved and Ms. Bass seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 pm.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

Elizabeth Saperstein
District Clerk