Dobbs Ferry School District
Independent Thinkers Change Worlds

APPROVED MINUTES

Tuesday, October 27, 2026
7:00 pm
Regular Meeting - MS/HS Library Presentation Room

1.0 Call to Order - Regular Meeting

B. Bass called the regular meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

2.0 Meeting Opening

2.01 Pledge of Allegiance

2.02 Roll Call

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

2.03 Acceptance of the Agenda

B. Bass requested a motion to accept the October 27, 2026 agenda.

D. Wood moved and P. Nagarajan seconded, to accept the October 27, 2026 agenda.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

2.04 Approval of Minutes

B. Bass requested a motion to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2026 meeting.

M. Walker moved and S. Reddy seconded, to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2026 meeting.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

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 ed 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.

None

4. Correspondence

4.01 BOE Correspondence

The board acknowledged correspondence regarding the Goal club.

5. Announcements

Superintendent K. Slentz made the following announcements:

Wednesday, January 20, 2027 and Wednesday, April 21, 2027 will be early dismissal days for students. Staff will participate in professional development on those days.

Thanks to those who came out to support the annual pumpkin fair and chili contest at Springhurst on Saturday, October 17, 2026.

Thanks to the girls swim team coach Jackie Cordero (with Ardsley) the team is undefeated. Three of the seven girls are Dobbs Ferry students.

At a "lunch and learn" with faculty featuring Dr. Sharon Walpole - author and lead researcher for the Bookworms reading and writing program - shared that Springhurst is doing an excellent job at implementing the program. Springhurst is in its third year with Bookworms. The PTSA sponsored the lunch and learn.

The Middle School production of The SpongeBob Musical Jr. will take place on Friday, November 13, 2026 at 7:00 pm and on Saturday, November 14, 2026 at 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm.

Board member D. Davis made the following announcements on behalf of the community:

The Rivertowns Repair Cafe, an intervillage community effort sponsored by Sustainable Dobbs, will take place on Saturday, November 7, 2026 at the Dobbs Ferry Embassy Club at 60 Palisade Street from 11:00 am to 3 pm.

The annual Sustainable Dobbs Pumpkin Smash will be held on November 8, 2026 at Gould Park from 1:00 - 3:00 pm. Residents of Dobbs and Hastings can bring pumpkins to be turned into compost.

B. Bass thanked Sara Sellitti and retiree Ellyce Cavanaugh, founder of the Ecology Club, for organizing the annual Soup Day at Springhurst.

6. Board Committee Reports

6.01 Board Committee Reports

P. Sullivan-Nunes reported the following information and updates from the October 13, 2026 special education committee meeting:

- The committee received updates on special education programs, including expanded opportunities for students in the high school life skills class such as community internships, fitness programs, music and STEM programs, and increased participation in general education classes and school activities;
- Received updates on the 12:1:1 program at Springhurst and the 15:1 program at the Middle School;
- Discussion of the district's identification for disproportionality in one of its ESSA subgroups and determined that no revisions to district practice or procedures are necessary at this time; and
- Received an update on out-of-district placements and proposed settlement agreements for parentally placed out-of-district students.

P. Nagarajan reported the following information from the October 13, 2026 curriculum, instruction and equity committee meeting:

- Received an update on the Primary Years Program (PYP) study committee, including the number of parents who volunteered for the four spots on the committee, the selection process, and the in-progress committee project plan;
- Received an update on the Curriculum Advisory Committee (CAC) project plan that is aligned with policy 4200, which includes work associated with the NY Inspires Initiative and graduation requirements;
- Received an update on the Technology Advisory Committee (TAC) - there are still spots available on this committee, and the first meeting will be scheduled when full membership is established;
- Discussion of parent membership on the various committees in general; and
- Received an update on the progress of the MTSS consultant working at all three schools.

S. Reddy reported the following information from the October 16, 2026 finance committee meeting:

- The committee received an update on the structure and function of the district's long-range financial plan;
- Discussion of options for managing transportation costs and challenges;
- Received an update on NYS Foundation Aid, including the CPI and other factors that are part of the district's state aid formula;
- Received an update on the extra-classroom handbook;
- Discussion of allocations made to the district's financial reserves; and
- Discussion of the 2027-2028 budget development process.

P. Sullivan-Nunes reported the following information from the October 21, 2026 policy committee meeting:

- The committee reviewed and further revised the draft Technology Q & A document;
- Received an update on the policies in compliance with Education Law 3201-b (Protections for Families and Students);
- Reviewed policies and processes concerning the district's identification for disproportionality in one of its ESSA subgroups and determined that no revisions to district practice or procedures are necessary at this time; and
- Discussion of policies to be presented for a first reading and second reading at the October 27, 2026 meeting.

7. Superintendent Report

7.01 NY Inspires Updates for Current Middle and High School Students

The superintendent provided the board with an update on impending changes to high school graduation requirements in connection with the NYS Board of Regents NY Inspires Initiative and how these "transformations" will impact upcoming graduation classes over the next four years and beyond. The changes will not impact current seniors (class of 2027) but will impact the class of 2028 and beyond. A passing grade on the Regents exams will not be required for graduation, but students must still take the exams as a component of their coursework, to qualify for NYS Seals, and to meet state and federal testing requirements. The other significant change is moving to one (1) diploma, but with various seals and endorsement options as a way for students to distinguish their accomplishments. The proposed changes are expected to be approved by the state in February 2027, at which point the district will begin to review and revise its policies and procedures.

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 hereby moves to approve the professional personnel recommendations.

Dobbs Ferry School District
Independent Thinkers Change Worlds

APPROVED MINUTES

1. Winter 2026-27 Athletic Coaches

Boys Varsity Basketball	S. Patrillo	Cat B Step 3 20% longevity	$8,489.11
Boys JV Basketball	C. Cipriano	Cat C Step 3	$6,308.08
Girls Varsity Basketball	K. Grisanti	Cat B Step 3	$7,074.26
Girls JV Basketball	A. Burtt	Cat C Step 3	$6,308.08
Modified Girls Basketball	K. Reznicek	Cat E Step 3	$5,072.45
Modified Girls Basketball	S. Pecora	Cat E Step 3	$5,072.45
Modified Boys Basketball	M. Brock	Cat E Step 2	$4,575.21
Modified Boys Basketball	E. Feller	Cat E Step 3 20% longevity	$6,086.94
Varsity Winter Track	JP Kaminski	Cat B Step 3 15% longevity	$8,135.40
Varsity Winter Track – Asst.	V. Garofalo	Cat D Step 3 10% longevity	$6,394.38
Modified Indoor Track	J. Lindsay	Cat E, Step 3 20% longevity	$6,086.94
Modified Indoor Track - Asst.	N. Ferro	Cat E, Step 2	$4,575.21
Bowling (.5)	M. Meagh	Cat E Step 3	$2,536.23
Bowling (.5)	R. Davis	Cat E Step 3	$2,536.23
Volunteer (Boys Basketball)	T. Cullen	N/A	
Fencing (Irvington)	T. Flynn	N/A	
Ski (Ardsley)	D. DiFalco	N/A	
Varsity Boys Swim (Merged with Ardsley, Edgemont, Hastings, Irvington)	I. Noach E. Backos	N/A	
Ice Hockey (Merged with Irvington, Leffel, Ardsley, Ossining, Sleepy Hollow)	K. Hagen/ M. Kenny	N/A	

2. Temporary, Seasonal or Annual Appointment

(a) Jeremy Portwood, Musical Accompanist
Location: Dobbs Ferry Middle School
Dates/Performances: SpongeBob (11/13 and 11/14, includes up to three performances, two rehearsals) Compensation: $125.00 per service, not to exceed six services

(b) Bryan Copeland, Musical Accompanist
Location: Dobbs Ferry Middle School
Dates/Performance: SpongeBob (11/13 and 11/14)
Compensation: $125.00 per service, not to exceed six services

(c) Steven Gates, Musical Accompanist
Location: Dobbs Ferry Middle School and Springhurst Elementary School
Dates/Performance: (1) MS Winter Concert (12/9); (2) 5th Grade Chorus Concert (12/10)
Compensation: $125.00 per service, not to exceed six services

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APPROVED MINUTES

3. Co-Curricular Advisors – Dobbs Ferry Middle School

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APPROVED MINUTES

Aquila Singing Club	G. DeFalco	Cat D, Step 3 (1,133.10)
Book Club	Ellen Elsen	Cat D, Step 3 (1,133.10)
Chess	Ross Wolosky	Cat D, Step 3 (1,133.10)
Chorus - "Glee" (.5)	G. DeFalco	Cat A, Step 3 ($1,921.20) 10% longevity
Chorus - "Glee" (.5)	J. Carney	Cat A, Step 3 ($1,576.40)
Coder Z Club	L. Colon	Cat D, Step 3 ($1,133.10)
Destination Imagination	B. Sealey	Cat B, Step 3 ($2,780.66)
DFMS Online Newspaper	E. Feller	Cat B, Step 3 ($3,36.79) 20% longevity
Drama Club	B. Sealey	Cat D, Step 3 (1,133.10)
French Honor Society	S. Gonzalez	Cat D, Step 3 ($1,303.06) 15% longevity
Gaming Club 6th Grade	R. Wolosky	Cat D, Step 3 (1,133.10)
Gaming Club 7th/8th Grade	R. Wolosky	Cat D, Step 1 (926.47)
Girls Flight	J. Carney	Cat D, Step 3 ($1,133.10)
Girls Who Code	L. Colon	Cat D, Step 3 ($1,133.10)
Hooks and Needles	L. Colon	Cat D, Step 3 ($1,133.10)
Italian Honor Society	M. Piparo	Cat D, Step 3 ($1,246.41) 10% longevity
Jazz Band	P. Huneke	Cat D, Step 3 ($1,133.10)
Math Olympiads 6th	J. Laverty	Cat C, Step 3 ($2,032.56)
Math Olympiads 7th/8th	R. Wolosky	Cat C, Step 3 ($2,032.56)
MS Orchestra	A. Fuller	Cat A, Step 3 ($4,191.72) 20% longevity
National Junior Honor Society	R. Lief	Cat C, Step 3 ($2,032.56)
No Place for Hate 6th Grade	S. Hacker	Cat D, Step 3 ($1,246.41) 10% longevity
No Place for Hate 7th Grade	M. Jaros	Cat D, Step 3 ($1,133.10)
No Place for Hate 8th Grade (.5)	S. Hacker	Cat D, Step 3 ($1,246.41) 10% longevity
No Place for Hate 8th Grade (.5)	M. Jaros	Cat D, Step 3 ($566.55)
Peer Tutoring Grades 7/8	M. Jaros	Cat D, Step 1 ($926.47)
Social Justice Alliance Club (.5)	E. Elsen	Cat D, Step 3 ($566.55)

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Social Justice Alliance Club (.5)	M. Yang-Kaczmarek	Cat D, Step 3 ($566.55)
Spanish Honor Society	J. McCrane	Cat D, Step 3 (1,133.10)
Strength Academy	J. Infante	Cat D, Step 3 ($1,133.10
Student Accounts	L. Hutchinson	Cat C, Step 3 ($2,032.56)
Student Activities Night Coordinator	N. Delvecchio-Molina	Cat D, Step 1 (926.47)
Student Government/ Student Council	N. Tobey	Cat A, Step 3 ($3,493.10)
Theater Arts Showcase - Technical Director	J. Carney	Cat D, Step 3 ($1,133.10)
Theater Arts Showcase - Director	N. Delvecchio-Molina	Cat D, Step 1 ($926.47)
Theater Stage Crew	J. Carney	Cat D, Step 3 ($1,133.10)
Yearbook (.5)	C. Ducic	Cat B, Step 3 ($1,390.33)
Yearbook (.5)	J. Rosenblum	Cat B, Step 3 ($1,390.33)
Youth to Youth	J. Caputo	N/A
Art Club	A. Vaccaro	Cat D Step 2 ($1,029.79)
Social Spot (peer-led community)	J. Pirraglia	Cat D Step 2 ($1,029.79)
Yoga Mindful Movement	N. Delvecchio-Molina	Cat D Step 2 ($1,029.79)
*Tabletop Gaming Club NEW	L. Frajndlich	Cat D, Step 1 (926.47)

4. Toileting

(a) N. Morosoff, K-12 Teaching Assistant
Location: Dobbs Ferry High School
Effective: October 17, 2026 and for up to six weeks
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 duties takes place during part of the year, this extra compensation will be either prorated or terminated.

5. Special Class

(a) N. Morosoff, K-12 Teaching Assistant
Location: Dobbs Ferry High School
Effective: October 5, 2026 - June 30, 2027

(b) M. Segarra, K-12 Teaching Assistant
Location: Springhurst Elementary School
Effective: September 30, 2026 - June 30, 2027
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 assignment to the special class takes place during part of the year, this extra compensation will be either prorated or terminated.

6. Overage

(a) L. Alfonzetti, Special Education Teacher
Location: Dobbs Ferry Middle School
Effective: October 15, 2026 - June 30, 2027
One additional Special Class Reading, every other day
Compensation: $6,556.36 per annum prorated

7. Spanish Translation

Location: Dobbs Ferry School District
Effective: 2026-2027 school year, as needed
(a) N. Tavarez
(b) M. Tapia Lopes
Compensation: $50.00 per hour

8. ELA Academy - Substitute Instructors

Location: Springhurst Elementary School

APPROVED MINUTES

Effective: November 16, 2026 - December 21, 2026, as needed
(a) K. Colsey (b) N. Griffin (c) M. Meyer
(d) R. La Guardia (e) C. Todd (f) T. Fucci

9. Co-Curricular Advisor Resignation - Springhurst

(a) C. Rhyner, 4th Grade Harmonnaires
Effective: October 1, 2026
note: Mr. Rhyner will receive a prorated portion of the annual stipend.

10. Co-Curricular Advisor Appointment - Springhurst

(a) C. Cole, 4th Grade Harmonnaires
Compensation: Cat A, Step 1, prorated

11. Leaves of Absence

(a) S. Stern, Social Studies Teacher
Location: Dobbs Ferry High School
Effective: October 2, 2026 and for up to 12 weeks
Note: intermittent FMLA

(b) L. Cosgrove, Special Education Teacher
Location: Dobbs Ferry High School
Effective: October 13, 2026 and for up to 12 weeks
Note: intermittent FMLA

(c) C. Rhyner, Music Teacher
Location: Springhurst Elementary School
Effective: November 16, 2026 and for up to 12 weeks

9. Additional Hours: Professional Learning Committee

Location: Dobbs Ferry School District
Session One: Thursday, Oct. 1, 2026 3:40 - 5:40 pm
Session Two: Thursday, Dec. 10, 2026 3:40 - 5:40 pm
Session Three: Thursday, Apr. 8, 2027 3:40 - 5:40 pm
Session Four: Thursday, May 20, 2027 3:40 - 5:40 pm
Compensation: Hourly rate, per hour

(a) M. Addona (b) S. Aronowitz (c) G. Cammerata
(d) D. Castellano (e) L. Cosgrove (f) G. DeCecco
(g) C. Del Pilar (h) K. Evans (i) R. Glynn
(j) C. Hart (k) J. Hickey (l) E. Horan
(m) M. Kaczmarek (n) K. Marques (o) M. Propersi

(p) K. Walker (q) R. Wolosky

B. Bass requested a motion to approve the professional/certificated personnel recommendations.

S. Reddy moved and P. Nagarajan seconded, to approve the professional/certificated personnel recommendations.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

8.02 Personnel - Civil Service

Be it resolved that the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District hereby moves to approve the civil service recommendations.

1. Acknowledgement of Completion of Probationary Period

(a) L. Hutchinson, Secretary to School Administrator
Location: Special Education Department
Effective: October 29, 2026
Ms. Hutchinson has completed her mandatory 52-week probationary period.

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

D. Davis moved and M. Walker seconded, to approve the civil service personnel recommendation.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

8.03 Authorization of 913 Examination

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to Education Law §913, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the employee discussed in executive session is directed to report for a medical examination in order to determine the physical and or mental capacity of such person to perform his/her duties as an employee of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District. Said medical examination shall be conducted by Dr. Eric Spencer, on November 10, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. and/or any subsequent days Dr. Spencer may require to complete said exam; and

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED, that the employee is directed to produce at said medical examination any and all medical records related to the employee's current medical condition for the past three (3) years.

B. Bass requested a motion to authorize the medical examination.

D. Davis moved and M. Walker seconded, to authorize the medical examination.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

8.04 Approval of 2026-27 District Goals

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of education hereby adopts the 2026-27 district goals and directs the superintendent to provide periodic updates on progress towards meeting the goals.

B. Bass requested a motion to adopt the district goals.

D. Wood moved, and P. Nagarajan seconded, to adopt the district goals.

The board discussed the focus on absenteeism among subgroups vs. chronic absenteeism overall (Goal 1). K. Slentz explained that for the past four years, relative to their peers, subgroups are not meeting expectations and therefore additional support is needed. Focusing on subgroup attendance as a goal does not mean we are not focusing on chronic absenteeism.

The board discussed why the district is focusing on elementary and middle school growth metrics as a goal, but not the high school (Goal 2). K. Slentz explained that this goal reflects the district's ongoing distinction between proficiency and growth percentiles. For students who may not meet proficiency, they should be showing growth over the academic year. Slentz added that a future district focus on algebra would be a great conversation because the majority of Dobbs Ferry students take algebra in middle school, and by high school, algebra is a niche course.

Regarding family engagement (Goal 4), K. Slentz explained that an analysis of the feedback from the parent survey would guide efforts on improvements in the area of family engagement, as well as the importance of looking at a variety of metrics. For example, there is high engagement when we look at community members and parents supporting theater arts programs, but less so in attending board meetings.

It was noted that one communication plan implemented over the past year to address engagement is the emails sent out containing highlights of board agenda topics prior to and after board meetings. K. Slentz added that we are meeting and exceeding industry norms for viewing the emails.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

8.05 Policy Revisions - First Reading

In accordance with Policy 2410, the board conducted a first reading of the following policies:
1. 4321.8: Impartial Hearing Officer Appointment and Compensation
2. 4321.14: Special Education Personnel
3. 4750: Promotion and Retention of Students
4. 5421: Concussion Management

P. Sullivan-Nunes gave an overview of the proposed revisions:

Policy 4321.8 - to reflect current practices pertaining to the state's rotational selection process, appointments, compensation, and recordkeeping;

Policy 4321.14 - clarification of language related to the recruitment, professional development, and staff qualifications and reports to the board;

Policy 4750 - revision to emphasize early intervention for students who are struggling academically, individualized decision-making and appropriate academic supports, clarify roles of staff and families, updated grade-level guidelines and reinforced the requirement for an educational plan when a student is retained; and

Policy 5421- clarified responsibilities for concussion management, staff training, reporting and return-to-activity procedures, removal of procedural language to be addressed in regulations, updated cross-references.

The proposed revisions to the policies are posted to the district website.

8.06 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 5040: Student Religious Expression
2. Policy 5150: School Admissions
3. Policy 5152: Non-Resident Students
4. Policy 5162: School Dismissal Procedures
5. Policy 9100: Employee Religious Expression

B. Bass requested a motion to approve the policies.

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

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

8.07 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 October 20, 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 October 20, 2026.

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

P. Nagarajan moved and M. Walker seconded, to approve the CSE/CPSE recommendations.

B. Bass noted that the CSE/CPSE recommendations have been reviewed by the special education committee.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

8.08 Consulting Services Agreement - Dr. Carly Oris

Be it resolved, that the board of education of the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District, hereby move to approve the attached consultant services agreement between Caryl Oris, MD and the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District for the 2026-27 school year, to perform psychological evaluations, and authorizes the superintendent or the assistant superintendent for finance, facilities, and operations to sign for the district.

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

D. Davis moved and M. Walker seconded, to approve the consulting agreement.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays

9. Citizen 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 ed 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

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10. Old Business

None

11. New Business

B. Bass reported out on a presentation she attended with K. Slentz on the topic of the proliferation of charter schools in Westchester County and the financial and enrollment implications for school districts if a district resident student wishes to attend one of these schools. This may include paying tuition, transportation, and services they might require. Charter schools are public schools that are privately funded.

12. Upcoming Meetings

13.01 Calendar

Tuesday, November 10, 2026 - 7:00 p.m. - MS/HS Library
- Regular Meeting

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

14. Acknowledgements

14.01 Warrants

The board acknowledged the following warrant:

#0019 - Multi

15. Adjournment

B. Bass requested a motion to adjourn the October 27, 2026 meeting at 8:02 pm.

M. Walker moved and D. Wood seconded, to adjourn the October 27, 2026 meeting.

Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays