



APPROVED MINUTES

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting - MS/HS Library Presentation Room

1. Call to Order - Regular Meeting

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

2. Meeting Opening

2.01 Pledge of Allegiance

2.02 Roll Call

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

Dr. Stinchcomb was absent.

2.03 Acceptance of the Agenda

B. Bass requested a motion to accept the April 14, 2026 agenda.

D. Wood moved and P. Nagarajan seconded, that the board accept the April 14, 2026 agenda.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

2.04 Approval of Minutes

B. Bass requested a motion to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2026 meeting.

M. Walker moved and R. Hershberg seconded, that the board approve the March 24, 2026 minutes.

Vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstention (Reddy)

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



APPROVED MINUTES

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

4. Correspondence

4.01 Board Correspondence

None

5. Announcements

B. Bass made the following announcements:

5.01 Personal voter registration

Any community resident not registered with the Westchester County Board of Elections may do so during Personal Registration, that 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.

5.02 Board Member Terms of Office

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.

5.03 Absentee and Early Mail Ballot Applications

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



APPROVED MINUTES

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 six announcements.

This Friday, April 17, 2026 high school students will participate (for the first time) in the Westchester County Envirothon. This is a statewide competitive event consisting of high-level problem solving concerning environmental issues.

Fifty-two percent of students in grades seven through 12 are participating in spring athletics.

D. Brazil and the facilities team were acknowledged for work on spring plantings and related projects that make the buildings look welcoming as we move from winter to spring.

Computer-based testing at Springhurst last week encountered no issues. This was the district's final transition to computer-based testing.

Eighteen students were selected for the inaugural Universal Pre-Kindergarten program. This was a lottery system involving a spinning wheel. It can be viewed on the district website. There were 51 applicants in total. Thirty-three families were waitlisted.

The high school musical, Pippin, will take place this weekend on Friday evening, April 17 at 7:00 pm and two performances on Saturday, April 18 (one matinee, one evening).

R. Hershberg made several announcements on behalf of Alice Dabiri of the PTSA:

The deadline for submitting an application for one of the four open positions on the PTSA (president, recording secretary general, vice president and Springhurst vice president) is tomorrow, April 15, 2026. Applications can be obtained from the PTSA website.

The Springhurst used book fair will take place Thursday and Friday, May 28 and May 29, 2026 (for students) and for the general public on Saturday, May 30, 2026. The PTSA flea will take place on Saturday, May 30, 2026.

The PTSA is supporting wellness month (May) with yoga and mindfulness activities at Springhurst.

The Springhurst Read-a-Thon kicked off on Friday, April 10, 2026 and the middle/high schools mural project is accepting submissions. Painting will begin in May.



APPROVED MINUTES

The eighth grade stepping up committee is putting together an event at the Embassy Club for all eighth grade graduating students on Weds., June 24, 2026.

The Dobbs Ferry Foundation Gala will be held on May 1, 2026.

6. Board Committee Reports

6.01 Board Committee Reports

Y. Klein and A. Wu provided an overview of the student government legislative and activities branches including the process for introducing and approving legislative bills. Recent bills include a senior reading bill (meaningful senior reading experiences), a unified sports approval bill, a "buzzer beater" bill, and bills pertaining to greater recycling efforts and guest speakers.

On the activities side, the group is involved with the NYSSMA music festivities and the Tri-M Music Honor Society activities on April 24, the Model UN conference on April 18, Spirit Week and the JCK Foundation to raise awareness about mental health.

D. Wood reported the following information and updates from the March 25, 2026 policy committee meeting:

- Determined the best strategy for reviewing the Code of Conduct (Policy 1050);
- Shared an update on the continued development of an AI policy;
- Reviewed policies for first reading and continued to develop additional policies.

R. Hershberg reported the following information and updates from the March 26, 2026 school and community relations committee meeting:

- Reviewed progress on community engagement goals and need for common conventions when communicating with families pertaining to frequency of communications and details provided;
- Update on the ad-hoc committee, DEI task force, and the developing alumni association;
- Received an update on a software program called ParentSquare which is a two-way communication system between families and teachers/coaches that the district may pilot in 2026-27.

M. Walker reported the following information and updates from the April 9, 2026 facilities committee meeting:

- The committee was joined by members of the community including Frank Ferrington, Joe Lucasey, and Jonathan Doherty;
- Received an update on the required building condition survey - the district is currently receiving proposals from vendors;
- Received an update on the proposed energy performance contract and the role that NYSED plays in these projects;
- Discussion of the establishment of a capital reserve to fund projects that are restricted to facilities improvements including athletic fields. The public would have to vote on establishing such a fund;



APPROVED MINUTES

- Received update on activities relating to the proposed sale of the Wicker's Creek property behind the high school on the other side of the aqueduct.

S. Reddy reported the following information and updates from the April 13, 2026 finance committee meeting:

- Discussion of declining enrollment the result of which is a decrease in state aid;
- Discussion of the increases in health insurance costs;
- Discussion of potential federal funding for the 2027-28 school year;
- Reviewed the business office process for analyzing end-of-year fund balance;
- Reviewed the five options for implementation of the proposed energy performance contract.

Committee minutes are posted on the district website.

7. Superintendent Report

7.01 2026-27 Budget Development Update

In its fifth update to the board, the superintendent, and assistant superintendent for finance, facilities, and operations reviewed the most recent proposed 2026-2027 budget.

K. Slentz and L. Raymond reviewed in detail the categories of expenditures and revenues and the specific methods the district will use to close the budget gap. The budget will not exceed the tax cap and preserve fiscal stability.

The board engaged in discussion about the budget.

The presentation is posted to the district website.

8. Board Reports

8.01 Energy Performance Contract Facilities Project Update

The assistant superintendent for finance, facilities and operations provided an overview of the options that the district has for engaging in an energy performance contract. All options focus on high impact upgrades including standardizing building control systems in the middle and high school, addressing the high school heating system, roof recoding, LED lighting, and ceiling replacement at Springhurst. It is paid for through a lease-purchase agreement (loan) over either 15 or 18 years and the energy services company (ESCO) guarantees minimum savings. However, timelines for approval at the state level and state aid were discussed and how this must be strategically planned and the role of the school architect. A final proposal is tentatively scheduled to be presented to the board for consideration of adoption at its meeting on April 28, 2026.

The presentation is posted to the district website.

9. Board Actions



APPROVED MINUTES

9.01 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.

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

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 professional personnel recommendations.

1. Tenure Recommendations

Name: Gianfranco Bastone
Tenure Area: Supervisor of Student Support Services
Probationary Start: August 1, 2023
Tenure Effective Date: August 1, 2026
Certification(s): School Building Leader; School District Leader; SWD 1-6; Childhood Education 1-6

Name: Tashia Brown
Tenure Area: Elementary School Principal
Probationary Start: July 12, 2023
Tenure Effective Date: July 1, 2026
Certification(s): School Administrator/Supervisor; School District Administrator; Pre-K/Kindergarten & Grades 1-6

Name: Shari Kaplan
Tenure Area: Director of Special Education
Probationary Start: July 1, 2022
Tenure Effective Date: July 1, 2026
Certification(s): School District Leader; Speech/Hearing Disabilities

Name: Amber Klebanoff
Tenure Area: Director of Instructional Technology
Probationary Start: July 1, 2022
Tenure Effective Date: July 1, 2026
Certification(s): School District Leader; Literacy B-6 and 5-12; Special Education K-12; Elementary N-6

Name: Michelle Ciccone



APPROVED MINUTES

Location: Dobbs Ferry High School
Tenure Area: School Social Worker
Probationary Start: August 31, 2022
Tenure Effective Date: August 31, 2026
Certification(s): School Social Worker

Name: Christopher D'Angelo
Location: Dobbs Ferry High School
Tenure Area: School Psychologist
Probationary Start: August 31, 2022
Tenure Effective Date: August 31, 2026
Certification(s): School Psychologist

Name: Ryan Davis
Location: Dobbs Ferry High School
Tenure Area: Social Studies
Probationary Start: August 31, 2022
Tenure Effective Date: August 31, 2026
Certification(s): Social Studies, 7-12

Name: Christina Fitzmorris
Location: Dobbs Ferry High School
Tenure Area: English Language Arts
Probationary Start: August 31, 2022
Tenure Effective Date: August 31, 2026
Certification(s): English Language Arts, 7-12

Name: Mallory Levy
Location: Dobbs Ferry High School
Tenure Area: School Counseling/Guidance
Probationary Start: August 31, 2022
Tenure Effective Date: August 31, 2026
Certification(s): K-12 School Counselor

Name: Jessica McCrane
Location: Dobbs Ferry Middle School
Tenure Area: World Languages
Probationary Start: August 31, 2022
Tenure Effective Date: August 31, 2026
Certification(s): Spanish 7-12; Spanish 5-6 Ext.; English to Speakers of Other Languages

Name: Jennifer Coulehan
Location: Dobbs Ferry Middle School
Tenure Area: School Psychologist



APPROVED MINUTES

Probationary Start: August 30, 2023
Tenure Effective Date: August 30, 2026
Certification(s): School Psychologist

Name: James Turenchalk
Location: Springhurst Elementary School
Tenure Area: Special Education
Probationary Start: August 31, 2023
Tenure Effective Date: August 30, 2026
Certification(s): SWD 1-6; Childhood Education 1-6

Name: Lisa Marie Serrone
Location: Springhurst Elementary School
Tenure Area: Speech and Language Disabilities
Probationary Start: August 31, 2022
Tenure Effective Date: August 31, 2026
Certification(s): Speech and Language Disabilities

Name: Charles Rhyner
Location: Springhurst Elementary School
Tenure Area: Music
Probationary Start: November 15, 2023
Tenure Effective Date: November 15, 2026
Certification(s): Music

2. Leaves of Absence

- (a) M. Ciccone, School Social Worker
Location: Dobbs Ferry High School
Effective: August 31, 2026 and for up to 12 weeks
note: FMLA (maternity/child care)
- (b) G. Dimaria, School Nurse
Location: Springhurst Elementary School
Effective: April 30, 2026 and for up to 12 weeks
note: FMLA
- (c) J. Infante, Social Studies Teacher
Location: Dobbs Ferry Middle School
Effective: approximately May 1, 2026 and for up to 12 weeks
note: FMLA (paternity)
- (d) E. DePonto, Occupational Therapist



APPROVED MINUTES

Location: Springhurst Elementary School
Effective: April 20, 2026 - April 30, 2026
note: extension of unpaid child care leave

3. Probationary Appointment

(a) Manar Abualteen, K-12 Teaching Assistant
Location: Dobbs Ferry School District
Effective: April 20, 2026
Duration of Probationary Period: April 20, 2026 - April 19, 2030
Compensation: Teaching Assistant, Step 4 (\$35,626) prorated.
Certification: Teaching Assistant, Level I

4. Temporary, Seasonal and Part Time Appointment

(a) Emily Hopkins, Per Diem Substitute Teacher
Location: Springhurst Elementary School
Effective: April 15 - June 26, 2026 (pending fingerprint clearance)
Compensation: \$125.00 per day, \$62.50 half day

(b) Johanna Nollen, Per Diem Substitute Teacher
Location: Springhurst Elementary School
Effective: April 15 - June 26, 2026 (pending fingerprint clearance)
Compensation: \$125.00 per day, \$62.50 half day

(c) M. Loran, 1:1 Aide
Location: Dobbs Ferry School District
Effective: March 23, 2026 and for remainder of spring 2026 athletic season
Compensation: Teaching Assistant, Step 1, per hour.
Note: M. Loran will support a student with disabilities participate in after-school athletics.

(c) Hui Wang, 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

5. Out of District Event Chaperones

(a) K. Ravo, NYSSEF (NYS Science and Engineering Fair), New York Hall of Science, Queens, NY
Location: Dobbs Ferry High School
Effective: Monday, March 30, 2026
Compensation: \$35.00 per hour, with a minimum two hours pay received



APPROVED MINUTES

(b) S. Hacker, AAUW Westchester County Girls for STEM, University of Mount Saint Vincent, Riverdale, NY

Location: Dobbs Ferry Middle School

Effective: Saturday, March 21, 2026

Compensation: \$35.00 per hour, with a minimum two hours pay received

(c) M. Jaros, AAUW Westchester County Girls for STEM, University of Mount Saint Vincent, Riverdale, NY

Location: Dobbs Ferry Middle School

Effective: Saturday, March 21, 2026

Compensation: \$35.00 per hour, with a minimum two hours pay received

(d) K. Marques, Lower Hudson Regional Contest of National History Day, St. Thomas Aquinas College, Sparkill, NY

Location: Dobbs Ferry Middle School

Effective: Saturday, March 7, 2026

Compensation: \$35.00 per hour, with a minimum two hours pay received

6. Spanish Translation

(a) S. Stern

Location: Dobbs Ferry High School

Effective: April 15, 2026 and for the remainder of the 2025-26 school year

Compensation: \$50.00 per hour

7. June Regents Review Sessions

Location: Dobbs Ferry High School

Effective: April 15, 2026- June 26, 2026

Compensation: 20% of daily rate, per hour

D. Castellano, up to 3 hours

J. Swart, up to 6 hours

F. Adamo, up to 6 hours

A. Burt, up to 6 hours

E. Sandak-Molz, up to 3 hours

M. Meagh, up to 3 hours

J. Walerski, up to 3 hours

C. Mach, up to 3 hours

N. Confalone, up to 3 hours

K. Evans, up to 2 hours

R. Davis, up to 2 hours

K. Ravo, up to 6 hours

J. Henry, up to 6 hours

S. Stern, up to 3 hours

N. Ferro, up to 2 hours

D. Kahl, up to 3 hours

8. IB Exam Proctors

Location: Dobbs Ferry High School

Effective: May 4, June 17, June 22, and June 23, 2026 from 2:50 - 3:30 pm



APPROVED MINUTES

Compensation: 20% of daily rate, per hour; *hourly rate, per hour

M. Addona S. Molen*
A. Newhouse K. Saunders*
D. Castellano
J. Cottingham
K. Ravo

9.02 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. Nagarjan moved and M. Walker seconded to approve the civil service personnel actions.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

1. Extra Hours - Part-Time School Monitors

Location: Springhurst Elementary School

Effective: April 16, 2026

Compensation: hourly rate, per hour (up to an additional 75 minutes each)

(a) S. Oshtakina (b) M. Pringle-Malone
(c) M. Corina (d) M. Martin
(e) K. Addis (f) J. Shin

Note: Classroom support related to debriefs with the Bookworms coach

9.03 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 April 9, 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 April 9, 2026.



APPROVED MINUTES

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

S. Reddy moved and M. Walker seconded, to approve the CSE/CPSE recommendations.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

9.04 Proposed Settlement Agreement

Be it resolved, that the board hereby approves a settlement agreement dated April 2026 in the matter of a student with a disability No. 041426; and

Be it further resolved, that the superintendent of schools is hereby authorized to sign this settlement agreement on the district's behalf.

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

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

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

9.05 Budget Transfer - Occupational Therapy Services

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, hereby move to approve the following 2025-26 budget transfer to transfer funds from an occupational therapist salary code to a contractual code for additional occupational therapy services from Kidz Educational Services.

Account to Increase	Amount	Account to Decrease	Amount
A2250.400.00.7200	\$24,000.00	A2250.160.01.6350	\$24,000.00

B.

Bass requested a motion to approve the budget transfer.

S. Reddy moved and D. Wood seconded, to approve the budget transfer.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

9.06 Middle School Annual Trip

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, hereby move to approve the 8th grade overnight trip to Club Getaway in Kent, CT on June 11 and 12, 2026.



APPROVED MINUTES

B. Bass requested a motion to approve the trip.

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

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

9.07 Policy Revision: First Readings

The board conducted a first reading of seven policies.

P. Sullivan-Nunes presented the following policies:

Policy 1900: Family Engagement. Changes to policy include clarification of language and application of conventions.

Policy 2382: Broadcasting and Recording of Board Meetings. The changes included applying conventions and updating language to reflect modern terminology as it applies to equipment.

Policy 4321.1: Provision of Special Education Services in the Least Restrictive Environment. Changes included applying conventions, using active voice, and clarifying language.

D. Wood presented the following policies:

Policy 4321.1: Schoolwide Pre-Referral Approaches and Interventions. Revisions included clarifying language and emphasis on the MTSS process.

Policy 4526.1: Internet Safety. Reviewed the policy for compliance.

B. Bass presented the following policies:

Policy 4821: School Ceremonies and Observances. This is a new policy that says the district will conduct activities that commemorate state and national holidays but that do not interfere with the rights of others to hold their beliefs.

Policy 8121.2: Automated External Defibrillators. Revisions include clarification of language and inclusion of new information requiring that as of July 1, 2026 the district will require any outside organization that uses our facility to have an individual trained in the use of AED.

The policies will return to the board for a second reading and approval at the May 12, 2026 meeting.

9.08 Policy Revision: Second Reading

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

1. Policy 0300: Accountability
2. Policy 0320: Evaluation of the Superintendent
3. Policy 1130: News Media Relations



APPROVED MINUTES

4. Policy 1222: Relations with Booster Organizations
5. Policy 4321.4: Independent Education Evaluation
6. Policy 8130: School Safety Teams and Plans
7. Policy 8505: Charging School Meals and Other Food Items
8. Policy 8520: Free Meal Services

B. Bass requested a motion to approve the policies.

P. Sullivan-Nunes moved and D. Wood seconded to approve the policies.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

10. Citizens' Comments

10.01 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.

Two members of the community spoke in a follow up to the presentation on use of technology in the classroom at the previous board meeting. The speakers thanked the administrators for the presentation and suggested the creation of an ad-hoc committee on the topic and creating a "who-what-where-when-why" process for policies on use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the classroom.

11. Old Business

None

12. New Business

None

13. Upcoming Meetings

13.01 Calendar

Tuesday, April 21, 2026 - 6:00 p.m. - MS/HS Library Presentation Room

- Special Meeting



APPROVED MINUTES

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

- Regular Meeting

Tuesday, May 12, 2026 - 7:00 p.m. - MS/HS Library Presentation Room

- Regular Meeting and Public Hearing on Budget

14. Acknowledgements

14.01 Warrants

The board acknowledged the following warrants:

1. No. 0045 - Multi
2. No. 0047 - Multi

15. Adjournment

B. Bass requested a motion to adjourn the April 14, 2026 meeting.

D. Wood moved and P. Nagarajan seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

Elizabeth Saperstein
District Clerk