



## Class of 2022 Celebrates SUCCESS AND A BRIGHT FUTURE

It was a day filled with pride as invited guests gathered at Cold Spring Harbor High School to celebrate the 59th Commencement of the Class of 2022. Addressing the graduates for the final time, High School Principal Daniel Danbusky congratulated the class on their dedication and academic success. Board of Education President Amelia W. Brogan spoke on behalf of the Board. "We are so proud of your strength, fortitude and achievements," said Ms. Brogan. "Remember the expression: A ship is safest in the harbor, but that is not what ships are built for. So throw off the bowlines, sail away from the safe harbor, catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."

Following tradition, the Class of 2022 was represented by three student Reflection Speakers, Thomas Tsekerides, Michael Keschner and Sarah Kiefer. Thomas Tsekerides shared that everyone should embrace embarrassment to learn and improve themselves. Class of 2022 Student Council President Michael Keschner encouraged his fellow classmates to stand up, to find a purpose, to align themselves with doing good and to leave a profound and collective impact as the Class of 2022. Sarah Kiefer advised her classmates to be true to themselves, trust their instincts, and to do the right thing.

Superintendent of Schools Jill M. Gierasch welcomed her first graduating class as superintendent. "I am honored to be a part of this ceremony as you are my first class of graduating seniors as the new superintendent," she said. "I could not be more pleased with your success and sharing my journey with you." As a gift, she noted that each senior would receive the book, "Make Your Bed," by U.S. Navy SEAL officer, Admiral William H. McRaven. "These basic lessons, if followed, could help guide you through some of the challenges you may face in the years ahead," said Superintendent Gierasch. "You have worked together to leave your mark on our community. The next part of your journey shapes who you will become."



# Moving-Up Day at Goosehill Primary

Emotions ran high during the moving-up ceremony at Goosehill Primary as parents cheered and applauded student success and the celebration of a milestone in their academic career. The final “Goosehill Song” held special meaning this year, and many special memories were shared.

It was bittersweet as Principal Lynn Herschlein delivered her final farewell speech, ending her tenure as Goosehill principal after 11 years. She reminded her first graders that they are true superheroes who accomplished so much during the past two years, including the challenges of a pandemic, learning difficult tasks, how to be flexible and adapt to change, how to be kind helping others and having a growth mindset.

“We are so impressed with the skills you have developed,” she said. “You are readers and writers, researchers, mathematicians, artists, athletes, musicians and problem-solvers. You turn ideas into action, using words to persuade people (especially me!). Because of you we had lots of fun days, Pajama Day, Toy Day, Stuffy Day, and even burritos are on our lunch menu now because of you.”

As the ceremony came to an end, the students were reminded that wherever they go they will always have the friends they made at Goosehill. Good luck, first graders, in your new schools next year.



# Tradition and Pride at West Side Moving-Up Ceremony

It was a memorable event for the students at West Side Elementary School as they celebrated their success during their moving-up ceremony. Principal Alison Hazut addressed the sixth grade class, marveling at all they had accomplished, the many friends they had made, all they had learned and the special traditions they continued even during the challenges of a pandemic.

Following a longstanding school tradition, every West Side graduate had the opportunity to speak and proudly reflect upon their journey at West Side. Each Student-Led Reflection revealed gratefulness, hope, joy, struggles, supportive teachers and families, and, overwhelmingly, the bonds of strong friendships. The students thanked teachers for being so friendly, funny, kind, supportive and helping them to learn and succeed, becoming who they are today. Students looked back at traditions such as Ellis Island, field day, Tomato Sauce Day, the West Side Run, the musicals and talent shows, community service, HERO projects and so much more.

Superintendent Jill M. Gierasch surprised those in attendance by sharing a story of a recent basketball challenge with one sixth grader. It was a close match, and many were there cheering on both their friend and their superintendent. She promised a rematch next year. She also shared how impressed she was by the foundation set at West Side School, and how each student persevered through challenges and embraced the history and tradition that has always created a very special family at West Side. Good luck moving up to the junior high. West Side School will miss you.





# Lloyd Harbor Sixth Graders Bid Farewell

It was a day of reminiscing and celebration as the sixth grade students celebrated their moving-up ceremony, joined by their proud families and invited guests.

Principal Valerie Massimo addressed the students, acknowledging first and foremost that “your Lloyd Harbor years were certainly not what we expected. They involved challenges and changes that were unfamiliar and unnatural. You lived through a most unusual era and persevered. I know I speak for everyone in your lives when I say that we are so incredibly proud of what you have accomplished.”

She spoke of teamwork and the Tree of Dreams planted this year at Lloyd Harbor that represents the hopes and dreams students have for the future. All were reminded of the HIKER theme at Lloyd Harbor, which speaks to the core values of honesty, inclusiveness, kindness, empathy and respect.

In closing, Ms. Massimo shared some words of wisdom from the book, “I Am One: A Book of Action,” by Susan Verde, which begins with a simple question: “How do I make a difference?” The answer unfolds with knowledge that “You are each ONE. And ONE by ONE we can make a difference. Because ONE is all it takes.” She challenged each student to think about how each one can make a difference every day. “One by one, you will make a difference,” she said, “because one is all it takes.”

“You are leaving here uniquely prepared for the many opportunities the junior high has to offer,” Superintendent of Schools Jill M. Gierasch said. “Whether it is a new and challenging class, a club, team or drama production, you are ready. As you face a new academic year, my advice is to continue soaring, boldly stepping forward. Continue marching to the beat of your own drum, and may the years that lie ahead of you be as phenomenal as the years at Lloyd Harbor elementary.” Congratulations, sixth graders, and best of luck next year.



## Officially High School Students

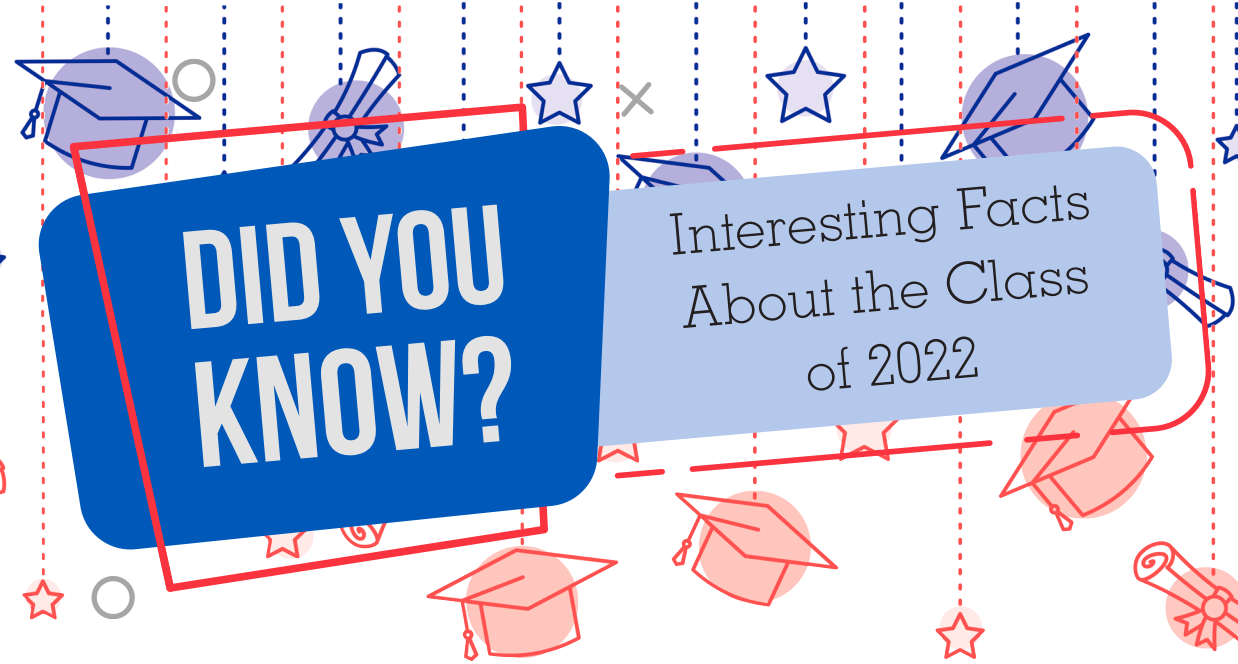
## THE CLASS OF 2026 MOVES UP TO THE HIGH SCHOOL

As the eighth grade students commemorated the milestone event of moving up to high school and becoming the Class of 2026, Principal Daniel Danbusky shared, “I had the distinct privilege of watching this group of youngsters grow and mature from eager and anxious young teens who entered the Junior High School into a formidable class of self-confident young adults, as they seek out their own paths in life.”

He acknowledged that the diploma and handshake are an official welcome to the High School. “You will now be called freshmen, and that carries tremendous responsibility, many new opportunities and meaningful new experiences,” he said. “I want you to promise me that you will dream big and have the courage and the confidence to take yourself seriously. No pressure, but at age 14, Anne Frank began writing her diary; Bobby Fischer became an international chess grand master; Mozart wrote his first opera; Nadia Comaneci shocked the Olympics with the first-ever perfect 10 in gymnastics and Charles Schulz, the creator of Snoopy and Charlie Brown, published his first cartoon.”

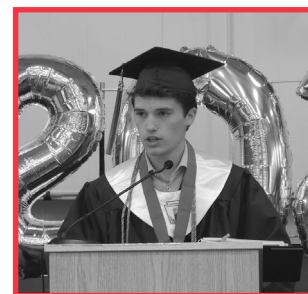
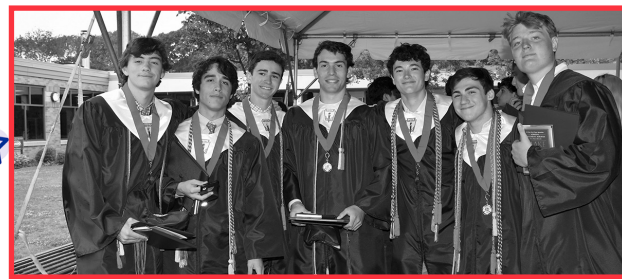
He encouraged the students to envision greatness in themselves and to seize every opportunity to achieve it and to be the person who does the right thing even when no one is looking. He asked that students reflect upon the Robert Frost poem, noting that taking the road less traveled made all the difference for him.

Assistant Principal to the Junior High Caitlyn Coffey-Harman expressed her gratitude to the students for guiding her during her first year, from being lost in the hallways, to silly handshakes and TikTok dances, to acts of kindness and caring. Congratulations, eighth graders, and welcome to high school.



The members of the Class of 2022 graduated with a high level of achievement and have acquired academic skills, social and emotional awareness and a lifelong commitment to community service and beyond. Below are some interesting facts about the Class of 2022:

- 145 graduates in the Class of 2022.
- 139 graduates earned a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation and 6 graduates earned a Regents Diploma.
- 51 graduates earned a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation with Honors with Math and Science Endorsement.
- 23 graduates earned a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation with Honors with Math Endorsement.
- 13 graduates earned a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation with Science Endorsement.
- 4 graduates earned a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation with Honors.
- 4 graduates earned a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation with Honors with Science Endorsement,
- 3 graduates earned a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation with Math and Science Endorsement.
- 1 graduate earned a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation with Math Endorsement.
- 40 graduates earned a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation.
- 1 graduate earned a Regents Diploma with Honors.
- 4 graduates earned a Regents Diploma.
- 1 graduate earned a Regents Diploma with CTE (career and technical endorsement).



# REMEMBERING TO *Give Back*

The Class of 2022 donated a tree to be planted in memory of Dr. Helen Browne.

## Student-Athletes Playing Sports at the Collegiate Level

The district takes great pride in its enviable athletic programs and the success of its teams and individual student-athletes. Hard work, a strong work ethic and a commitment to excel have enabled Class of 2022 student-athletes to be recruited to continue their athletic careers on the collegiate level. Congratulations to the following graduates who signed their 2022 national letters of intent, which is a binding agreement between the student and the college:

- Franny Donohue – Williams College (lacrosse)
- Garret Geraci – Pace University (lacrosse)
- Max Hawkinson – Rutgers University (lacrosse)
- Grace Kiernan – Fairfield University (lacrosse)
- Aidan McKean – Hobart College (football)
- Drew Munn – Central Connecticut University (baseball)
- Jesse Phelan – Dartmouth College (lacrosse)
- Patrick Pisano – Yale University (lacrosse)
- Jackson Polo – University of Pennsylvania (wrestling)
- Ava Tighe – University of Florida (lacrosse)
- Gillian Will – Swarthmore College (lacrosse)
- Spencer Will – Amherst College (lacrosse)



## JUNIOR BOOK AWARD RECIPIENTS

During the Board of Education meeting on June 14, 15 students were honored with the Class of 2022 Junior Book Awards, designated by colleges to students with the highest levels of academic achievement. They were presented by Assistant Superintendent for Counseling, Student Services and Human Resources Mona E. Hecht.

The honors went to Ava Abatemarco (University of Pennsylvania), Victoria Barriola (Saint Michael's College), Benjamin Bonventre (Brown University), Carly Bruderman (Dartmouth University), Hayden Calabretta (Yale University), Matthew Casaccio (Tulane University), Sophie Cohen (Miami University of Ohio), Annabelle Coles (Harvard University), Maxwell Franz (Columbia University), Luke Lynch (St. Lawrence University), Amanda Nemshin (Hamilton College), Blake Newman (University of Rochester), Theodore Torres (University of Notre Dame), Hannah Von Son (Princeton University) and Veronica Walkin (Cornell University). Congratulations on receiving this very prestigious honor.

The following awards were also presented: University of Rochester Bausch and Lomb Honorary Science Award awarded to Hannah Van Son; University of Rochester Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony Award awarded to Annabelle Coles; University of Rochester George Eastman Young Leaders Award awarded to Tyler Gray; University of Rochester Xerox Award for Innovation and Information Technology awarded to Amanda Nemshin; Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Rensselaer Medal awarded to Hayden Calabretta and the Congressional Certificate of Merit awarded to Tyler Gray.



(Matthew Casaccio is missing from photo.)

# PREPARED FOR *a Bright Future*

While the Class of 2022 celebrated their graduation and a milestone in their academic careers, they were also looking forward to a future filled with opportunities to continue to achieve and excel.

As the result of a strong academic foundation, the inspiration of staff and the support of families and the community, the members of the Class of 2022 have successfully competed with students worldwide for admission to some of the finest colleges and universities in the country.

In September, the members of the Class of 2022 will be attending the schools listed below where they are sure to expand their knowledge and leadership skills and share their compassion and caring for others through continued community service.

Adelphi University  
Amherst College  
Barnard College  
Belmont University  
Bentley University  
Binghamton University  
Boston College  
Boston University  
Bucknell University  
Central Connecticut State University  
College of Charleston  
Cornell University  
CUNY Bernard M. Baruch College  
(Macaulay Honors College)  
Dartmouth College  
Drexel University  
(College of Engineering)  
Duke University  
Elon University  
Emerson College  
Emory University  
Endicott College  
Fairfield University  
Farmingdale State College  
Fordham University  
Harvard University  
High Point University  
Hobart William Smith Colleges  
Indiana University-Bloomington

Ithaca College  
Lafayette College  
Lehigh University  
Long Island University  
Loyola Marymount University  
Marist College  
McGill University  
New York University  
Northeastern University  
Nova Southeastern University  
Pace University, Westchester Campus  
Pennsylvania State University-Penn State  
Main Campus  
Rutgers University-New Brunswick  
Sacred Heart University  
Savannah College of Art & Design  
School of the Art Institute of Chicago  
St. John's University-New York  
St. Lawrence University  
Stony Brook University  
SUNY at Fredonia  
SUNY College at Geneseo  
SUNY College at Old Westbury  
SUNY College at Oswego  
SUNY Maritime College  
Swarthmore College  
Syracuse University  
The American University of Paris  
The University of Alabama

The University of North Carolina at  
Chapel Hill  
The University of Texas at Austin  
Tufts University  
Tulane University of Louisiana  
University at Albany  
University at Buffalo  
University of Central Florida  
University of Chicago  
University of Colorado Boulder  
University of Florida  
University of Georgia  
University of Maryland-College Park  
University of Massachusetts-Amherst  
University of Miami  
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor  
University of New Haven  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of South Florida-Main Campus  
University of Southern California  
University of St. Andrews  
University of Virginia-Main Campus  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Villanova University  
Wake Forest University  
Wesleyan University  
Williams College  
Yale University



# Board of Education Approves New Appointments

## Assistant Superintendent of Business – Christine Costa

The Board of Education has approved the appointment of Christine Costa as assistant superintendent of business. With more than 30 years of financial experience, Ms. Costa has spent more than 20 years in public education.



Most recently, she served as assistant superintendent in the South Country Central School District and Westbury Union Free School District. She also held district-level leadership positions at Middle Country, Plainedge, Smithtown and Syosset school districts. Prior to working in education, Ms. Costa worked on Wall Street for J.P. Morgan Securities Inc. and in public accounting for Coopers & Lybrand, now known as PricewaterhouseCoopers.

She received a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting from Binghamton University, a master's degree in human resource management from Stony Brook University and her school district business leader certificate from SUNY New Paltz. She is a New York State-licensed certified public accountant and has been designated a chartered global management accountant by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Ms. Costa is honored and privileged to have been selected as the assistant superintendent of business and looks forward to continuing and expanding the world-class educational experiences offered to students throughout the district.

## Goosehill Primary School Principal – Christina Alicea-Cosme

The Board of Education has approved the appointment of Christina Alicea-Cosme as the principal of Goosehill Primary School. Her depth of knowledge and professional experience in early childhood education will be an asset to Goosehill Primary School.



For the past 18 years, Ms. Alicea-Cosme has served as an educator and administrator in the New York City Public Schools and as an administrator in Valley Stream School District #30. She began her career as a kindergarten teacher and served in this role for 12 years. Her administrative career began in 2016 at The Children's Lab School P.S. 343 in Queens where she was a founding member of the administrative team, assisting with building curriculum, implementing a full rollout of social-emotional learning responsive classrooms and creating a system for technology implementation. For the past three years, she has served as an assistant principal in the Valley Stream #30 School District. She has extensive expertise in the balanced literacy framework and has experience working with Teachers College Reading and Writing Institute, similar to the district's literacy programs. Christina is looking forward to sharing her love of early childhood education and building lasting relationships with students, families and staff members while continuing to build upon the legacy of success at Goosehill Primary School.

## West Side Elementary School Principal – Dr. John Barnes

The Board of Education has approved the appointment of Dr. John Barnes as the principal of West Side Elementary School. Dr. Barnes most recently served as a school and central office administrator in Westchester County. He has worked as an elementary music teacher, classroom teacher and staff developer/instructional coach and was named 2018-2019 Principal by the national organization STOMP Out Bullying. He was the first school principal to receive this distinct honor.



He was a member of the steering committee and selected as a New York State Ambassador for SEL4NY (Social Emotional Learning Alliance for New York). Dr. Barnes has permanent New York State certification as a K-6 teacher and school administrator/supervisor and holds an active professional certificate in school district leadership. He is a graduate of the Hartt School of Music with an undergraduate Bachelor of Music degree. He has earned two master's degrees from Mercy College and an advanced certificate in educational leadership from Adelphi University. He successfully completed a certificate program with The Center for Educational Leadership in human resources management. He completed his doctoral studies in education administration and supervision from St. John's University. Dr. Barnes is a 2008 Columbia University Teachers College Cahn Fellow and has served as a mentor/guest lecturer for the Summer Principals Academy at Columbia University and The New York City Leadership Academy. Dr. Barnes considers it an honor to join the West Side Elementary School family and the community.

## Director of STEM – Dr. Christine Schlendorf

The Board of Education has approved the appointment of Dr. Christine Schlendorf as the director of STEM. Previously, Dr. Schlendorf was an administrator at a high school in Brooklyn where she was a math and science chairperson and then assistant principal of instruction. Most recently, Dr. Schlendorf acted



as a math and science supervisor for elementary student-teachers at Hofstra University in the education department and was an assistant professor of biology at Farmingdale State University and Suffolk County Community College. Dr. Schlendorf obtained a Bachelor of Science in biology from Manhattan College, a Master of Arts from Stony Brook University, and a Ph.D. in science education from Stony Brook University. She has a teaching certification in biology and a school building leader certification and attended Harvard University's New and Aspiring Leaders Program. Dr. Schlendorf's research and publications explore predictors of student achievement in high school science, as well as equitable access to a strong science education. She recently presented her research at the 2022 Annual Conference of the National Association of Research in Science Teaching, where she maintains an active membership. Dr. Schlendorf is thrilled to become a member of the Cold Spring Harbor community.

## 2022 EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP AWARD

During the Board of Education meeting on June 14, the Board presented the Exemplary Service Award to Margaret Diehl. This annual award honors an employee who supports, with great distinction, the school community. To be eligible for consideration for this award, the recipient must have worked in the district for at least five years, have the unanimous recommendation of the administration and the Board, and exemplify leadership and excellent character, among others.



Board of Education President Amelia Brogan thanked Ms. Diehl for her 26 years as a veteran teacher in the district. "Ms. Diehl is someone whom we all value greatly, who is a critical part of our team and who always works with the interests of supporting the needs of staff, the school community and our students," Amelia Brogan said.

Ms. Diehl spent 13 years as an elementary classroom teacher before becoming an elementary-level technology integration specialist. Ms. Diehl works with students and staff on robotics projects, digital citizenship lessons, makerspace creations, coding, problem-solving strategies, technology integration and so much more. Ms. Diehl's commitment to students and staff combined with a tremendous depth of knowledge is only matched by her unwavering positive attitude. Currently, Ms. Diehl is expertly turnkey, training staff in coding standards in conjunction with her work as lead teacher for the \$2.5 million Smart Start Grant program. Every school year, Ms. Diehl is the foundation for the after-school musicals and talent shows, and her technology clubs are always well attended by students. Congratulations, Ms. Diehl, on this very distinguished award.

**COLD SPRING HARBOR  
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

75 Goose Hill Road  
Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y. 11724  
[www.csh.k12.ny.us](http://www.csh.k12.ny.us)

NON PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO.4  
Cold Spring Harbor,  
New York

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Tara Belfi, President  
Tami Stark, Vice President  
Janice Elkin  
Mark Freidberg  
Bruce Sullivan  
Alex Whelehan  
Heather Morante Young

**ECRWSS  
POSTAL CUSTOMER**

Jill M. Gierasch  
Superintendent of Schools

School Tax Code 123

**FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA**



## Parent Leaders **Recognized**

Superintendent of Schools Jill M. Gierasch hosted the annual Parent Leader Breakfast to acknowledge all those who take a leadership role in the numerous committees that serve the district. She emphasized how many programs are parent supported and the uniquely high level of parent involvement.

“Not only do these parent groups support so many programs, but they seamlessly run themselves,” Superintendent Gierasch said. “Parent leaders are so dedicated, and the administration and staff are grateful for your service and commitment not only to the students, but for the appreciation they share with staff members and, most importantly, their valuable time.”



## 2022 SCOPE AWARDS FOR EXEMPLARY SERVICE

Each year, the SCOPE Education Service Award dinner is held to honor recipients who have been chosen based upon their exemplary service and dedication. During the 21st Annual School District SCOPE Awards Dinner, three very special staff members were recognized. The honorees in the Support Staff Service category were Cathy Ball from the Jr./Sr. High School and JoAnn Youngmans and Jeanine Wynn from Goosehill Primary School.

Superintendent of Schools Jill M. Gierasch and Jr./Sr. High Principal Dan Danbusky were in attendance to congratulate each of the award recipients and to share heartfelt thanks for their dedication in demonstrating an exemplary level of commitment to students and colleagues and for serving as vital staff members.



## **Thank You** Amelia Brogan and Julie Starrett



*Board of Education President  
Amelia W. Brogan.*



*Board of Education Trustee  
Julie Starrett.*

The district extends its gratitude to Amelia W. Brogan and Julie Starrett whose terms as Board of Education president and Board trustee, respectively, ended on June 30. Amelia Brogan served a 12-year term beginning in 2010, serving as vice president for three terms and president for four terms. She also served on numerous committees to ensure and enhance experiences for all students. Ms. Starrett served a three-year term as board trustee beginning in 2019, after having served in numerous volunteer and parent leader roles in the district.