

# Board of Education “Meeting Highlights” January 13, 2015

## **President’s Report...**

BOE President Anthony Paolano’s report included the following:

*Tonight before my regular President’s report, let me take few moments to remember Dr. James Robins, Vice President of the CSH School Board. Dr. Robins passed away on January 4, from his battle with cancer. About 3 years ago, Dr. Robins had expressed an interest in becoming a school board member. James became a school board member because he was proud of the district and wanted to participate in maintaining that high level of excellence.*

*Dr. Robins was a dedicated and committed member of the school board. James was always prepared and did his “homework” on issues being discussed. He would have a full understanding of the topic and the impact his decision would have. James was a true professional in every sense of the word and had a mutual respect between other board members and the entire school district personnel. As a board member, he emphasized trust, teamwork and shared accountability. His greatest concern was for the children of the school district. To James, it was always about student success and student achievement. He wanted every student to have his or her distinct opportunity to achieve what they aspired to. His decisions were always student centered and what was best for the students.*

*James participated in many of the board’s committees, as well as being our vice-president. He brought valuable experience and skills to the board. James possessed good judgment and made decisions based upon his own analysis and evaluation of the information. He was exceptional in understanding school finances and developing a budget. Many of us will truly miss Dr. Robins’ demeanor and energy. The Cold Spring Harbor School Board and District has lost a great person.*

*I have just a few announcements:*

- *Please welcome our new Director of Guidance, Andrew Rosenberg. On Thursday, January 29, at 7:30pm, Mr. Rosenberg will be hosting the 11<sup>th</sup> grade parent college planning meeting at the CSH HS Cafeteria.*
- *The High School is having Challenge Days for grades 10 and 11 from January 12-14.*
- *On Tuesday, January 27 at 7:30 pm, the BOE will host the Community Budget Forum at the district office*

## **Superintendent's Report...**

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

*If anyone in the audience attended the funeral services for Dr. Robins, you were undoubtedly impressed by the length and depth of his friendships—for all of the eulogies delivered that day were made by childhood friends. The qualities that Dr. Robins possessed were those that were apparent in childhood, through adolescence and into adulthood: Intelligent, humorous, loyal, thoughtful and somewhat irascible.*

*We left the service that day with a clear sense of James, and the person he was. But this evening, it is important that we understand Dr. James Robins as a professional, as a Board member and as a father because it is through this understanding that we will appreciate why his loss is so profound to our school community. Dr. Robins was a very busy man. He was an accomplished physician who was a partner in a large anesthesiology practice. He worked long hours and days off were often interrupted by an emergency summoning to the hospital. He loved his work.*

*Shortly after joining the Board of Education in 2012, Dr. Robins was diagnosed with lymphoma. Many others might have decided that serving as a Trustee to the schools would become a low priority – but not James. James was the son of a teacher, and a product of NYC Public education. He was passionate about education and, particularly, public education. He knew firsthand of the difference it can make in living a meaningful life and learning the skills of service. He was all in.*

*Despite the ever-present side effects of treatment, James continued to prioritize the work of the school board. He was interested in the curriculum, the possibilities of technology and in the development of the whole child. He sat on the Board's sub-committee for policy and invested his fine intelligence in ensuring that the policies adopted were fair, inclusive and straightforward (he could have sidelined as an attorney). Imagine how daunting to chair a policy committee where two members are attorneys and one thinks he is. Those were interesting, challenging and productive meetings.*

*As James illness progressed, he never lost his optimism but he became more reflective, especially in his role as a father. On days where it was an effort to simply eat a meal or get dressed, one would find him on carpool duty, or at a swim meet or on the soccer field. He wanted to be with his boys for it all, the diving vacations in the Caribbean, the ski trips to Utah and the mundane blessings of the ordinary day. Even homework...*

*He read the AP text in European history, so that he could engage his son in discussion and hope that Alex would share James' passion for history – and “yes, it was a bit dry and maybe we should think about another text.” He witnessed an accident on the volleyball referee stand and pursued Mr. Bongino with relentlessness – all with the intent that this would never happen again and that all volleyball referees would be safe. One of our last conversations focused on James's concern about how his sons would remember him. I did not even have to hesitate --- a brilliant, loving, devoted father who not only had high expectations, but modeled each and every one. He loved life and made every day count. That is surely how we will all remember him. He served his family, his community and his patients with a selflessness that we are grateful for and tonight, I thank him for his service.*

## **Focus on Teaching and Learning...**

### **Fitnessgram**

Presented by Michael Bongino, Director of Athletics, Health and Physical Education

## **Board Actions...**

### **Appointments:**

The following **Winter II Coaching assignments** at CSHHS for the 2014-15 school year were approved as submitted:

*JV Wrestling James St. John*  
*Wrestling JH Anthony Servidio*  
*Wrestling JH Nick Fengler*  
*Volleyball JH (B) Michelle Gauffman*  
*JH Basketball (G) Ben Zuk*  
*JH Basketball (G) Pete Linderman*  
*JH Basketball (G) Patty Connelly*

**Vida Hettenbach** - appointed long-term substitute at CSHHS in the Science Department effective January 9, 2015 with an end-date TBD.

**Paula Oyarce** - appointed student teacher in the LOTE Department at CSHHS working under the direction of Merritt Monck-Rowley and Kelly Jordan for the period January 12, 2015 thru May 1, 2015.

### **Personnel Contracts:**

The Contract for Services between the District and **Vincent Tunstall**, Presenter of Financial Aid Workshop, for the 2014-15 school year was approved as submitted.

### **Claims Auditor's Reports:**

The Board of Education approved the Claims Auditor's reports for warrants, with exceptions and notes as reported, for reports dated November 21, November 28, December 5, December 12, and December 19, 2014.

### **Additional Business Matters:**

The Board of Education approved the Audit Response Plan dated January 7, 2015 for the Risk Assessment Update Report for the period ending June 30, 2014 as prepared by R. S. Abrams & Co. LLP.

The Board of Education modified the hourly rate for school lunch monitors from \$8.00 to \$8.75 per hour effective December 31, 2014 to comply with New York State minimum hourly wage requirements.

### **Proposed New High School Course Offerings 2015-2016:**

The Board of Education approved the following new courses for the High School:

*Introduction to Game Design (1/2 credit)*

*Introduction to Nutritional Science and Dietetics (1/2 credit)*

*Science in the 21st Century (1/2 credit)*

*Statistics: A General Course (1/2 credit)*

*Television Production and Broadcasting (1/2 credit)*

### **2015-2016 Calendar - Adopted**

#### **Field Trips**

##### **Girls Winter Track**

The Board of Education approved the Girls Winter Track trip to the Yale Invitational Track Meet scheduled for January 16, 2015 to January 17, 2015.

##### **Spring Track Training Trip**

The Board of Education approved the Spring Track Team trip to Philadelphia, Hershey Park and Amish Country scheduled for April 7, 2015 to April 12, 2015.

### **Upcoming Meetings...**

January 27<sup>th</sup> – Community Budget Forum - Board of Education Meeting – 7:30pm

Meetings are held at the Francis Roberts Community Center (District Office)  
75 Goose Hill Rd., Cold Spring Harbor  
District web site – [www.csh.k12.ny.us](http://www.csh.k12.ny.us) )