

Board of Education “Meeting Highlights”

November 12, 2013

President’s Report...

BOE president Janice Elkin’s report included the following:

Tonight our Focus on Teaching and Learning will be a presentation by Mrs. Lydia Bellino on the District Report Card, which will I’m sure be a thoughtful and informative look at district and student achievement over the past year. The presentation of the District Report Card is an annual requirement which helps us to understand and evaluate specific dimensions of our program.

Tonight the board will also be adopting the district’s 2013-2014 goals. The board held a work session on October 29th in which Dr. Wilansky, Mrs. Bellino and Dr. Bernhard presented the rationale for the proposed goals and the ways in which the proposed goals combine to further the development of the district’s educational program. Each of the goals either responds to current educational initiatives, such as individualized learning, or responds to mandates such as the Affordable Care Act. The board had an opportunity to discuss the proposed goals and refine them. The discussion was well reasoned and tonight you will see a resolution on the agenda to adopt the goals. The setting of goals is of the utmost importance as our goals play a major role in directing the agenda for the coming year. I wish to thank the faculty, staff and administrators for the time and thought given to the proposed goals.

Also, tonight the board will receive the Annual Report of the District from Dr. Wilansky. This report details initiatives undertaken by the district over the past year, progress toward goals and is basically a look at the state of the district. This document combined with tonight’s presentation and our proposed goals demonstrate the continuity in the district work which maximizes successful program development. This report will also be available on the website. The board would like to thank Dr. Wilansky and her colleagues for the work that went into producing this report.

The Board wishes everyone a very healthy and relaxing Thanksgiving.

Superintendent’s Report...

Dr. Judith A. Wilansky’s report included the following:

*Tonight marks the unofficial ending of the 2012 -2013 school year with my presentation of the **Annual Report** to the Board along with Mrs. Bellino’s presentation on last year’s student achievement data. It seems to me that last year seems like a long time ago.*

*However, the politics of last year continues to abound. Almost every day you will find coverage in **Newsday** about the Commissioner of Education’s community forums - the first official Long Island venue taking place this evening in the Three Village Schools. I would like to extend our thanks to Senator Carl Marcellino who arranged for a small gathering of his district schools on October 15th in order that we could voice our concerns to the Commissioner, Chancellor Tisch and Regent Tilles. That meeting appears to have set the model for how the Commissioner has structured his visits throughout the state. Knowing that our legislators will be present at the*

forum has given school leaders the opportunity to educate our representatives on how state initiatives have impacted our school communities.

Toward that end, the 18 Superintendents in the Western Suffolk BOCES area, under the leadership of District Superintendent Michael Mensch, sent a letter with the goal of offering concrete suggestions for making the implementation of initiatives surrounding Common Core and APPR better for students, their teachers and our school communities. To quote Dr. Mensch “the suggestions that follow are given in the spirit that we are in this together and that only by listening to the practitioners in the field can we move forward and be successful:”

- We have asked that the implementation of the new exams be modified to reflect two transitional years and that assessments are constructed to include more reasonable amounts of Common Core materials*
- We have suggested that a revision of cut scores allow for a wider confidence levels.*
- We have asked the window of transition between previous and Common CORE Regents examinations be extended.*
- We have voiced our support for the modifications to the English Language Learner testing are amended from one to two years, as well as increasing the percentage of students with special needs to qualify for alternate assessments from 1 to 2% of the population.*
- We have asked for reductions in the amount of testing by perhaps alternating years of assessment for reading and math and the elimination of duplicate testing. As of this date, students who take accelerated Math in 8th grade must sit for both the 8th grade assessment as well as the Regents exam.*
- We have asked that field testing be conducted separately from the assessments and that the assessments are administered during the traditional Regents’ week in June.*
- We believe that, state-wide, the APPR in its current form is a source of excessive false positive and negative ratings and that the state should be emphasizing multiple measures of effectiveness. We believe that by tying assessments to APPR, they have become such high-stakes assessments for teachers that this has created its own set of unintended consequences.*
- We have suggested that computerized assessments be phased in as many districts do not yet have the technological or economic capacity to accommodate this initiative*

And finally, we have reiterated that we are in support of initiatives that raise standards and enhance student learning. But we also have long histories of implementing change and we believe that there is a way to do this without causing unnecessary turmoil and anxiety - and the saddest part of this is that it is the students across the states who are feeling the weight of this worry.

As you shall hear tonight, students in Cold Spring Harbor continue to excel at every level. The District goals, which will also be adopted this evening, are written in the spirit of continual improvement and initiatives linked to 21st century learning.

At this time, I would like to wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving!

Focus on Teaching and Learning...

2012-2013 School Report Card

Presentation on Cold Spring Harbor 2012-2013 School Report Card

Lydia Bellino, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction

Board Actions...

Appointments:

- Kathy Bih: Leave Replacement Speech Pathologist (GHP) Sept. 3 – Nov. 22nd.
Joanne Katz: Leave Replacement Elementary Special Education Teacher (LH) Sept. 9th – Nov. 15th.
- Richard Thau was appointed Varsity Fencing Assistant Coach (HS).

Contracts:

- Contracts for Services between the District and Helen Murdock-Prep HS fall Drama Director were approved.
- Contract for Construction Services were approved between the District and Renu Contracting & Restoration, Copiague, NY for the 2012 Captial Reserve Projects for Interior Reconstruction at Lloyd Harbor and West Side Schools.

Donations:

- The Board of Education accepted the generous donation of three pieces of classroom furniture from Mr. Robert Lodbell for WS School.
- The Board of Education accepted the generous donation of 45 Lacrosse Jerseys for the boys lacrosse team from the Laviano the Strough Families.

Additional Business Matters:

- The Board of Education approved the **Audit Response Plan** dated November 12, 2013 for the Independent External Audit for 2012-2013 fiscal year as prepared by Nawrocki Smith LLP.
- The Board of Education approved the **Claims Auditor's reports** for warrants, with exceptions and notes as reported, for reports dated October 4, October 11, October 18, and October 25, 2013.
- **Superstorm Sandy Assessment Relief:** The Board of Education approved a resolution for the Cold Spring Harbor Central School District, on behalf of the property tax payers of said district, to opt into the provisions of the Super-storm Sandy Assessment Relief Act, enacted by the New York State Legislature as Chapter 424 of the 2013 Laws of the State of 4 New York and that the participation arrangement provide for assessment relief to those property owners whose property loss is at least 50% of its improved value as well as extending eligibility to those properties with a loss of 10%, 20%, 30%, or 40% of their improved value pursuant to the property loss schedule.

Special Education Reports:

The Board of education of the Cold Spring harbor Central School District hereby approved the terms and conditions of the following contract between the District and the following agencies or independent providers:

*Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf
Elwood Union Free School District
Board of Cooperative Educational Services (for Centris)
Glen Cove City School District*

2013-2014 District Goals

The Board of Education adopted the following Goals for the 2013-2014 school year:

1. To implement the first phase of personalized learning via the utilization of technological resources which will identify a student's individual learning needs, engage the student in academic goal setting, and provide content, practice and immediate feedback.
2. To explore the feasibility of offering online/blended High School elective courses in order to develop competence and confidence in a virtual learning environment.
3. To further develop and implement comprehensive curricula in the areas of English Language Arts and Mathematics which are fully aligned to the New York State Common Core Learning Standards.
4. In the second year of Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) implementation, teachers will revise and refine local measures in order to ensure rigorous, comparable and responsible assessment practices.
5. To ensure compliance with the federal "Affordable Care Act" with regard to legal requirements and appropriate financial planning.
6. To write, review and/or revise District policies to ensure compliance with the recently enacted legislation and related regulations by the New York State Department of Education, including but not limited to: Annual Professional Performance Review, New York State Assessments, and the New York State Common Core Learning Standards.

Field Trip:

The Board of Education approved Cold Spring Harbor Mixed Chorus and Chamber Singers Trip to attend the Festival Disney Competition in Walt Disney World Florida, April 3-6, 2014.

Board of Education Vacancy:

The Board of Education will fill the vacancy on the Board of Education created by the resignation of Joseph Morante, by appointing a qualified candidate to serve until the next annual district election.

Upcoming Meetings...

No Work Sessions in November

December 10th - Board of Education Meeting – 8pm

Most meetings are held at the Francis Roberts Community Center (District Office)
75 Goose Hill Rd., Cold Spring Harbor
(To confirm location check District web site – www.csh.k12.ny.us)

For the full Board of Education Agenda, please log onto our website