



## **DRAFT MINUTES**

**Tuesday, May 27, 2025**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**MS/HS Library Presentation Room**

**1. Call to Order - Regular Meeting**

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

**2. Meeting Opening**

**2.01 Pledge of Allegiance**

**2.02 Roll Call**

Brooke Bass, President; Penny Sullivan-Nunes, Vice President; Jean Lucasey; Shannon Stringer; Darren Wood; Pavithra Nagarajan, Rebecca Hershberg; Kenneth Slentz, Superintendent; Elizabeth Saperstein, District Clerk

D. Stinchcomb was absent.  
M. Rubinstein was absent.

**2.03 Acceptance of the Agenda**

B. Bass requested a motion to accept the May 27, 2025 agenda.

J. Lucasey moved and S. Stringer seconded, that the board accept the May 27, 2025 agenda.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

**2.04 Approval of Minutes**

B. Bass requested a motion to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2025 regular meeting.

D. Wood moved and P. Nagarajan seconded, that the board approve the minutes of the May 6, 2025 regular meeting.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstention. S. Stringer was absent from the May 6, 2025 meeting.

B. Bass requested a motion to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2025 special meeting.

S. Stringer moved and R. Hershberg seconded, that the board approve the minutes of the May 21, 2025 special meeting.



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Vote: 4 ayes, 0 nays, 3 abstention. R. Hershberg, D. Wood, and P. Sullivan-Nunes were absent from the May 21, 2025 meeting.

### **3. Citizen Comments**

#### **3.01 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.

Members of the Dobbs Ferry community shared their opinions on the development of the statewide "bell-to-bell" cell phone ban policy in public schools.

### **4. Correspondence**

#### **4.01 Board Correspondence**

The board acknowledged correspondence on the following topic:

1. School budget
2. Curriculum

### **5. Announcements**

R. Hershberg announced the following on behalf of Dobbs Ferry PTSA president, Alice Dabiri:

- The final members meeting of the PTSA will be held Thursday, May 29, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. The PTSA will vote in a new treasurer, vice president of communications, middle school vice president, and general vice president.
- "The PTSA has been receiving a lot of parent feedback on the subject of the new policy starting next year enforcing the phone ban and remains committed to being an advocate for the community and for the well-being of our children."

K. Slentz announced that the fifth grade music concert will be held at Springhurst on Wednesday, May 28, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. The concert will be live-streamed.

### **6. Board Committee Reports**

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### **6.01 Committee Reports**

P. Sullivan-Nunes reported the following information and updates from the May 7, 2025 meeting of the Board of Education Policy Committee:

- Discussion of a possible policy duplication between Policy 1230: Public Participation at Board Meetings and Policy 2130: Public Comment at Board Meetings. These policies, along with policy 2112, will be reviewed at an upcoming meeting;
- Discussion of an executive order concerning school discipline and equity and determined that no action is required by the district at this time;
- The DEI task force will meet on June 2 as required by policy 0105; and
- Discussion of policies scheduled for a first reading at tonight's board meeting.

J. Lucasey reported the following information and updates from the May 22, 2025 meeting of the Board of Education Policy Committee:

- Continued discussion and review of possible policy duplication referenced above (policies 1230, 2130, and 2112) and based on that, the superintendent will revise said policies in accordance with the committee's review and will discuss again at next meeting;
- Review of policy 4514 and extending this policy to include a provision on the selection of theatrical performances; and
- Continued review of the district's draft personal internet-enabled device policy (5695), known as the "cell phone ban" which will be reviewed again by the committee at its June 4, 2025 meeting.

J. Lucasey reported the following information and updates from the May 12, 2025 meeting of the Board of Education Finance Committee:

- Discussion of board feedback to the superintendent on the budget development process and improvements thereof;
- Discussion of timeline and process for recommending approval of the 2025-2026 tax warrant and that the same process used for this school year will be used again; and
- Review of administration's recommendations for reducing the district's reserve fund in coming years.

*Committee minutes are posted on the district website.*

### **7. Superintendent Report**

#### **7.01 Use of personal internet-enabled devices during the school day**

The superintendent presented an overview of the legal framework that public schools are working within in order to establish the policy for the use of personal internet-enabled devices.

- The law does not simply cover cell phones, but includes any personal internet-enabled device, which is defined as any personal device that allows connectivity to the internet, and specifically calls out connection to social media;
- The law sets a minimum enforcement, but does not preclude school districts from having stricter rules than what the law requires;
- How the law defines the "school day" and "school grounds";

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- Exceptions to the policy, for example, students with disabilities or medical conditions that require the use of internet-enabled monitoring devices; and
- Policy requirements concerning the adoption date of the policy, methods for parents to contact students during the school day, device storage (if phones are allowed to be brought to school); consultation of stakeholders (bargaining units, parents/guardians, students) and disciplinary actions for violating the ban.

The superintendent concluded by acknowledging the comments of the parents that spoke earlier at the meeting and that this effort must be a partnership between the schools, parents and guardians, and the community.

*The presentation is posted to the district website.*

## **8. Board Actions**

### **8.01 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.

B. Bass requested a motion to approve the professional personnel actions.

S. Stringer moved and J. Lucasey seconded, to approve the professional personnel actions.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

#### **1. Overnight Chaperones - Club Getaway**

Location: Dobbs Ferry Middle School

Effective: June 12 and 13

Compensation: \$140.00 per overnight and an additional \$70.00 if the trip returns to the district after 5:00 p.m. or an additional \$140.00 if the trip returns after 6 p.m.

- |                |                   |               |
|----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| (a) J. Infante | (b) J. McCrane    | (c) M. Jaros  |
| (d) L. Marx    | (e) M. Hanley     | (f) J. Hickey |
| (g) J. Park    | (h) D. Cunningham |               |

#### **2. After-School Chaperones - Dinner Cruise**

Location: Dobbs Ferry Middle School

Effective: May 29, 2025 from 3:30- 9:30 p.m.

Compensation: \$35.00 per hour

- |                |                |                          |
|----------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| (a) J. McCrane | (b) M. Jaros   | (c) D. Cunningham        |
| (d) T. Brooks  | (e) L. Marx    | (f) N. DelVecchio-Molina |
| (g) N. Tobey   | (h) J. Infante | (i) S. Kusi-Asare        |
| (j) B. Sealey  |                |                          |



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### 3. Temporary, Seasonal, and Per Diem Appointment

(a) Allyson Moone, Temporary (Leave Replacement) Mathematics Teacher

Location: Dobbs Ferry Middle School

Effective: May 16, 2025 and for up to 12 weeks\*

Certification: 7-12 Mathematics

Compensation: MA, Step 2, prorated

\*replaces Alison Malfesi, FMLA through October 15, 2025 (excluding summer months)

(b) Nicholas Ruth, Per Diem Substitute Teacher (re-appointment)

Location: Dobbs Ferry Middle School and Springhurst Elementary School

Effective: May 27, 2025 through June 26, 2025

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

### 4. Certified Election Inspector

(a) Vevette Cundari, Warburton Avenue, Yonkers, NY

### 5. Extended School Year Program

(a) Lisa Easton, Teaching Assistant, up to 50 hours

(b) Lisa Konstadt, Teaching Assistant, up to 22.5 hours and up to 15 hours as a substitute Teaching Assistant

Location: Springhurst Elementary School

Effective: July 1, 2025 - August 12, 2025

Compensation: Hourly rate, per hour

### 6. Regents Review

(a) M. Hanley, Earth Science - up to 8.5 hours

(b) J. Henry, Earth Science - up to 8.5 hours

(c) K. Morales, Algebra I - up to 8.5 hours

(d) R. Wolosky, Algebra I - up to 8.5 hours

Location: Dobbs Ferry Middle School

Effective: May 7, 2025 - June 26, 2025

Compensation: 20% of daily rate, per hour

### 7. Athletic Chaperone/Clock Operator

(a) Taylor Deruvo

Location: Dobbs Ferry School District

Effective: May 16, 2025 - June 26, 2025

Compensation: \$35.00 per hour, provided a minimum of two hours pay is received

### 8. Summer 2025 Work



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Location: indicated below

Effective: July 1, 2025 - August 26, 2025

Compensation: Daily rate, per day\*

- (a) J. Lotito, up to 10 days (Special Education)
- (b) C. Centeno, up to 10 days (Special Education)
- (c) G. DiMaria, up to 10 days (Elementary Nurse)
- (d) C. De Leon, up to 10 days (MS/HS Nurse)
- (e) K. Cronin, up to 10 days (District Nurse)
- (f) M. Propersi, up to 10 days (HS Guidance)
- (g) W. Palmer, up to 10 days (HS Guidance)
- (h) M. Tapia, up to 10 days (HS Guidance)
- (i) M. Levy, up to 10 days (HS Guidance)
- (j) S. Marino, up to 10 days (HS Science Research)
- (k) M. Jaros, up to 12 days (MS Counselor)
- (l) S. Hacker, up to 12 days, (MS Counselor)

\*staff not working a full day will have their daily rate prorated.

### **9. 2025 Summer Hours - CSE/CPSE Meetings; Evaluations**

Location: Dobbs Ferry School District

Effective: July 1, 2025 - August 26, 2025

Compensation: Hourly rate, per hour

#### **General Education Teachers:**

- (a) L. Marx      (b) J. Henry      (c) E. Pinkava      (d) M. Hanley

#### **Special Education Teachers:**

- (e) M. Pagano    (f) E. Perrotta    (g) A. Chiossi      (h) N. Delvecchio-Molina

#### **Social Workers:**

- (i) P. Clifford      (j) M. Ciccone

#### **Speech/Language Pathologist:**

- (k) L. Serrone

#### **Psychologist:**

- (l) J. Pirraglia

## **8.02 Personnel - Civil Service Staff**

B. Bass requested a motion to approve the civil service personnel actions:

R. Hershberg moved and P. Nagarajan seconded, to approve the civil service personnel actions.



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Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

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

1. Leave of Absence

(a) Diana Delnero, Senior Office Assistant

Location: Springhurst Elementary School

Effective: June 20, 2025 and for up to 12 weeks

Note: FMLA

2. Resignation

(a) Tara Eng, Registered School Nurse

Location: Dobbs Ferry School District (Master's School)

Effective: June 30, 2025

### **8.03 Abolishment of Position - Pedagogical**

WHEREAS, the board for reasons of economy and efficiency, has determined that it is appropriate to abolish certain pedagogical positions in the district;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby abolishes the following positions, effective June 30, 2025:

1.0 FTE assistant principal

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the district clerk is hereby directed to provide written notice to the least senior employee(s) in each tenure area, who are being laid off due to the abolition of the above-referenced positions, effective June 30, 2025, in accordance with the provisions of Section 3013 of the Education Law, as set forth in a memorandum to the board from the superintendent of schools, dated May 25, as presented at this meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said employees who are entitled to Part 30 bumping rights will be notified, in writing, of their right to a position in a previous tenure area of service and of their placement on a preferred eligibility list in the tenure area of their employment regarding their statutory recall rights; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said employees who are not entitled to Part 30 bumping rights shall be notified in writing of their placement on a preferred eligibility list in the tenure area of their employment regarding their statutory recall rights.

B. Bass requested a motion to abolish the position.



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D. Wood moved and S. Stringer seconded, to abolish the position.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

### **8.04 Unpaid leave of absence**

BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Education Law §1709(16), the board of education hereby grants a leave of absence without pay to Dr. Darrell Stinchcomb, effective commencing May 19, 2025.

B. Bass requested a motion to approve the leave of absence.

D. Wood moved and S. Stringer seconded, to approve the leave of absence.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

### **8.05 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 May 21, 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 May 21, 2025.

B. Bass requested a motion to approve the CSE/CPSE recommendations.

R. Hershberg moved and S. Stringer seconded, to approve the CSE/CPSE recommendations.

B. Bass noted that the walk-on recommendations was reviewed by the Special Education Committee.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

### **8.06 Establishment of 2025-26 Annual Reorganization Meeting Date**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District hereby moves to adopt Weds., July 9, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. for the annual reorganization meeting.

B. Bass requested a motion to adopt the date for the reorganization meeting.





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P. Sullivan-Nunes moved and J. Lucasey seconded, to adopt the date for the reorganization meeting.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

### **8.07 Policy Revision - First Reading**

The board conducted a first reading of the following policies:

**1. Policy 0111: Sexual Harassment Grievances Under Title IX**

This policy is being adjusted from its draft stage on account of the court case decided in January 2025 repealing the expanded provisions that went into effect in 2024. The policy is substantially the same as it was pre-2024, with the exception of language to clarify the policy provision on evidential credibility for claims. There is an exhibit that goes with this policy that includes definitions of terms that are helpful to understanding the policy.

**2. Policy 2160: School District Officer and Employee Code of Ethics**

This policy sets forth the ethical framework for board members, officers and employees and focuses on statutory and ethical conflicts of interest, mandatory public disclosure of financial interests, protection of confidential information and consequences for violations. The policy updates are primarily the application of conventions and no substantive changes.

**3. Policy Regulation 1120: School District Records**

This is one of the few policy regulations that has to be adopted by the board because an individual must be named as the district records officer. Effective July 1, 2025 the records officer will be Lisa Raymond, the new Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Facilities and Operations. The regulation outlines the district's procedures for managing and providing access to records in compliance with New York Freedom of Information Law. In addition to naming L. Raymond, updates to the regulation reflect alignment with current state guidelines, clarity and staff responsibilities, and stronger protections for personal and sensitive information.

*The policy revisions are posted to the district website.*

### **8.08 RIC One Risk Operations Center Participation**

WHEREAS, four (4) BOCES (Onondaga-Cortland-Madison BOCES, Albany-Schoharie-Schenectady-Saratoga BOCES, Madison-Oneida BOCES and Broome-Tioga BOCES) have collaborated and entered into an Article 5 General Municipal Law intermunicipal arrangement for the purpose of improving vendor management, data security, and privacy practices for school districts and/or BOCES statewide known as the RIC ONE Risk Operations Center (the "ROC");

WHEREAS, the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry School District through its affiliation with a locally based Regional Information Center, participates with the ROC and desires, for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, to authorize the ROC to enter into Data Privacy Agreements and related exhibits



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(DPAs) with vendors and third-party contractors that include the requirements of, and compliance with, New York State Education Law Section 2-d and Part 121 Regulations (collectively, "Ed Law 2d") related to student personally identifiable information (PII) and certain teacher and principal APPR data;

WHEREAS, the ROC also partners with NYSED, the Access4Learning Student Data Privacy Consortium (SDPC), and The Education Cooperative (TEC) to negotiate and approve Ed Law 2-d compliant DPAs; and

WHEREAS, the DPAs are presented to school districts and/or BOCES for final execution and do not require the expenditure of funds beyond those budgeted; and

BE IT RESOLVED, board of education of the Dobbs Ferry School District authorizes the attorneys designated by the ROC to negotiate and approve of DPAs for software and/or technology resources; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Dobbs Ferry School District Board of Education grants the ROC and its designated attorneys the authority to negotiate the terms and conditions of DPAs and take such actions so as to effectuate the purposes and intent of this resolution.

B. Bass requested a motion to approve the resolution.

D. Wood moved and S. Stringer seconded, to approve the resolution.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

#### **8.09 Westchester Putnam School Boards Association (WPSBA) Proposed Budget and Nominating Committee Slate**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, hereby to move to cast their vote for the 2025-26 Westchester Putnam School Boards Association (WPSBA ) proposed budget and nominating committee slate.

B. Bass requested a motion to approve the resolution.

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

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

#### **8.10 Acceptance of PTSA Grant (No Place for Hate)**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, hereby move to accept the following grant from the PTSA in an amount not to exceed \$295.26



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Name of Grant	Teacher(s)/Staff	School	Amount
No Place for Hate	Sandra Hacker	MS	\$295.26

B. Bass requested a motion to approve the PTSA grant.

D. Wood moved and J. Lucasey seconded, to approve the PTSA grant.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

### **8.11 Acceptance of Donation**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, hereby move to accept the following donation:

\$950.00 from the Chestnut Petroleum Dist. Inc., Mobil Pump for a Cause

B. Bass requested a motion to accept the donation.

P. Nagarajan moved and D. Wood seconded, to accept the donation.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

### **8.12 Agreement with Educational Management Systems (EMS)**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District hereby moves to approve the attached agreement with Educational Management Systems (EMS).

B. Bass explained that the district is engaging a consultant to assist us with claiming our state reimbursement for our 8-week summer program for students with disabilities assigned by the CSE.

B. Bass requested a motion to approve the EMS agreement.

S. Stringer moved and D. Wood seconded, to approve the EMS agreement.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

### **9. Citizens Comments**

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### **9.01 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.

Members of the Dobbs Ferry community shared their opinions on the enforcement of the "bell to bell" cell phone ban.

### **10. Old Business**

None

### **11. New Business**

B. Bass reminded the board to complete the superintendent's evaluation and board evaluation.

### **12. Acknowledgments**

#### **12.01 Treasurer's Report - MS and HS Extra Classroom Activity Funds**

The board acknowledged receipt of the treasurer's report on extra classroom activity funds for the Dobbs Ferry Middle School and Dobbs Ferry High School.

#### **12.02 Treasurer's Report - April**

The board acknowledged the April 2025 treasurer's report.

#### **12.03 Warrants**

The board acknowledged the following warrants:

1. Warrant No. 0053 - Multi
2. Warrant No. 0048 - Multi
3. Warrant No. 0046 - Multi

### **13. Upcoming Meetings**

#### **13.01 Calendar**

B. Bass announced that there is a June 3, 2025 meeting on the calendar but there is a question as to whether it will take place. The next regular meeting is Tuesday, June 17, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the MS/HS Library.



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### **14. Adjournment**

B. Bass requested a motion to adjourn the May 27, 2025 meeting.

J. Lucasey moved and S. Stringer seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

Elizabeth Saperstein  
District Clerk