

Board of Education “Meeting Highlights” September 10, 2013

President’s Report...

Highlights of BOE president Janice Elkin’s report included the following:

School began for teachers and staff last Tuesday with a welcome in the PAC. Dr. Wilansky gave a very clear and enlightening presentation on the recent testing results that have been talked about in the press and which we will hear about in tonight’s focus on teaching and learning. The next day began with a presentation by Bruce Friend regarding the use of technology in and out of classroom. His presentation was in support of our technology initiatives which include expanding our students’ skill set, integrating the use of technology with academic work and exploring enrichment/expansion of coursework via technology.

Tuesday afternoon we also held the dedication of the James T. Pryal Writing Center at the Jr/Sr. High School. Jim’s family, past and current colleagues spoke of his contributions as a teacher in the English department for over 34 years. It was an afternoon filled with memories of a man who, as a person and teacher inspired so many of our students and staff. I hope when you are in the Jr/Sr High School you will stop by and take a look at the writing center and the dedication plaque.

CSH Jr./Sr. High School sports began, and the fields are filled yet again. On Monday morning, the newly refurbished gymnasium at West Side School was named in honor of Mr. Ted Hilton, past West Side Principal for 40 years. Mr. Simon led the ceremony, which Mr. Hilton attended and it was a wonderful opportunity for our students to experience the long history of their school.

The audit committee met the last week in August with our representative from R.S. Abrams, to review the internal control audits completed in the Spring of 2013. We reviewed our Annual Risk Assessment Update and the Information Technology Audit, which was the system that the board chose to audit for the 2012- 2013 school year. We, once again, were seen to have strong controls and checks and balances in place. The auditor once again commented that our district is very well managed. Thank you to Dr. Bernhard and the business office for your hard work and dedication to transparency and accountability. The audit committee has approved “Cash Management” as the extra system to be audited during the 2013-2014 school year.

Superintendent's Report...

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

September 2013

Yesterday marked the first day of the school year for our students - and the day ran as smoothly as if school had been in full swing for weeks. Part of that rhythm was undoubtedly the result of the fact that teachers and staff reported to work last week - which enabled them to have much of the "housekeeping" tasks completed and all minds focused on the most important task - which was to welcome all 1882 students to a new year filled with excitement and opportunity.

On my drive in this morning, I noted that some of the trees had leaves that were beginning to turn- a sure signal that our days will be getting shorter and that, soon, we will be fully immersed in athletic competitions under the lights, back to school evenings and, yes, plans for Halloween celebrations. It might seem that it is simply the turn of the season - as it always is - but for educators it is with one major difference - it is a year filled with new students and new opportunities for learning. It is the first time that Kindergarten students enter their new classroom and learn rules for a classroom community; it is the first time that 7th graders enjoy a lunch-time that feels expansive because there are choices about whether to go outside and enjoy a game of Frisbee or go to the library; and, for our seniors - they are already feeling the apprehension of the daunting college admissions process and whether they should give the SAT's one more try.

This year is the year that matters for each and every one of our 1882 students.

So, off we go, with a competent administration, faculty and staff - off to make this year a successful one, one in which all students will grow, learn, make good decisions and, hopefully, come to remember the 2013-14 school year as at least a good one, if not the best yet!

Now we will enjoy the opening day reports from our administrators.

Recognitions...

Grant Acknowledgement - Assemblyman Charles Lavine

Dr. Janice Elkin, presented Assemblyman, Charles Lavine, with a Certificate of Appreciation to publicly acknowledge our gratitude for his advocacy on behalf of the Cold Spring Harbor School District. We are extremely grateful to accept a generous grant in the amount of \$50,000. In an era of diminishing resources, these monies will be dedicated to enabling our students to enjoy increased access and targeted applications of personal technology. Through the application of the program "e-spark" student learning profiles will be used to design personal goals in both English language arts and mathematics. These goals are aligned with the new Common core standards and will help some of our students achieve the standards in a manner that is engaging, enjoyable and relevant to our "digital natives." We will also be exploring the increased opportunities that "online and blended" learning can provide for our students. We look forward to growing this program to other grades in future years and wish to thank Assemblyman Lavine for enabling us to bring this program to our students. We are grateful that our politicians are committed to the most precious resource in our community - our children and their future.

Lloyd Harbor & West Side School recognized as “Reward Schools”

by The University of the State of New York Education Department, in celebration of NY State Schools that have made the most progress or have the highest achievement in the State with no significant gaps in student achievement. Principal, Valerie Massimo, of Lloyd Harbor School and Principal, Kurt Simon, of West Side School were presented with their Award by Board president, Dr. Janice Elkin.

Focus on Teaching and Learning...

Overview of 2013 Assessments - Judith A. Wilansky & Lydia Bellino

Opening Day Reports:

GOOSEHILL REPORT

From Mrs. Herschlein...

Goosehill opened its doors to 74 kindergarteners and 107 first graders, with 18 new students joining the Goosehill family. Mrs. Herschlein reported that the opening went incredibly smoothly, and credited that to an amazing staff that did so much advance preparation, from orientations and student visits to a summer packed with professional development workshops in science, math, Common Core Learning Standards, Teacher’s College Writing Workshop, and the new eSpark iPad program. Teachers and students were busy creating class charters during the first days of school. As part of the school’s Social-Emotional Literacy program, the children learn vocabulary words to describe feelings. September’s words are “excited” and “thrilled” – which pretty much summed up a wonderful beginning to the school year! “With independence being our goal,” Mrs. Herschlein said, “We had over 90% of our students taking the bus to school. This was impressive and really helped the children transition confidently into their classrooms.” All staff members were on hand to welcome the children back to school. True to form, Mrs. Herschlein also greeted each student by name, which is quite a feat in the first week of school. Lastly, students gathered for their first Spirit Day Assembly on 9/11 to discuss with great pride what it means to be a member of a class, group, a country...and of course their Goosehill family.

WEST SIDE REPORT

From Mr. Simon...

West Side School rang in the bell to 248 students, with 11 new students who now walk the historic halls of West Side School. It was a momentous occasion as the old gym was revamped over the summer, and was officially dedicated to former principal of 40 years, Mr. Ted Hilton – and renamed Hilton Gymnasium. It was a complete surprise to Mr. Hilton, who still lives down the street from West Side School and has mentored principals there since he retired. He was truly honored and humbled. The West Side Newsroom is up and running, with the theme of

empowering kids to speak in front of their peers. Class and school charters are being created, and problem solving is at work from math class to team building. Students made their way to classes, and 6th graders helped the new arrivals. One noticed a shy second grader standing still, and simply said, “Come on, I’ll show you the way.” Mr. Simon is so proud of his students and shared, that he and all of the teachers and staff are very excited to be back to school, and they are extremely proud that West Side was recognized with a NY State Reward School Award, which was presented to Mr. Simon at the September Board of Education meeting. The halls were abuzz with laughter, and the playground was swirling with children sliding and swinging about. One new student thought Mr. Simon must be some sort of wizard; puzzled, she asked, “But, how did you know my name? Are you magic?” She didn’t realize he saw her earlier standing next to her brother! Sometimes it does feel like magic to be principal, and Mr. Simon is thrilled to begin another great school year.

LLOYD HARBOR REPORT

From Mrs. Massimo...

Lloyd Harbor welcomed 450 students on September 9th with 20 new students joining the ranks. Mrs. Massimo gave the 20 new students some homework at orientation – to create a poster sharing information about themselves- and a bulletin board has been dedicated to celebrate and welcome the newest family members to Lloyd Harbor. The buses pulled up greeted by school mascot *Austus the Lion*...along with parent and 6th grade ambassadors for the second grade shadow program. The students took their roles as leaders very seriously, as they escorted the new arrivals to the cafeteria for a smooth transition. Following one 2nd grade class to Mrs. Conroy’s room for their first time, the students were greeted by a bag of “magic play-dough” where they had to make a wish with all their might, and upon squeezing it “*if a color does appear – they’re sure to have a great school year!*” One thing was for sure, everywhere you looked, kids were smiling, and very happy to be back at school. Grade level assemblies were held, refreshing the students about school rules beyond the classroom. Mrs. Massimo was blown away upon visiting each classroom to see the unbelievable growth and learning, teacher continuity and writing reflection – at only the second day of school! She was extremely proud to have LH recognized with a NY State Reward School Award – and it certainly shows thanks to our outstanding teachers! LH also has new street signs in the hallways, and LHTV is up and running live each morning. In fact, the second graders were so shocked shouting, “We saw you on TV Mrs. Massimo!” They couldn’t believe that one day they may be able to be on LHTV too. The reactions were priceless! It was a very exciting start to the school year.

Jr. / Sr. HIGH SCHOOL REPORT

From Mr. Matuk...

The Jr./Sr. High School invited back 1001 students this year, including 21 new students to the population. If Mr. Matuk had to sum up the theme of the first day – it would be “great preparation” by our teachers and staff. Also, two excellent Superintendent Conference Days were well spent, and he thanked Dr. Wilansky for providingHe said, “*It felt like just another day of school.*” Mr. Monastero actually photographed the halls as the first period bell rang at exactly 7:45am; not one student could be found wandering around lost. The buses pulled in on time (no small feat on the first day of school), 7th graders were already acclimated after their junior high

BBQ and orientation, beautification days, and Unity Dance. Junior High students painted beautiful stained glass on display, please come take a look! The seniors took pride settling into the senior commons –their long awaited new home. Grade level assemblies have all been held reviewing code of conduct rules and expectations, and the reality of consequences. Teachers worked tirelessly over the summer engaging in an incredible amount of professional development. A new course entitled Virtual Enterprise is being offered, where students will be setting up their very own companies and testing their entrepreneurial skills. A new AP Physics C is now offered, and our Science Research class/lab is expanded and up and running. The eSpark iPad initiative will roll out this fall, and the Humanities program continues to make connections within the disciplines of English and Social Studies. *“The staff at CSHHS will not let you fail,”* said Mr. Matuk, *“I am so proud of the collaborative effort of our teachers and staff.”* The new TV studio (entitled “HawkHawk”) is up and running with reporters, anchors and directors ready to film the latest news and events. Mr. Matuk is very grateful to Mark Margolies and the Buildings & Grounds Crews for completing the many needed projects and making the building look so beautiful both inside and out on the fields of the campus. The Seahawk turf field has been redone, and clearly there are not many schools that compare to this campus setting; we are very blessed and proud. Students are busy running for office, and homecoming and pep-rallies will be fast approaching. Sometimes we forget we are one of only a handful of schools that is a combined Junior/Senior High, and we have teachers that share classes in both schools– which is a wonderful continuity for both the students and the teachers. It’s been a great start to the 2013-2014 school year!

Athletics

From Mike Bongino....

Seahawk Field had a new turf installed this summer, and I would like to thank Director of Buildings & Grounds, Mark Margoleis, for overseeing this project with Joe Amendolare and his staff for our student-athletes. Also, special thanks to Head Custodian Joe Servidio for all his help in preparing the building gymnasiums for a smooth transition on opening day. I welcome Terri Tini (formerly of Lloyd Harbor) to our staff. Please be sure to use our athletic web site for game information and communication. I look forward to seeing you out on the fields, at the track, at a Regatta, on the ice rink or in the gym to support our athletes, coaches and teams.

Board Actions...

Childcare Leave: Karen Uhl-Smith, Tenured Teacher, HS, be granted Unpaid Childcare Leave for the period January 25, 2014 through June 30, 2014. (extending her leave granted from September – January)

Appointments:

Caroline Kennedy, Leave Replacement French Teacher HS (September 3 - January 24)

Ryan Conroy, Leave Replacement Physical Education Teacher LH (September 3 - June 30)

Andrea Galeno, Part Time Music Teacher HS (September 3- June 30)

Rebecca Stapleton, GH Teacher Aide, effective Sept. 3rd
Gerardina Di Gesu, Part Time Clerk Typist, effective Sept, 9th
Megan Nelsen, Per Diem Spanish Teacher HS
Cathie Gross, appointed Lead Teacher GH
Richard Thau, Elementary Head Intramurals Assistant, WS
Matthew Chartan/Matthew Sneider approved for up to a total of 100 hours for fall robotics

Fall Coaching Appointments:

Anthony Servidio – JH Soccer (Boys)
Jennifer Maccio – Varsity Field Hockey Assist.
Brian Maini – JH Field Hockey
Ryan Conroy – JH Field Hockey

Co-Curricular Appointments Rescinded:

Asst. Debate & Forensic Club - Keith Miller
Student Activity 9 - Split Robin Deluca-Acconi
HS Choir & Jazz Singers - Vaughn Fritts
SHS Literary Magazine - April Henry
JH Literary Publication - April Henry
College Essay Writing Supv.(Sem. 1) – Split April Henry
College Essay Writing Supv.(Sem. 2) – Split April Henry

Co-Curricular Appointments Approved:

Asst. Debate & Forensic Club - Nicole Rowan-Kearnes
Student Activity 9 -Split - Danielle Beach
Student Activity 11 -Split - Brian Schiffmacher
Newspaper - HS John Borland
Mathletes - Jr. High - Split Brigid Victorson
Mathletes - Jr. High - Split Jamie Petretti
HS Choir & Jazz Singers Andrea Galeno
SHS Literary Magazine Joyce Schmieder
JH Literary Publication Nicole Rowan-Kearnes
College Essay Writing Supv (Sem 1) – Split Joshua Bosley
College Essay Writing Supv (Sem 1) – Split Joanna Waters
College Essay Writing Supv (Sem 2) – Split Joshua Bosley
College Essay Writing Supv (Sem 2) – Split Joanna Waters
Chess Club - Daniel Josenhans
HS Musical Vocal Director - Andrea Galeno
JHS Musical Business Director - Christine Oswald
HS Musical Business Director - Christine Watt
Environmental Club - Erin Oshan
Robotics - Split - Matthew Chartan
Robotics - Split - Matthew Sneider

Contracts:

Contract Rescinded for the services between the District and Andrea K. Gonnella HS Musical Vocal Director.

Contract for Services between the District and sb Educational Consultants, Teacher Mentor Trainer be approved as submitted.

Business Recommendations:

Claims Auditors Reports for warrants approved (with exceptions and notes as reported)
The Board of Education approved the corrective action plan for the Risk Assessment Update Audit for period ending March 31, 2013, as prepared by R.S. Abrams & Co., LLP. As well as acknowledgment of receipt of the Internal Risk Assessment Update Report.

Special Education Contracts approved between the District and the following independent providers:

- Carolyn Buechler
- Brookville Center for Children's Services (suballocations)
- Metro Therapy (suballocations)
- Suffolk County Department of Health Services (suballocations)
- Developmental Disabilities Institute (suballocations)
- Oyster-Bay-East Norwich

Other Matters:

West Side Gymnasium Dedication: The Board of Education honored the work of former principal, Ted Hilton, by designating the West Side Gymnasium, the Hilton Gymnasium.

Upcoming Meetings...

Oct. 8th - Board of Education Meeting – 8pm

Oct. 29th – Board of Education Work Session – 7:30pm

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.