APPROVED MINUTES

Tuesday, September 15, 2026
7:00 pm
Regular Meeting - MS/HS Library Presentation Room

1. Call to Order - Regular Meeting

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

2. Meeting Opening

2.01 Pledge of Allegiance

2.02 Swearing in of Ex-Officio Student Board Members

DFHS Junior Cleo Reisinger and DFHS Senior Henry Brewer, the newly elected ex officio student board members of the board of education, introduced themselves to the board and read the Oath of Office, and later signed the oath book.

2.03 Roll Call

Brooke Bass, President; Penny Sullivan-Nunes, Vice President; Darren Wood; Pavithra Nagarajan; Mindy Walker; Sudha Reddy; Disan Davis; Kenneth Slentz, Superintendent; Lisa Raymond, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Facilities and Operations; Cleo Reisinger, student ex officio; Henry Brewer, student ex officio; and Elizabeth Saperstein, District Clerk.

2.04 Acceptance of the Agenda

B. Bass requested a motion to accept the agenda of the September 15, 2026 meeting.

P. Nagarajan moved and D. Wood seconded, that the board accept the September 15, 2026 agenda.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

2.05 Approval of Minutes

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

S. Reddy moved and M. Walker seconded, that the board approve the minutes of the July 24, 2026 special meeting.

Vote: 4 ayes, 0 nays, 3 abstentions (D. Wood, P. Nagarajan, S. Reddy)

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B. Bass requested a motion to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2026 regular meeting.

D. Wood moved and P. Nagarajan seconded, that the board approve the minutes of the August 25, 2026 regular meeting.

Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays, 2 abstentions (D. Davis, P. Nagarajan)

3.0 Citizens' 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 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.

A parent member of the community asked the policy committee to elaborate on revisions to the recently adopted AI policy referenced in the policy committee meeting minutes from September 3, 2026 (which were presented to the board later in the meeting).

4.0 Correspondence

4.01 Correspondence Received by the Board of Education

The board acknowledged correspondence on the following topics:

1. Technology
2. Invitation to Dobbs Ferry Foundation/PTSA/SPRING Community Partners event on Oct. 1.

5.0 Announcements

The superintendent made the following announcements:

He acknowledged the faculty, staff, and administration for a smooth start to the school year, including the introduction of 18 new students in the UPK classroom.

He acknowledged the community members who support our student-athletes by attending games and matches.

6. Board Reports

6.01 Board Committee Reports

B. Bass reported the following information and updates from the September 3, 2026, special education committee meeting:

- Received an update from S. Kaplan and S. Grosso on the status of students with disabilities, including an increase in the numbers over the previous year due to new student enrollment;
- Discussion on easing the transition for students moving from fifth to sixth grade;
- Received an update on out-of-district placements; and
- Discussion of the number of students with disabilities who are achieving full credit for college, career, and civic readiness.

P. Sullivan-Nunes reported the following information and updates from the September 9, 2026, policy committee meeting:

- IDEA funding and tax credits for school choice are the top two federal priorities she will discuss with Senator Gillibrand and other NYSSBA policy liaisons at the upcoming NYSSBA meeting;
- Discussion of the annual compliance report on policy 5695: Students and Personal Electronic Devices and possible changes for next year's report;
- Reviewed and commented on Policy 8636: Artificial Intelligence - Access and Use draft document;
- Timeline for Medicaid compliance training for board members; and
- Review of four required policies on the September 15 agenda for first reading and five policies for second reading.

S. Reddy reported the following information and updates from the September 11, 2026, finance committee meeting:

- Received an update on the external auditor's findings regarding an accounting error concerning last year's CVA settlement;
- Received an update on funding status and state aid impact for the capital outlay project, middle school roof drainage, commons rooftop cooling unit, and commons bathrooms and general fund allocation;
- Proposed work on Springhurst athletic complex is on hold until the costs of the above projects are determined; however, a portion of the lighting work and the bathrooms will be a priority;
- Received an update on sales tax and interest earnings; and
- Received an update on NYS Foundation aid as it relates to the district's

increase in special education enrollment, but its status as a high resource/low needs district.

Committee minutes are posted on the district website.

7. Superintendent Report

7.01 2025-2026 Year in Review - Student Performance

Principals John Falino, Patrick Mussolini, and Tashia Brown updated the board on certain student performance metrics from the 2025-2026 school year. The principals discussed the various assessment tools used to analyze student growth in different subject areas, including math, science, and reading, and showed the performance levels achieved by grade and subject.

8. Board Actions

8.01 Personnel - Professional/Certificated Staff

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the superintendent of schools, the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District hereby approves the following professional/certificated personnel actions.

1. Payroll Lane Changes

(a) J. McCrane, Spanish Teacher
Location: Dobbs Ferry Middle/High School
MA to MA+15, effective September 1, 2026

(b) C. Ducic, English Teacher
Location: Dobbs Ferry High School
MA+15 to MA+30, effective September 1, 2026

(c) E. Feller, English Teacher
Location: Dobbs Ferry Middle School
MA+60 to MA+75/PhD, effective September 1, 2026

(d) M. Cairo, Social Studies
Teacher Location: Dobbs Ferry High School
MA+45 to MA+60, effective September 1, 2026

(e) M. Tapia Lopes, School Counselor
Location: Dobbs Ferry High School
MA+30 to MA+45, effective September 1, 2026

(f) K. Evans, Social Studies Teacher

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Location: Dobbs Ferry High School
MA+30 to MA+45, effective September 1, 2026

(g) D. Huyter, Spanish Teacher
Location: Dobbs Ferry Middle School
MA +60 to MA +75, effective September 1, 2026

(h) S. Gonzalez, French Teacher
Location: Dobbs Ferry Middle School
MA +60 to MA +75, effective September 1, 2026

(i) P. Kelly, Instructional Support Specialist (Mathematics)
Location: Springhurst Elementary School
MA +30 to MA +45, effective September 1, 2026

2. Probationary Appointment

(a) Rachel Schofield, K-12 Teaching Assistant (Special Education)
Location: Springhurst Elementary School
Effective: August 31, 2026
Duration of Probationary Period: August 31, 2026 - August 30, 2030
Tenure Area: K-12 Teaching Assistant
Certification: Teaching Assistant Level I; Students with Disabilities Grades 1-6; Elementary Education 1-6
Compensation: Teaching Assistant, Step 5 ($39,505)

(b) Jillian Cannata, K-12 Teaching Assistant (Special Education)
Location: Springhurst Elementary School
Effective: September 16, 2026
Duration of Probationary Period: September 16, 2026 - September 15, 2030
Tenure Area: K-12 Teaching Assistant
Certification: Students with Disabilities Grades 1-6; Elementary Education 1-6
Compensation: Teaching Assistant, Step 4 ($36,517) prorated

3. Temporary, Seasonal and Part-Time Appointment

(a) William Osuna, Per Diem Substitute Teacher
Location: Dobbs Ferry School District
Effective: September 16, 2026 - June 25, 2027 as needed
Compensation: $125.00 per day, $62.50 half day
Pending NYSED fingerprint clearance

(b) Jack Tucek, Per Diem Substitute Teacher
Location: Dobbs Ferry Middle School

Effective: September 16, 2026 - June 25, 2027 as needed
Compensation: $125.00 per day, $62.50 half day
Pending NYSED fingerprint clearance

(c) Franklin Ashamole, Per Diem Substitute Teacher
Location: Dobbs Ferry Middle School
Effective: September 16, 2026 - June 25, 2027 as needed
Compensation: $125.00 per day, $62.50 half day

(d) Alejandra Villanueva, Per Diem Substitute Teacher
Location: Dobbs Ferry Middle School
Effective: September 16, 2026 - June 25, 2027 as needed
Compensation: $125.00 per day, $62.50 half day

(e) K. Reznicek, JV Tennis Coach
Location: Dobbs Ferry School District
Effective: Fall 2026 Season
Compensation: Category C, Step 1 ($5,066.47)
note: replaces JV Girls Soccer

(f) A. Vaccaro, Modified Volleyball
Location: Dobbs Ferry School District
Effective: Fall 2026 Season
Compensation: Category E, Step 1 ($4,077.96)
note: second coach due to increased enrollment

(g) J. Park, Per Diem Substitute Teacher
Location: Dobbs Ferry Middle School
Effective: September 16, 2026 - June 25, 2027 as needed
Compensation: $150.00 per day, $75.00 half day
note: retired DFSD science teacher

4. Mentor

(a) T. Galati, for M. Leser (Elementary Classroom)
Location: Springhurst Elementary School
Effective: August 31, 2026 and for up to 12 weeks
Compensation: $1,966.91 per annum, prorated
Note: M. Leser replaces M. Murray (FMLA)

5. Leaves of Absence

(a) J. Foresti, Elementary Classroom Teacher
Location: Springhurst Elementary School

Effective: August 31, 2026 and for up to 12 weeks
Note: FMLA

(b) J. Duran, Mathematics Teacher
Location: Dobbs Ferry Middle School
Effective: February 1, 2027 - June 30, 2027
note: extension of current unpaid child care leave of absence

6. Appointment Changes

(a) B. Gallo, temporary (leave replacement) Mathematics Teacher
Location: Dobbs Ferry Middle School
Effective: February 1, 2027- June 30, 2027
Note: extension of assignment - replaces J. Duran

(b) J. Moran, Assistant Football Coach
Compensation: $4813.07
Note: Cat D, Step 3 ($5813.07)
less $2,000 to K. Kearns = $3813.07
plus $1,000 from T. Holness = $4813.07

Note: Kearns already appointed for $2K and Holness already appointed at Cat D, Step 3 less $1K

7. Toileting Compensation

Effective: September 2, 2026 - June 25, 2027
Location: Dobbs Ferry School District
Compensation: $4.00 per hour, for each day worked, as set forth in the CSEA Clerical, Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant CBA Article V (5). To the extent that the assumption of toileting (diapering) duties take place during part of the year, this extra compensation will be either prorated or discontinued.

(a) C. Reda (b) S. Mohl (c) E. Troiana
(d) M. Corona (e) D. Campisi (f) R. Schofield
(g) J. Pruthi (h) A. Vaccaro (i) J. Auguste-Brice
(k) S. Norman

8. Special Class Assignment

Effective: September 2, 2026 - June 25, 2027
Location: Dobbs Ferry School District
Compensation: $600.00 per annum as set forth in the CSEA Clerical, Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant CBA Article V (7). To the extent that the assumption of

toileting (diapering) duties take place during part of the year, this extra compensation will be either prorated or discontinued.

(a) C. Reda (b) E. Edibe (c) S. Mohl
(d) L. Dever (e) L. Easton (f) M. Corona
(g) R. Glynn (h) K. Cunniffe (i) A. Hanft
(j) D. Campisi (k) A. Farrington (l) R. Schofield
(m) M. Leggiero (n) G. Cammarata (o) J. Pruthi
(p) A. Vaccaro (q) J. Auguste-Brice (r) J. Cannata

9. Overages

(a) K. Marques, Social Studies Teacher
Location: Dobbs Ferry High School
Compensation: One additional Individuals and Societies class every day ($13,112.72) per annum

(b) J.P. Kaminski, Industrial Arts Teacher
Location: Dobbs Ferry High School
Compensation: One additional special class assignment every other day ($6,556.36) per annum

B. Bass requested a motion to approve the professional/certificated staff resolutions:

P. Nagarajan moved and M. Walker seconded, to approve the resolutions.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

8.02 Personnel - Civil Service

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the superintendent of schools, the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District hereby approves the civil service personnel recommendations:

1. Probationary Appointment

(a) Theresa Taggart, School Monitor
Location: Springhurst Elementary School
Status: Probationary/Part-Time/ Monday - Friday FTE .3683 (2 hours, 35 minutes per day)
Effective: September 2, 2026
Duration of probationary period: September 2, 2026 - October 30, 2027
Compensation: Aide/Monitor, Step 4 - FTE adjusted ($10,746.16), prorated

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

S. Reddy moved and D. Davis seconded, to approve the resolutions.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

8.03 Appointment of Interim Director of Facilities

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the superintendent of schools, the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District hereby approves the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District seeks to ensure continuous administrative oversight and efficient operation of the district's physical plant and facilities; and

WHEREAS, Lisa Raymond currently serves the district in the capacity of assistant superintendent for finance, facilities, and operations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the superintendent of schools, the board of education hereby appoints Lisa Raymond to the temporary additional position of Interim Director of Facilities for the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this temporary appointment will be effective for the period commencing September 16, 2026, through January 31, 2027; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in consideration of the additional duties and responsibilities associated with this interim role, Lisa Raymond will receive a prorated stipend in the total amount of $16,921 for the designated term.

B. Bass requested a motion to approve the resolution.

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

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

8.04 CSE/CPSE Recommandations

WHEREAS the committee on special education and committee on pre-school special education had issued to the board by written confidential report dated September 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 authorize and direct the administration to immediately arrange for the special programs and services as set forth in said report dated September 9, 2026.

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

S. Reddy moved and D. Davis seconded, to approve the CSE/CPSE recommendations.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

8.05 Policy Revisions - First Readings

In accordance with Policy 2410, the board conducted a first reading of the following policy revisions:
1. Policy 4859: Animals in the Schools (applied editing conventions, added language describing service and therapy dogs, and updated cross-reference links);
2. Policy 6741: Contracting for Professional Services (applied editing conventions and updated cross-reference links);
3. Policy 9041.1: Staff Complaints and Grievances (applied editing conventions and updated cross- reference links); and
4. Policy 9320: Drug-Free Workplace (applied editing conventions and updated cross-reference links).

The recommended policy revisions are posted to the district website.

8.06 Policy Revisions - Second Readings

BE IT RESOLVED, that having satisfied the requirements of policy 2410, the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District hereby approves the following policies:

1. Policy 4765: Remote Instruction
2. Policy 5100: Student Attendance
3. Policy 5151: Students in Temporary Housing
4. Policy 5205: Eligibility for Co-Curricular and Extracurricular Activities
5. Policy 5422: Diapering and Toileting Protocols

B. Bass requested a motion to adopt the revised policies.

P. Nagarajan moved and M. Walker seconded, to adopt the revised policies.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

8.07 Approval of 2026-27 School Lunch Fund Budget

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District does hereby approve the school lunch fund (cafeteria) budget for the 2026-2027 school year in the amount of $735,250.00.

B. Bass requested a motion to approve the school lunch fund budget.

S. Reddy moved and D. Davis seconded, to approve the designations.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

8.08 Budget Transfer - Tax Certiorari Refund

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 Beacon Hill Estates for the years 2021, 2022 through 2025-2026 in the amount of $161,964.08.

Revenue Account	Amount	Expenditure Account	Amount
A5997.864	$161,965.08	A1930.434.99.8002	$161,965.08

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

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

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

8.09 Budget Transfer - Special Education

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District hereby approves the following 2026–27 budget transfer to move available funds from the special education tuition - other code to the special education contractual code, for additional related services needed for students.

	Debit	Credit
A2250-400-00-7200	$30,000	
A2250-472-00-7200		$30,000

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

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

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

8.10 Approval of Vendor Contract Amendment - WIHD

Be it resolved, that the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District hereby approves an amendment to the 2026-27 Westchester Institute for Human Development contract dated June 15, 2026 approved by the board of education at its meeting of June 23, 2026.

B. Bass requested a motion to approve the amended contract.

D. Wood moved and M. Walker seconded, to approve the amended contract.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

8.11 Approval of Vendor Contract Amendment - WIHD (Project Search)

Be it resolved, that the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, does hereby approve a services contract with Westchester Institute of Human Development for the 2026-27 school year to provide community based learning transition services to students on behalf of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District.

B. Bass requested a motion to approve the WIHD contract.

M. Walker moved and P. Nagarajan seconded, to approve the WIHD contract.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

9. Citizens Comments

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.

None

10. Old Business

None

11. New Business

The board discussed the delegate for this year's NYSSBA resolution session on October 15, 2026. P. Sullivan-Nunes will attend virtually. Registration deadline is October 8, 2026.

12. Upcoming Meetings

12.01 Calendar

Tuesday, September 29, 2026 - 7:00 pm - MS/HS Library
- Regular Meeting

Tuesday, October 13, 2026 - 7:00 pm - MS/HS Library
- Regular Meeting

13.0 Acknowledgements

13.01 Warrants

The board acknowledged the following warrants:

1. No. 0008 - multi
2. No. 0010 - NYSIR payment

Dobbs Ferry School District
Independent Thinkers Change Worlds

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13.02 Required Reports from Administration

The board acknowledged written reports on policies 8800: Sustainability and 8915: Energy/Water Conservation.

The reports are posted to the district website.

14. Adjournment

B. Bass requested a motion to adjourn the September 15, 2026, meeting.

D. Wood moved and P. Sullivan-Nunes seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 pm.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

Elizabeth Saperstein
District Clerk