



APPROVED MINUTES

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Business Meeting

7:00 PM

MS/HS Library

1. Call to Order

Ms. Lucasey called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

Ms. Lucasey requested a motion to appoint Ms. Bass as clerk pro tem for the executive session.

Ms. Nagarajan moved and Ms. Sullivan-Nunes seconded, that the Board appoint Ms. Bass as clerk pro tem for the executive session.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays (Mr. Wood was absent)

Ms. Lucasey requested a motion that the Board recess to executive session for the following purposes: to discuss the Superintendent's annual evaluation and a proposed settlement agreement for student #17.

Ms. Sullivan-Nunes moved and Ms. Hershberg seconded, that the Board recess to executive session.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

2. Executive Session

The Board entered executive session at 6:09 p.m.

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

Mr. Wood moved and Ms. Nagarajan seconded, that the Board return to public session at 7:02 p.m.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

3. Resume Public Meeting

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

3.01 Pledge of Allegiance



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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. Sullivan-Nunes moved and Ms. Stringer seconded, that the Board accept the June 11, 2024 Agenda.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

3.04 Approval of Minutes

Ms. Bass moved and Ms. Hershberg seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the May 22, 2024 meeting.

Vote: 4 ayes, 0 nays, 3 abstentions: Mr. Wood, Ms. Stringer, Ms. Sullivan-Nunes
Mr. Wood moved and Ms. Stringer seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the May 28, 2024 meeting.

Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays, 2 abstentions: Ms. Sullivan-Nunes & Ms. Nagarajan

4. BOE Correspondence

4.01 BOE Correspondence

The Board received correspondence on the following topics:

- 1) Invitation to a community event;
- 2) Permission to hang a banner at Springhurst;
- 3) Request to read an article.

5. Citizen Comments

5.01 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.



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None.

6. Announcements

Mr. Slentz made four announcements:

- A dodgeball tournament is taking place tonight as a fundraiser for a sister IB school in Ukraine.
- Thanks to everyone at Springhurst who took part in the annual field day event today.
- The 4th Grade Orchestra Concert is tomorrow night (June 12) at 7:00 pm at Springhurst.
- The Senior Awards Ceremony is tomorrow night (June 12) at 6:00 pm in the HS Gymnasium.

7. Board Reports

7.01 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force Update

Mr. Slentz and Dr. Stinchcomb reported on the DEI Task Force meeting of June 5, 2024.

The Task Force was updated on the June 2022 visit of the Tri-States Consortium and the goals set forth at that time and how the District was implementing its DEI plan and to what extent the implementation of the DEI plan has been successful in supporting the creation of a welcoming and affirming environment in the Dobbs Ferry School District; providing rigorous instruction; and implementing a culturally responsive reading program.

The required annual report to the Board on the District DEI Plan will be presented at the June 25, 2024 meeting, which will include details on the implementation of the policy.

The presentation from the DEI Task Force meeting of June 5, 2024 is posted to the District website.

8. Board Committee Reports

8.01 Committee Reports

Ms. Hershberg reported on the School & Community Relations Committee's May 28, 2024 meeting.

The Committee reviewed its goals from the 2023-24 school year and what work would continue into the 2024-25 school year, including but not limited to:

- Leveraging school concerts and other events that are popular with the community vs. 'state of the district forums';
- Improved proactive communications (e.g. rationale for creating the school calendar) and community engagement in general;
- The District's move to the BOCES model of public relations.

Ms. Sullivan-Nunes reported on the Policy Committee's June 5, 2024 meeting.



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Discussion highlights include:

- The procurement process for employees to purchase educational supplies and equipment;
- Reviewed and recommended changes to Policy 0115 (Student Harassment and Bullying Prevention)

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

9. Board Actions

9.01 Personnel

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, hereby move to approve the Professional Personnel recommendations.

Ms. Lucasey requested a motion to approve the personnel recommendations.

Ms. Stringer moved and Ms. Sullivan-Nunes seconded, to approve the Professional Personnel recommendations.

Mr. Slentz acknowledged the anticipated granting of tenure for teaching assistants Isabel Pipolo and Linda Dever; the appointment of new mathematics teacher Jen Duran at the Middle School; and the appointment of special education teacher Samantha Mayrose at Springhurst.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

9.02 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 June 6, 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 June 6, 2024.

Ms. Lucasey requested a motion to approve the CSE/CPSE Recommendations.

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

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays



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9.03 Supplemental Memorandum of Agreement (DFAA)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of education hereby approves the supplemental memorandum agreement between the Dobbs Ferry Administrators' Association and the District regarding vacation day buy-back.

Ms. Lucasey requested a motion to approve the DFAA Supplemental Memorandum of Agreement.

Ms. Bass moved and Ms. Stringer seconded, to approve the SMOA.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

9.04 Policy Revision - Second Reading

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

1. Policy 1405: Complaints About Certain Federally Funded Programs
2. Policy 2325: Video Conferencing of Board Meetings
3. Policy 5100: Student Attendance
4. Policy 8520 Free Meal Price Services

Ms. Lucasey requested a motion to adopt the policies.

Mr. Wood moved and Ms. Nagarajan seconded, to adopt the policies.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

9.05 Food Service Management Operations

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District hereby move to award Food Service Management Operations to Whitsons Culinary Group for the 2024-25 school year with the option to extend annually through the 2028-29 school year.

Ms. Lucasey requested a motion to award the Food Service Management Operations.

Ms. Bass moved and Ms. Hershberg seconded, to award the bid.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

9.06 Student Out of District and Summer Transportation (Piggybacking)

WHEREAS, the Ardsley Union Free School District ("Ardsley") has made available to public school districts located in Westchester County its Student Out-of-District and Summer Transportation through a provision in the bid specifications permitting "piggybacking" as well as a resolution of the Ardsley Board of Education authorizing participation in the Student Out-of-District and Summer Transportation on the same terms and conditions as the contract with Ardsley; and



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WHEREAS, said transportation contract was bid in accordance with Education Law Section 305(14);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District determines that the contract cost for the Student Out-of-District and Summer Transportation is appropriate and will result in cost savings to the District; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education requests authorization from Ardsley to piggyback onto Ardsley's Student Out-of-District and Summer Transportation Contract with Royal Coach for the 2024-2025 school year on the same terms and conditions as the contract with Ardsley; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the Board President to execute a contract with Royal Coach as well as any documents and forms required by the New York State Education Department to facilitate approval of the contract.

Ms. Lucasey requested a motion to approve the contract.

Ms. Bass moved and Ms. Stringer seconded, to approve the contract.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays.

9.07 Student Athletic and Field Trip Transportation (Piggybacking)

WHEREAS, the Hastings On Hudson Union Free School District ("Hastings") has made available to public school districts located in Westchester County its Student Athletic and Field Trip Transportation through a provision in the bid specifications permitting "piggybacking" as well as a resolution of the Hastings Board of Education authorizing participation in the Student Athletic and Field Trip Transportation on the same terms and conditions as the contract with Hastings; and

WHEREAS, said transportation contract was bid in accordance with Education Law Section 305(14);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District determines that the contract cost for the Student Athletic and Field Trip Transportation is appropriate and will result in cost savings to the District; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education requests authorization from Hastings to piggyback onto Hastings's Student Athletic and Field Trip Transportation Contract with Academy Bus Company Inc. for the 2024-2025 school year on the same terms and conditions as the contract with Hastings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the Board President to execute a contract with Academy Bus Company Inc. as well as any documents and forms required by the New York State Education Department to facilitate approval of the contract.

Ms. Lucasey requested a motion to approve the contract.

Ms. Nagarajan moved and Ms. Hershberg seconded, to approve the contract.



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Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays.

9.08 State Environmental Quality Review Act Determination - 2024-25 Capital Outlay Project

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District ("Board") is considering to undertake a capital outlay project consisting of upgrades and improvements to the School District's security systems, which include the replacement of existing access control fixtures, associated wire, general construction and finish work, and hazardous material abatement work, if necessary ("the Project"); and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to fully comply with its obligations under the State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA") and the regulations thereunder with respect to the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Board has carefully considered the nature and scope of the proposed Project; and WHEREAS, upon review of the foregoing, the Board makes the following determinations:

1. The proposed Project involves certain renovations, upgrades, repairs, and replacements to the School District's existing buildings and grounds.
2. The Board hereby declares the School District as the Lead Agency for purposes of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) and regulations associated with the Proposed Action.
3. The proposed Project represents maintenance or repair involving no substantial changes in an existing structure or facility within the meaning of 6 NYCRR § 617.5(c)(1); and/or the replacement, rehabilitation or reconstruction of a structure or facility, in kind, within the meaning of 6 NYCRR § 617.5(c)(2); and/or a routine activity of an educational institution, including expansion of existing facilities by less than 10,000 square feet of gross floor area, within the meaning of 6 NYCRR § 617.5(c)(10).
4. The proposed Project will in no case have a significant adverse impact on the environment based on the criteria contained in 6 NYCRR § 617.7(c) and is not otherwise a Type I action as defined by 6 NYCRR § 617.4.
5. The proposed Project is a Type II action within the meaning of 6 NYCRR 617.5 and, therefore, is not subject to review under SEQRA and the regulations thereunder.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board finds and concludes that the proposed Project is a Type II action within the meaning of 6 NYCRR 617.5 and, therefore, is not subject to review under SEQRA and the regulations thereunder.

Ms. Lucasey requested a motion to approve the board's findings that the proposed project is not subject to review under SEQRA.

Ms. Nagarajan moved and Ms. Hershberg seconded, to approve the board's findings.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays.

10. Acknowledgements

10.01 Warrant

The Board acknowledged receipt of Warrant No. 54 - Multi.

11. Citizen Comments



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None.

11.01 Notice

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None.

12. Old Business

13. New Business

Ms. Lucasey announced that at the next meeting board members will be asked to state whether they are interested in leadership positions on the Board for the 2024-2025 school year. Any expression of interest in leadership positions is non-binding.

14. Upcoming Meetings

14.01 Calendar

Tuesday, June 25, 2024 - 7:00 PM - MS/HS Library

- Business Meeting

Tuesday, July 9, 2024 - 6:00 PM - MS/HS Library

- Annual Reorganization Meeting

15. Adjournment

Ms. Nagarajan moved and Ms. Sullivan-Nunes seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

Elizabeth Saperstein
District Clerk