



APPROVED MINUTES

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Regular Meeting

7:00 PM

MS/HS Library Presentation Room

1. Videoconferencing Notice

1.01 Videoconferencing Notice

S. Stringer participated via videoconference.

2. Call to Order - Regular Meeting

B. Bass called the regular meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

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; Meryl Rubinstein, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Facilities, and Operations; Elizabeth Saperstein, District Clerk.

S. Stringer participated via videoconference.

3.03 Acceptance of the Agenda

B. Bass requested a motion to accept the February 4, 2025 agenda.

J. Lucasey moved and P. Nagarajan seconded, that the board accept the February 4, 2025 agenda.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

3.04 Approval of Minutes

R. Hershberg moved and D. Wood seconded, that the board approve the minutes of the January 21, 2025 meeting.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

4. Citizen Comments



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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 education 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.

A parent spoke about recent Executive Orders concerning the rights and protections of certain student groups.

5. Correspondence

5.01 Board Correspondence

The board acknowledged correspondence on the following topics:

1. Concerns regarding the rights and protections of certain student groups; and
2. Instructional and curricular requirements for high school courses.

6. Announcements

K. Slentz made the following announcements:

- Meryl Rubinstein, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Facilities, and Operations has started her position effective February 3, 2025.
- HS Talent show is Friday, February 7, 2025 at 6:00 pm.
- Potential school day closure due to snow on Thursday, February 6, 2025.
- B. Bass extended a welcome to M. Rubinstein on behalf of the board.

6.01 Private School Transportation Requests

B. Bass read the following announcement:

School bus transportation: Residents of the district whose students will attend a non-public school in 2025-26 and require bus service must submit a request form online by April 1, 2025 (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 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



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considered if submitted after the deadline.

The school board has established a firm policy of not considering requests submitted after the deadline.

6.02 Board Member Terms of Office

Three terms of office of the Dobbs Ferry Board of Education will be expiring on June 30, 2025. Three seats for three (3)-year terms, July 1, 2025-June 30, 2028:

Ms. Jean Lucasey, Ms. Shannon Stringer and Mr. Darren Wood

Forms for petitions to run for a seat on the board of education are available in the district office. Prospective candidates may contact the district clerk during business hours at (914) 693-1500 extension 3024 for more information. Petitions must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 21, 2025. Twenty-five (25) signatures of qualified voters in the district are required.

6.03 Personal Voter Registration

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 12, 2025 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; and (3) Must have been a resident of the school district for a period of 30 days or more prior to May 20, 2025.

6.04 Absentee and Early Mail Ballot Applications

Any registered, qualified voter may vote by mail by submitting an application for an absentee or early mail ballot. Applications for absentee or early mail ballots may be downloaded from the District Budget section of the website, or may be requested in writing by emailing the district clerk at districtclerk@dfsd.org or 505 Broadway, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522. Applications for absentee or early mail ballots may be submitted after April 21, 2025. The application must be printed, signed in ink by the voter, and returned either in person or by mail to the office of the district clerk. The Application for an absentee or early mail ballot must be received by 2:00 p.m. on May 13, 2025 if the ballot will be mailed to the voter, or by 4:00 p.m. on May 19, 2025 if the ballot will be picked up in person by the voter or his/her designee. Absentee and early voting ballots will be available April 25, 2025. Completed absentee and early mail ballots must be received in the district office in person or U.S. mail no later than 5:00 PM on May 20, 2025.

7. Board Committee Reports

7.01 Committee Reports

P. Sullivan-Nunes reported the following information and updates from the January 28, 2025 meeting of the Board of Education Student Activities and Athletics Committee:

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- The committee developed and refined the 2025-2026 school district calendar to prioritize continuity of student instruction while also reflecting the diversity of the religions and cultures in our community to the extent possible; and
- Discussed possible ways to include funding in the 2025-2026 budget to support student athletes participating in the Rivertowns merged hockey team.

Committee minutes are posted on the district website.

8. Superintendent Report

8.01 Update on Federal Actions and Implications for Policy and Practice

K. Slentz delivered a prepared statement to the board relating to the guidance from the NYS Education Department on safeguarding the rights of immigrant students and on the implications of recent executive orders.

- While the district does not take a position on political or geopolitical actions or events, we take very strong positions on two most critical tasks: maintaining a safe, secure and positive learning environment where all students feel welcome, included and accepted, and providing the best possible education for all our students;
- Nothing has changed in our policies, practices or procedures;
- Students, parents and community members may reach out to our counseling team or administrators with concern or questions.

The NYS Guidance on Safeguarding the Rights of Immigrant Students is posted on the district website and K. Slentz's statement will go out to the community via email.

8.02 Budget Presentation #2: Revenue Status and Forecast

K. Slentz and M. Rubinstein updated the board on the preliminary revenue budget including:

- Property taxes
- State aid
- Sales taxes
- Anticipated interest earnings
- Tuition and health services income
- Current fund balance and use of reserves
- Tax base growth factor and tax cap projections

Property taxes and state aid comprise 93% of the district revenue.

Next steps: review of the program budget with finance committee, refine revenue budget and capital and administrative budget, and develop communications to faculty and staff.

The preliminary revenue budget presentation is posted to the district website.

9. Board Reports

9.01 Grades K-8 Curriculum Implementation Update

Assistant Superintendent, Darrell Stinchcomb, Springhurst Elementary School Principal, Dr. Tashia Brown, and Middle School Principal, Patrick Mussolini, updated the board on the



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implementation and progress of the K-5 Bookworms reading program and the K-8 Illustrative Mathematics program.

T. Brown recapped the selection process for Bookworms and where the elementary school stands with the implementation. Highlights included a report on a site visit by Dr. Sharon Walpole, the founder of Bookworms, and how student progress is measured.

P. Mussolini talked about the continuum of the IM program, which allows for a common approach to match instruction as students arrive at the middle school from Springhurst, and the benefits of maintaining small class sizes on learning. Feedback from students was shared with the board.

J. Lucasey asked how the small classrooms for math were achieved.

D. Wood acknowledged the work that goes into a new learning program and the learning required by the instructional staff. He extended his thanks to the faculty and staff.

The presentation is posted to the district website.

10. Board Actions

10.01 Personnel - Professional/Certificated Staff

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District moves to approve the professional/certificated personnel actions.

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

K. Slentz acknowledged the tenure of Eileen Molz and the upcoming retirement of elementary teacher Patty Giuliano.

B. Bass and J. Lucasey thanked P. Giuliano for her teaching and service to our students and wished her well in her upcoming retirement.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

1. Tenure

Eileen Sandak-Molz

Location: Dobbs Ferry High School

Tenure Area: Mathematics

Start Date of Probationary Period: February 1, 2021

Date of Tenure Appointment: February 1, 2025

Certification: Mathematics Grades 7-12

2. Temporary, Per Diem and/or Seasonal Appointment

(a) 2025 Spring Coaches

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E. Bartell	Varsity Boys Tennis	Cat D, Step 3 incl. 20% long	\$6,975.68
E. Feller	Varsity Golf	Cat E, Step 3 incl. 15% long	\$5,833.32
F. Adamo	Varsity Baseball	Cat B, Step 3 incl. 10% long	\$7,781.69
R. Davis	Varsity Baseball – Asst.	Cat D, Step 3	\$5,813.07
J. Turenchalk	JV Baseball	Cat C, Step 2	\$5,687.27
B. Dublier	Mod Baseball	Cat E, Step 1	\$4,077.96
K. Reznicek	Varsity Softball	Cat B, Step 3 incl. 10% long	\$7,781.69
J. Tucci	Varsity Softball – Asst.	Cat D, Step 3	\$5,813.07
M. Gretczko	Softball Assistant	Volunteer	N/A
A. Vaccaro	JV Softball	Cat C, Step 2	\$5,687.27
A. Maier	Varsity Boys Lacrosse	Cat B, Step 3	\$7,074.26
M. Meagh	Varsity Boys Lacrosse –Asst.	Cat D, Step 3	\$5,813.07
K. McGovern	Varsity Girls Lacrosse	Cat B, Step 3	\$7,074.26
A. Burt	Varsity Girls Lacrosse – Asst.	Cat D, Step 1	\$4,670.46
C. Todd Smith	Mod Girls Lacrosse	Cat E, Step 1	\$4,077.96
V. Garofalo	Varsity Girls Flag Football	Cat B, Step 1	\$5,679.41
D. Briscoe	Modified Track – Asst.	Cat E, Step 3	\$4,072.45

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S. Patrillo	Modified Track – Asst.	Cat E, Step 3 incl. 15% long	\$5,833.32
J. Lindsay	Assistant Track	Cat D, Step 3 incl. 20% long	\$6,975.68

(b) Paige Monte, Permanent Substitute

Location: Springhurst Elementary School

Effective: February 5, 2025 - June 26, 2025

Compensation: \$25,900 per annum prorated

(c) Brian Dubilier, Per Diem Substitute Teacher

Location: Dobbs Ferry Middle School & Springhurst

Effective: February 5, 2025* - June 26, 2025

Compensation: \$125.00 per day; \$62.50 half day

* Pending Fingerprint Clearance

(d) Marc Orlando, Per Diem Substitute Teacher

Location: Dobbs Ferry Middle School

Effective: February 5, 2025 - June 26, 2026

Compensation: \$125.00 per day, \$62.50 half day

(e) Elizabeth "Buffy" Cautela

Location: Dobbs Ferry Middle School

Effective: February 5, 2025 - June 26, 2025

Compensation: \$125.00 per day, \$62.50 half day

(e) James Lindsay, temporary (leave replacement) Physical Education Teacher

Location: Springhurst Elementary School

Effective: January 31, 2025 and for up to 12 weeks or upon the return of S. Pecora-Belarge, whichever is sooner.

Compensation: \$556.07 per diem

(f) Michelle Guerrero, temporary (leave replacement) Elementary Classroom Teacher

Location: Springhurst Elementary School

Effective: February 24, 2025 and for up to 12 weeks or upon the return of D. DiStefano, whichever is sooner

Compensation: \$56,977 per annum, prorated*

*In accordance with regulation, permanent substitute teachers who are requested to take over for a teacher for an extended period of time (more than six weeks, but less than a semester) will be paid at the per diem rate of BA, Step 1 of the current year's DFUT salary schedule.

3. IB Extended Essay Advisors - Dobbs Ferry High School Class of 2026



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Effective: February 5, 2025

Compensation: 20% of daily rate, per hour

- (a) N. Abbatiello, one (1) student for up to five hours
- (b) F. Adamo, four (4) students for up to five hours each
- (c) A. Burt, four (4) students for up to five hours each
- (d) S. Buschi, two (2) students for up to five hours each
- (e) M. Cairo, four (4) students for up to five hours each
- (f) N. Confalone, four (4) students for up to five hours each
- (g) J. Cottingham, three (3) students for up to five hours each
- (h) C. D'Angelo, three (3) students for up to five hours each
- (i) R. Davis, four (4) students for up to five hours each
- (j) K. Evans, four (4) students for up to five hours each
- (k) T. Falconetti, three (3) students for up to five hours each
- (l) A. Fischbeck, two (2) students for up to five hours each
- (m) J. Henry, three (3) students for up to five hours each
- (n) P. Huneke, one (1) student for up to five hours
- (o) M. Lois, one (1) student for up to five hours
- (p) S. Marino, five (5) students for up to five hours each
- (q) M. Meagh, five (5) students for up to five hours each
- (r) S. Patrillo, one (1) student for up to five hours
- (s) D. Ryan, three (3) students for up to five hours each

4. Leave of Absence

- (a) S. Consiglio, ENL Teacher

Location: Dobbs Ferry High School

Effective: approximately May 22, 2025 and for up to 12 weeks

Description: FMLA-related

- (b) S. Pecora-Belarge, Physical Education Teacher

Location: Springhurst Elementary School

Effective: January 30, 2025 and for up to 12 weeks

Description: FMLA-related

5. Extra Hours - Math Night

Location: Springhurst Elementary School

Compensation: hourly rate, per hour

February 6, 2025: R. La Guardia, S. Aronowitz, R. Tuman, R. Gannecilli, C. Reda

March 6, 2025: L. Metrano, K. LaPorte, S. Sullivan



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6. Probationary Appointment Change

Jennifer Prisco, Special Education Teacher

Location: Springhurst Elementary School

Duration of Probationary Period: October 21, 2024 - October 20, 2028 (to four years, from three)

Note: Prior tenure verification not met

7. Resignation/Retirement

Patricia Guiliano, Elementary Classroom Teacher

Location: Springhurst Elementary School

Effective: June 30, 2025

10.02 Personnel - Civil Service Staff

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District moves to approve the civil service personnel actions.

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

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

1. Permanent Appointment - Completion of Mandatory Probationary Period Pursuant to Civil Service Law Section 63

Jason Balbo, Senior Office Assistant (Automated Systems)

Location: Business Office

Effective: February 5, 2025

10.03 Creation of New Position: Maintenance Foreperson (Buildings)

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the board of education hereby creates the full-time position of Maintenance Foreperson (Buildings) effective January 1, 2025.

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

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

10.04 Literacy Consultant Contract - Grades 6-8



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RESOLVED, that the board of education approves the proposed contract between the district and Dr. Molly Ness (Dirigo Literacy) in accordance with the terms therein.

P. Sullivan-Nunes moved and J. Lucasey seconded, to approve the literacy consultant contract.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

10.05 Springhurst Garden and Recycling Coordinator

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of education hereby appoints Sara Sellitti to the Springhurst Garden and Recycling Coordinator position in accordance with the position job description and stipend.

R. Hershberg moved and P. Nagarajan seconded, to approve the appointment.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

10.06 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 January 29, 2025, 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 January 29, 2025.

P. Sullivan-Nunes moved and J. Lucasey seconded, to approve the CSE/CPS Recommendations.

B. Bass noted that the recommendations were reviewed by the Special Education Committee.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

10.07 Policy Revisions - Second Reading

BE IT RESOLVED, that having satisfied the requirements of policy 2410, the board of education approved the following policies:

1. Policy 0100: Non-discrimination and Equal Opportunity
2. Policy 2160: School Board Officer and Employee Code of Ethics
3. Policy 2342: Agenda Preparation and Dissemination

J. Lucasey moved and D. Wood seconded, to adopt the policies.



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Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

10.08 Adoption of New Courses

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the superintendent, the board does hereby adopt the following course to be added to the high school course catalog:

AP Psychology

P. Sullivan-Nunes moved and R. Hershberg seconded, to adopt the new course.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

10.09 Disposition of Library Materials - MS/HS

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, hereby move to approve the disposal of the books on the attached list that are currently part of the MS/HS Library collection.

J. Lucasey moved and S. Stringer seconded, to approve the disposal of library books.

J. Lucasey clarified that the disposal of the books and library materials is a process performed by the librarians and is based on the lack of circulation of particular items over a period of time.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

10.10 Budget Increase - Tax Certiorari

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, hereby move to approve the following budget increase to enable the district to pay a tax certiorari refund to Ardsley Country Club, Inc. as consented to at the June 20, 2023 board meeting:

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Revenue Account to Increase	Amount	Expenditure Account to Increase	Amount
A5997.864 Appropriate Reserve for Tax Certiorari	 \$23,871.00	A1930-434-99-8002 Tax Certiorari	 \$23,871.00

R. Hershberg moved and J. Lucasey seconded, to approve the budget transfer.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

11. Citizens Comments

11.01 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 education business meetings, we are listening. Members of our school district community may comment on *any matter related to district business*. 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

12. Old Business

None

13. New Business

The district is looking for board members to volunteer to participate in an ad-hoc transportation committee to look at ways to streamline student transportation in the district.

14. Acknowledgments

14.01 Warrants



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The board acknowledged the following warrant:

No. 0033 - Multi

14.02 Treasurer's Report

The board acknowledged the December 2024 Treasurer's report.

15. Upcoming Meetings

15.01 Calendar

- Tuesday, February 25, 2025 - 7:00 p.m. - boardroom
Executive Session - Review of tenure and probationary faculty and administration
- Tuesday, March 11, 2025 - 7:00 p.m. - MS/HS library
Regular Meeting

16. Adjournment

J. Lucasey moved and P. Sullivan-Nunes seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

Elizabeth Saperstein
District Clerk