

Board of Education “Meeting Highlights” January 14, 2014

President’s Report...

BOE President Dr. Janice Elkin’s report included the following:

Good Evening and Happy New Year.

The process of developing the 2014-2015 School Budget is underway and the Community Budget Forum is scheduled for Tuesday evening, January 28th, at 7:30 pm, in the board room. I would like to take this opportunity to give a brief overview of the budget construction process.

Initial Budget proposals from building administrators and program directors have already been received by the business office and the Board of Education has completed its tour of the district’s schools. Central office budget reviews, will begin this week. At these meetings Dr. Bernhard, Dr. Wilansky and Mrs. Bellino will meet with the principals and program directors to review their initial budget proposals.

On the night of Jan 28th the Community Forum will take place. At that meeting we will be discussing next year’s budget in the context of the tax cap.

The meeting will begin with a number of presentations. Dr. Bernhard will provide an explanation and breakdown of the budget components (kind of a Budget 101 course) as well as the implications of the tax cap and unfunded mandates. He will also discuss the need for changes in long-term budget planning in relation to the tax cap. Dr. Wilansky and Mrs. Bellino will then discuss several aspects of our current instructional program, course offerings, and class size.

The forum is an opportunity for residents to ask questions, share their thoughts, comments, and or concerns with the board. We encourage you to attend and ask that you spread the word to your friends and neighbors. The budget directly impacts the educational and fiscal future of the district and your input is critical.

At the community forum Dr. Bernhard will share the budget calendar (and dates not on the published calendar will be added to the calendar on our website) which consists of a number of public meetings in March and the beginning of April, in which the Board will meet with each building administrator and program director to review their budget requests and Special Board of Education Budget Workshop Meetings in which we will review budget drafts. The process will culminate in the adoption of the Proposed 2014-2015 Budget at the April 8th Regular Meeting of the Board of Education.

Please note that tonight’s agenda includes a 2014 Capital Reserve Program Presentation.

Over the next few months much more detailed information will be shared and we will use our website and mailings to keep you in the loop. Once again we welcome community input as we seek to develop a fiscally responsible budget that will support and further the educational goals and values of the residents of the district.

Superintendent's Report...

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

Welcome and Happy New Year!

For those of you who were expecting our musical groups to perform, we apologize. Our students are busy with their practice sessions this evening for their all county performances. We encourage you to attend the remaining winter concerts, which are listed on the district calendar, and to look forward to the spring concerts which will take place in May.

2014 is shaping up to be a year that will be filled with significant challenges for education. This year, it has been hard to read the daily papers without finding an article that is devoted to the Common Core, New York State Assessments, international benchmarking, the tax cap, and of course, public school funding.

But what might not readily come to mind as a school issue is the recent decision in Colorado to legalize recreational marijuana, along with the fact that 20 states and the District of Columbia have legalized marijuana for medicinal use and some even allow the "in home" cultivation of the plant. New York is one of four states that is currently considering legislation that would approve marijuana for medicinal use.

The University of Michigan Hospitals and Health Center has issued a statement that, *"There are many other classes of analgesics and many nonpharmacological therapies that either have greater effectiveness than marijuana or have less side effects, and these treatments should generally be tried prior to using marijuana... Marijuana has a strong potential for abuse and is regulated as a Schedule I controlled substance under the Controlled Substances Act."*¹ This is an interesting position, particularly given the fact that Ann Arbor is a college community.

Schools do not create a culture of drug use, nor can we control it or cure it. But, we, collectively the adults who reside in a school community contribute to the perpetuation of putting our youth at risk. David Brooks, in his weekly column in the New York Times, noted the following:

"The people who debate these policy changes usually cite the health risks users would face or the tax revenues the state might realize. Many people these days shy away from talk about the moral status of drug use because that would imply that one sort of life you might choose is better than another sort of life.

¹ <http://medicalmarijuana.procon.org>

But, of course, these are the core questions: Laws profoundly mold cultures, so what sort of community do we want our laws to nurture? What sort of individuals and behaviors do our governments want to encourage: I'd say that in healthy societies government wants to subtly tip the scale to favor temperate, prudent, self-governing citizenship. In those societies, government subtly encourages the highest pleasures, like enjoying the arts or being in nature, and discourages lesser pleasures, like being stoned.

In legalizing weed, citizens of Colorado are, indeed, enhancing individual freedom. But they are also nurturing a moral ecology in which it is a bit harder to be the sort of person most of us want to be.”²

Colorado seems a distance away and a wonderful ski destination to many. This year, as in every year, 8 applications were made to colleges and universities in Colorado.

Every day, the pharmaceutical industry bombards us in the media with commercials touting a drug that will provide relief from every symptom one can have. Our children are being brought up in a culture where the norm has become that every ailment has a pharmaceutical solution. If marijuana becomes legalized in New York how long will it be before commercials begin appearing in prime-time media?

And how will this shape the thinking of a 4th grade student?

We, as a culture, need to take notice about what our children are seeing and hearing. And then we need to decide, as a community, what should serve as the norm.

¹ Brooks, David. "Weed: Been There. Done That." *The New York Times* 3 Jan. 2014

Focus on Teaching and Learning...

*Proposed New High School Course Offerings 2014 -2015
Presented by Lydia Bellino, Jay Matuk, Judith Wilansky*

Board Actions...

Appointments:

Denise Engel P/T Special Education Teacher (HS). Ms. Engel will continue her probationary appointment as Teacher Assistant effective September 1, 2011 through August 31, 2014. Ms. Engel will also be on a tenure track with a probationary appointment in the tenure area of Special Education effective December 2, 2013 through December 1, 2015.

Donations:

The Board of Education approved the generous donation of \$7,000.00 from the Goosehill Parent-Faculty Association (GPFA) to be used to create a Reading Space in the courtyard hallway just outside of the cafeteria.

The Board of Education accepted a generous donation of a new Art Kiln, at a cost of approximately \$2,900, from the Lloyd Harbor School PTG (LHSPTG).

Winter II Coaching Assignments:

JH Wrestling – A. Servidio & N. Fengler

JH Volleyball (boys) – E. Wildermuth

JH Basketball (girls) – B. Zuk, N. Byrnes, B. Dougher

Personnel Contracts:

Clair Klein: Services between the District and Claire Klein, LH Musical Accompanist, for the 2013-14 school year was approved.

Catherine Maloney: Services between the District and Catherine Maloney, Elementary Musical Producer, LH for the 2013-14 school year was approved.

Christopher McKee: Services between the District and Christopher McKee, Elementary Musical Director, LH for the 2013-14 school year was approved. Also, services between the District and Christopher McKee, Elementary Musical Accompanist, WS for the 2013-14 was approved.

2014-2015 New High School Course Offerings:

Be it Resolved that the Board of Education approved the following HS new courses

Theatre Workshop

Music In Film

Introduction to Animation

Latin: Language and Culture

Personal Finance

Career Planning

Xtreme Intern

Health Services Contract:

Health Services Jericho - The Board of Education approved the contract with Jericho UFSD for health services for 5 students attending private schools in the 2013/14 school year.

Health Services Syosset - The Board of Education approved the contract for Health Services with Syosset Central School District for 10 students attending private schools during the 2013/14 school year.

The 2014-2014 Calendar was adopted. Please see the school website to print calendar.

Field Trip:

The Board of Education approved a trip to Philadelphia for the Model UN Club from January 30, 2014 to Sunday, February 2, 2014.

Facilities Update:

Mr. Mark Margolies (Director of Buildings & Grounds), and Dr. William Bernhard (Assistant Superintendent of Business), gave a Facilities Update Presentation to the Board of Education for proposed expenditures of the 2014 Capital Reserve Program.

Upcoming Meetings...

January 28th – Community Budget Forum, District Office 7:30 pm

February 11th - Board of Education Meeting – 8pm

February 25th – 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.