APPROVED MINUTES

Tuesday, March 24, 2026
7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting - MS/HS Library Presentation Room

1. Proposed Executive Session

1.01 Proposed Executive Session

B. Bass called the meeting to order at 6:37 pm.

B. Bass requested a motion to appoint K. Slentz as clerk pro tem.

D. Wood moved and P. Nagarajan seconded, that the board appoint K. Slentz as clerk pro tem.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

B. Bass requested a motion for the board to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing the status of a proposed settlement agreement for student 041426.

R. Hershberg moved and D. Wood seconded, that the board enter executive session.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

B. Bass requested a motion that the board exit the executive session.

D. Wood moved and P. Nagarajan seconded, that the board exit executive session at 6:52 pm.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

2. Call to Order - Regular Meeting

B. Bass called the regular meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

3. Meeting Opening

3.01 Pledge of Allegiance

3.02 Roll Call

Brooke Bass, President; Penny Sullivan-Nunes, Vice President; Darren Wood; Pavithra Nagarajan; Rebecca Hershberg; Mindy Walker; Yael Klein; Kenneth Slentz, Superintendent; Lisa Raymond, Assistant Director of Finance, Facilities and Operations; and Elizabeth Saperstein, District Clerk.

S. Reddy was absent.

Dr. Stinchcomb was absent.

Student ex-officio A. Wu was absent.

3.03 Acceptance of the Agenda

B. Bass requested a motion to accept the March 24, 2026 agenda.

D. Wood moved and R. Hershberg seconded, that the board accept the March 24, 2026 agenda.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

3.04 Approval of Minutes

B. Bass requested a motion to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2026 meeting.

D. Wood moved and P. Sullivan-Nunes seconded, that the board approve the March 3, 2026 minutes.

Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstention (Hershberg)

B. Bass requested a motion to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2026 meeting.

D. Wood moved and P. Nagarajan seconded, that the board approve the March 12, 2026 minutes.

Vote: 4 ayes, 0 nays, 2 abstention (Nagarajan and Sullivan-Nunes)

4. Citizen Comments

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.

In anticipation of the technology presentation later in the meeting, parents of students at the elementary and middle schools shared their opinions and suggestions on technology use in the

curriculum and classrooms. Particularly, parents expressed their thoughts about who in the district is making technology choices and how those decisions are being made.

In anticipation of the board's vote on the partial tax exemption for volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers later in the meeting, one member of the Dobbs Ferry Fire Department spoke about how helpful the partial tax exemption could be in recruiting members.

5. Correspondence

5.01 Board Correspondence

The board acknowledged correspondence posing a question about tenure.

6. Announcements

B. Bass made the following announcements:

School bus transportation: Residents of the district whose students will attend a non-public school in 2026-27 and require bus service must submit a request form online by April 1, 2026 (even if placement has not yet been confirmed) to the Ardsley Transportation Department. To be eligible, students must be at least five years old by 12/31/2026 and in grades K-12 (not preschool) for the 2026-27 school year, and the school must be within 15 miles of their home. 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 considered if submitted after the deadline. The School Board has established a firm policy of not considering requests submitted after the deadline.

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 11, 2026, 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 19, 2026.

Board member terms of office: Two terms of office of the Dobbs Ferry Board of Education will expire on June 30, 2026. Two seats for three (3)-year terms, July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2029:

- Rebecca Hershberg
- Pavithra Nagarajan

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 20, 2026. Twenty five (25) signatures of qualified voters in the district are required.

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 20, 2026. 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 12, 2026, if the ballot will be mailed to the voter, or by 4:00 p.m. on May 18, 2026, 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 24, 2026. 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 19, 2026.

K. Slentz made the following announcements:

Of the 31 science research students who attended the recent Regeneron Westchester Science & Engineering Fair (WESEF) 13 received awards. Thanks to Sarah Marino, science research teacher, for everything she has done for this program.

The Westchester League of Women voters registered 27 students to vote during its annual student voter registration drive on March 16. Thanks to Mallory Cairo and the league for facilitating this event.

The district orchestra concert will take place at 4:30 pm on Thursday, March 26 in the high school auditorium.

The IB art show will take place at 6:00 pm on Thursday, March 26 in the library presentation room.

The spring athletics season started this week. We are fielding three teams in baseball and softball, and many students are participating in track and field.

7. Board Committee Reports

7.01 Board Committee Reports

B. Bass reported the following information and updates from the March 9, 2026 finance committee meeting:

- Received an update on current proposed plans for revenue budget based on the most recent foundation aid information from the state - anticipated that we are receiving less in foundation aid, which will increase the district's expenditure gap;

- Received an update on proposed use of reserve funds, reduction in force, and retirement incentives to close the budget gap;
- Received an update on the proposed energy contract and reviewed four options.

Committee minutes are posted on the district website.

8. Superintendent Report

8.01 2026-27 Budget Development Update

The superintendent and assistant superintendent for finance, facilities and operations presented the updated budget presentation. K. Slentz recapped the pillars of our work and strategic points of focus, and L. Raymond reviewed the categories of expenditures and revenues. This included details on projected increases and decreases, and methods by which the district will close the budget gap.

The presentation is posted to the district website.

9. Board Reports

9.01 Using Technology to Enhance Student Learning

K. Slentz provided an overview of the history of technology in education. This was followed by the three principals - Dr. Tashia Brown, Patrick Mussolini, and Dr. John Falino - who presented on the overall use of technology in the classroom at the building and grade level. Each principal also showed specific examples of lesson plans and classroom drills and how technology is being implemented.

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.

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

R. Hershberg moved and M. Walker seconded, to approve the professional personnel actions.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

1. Temporary, Seasonal and Part-Time Appointment

(a) Dawn Formisano, Girls Modified Lacrosse Coach
Location: Dobbs Ferry School District
Effective: March 16, 2026 - June 1, 2026 (Spring Season)

Compensation: Category E, Step 1 ($4,077.96)

(b) Ryan McDermott, Modified Baseball Coach
Location: Dobbs Ferry School District
Effective: March 16, 2026 - June 1, 2026 (Spring Season)
Compensation: Category E, Step 1 ($4,077.96)

(c) M. Teglasi, Musical Accompanist (Pit)
Location: Dobbs Ferry High School
Effective: April 2026 (Pippin)
Compensation: $125.00 per service, not to exceed six (6) services per production

(d) C. Rhyner, Musical Accompanist - Jazz Night
Location: Dobbs Ferry MS/HS
Effective: March 11, 2026
Compensation: $366.15 per Article VII (D)(8)

(e) S. Gates, Musical Accompanist - District Chorus Festival
Location: Dobbs Ferry School District
Effective: March 26, 2026
Compensation: $125.00 per service, not to exceed six (6) services per production

(f) H. Dann, Volunteer Boys Lacrosse Coach
Location: Dobbs Ferry School District
Effective: March 25, 2026 - June 15, 2026
No Compensation

(g) K. Trezza, Volunteer Girls Lacrosse Coach
Location: Dobbs Ferry School District
Effective: March 25, 2026 - June 15, 2026
No Compensation

2. Appointment Change (Longevity correction)

(a) K. Reznicek, Varsity Softball Coach
Compensation: Category B, Step 3, including 15% longevity ($8,135.40)

(b) S. Patrillo, Modified Track Coach
Compensation: Category E, Step 3, including 20% longevity ($6,086.94)

3. Co-Curricular Advisor

(a) M. Petruolo, Spanish Club
Location: Dobbs Ferry High School

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Effective: February 1, 2026 - June 30, 2026
Compensation: Category D, Step 1 ($926.47) prorated
note: replaces M. Lois

4. Extra Hours - Curriculum Council

Location: Springhurst Elementary School
Effective: March 4, 2026- June 26, 2026 - up to five meetings @ 75 minutes per meeting (3:15-4:30 pm)
Compensation: hourly rate

(a) S. Aronowitz (b) L. Mayfield (c) K. Ryan (d) L. Metrano
(e) K. LaPorte (f) D. DiStefano* (g) J. Straub (h) C. Cole
(i) C. Moccia (j) P. Kelly (k) J. Rosen (l) E. Horan
(m) M. Yang Kaczmarek (n) D. Summerville-Nelson (special sub-committee)
*extra session(s) per principal for special sub-committee

5. Leaves of Absence

(a) R. Glynn, K-12 Teaching Assistant
Location: Dobbs Ferry School District
Effective: January 16, 2026 and for up to 12 weeks
Note: FMLA

(b) J. Duran, Math Teacher
Location: Dobbs Ferry Middle School
Effective: approximately June 1, 2026 and for up to 12 weeks
Note: FMLA

(c) M. Meyer, Elementary Teacher
Location: Springhurst Elementary School
Effective: approximately March 10, 2026 and for up to 12 weeks
Note: FMLA - intermittent

6. Resignations

(a) M. Dent, Speech/Language Pathologist
Location: Dobbs Ferry Middle School
Effective: close of business June 26, 2026

(b) N. Appleton, Math Teacher
Location: Dobbs Ferry Middle School
Effective: close of business June 26, 2026

7. IB Extended Essay Advisors - Dobbs Ferry High School Class of 2027

Effective: March 1, 2026
Compensation: 20% of daily rate, per hour

(a) F. Adamo, four (4) students for up to five hours each
(b) A. Bell, one (1) student for up to five hours
(c) A. Burtt, five (5) students for up to five hours each
(d) M. Cairo, three (3) students for up to five hours each
(e) N. Confalone, three (3) students for up to five hours each
(f) J. Cottingham, one (1) student for up to five hours
(g) C. D'Angelo, three (3) students for up to five hours each
(h) R. Davis, four (4) students for up to five hours each
(i) K. Evans, five (5) students for up to five hours each
(j) T. Falconetti, two (2) students for up to five hours each
(k) A. Fischbeck, two (2) students for up to five hours each
(l) K. Galante, two (2) students for up to five hours each
(m) J. Henry, four (4) students for up to five hours each
(n) P. Huneke, two (2) students for up to five hours each
(o) S. Marino, six (6) students for up to five hours each
(p) M. Meagh, four (4) students for up to five hours each
(q) S. Patrillo, three (3) students for up to five hours each

8. Athletic Chaperone/Clock Operator

Location: Dobbs Ferry School District
Effective: March 2, 2026 - June 26, 2026
Compensation: $35.00 per hour, provided that a minimum of two hours' pay is received

(a) Jaclyn Broccoli
(b) Amy Friedman
(c) Samantha Arone

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.

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

P. Sullivan-Nunes moved and D. Wood seconded to approve the civil service personnel actions.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

Dobbs Ferry School District
Independent Thinkers Change Worlds

APPROVED MINUTES

1. Leave of Absence

(a) N. Mullens, Custodial Worker
Location: Dobbs Ferry MS/HS
Effective: February 25, 2026 and for up to 12 weeks
Note: FMLA

10.03 CSE/CPSE Recommendations

WHEREAS the Committee on Special Education and Committee on Pre-School Special Education had issued to the board by written confidential report dated March 24, 2026, 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 authorizes and directs the administration to immediately arrange for the special programs and services as set forth in said report dated March 24, 2026.

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

R. Hershberg moved and P. Nagarjan seconded, to approve the CSE/CPSE recommendations.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

10.04 Volunteer Firefighter and Ambulance Worker Real Property Tax Exemption

WHEREAS, New York Real Property Tax Law Section 466-a was enacted to provide eligible volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers with a real property tax exemption from school taxes on real property owned by the eligible volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker so long as the school district in which the real property is located, after public hearing, adopts a resolution authorizing the exemption subject to the requirements of New York Real Property Tax Law Section 466-a; and

WHEREAS, New York Real Property Tax Law Section 466-a provides for the additional benefits conferred by the statute applicable to the exemption from school taxes so long as the school district that has authorized the exemption under Section 466-a adopts a resolution authorizing such additional benefits;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District Board of Education hereby authorizes the application of the Volunteer Firefighter and Ambulance Worker Real Property Tax Exemption as contained in New York Real Property Tax Law Section 466-a in the amount of ten percent (10%) of assessed value; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, pursuant to New York Real Property Tax Law Section 466-a(2)(d), the board of education establishes a minimum service requirement for each applicant to be two (2) years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, pursuant to New York Real Property Tax Law Section 466-a(6), the board of education designates that application for exemption must be made to the local agency responsible for assessment of real property in the school district.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, does hereby grant an otherwise eligible volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker the exemption provided for in this resolution for the remainder of his or her life if the eligible volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker accrues more than twenty years of active service and is so certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or volunteer ambulance service;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, does hereby grant an exemption claimed pursuant to New York Real Property Tax Law 466-a to a deceased enrolled member's un-remarried spouse if such member is killed in the line of duty, subject to the requirements set forth in New York Real Property Tax Law 466-a(4);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, does hereby grant an exemption claimed pursuant to New York Real Property Tax Law 466-a to a deceased enrolled member's un-remarried spouse, subject to the requirements set forth in New York Real Property Tax Law 466-a(5).

B. Bass requested a motion to approve the resolution.

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

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

10.05 Agreement with Westchester County for Use of Electronic Voting Machines and Privacy Booths

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of education approve the terms of the agreement with the County of Westchester to use the County-owned voting machines and related services.

B. Bass requested a motion to approve the agreement with the county.

M. Walker moved and R. Hershberg seconded, to approve the agreement with the county.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

10.06 Appointment of Vendor to Move Voting Machines

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of education approves the payment of $1,000.00 to Ron's Trucking of 53 Torre Place, Yonkers, NY, in accordance with its estimate dated February 6, 2026.

B. Bass requested a motion to appoint Ron's Trucking.

R. Hershberg moved and D. Wood seconded, to appoint Ron's Trucking.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

10.07 Appointment of Vendors for the 2026-27 Budget and Trustee Vote

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District hereby moves to approve the following authorized vendors in connection with the 2026-2027 budget and trustee vote:

Phoenix Graphics - ballot printing and shipping
Party Line Party Rentals - ropes and stanchions
Orange-Ulster BOCES - sign printing

B. Bass requested a motion to approve the vendors.

M. Walker moved and P. Nagarjan seconded to approve the vendors.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

10.08 Overnight Athletics Trip

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, hereby approves an overnight trip on May 8, 2026 returning May 9, 2026 for the girls varsity and junior softball team to Herkimer, New York.

B. Bass requested a motion to approve the softball trip.

R. Hershberg moved and D. Wood seconded, to approve the softball trip.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

10.09 Disposal of District Property (Piano)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District hereby moves to approve the disposal of an unused piano (Schumann Baby Grand) in the MS/HS Music Suite, Band Room.

B. Bass requested a motion to approve the disposition of the piano.

D. Wood moved and P. Nagarajan seconded, to approve the disposition of the piano.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

10.10 Acceptance of Foundation Grants

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District hereby moves to accept the following grants from the Dobbs Ferry Schools Foundation in an amount not to exceed $4,000:

Name of Grant	Teacher(s)/Staff	School	Amount
Happy Hearts Yoga for Kindergarten (Curriculum)	Patricia Zarro	Springhurst	$2,000.00
The College Essay Guy (Counseling)	Michelle Propersi	High School	$2,000.00

B. Bass requested a motion to accept the grants.

P. Sullivan-Nunes moved and P. Nagarajan seconded, to accept the grants.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

10.11 Budget Transfer - Tax Certiorari

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District hereby moves to approve the following budget increase to enable the District to pay a tax certiorari refund to 40 Cedar Street LLC, as consented to at the May 6, 2025 board meeting.

Revenue Account	Amount	Expenditure Account	Amount
A5997.864	$27,515.24	A1930.434.99.8002	$27,515.24

B. Bass requested a motion to approve the budget transfer.

M. Walker moved and R. Hershberg seconded, to approve the budget transfer.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

10.12 Budget Transfer - 7-12 Student Assistance Counselor

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District hereby moves to approve the following 2025-26 budget transfer to transfer the student assistant counselor from a contractual code to a BOCES code.

Account to Increase	Amount	Account to Decrease	Amount
A2110.490-00-0000	$21,620.81	A2820.400-00-6500	$21,620.81

B. Bass requested a motion to approve the budget transfer.

P. Nagarajan moved and D. Wood seconded, to approve the budget transfer.

Vote: 6 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.

APPROVED MINUTES

None

12. Old Business

None

13. New Business

None

14. Upcoming Meetings

14.01 Calendar

Tuesday, April 14, 2026 - 7:00 p.m. - MS/HS Library Presentation Room
- Regular Meeting

Tuesday, April 28, 2026 - 7:00 p.m. - MS/HS Library Presentation Room
- Regular Meeting

15. Acknowledgements

15.01 Treasurer's Report

The board acknowledged the February 2026 treasurer's report.

15.02 Warrant

The board acknowledged the following warrant:

1. No. 0044- Multi.

16. Adjournment

B. Bass requested a motion to adjourn the March 24, 2026 meeting.

R. Hershberg moved and P. Nagarajan seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 pm.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays

Elizabeth Saperstein
District Clerk