



## **APPROVED MINUTES**

**Tuesday, April 2, 2024  
Business Meeting  
7:00 PM  
MS/HS Library**

### **1. Call to Order**

Ms. Lucasey called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Ms. Sullivan-Nunes moved and Ms. Bass seconded, that the Board appoint Mr. Slentz as Clerk Pro Tem.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

### **2. Executive Session**

Ms. Lucasey requested a motion that the Board recess to Executive Session for the following purposes: to discuss collective bargaining negotiations and the employment history of particular pedagogical employees.

Ms. Bass moved and Ms. Stringer seconded, that the Board recess to Executive Session.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Ms. Nagarajan was absent for the executive session.

The Board entered executive session at 6:34 p.m.

Ms. Lucasey requested a motion that the board move back to public session.

Ms. Bass moved and Mr. Wood seconded, that the Board return to public session at 7:03 p.m.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

### **3. Resume Public Meeting**

Ms. Lucasey resumed the public meeting at 7:10 p.m.



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### **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**

Mr. Wood moved and Ms. Bass seconded, that the Board accept the April 2, 2024 Agenda.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

### **3.04 Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Stringer moved and Ms. Sullivan-Nunes seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the March 19, 2024 meeting.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

## **4. BOE Correspondence**

### **4.01 BOE Correspondence**

The Board received correspondence regarding the recognition of a former Dobbs Ferry student, the work history of an employee, and a parent inquiry.

## **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**

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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 made the following announcements:

- The DFHS Destination Imagination Team won the state championship for the Improvisation section and will advance to the finals in Kansas City, Missouri.
- The DFHS production of *Fiddler on the Roof* will take place Friday, April 12 and Saturday, April 13, 2024.

**6.01 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.

**6.02 Absentee and Early Mail Voting**

Ms. Lucasey read the announcement:

Absentee and Early Mail Ballot Applications may be requested by emailing the District Clerk at [districtclerk@dfsd.org](mailto: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.

**6.03 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



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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.

Ms. Bass announced that she would run for another term.

Ms. Sullivan-Nunes announced that she would run for another term.

## **7. Board Reports**

### **7.01 2024-2025 Budget Development Update**

Mr. Slentz provided an update on the 2024-2025 budget. He discussed the major factors causing the deficit in the Administrative, Capital and Program components of the budget, and how that deficit will be addressed through reductions and/or consolidations of staff and services while maintaining the program component. The primary cause for the deficit is the decrease in state aid, interest earnings and sales tax receipts.

Revised Administrative, Capital, Program and Revenue budgets will be presented at the next Board meeting on April 16, 2024.; sharing details of the budget with the faculty, staff and community and development of long-range plans.

The 2024-2025 Budget Framework is posted on the District website.

### **7.02 BOCES Administrative Budget**

Mr. Clamser updated the Board on the proposed 2024-2025 Southern Westchester BOCES administrative budget, which is voted on by the component school boards.

## **8. Board Committee Reports**

### **8.01 Committee Reports**

#### **School and Community Relations**

Ms. Hershberg reported on the School and Community Relations Committee's March 19, 2024 meeting:

- The committee discussed alternative media outlets to fill the gap in reporting on school and community news as the Rivertowns Enterprise is no longer in operation
- The District will not renew its contract with ThoughtExchange
- The committee continued work on a community communications survey

#### **Policy**

Ms. Stringer reported on the Policy Committee's March 20, 2024 meeting:

- The public art in the High School and the corresponding policy will be reviewed



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(collaboration with Facilities Committee)

- Policies 9260 (Conditional Appointment and Emergency Conditional Appointment)
- 4810 (Teaching of Controversial Issues) and 5410 (Head Lice) will be reviewed later tonight during first reading
- 5695 (Students and Electronic Personal Devices) and 5280 (Interscholastic Athletics) will be discussed at the next committee meeting

### **Student Activities and Athletics**

Ms. Bass reported on the Student Activities and Athletics Committee's March 21, 2024 meeting:

- Reviewed the findings of the Prevention Needs Assessment Survey conducted by DFHS students
- Noted that Shannon Blanch, student assistance services counselor, is leaving the district, and the agency is currently working on finding a replacement
- Updated the status of spring athletics, including JV lacrosse, and proposed new teams including pickleball, and improvements to athletic facilities.

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

## **9. Board Actions**

### **9.01 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 23, 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 23, 2024.

Mr. Wood moved and Ms. Bass seconded, to approve the CSE/CPSE Recommendations.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

### **9.02 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.



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Mr. Slentz acknowledged the anticipated appointment of tenure to members of the instructional staff.

Ms. Stringer moved and Ms. Sullivan-Nunes seconded, to approve the resolutions.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

### **9.03 Policy Revision - First Reading**

The Board conducted a first reading of the following policies:

Policy 9260: Conditional Appointment and Emergency Conditional Appointment - Student Safety. The policy addresses restrictions on student contact pertaining to employees with conditional or emergency conditional appointments.

Policy 5410: Students - Head Lice (Pediculosis). The policy updates and revises the process for returning to school when head lice is identified. More wordsmithing is needed to clarify the process espoused in the policy and will be addressed again at a second reading. The term “caregiver” will also be included throughout the policy.

Policy 4810: Teaching About Controversial Issues. This is a new policy for the District that provides guidance for teachers. Feedback was solicited from the DFUT. The District will provide for professional development and mentoring in this area.

The Board discussed protocols for talking about controversial issues immediately after a particular event and other scenarios.

### **9.04 Policy Revision - Second Reading**

RESOLVED, that having satisfied the procedural requirements of Policy 2410, the following policies are hereby adopted:

Policy 4321.9: Declassification of Students with Disabilities. This policy is approved with noted amendments: to include “parent/caregiver” throughout policy. Ms. Sullivan-Nunes moved, and Ms. Stringer seconded to adopt the amended policy.

Policy 5605: Student Voter Registration and Pre-Registration.

Policy 6710: Purchasing Authority.

Policy 9645: Disclosure of Wrongful Conduct (“Whistleblower”).

Mr. Wood moved, and Ms. Hershberg seconded to adopt the policies as amended.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

## **10. Acknowledgements**



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### **10.01 Warrants**

The Board acknowledged receipt of Warrant No. 44 - Multi.

### **11. Citizen Comments**

#### **11.01 Notice**

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None.

### **12. Old Business**

Ms. Lucasey announced that the entire board is invited to attend the April 9, 2024 Finance Committee meeting to receive more updates on the proposed 2024-2025 budget. The meeting will be held at 4:30 pm in the boardroom. If we have a quorum planning to attend, the district will notify the public of a special meeting as required.

### **13. New Business**

Ms. Lucasey announced, as referenced in the budget update presentation, that depending on when the state budget information is received and to provide enough time for analyzing such information, an additional Board meeting has been scheduled for April 24, 2024, for budget adoption.

Ms. Lucasey announced that full Board participation in the budget adoption meeting is strongly encouraged.

### **14. Upcoming Meetings**

#### **14.01 Calendar**

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



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- Business Meeting - Regular Meeting

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

- Public Hearing on the Budget

Ms. Lucasey explained that the Public Hearing on the budget gives the community the chance to comment on the budget after its adoption by the Board and before the public vote on May 21, 2024.

### **15. Adjournment**

Mr. Wood moved and Ms. Nagarajan seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 pm.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

Elizabeth Saperstein  
District Clerk