

Board of Education “Meeting Highlights”

October 13, 2015

President’s Report...

BOE President Robert C. Hughes’ report included the following:

We have an extensive agenda tonight. We will be reviewing and adopting goals for the district for the coming year. We will hear from the high school administration about changes to the master schedule process, how it has worked, and whether any adjustments need to be made.

We will also revisit the issue of the flow of traffic at the high school. Four years ago, the district retained an engineering firm to conduct traffic studies at the high school to determine if changes were needed. At that time the Board decided to add speed feedback signs on Lawrence Hill Road near the school exit to slow traffic on the road to help improve exiting from the school grounds. Tonight we will revisit the issue to see if other steps need to be taken.

Another issue that does not appear on the agenda tonight, but that has generated some conversations among parents involves class sizes. I would like to briefly address that issue and the district’s guidelines for class sizes. We appreciate the inquiries we have received and the desire to learn the facts and the history that guides the district’s practices and philosophy regarding this matter.

New York State does not set a cap on class sizes for general education. There are regulations regarding the ratio of teachers and aides for special education classes only, as well as some caps established for related service providers such as Resource Room and Speech Pathology.

Matters related to elementary class size are based on long-standing district guidelines which defines the following typical class size ranges:

Kindergarten –	18 to 23 students
Grades 1 and 2 –	20 to 25 students
Grade 3 –	21 to 26 students
Grades 4 to 6-	22 to 27 students

The Board makes decisions on an individual basis when enrollment **exceeds** typical class size. The Board considers a split (i.e. adding another section in a grade) depending on the time of year that the enrollment exceeds the guidelines. Once the school year is underway, adding a new class is not ideal. In those instances, a teacher assistant across the grade level *may* be considered. Occasionally, depending on unique circumstances, the Board *may* approve a shared teaching assistant even when the class sizes are within guidelines.

These decisions are made on a case-by-case basis.

Class sections are not set until mid-August of each year based on enrollment at that time.

It should be noted that there are also a broad array of support services that are available for students and those services range from 1:1 aides, to resource room support, academic support in reading and math as well as behavioral consultant services, speech services and occupational and physical therapy.

It is important to note that Cold Spring Harbor's class size guidelines are consistent with other high-performing school districts on Long Island. The research is unequivocal: the most important contributing factor to student achievement is the qualification of the teacher in a classroom. All of our teachers hold the appropriate certification in their fields and are considered to be highly qualified by New York State. Our teachers are experienced professionals and the district continues to invest significantly in their professional development.

With all that has been said, we rely greatly on the recommendations of our administrators. Our principals are in the classrooms regularly and will continue to monitor the situation and examine any concerns that may be presented to them.

Speaking of teachers. Just as we recognized several students for their accomplishments earlier, I'd also like to recognize the good work of three of our teachers. Wendy Moss and Robin Acconi wrote a book called *School Made Easier*. Ms. Moss also teamed up with Susan Taddonio to write *The Survival Guide for Kids with Physical Disabilities and Challenges*. Both books were submitted for the Moonbeam Children's Book Award. I am delighted to share the news that both books won silver medals in their specific book categories. Congratulations!

Superintendent's Report...

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

My granddaughter celebrated her 6th birthday in June and her wish list included everything from Shopkins to Princess Elsa nightgowns to any and all apparel that sparkled. Life is full of possibilities when you are 6!

One of the gifts that I gave her that was not on her list was a gratitude journal. Its concept is simple -- every night, before going to sleep, one reflects on the day and writes three things that they feel grateful for on that given day. It is a way of shaping a "habit of heart" that counts the blessings even on days that bring challenges and disappointment. It is a mindset that I hope will serve her well over the course of her lifetime.

So, it is with the feeling of utmost gratitude for the privilege of leading this district for the past 8 years that I announce my plans to retire as Superintendent of Schools in June 2016. I have always been aware that in addition to extremely meaningful and fulfilling work, my career has afforded me the ability of helping to support my family, and enable my children to have the blessings we wish for all children -- opportunities for good educations, mind-broadening travel experiences and memorable family celebrations.

Cold Spring Harbor has been a wonderful place to work. It is a community filled with some of the most extraordinary people that I have had the good fortune to work with - from administrator, to teacher, to support staff, to parent leader. There are too many individuals for me to name tonight - but I shall make the effort over the remaining eight months to personally thank those people who have made extraordinary contributions on behalf of our students.

Tonight though, I would like to acknowledge and thank the members of this Board of Education not just for your support but for the manner in which you have consistently governed the school district: students first, an unwavering commitment to the educational philosophy of this district and for your fair and open minded decision-making. Our schools are wonderful places to learn because of how you have approached your responsibilities.

October has been designated as a month where we recognize our trustees for all of the time that they give to serve our community. It is my honor to present each Board member with a certificate of appreciation. At a time when public education is challenged at seemingly every turn, I have the utmost confidence that our schools will continue to serve the students of this community well. I look forward to Cold Spring Harbor's next chapter and will remember my years here as the highlight of an almost 40 year career.

Focus on Teaching and Learning...

District Goals 2015-2016

1. To revise the Annual Professional Performance Review Plan (APPR) to be compliant with the Commissioner's new regulations under Education Law §3012-d effective September 1, 2016.
2. To build capacity to use assessment data in order to identify levels of rigor (i.e. Webb's Depth of Knowledge) and the implications for targeted instruction.
3. To phase in implementation of the NYS K-12 Social Studies framework adopted by the NYS Board of Regents by:
 - Providing professional development on the C-3 Framework and Inquiry Arc 2
 - Having teachers collaborate to select an inquiry unit for each grade level
4. To further integrate the use of technology into teaching and learning by:
 - Exploring the feasibility of piloting "one to one" computing for Jr. High School students
 - Increasing the integration of "digital tools" (Canvas, Google tools, LightSail)
 - Continued exploration of online and blended learning
5. To conduct a comprehensive search for a Superintendent of Schools whose vision for leadership will be consistent with the educational philosophy and values of the Cold Spring Harbor school community.

Recognitions:

1. Long Island Arts Alliance (LIAA) Award of Merit Recognition

John Thomas Sepanski

2. 2016 National Merit Scholarship Program

Commended Students

Katja Martine Brechter

Aidan Coffey

Daniel Crosson

Sabrina Odierno

Skyler Palatnick

Christopher Wilcox

Semi-Finalists

Andrew Gulotta

Zach Wang

Timothy Sherlock

Tenure Granted:

Congratulations to Patricia Connolly who was granted tenure effective Nov. 9th in the tenure area of Mathematics.

Board Actions...

Resignations:

For the purpose of Retirement....

Yvonne Lusardi: the resignation for the purpose of retirement of Yvonne Lusardi, Clerk Typist, was accepted with appreciation for her many years of service to the District, effective December 30, 2015.

Jerrilynn Henske: the resignation for the purpose of retirement of Jerrilynn Henske, Account Clerk Typist, was accepted with appreciation for her many years of service to the District, effective December 30, 2015.

Appointments:

Audrey Balzano was appointed AV/Tech Support-WS for the 2015-2016 school year.

Marcella Heery was appointed P/T Teacher Aide GHP effective Sept 29th – June 30th 2016.

Danielle Shewchuk was appointed Teacher Aide GHP effective Oct. 2nd – June 30th 2016.

Kacey Wallace was appointed Teacher Aide GHP effective Oct. 9th – June 30th 2016.

Lauren Spatola was appointed Probationary P/T Special Education Teacher; P/T Teacher Assistant HS, this is a four year probationary appointment in the tenure area of Special Education effective Oct. 14th

Jennifer Fox was appointed JH Soccer (G) Coach for the fall 2015-2016 school year at CSHHS.

The following winter coaching assignments at CSHHS for 2015-16 were approved:

Varsity Basketball Jason Mercurio
V Basketball Asst. (B) Carmine Rotolo
JV Basketball (B) Corey Young
JV B Basketball (B) Steve Forbes
Varsity Wrestling Michael Ferrugiari
Varsity Wrestling Asst. Anthony Servidio
JV Wrestling Kenya Garrett
Varsity Swimming (B) Gary Renart
Varsity Swimming Ass. (B) Jennifer Scott
Varsity Swimming Diving (B) George Taylor
V. Basketball (G) Rory Malone
V. Basketball Asst. (G) Steve Cacioppo
JV Basketball (G) Ryan Towers
V Gymnastics (G) Teri Kindelman
V. Gymnastics Asst. (G) Brittany Carlson
Winter Weight Training Dennis Bonn
Winter Crew Weight Training Jon Mendreski
V Winter Track (G) Nick Aurigemma
V Winter Track Asst. (G) Erica Fraiberg
V. Winter Track (B) Gary Franklin
V Winter Cheerleading Bailey Whitney

JV Winter Cheerleading Trisha Sihksnel
V. Fencing (B) Lauren Wangner
Appointment - Coaching, HS winter I
JH Basketball (B) Mike Wolf
JH Basketball (B) Ryan Hassel
JH Basketball (B) Peter Linderman
Swimming JH (B) Dan Kelly
JH Volleyball (G) Erin Oshan
JH Volleyball (G) Lauren Blackburn
JH Volleyball (G) Nicholas Fengler
JH Winter I Track Christian Lynch
JH Winter I Track Kristen Wilkens
JV Ice Hockey Michael Marrino

Donations:

The Board of Education accepted the generous donation from the Goosehill Parent Faculty Association (GPFA) of \$500 worth of books for the "Book Nook" and two "Buddy Benches" for the school.

Contracts Special Education:

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:

Carolyn Buechler
Delores Laskin
FL Chamberlain School
Nassau Suffolk Services for Autism-Tuition
Nassau Suffolk Services for Autism-Related Services
Kids First Spectrum Services

Personnel Contracts for Services:

[James Thompson](#)- the Contract for Services between the District and James Thompson, PAC Assistant, for the 2015-16 school year when his presence is required at concerts and/or events was approved as submitted.

2) [Bridges Data & Prof'l. Svcs.](#) - the Contract for Services between the District and Bridges Data & Professional Development, Inc., provider of Assessment Literacy staff development, for the 2015-16 school year an amount was approved as submitted

Additional Business Matters:

1. Food Service Worker's Additional Holiday

The Board of Education designated Veteran's Day, November 11, as the additional holiday for the Food Service Workers' unit to begin in the 2015-2016 school year as stipulated in the memorandum of agreement dated March 27, 2015.

2. Budget Calendar 2016-2017 - the Board of Education adopted the 2016-2017 Budget Calendar as attached.

3. **Change Order - Lloyd Harbor Reconstruction Project** - the Board of Education approved change order #1 with Maccarone Plumbing, Inc. of Glen Cove, New York, the plumbing contractor on the Lloyd Harbor reconstruction project, SED #58-04-02-06-0-002-028, at a cost of \$5,000 less a \$5,000 allowance at a net cost change of \$0, for plumbing demolition, relocation of sink, and relocation of attic vent as directed on site.
4. **Change Order - Lloyd Harbor Reconstruction Project** - the Board of Education approved change order #1 with Metro Group of Long Island, Inc. of East Northport, New York, the general contractor on the Lloyd Harbor reconstruction project, SED #58-04-02-06-0-002-028, at a cost of \$20,000 less a \$20,000 allowance at a net cost change of \$0, for removal and disposal of ceramic tile, additional asbestos removal, upgraded carpeting, and other main office improvements.
5. **Establishing the Tax Levy** - pursuant to Article 13 of the Real Property Tax Law and Section 1804 of the Education Law and based upon the final assessed valuation of \$21,269,415 which has been certified to the District by the Town of Huntington Assessor and based upon the final assessed valuation of \$2,184,338 which has been certified to the District by the Nassau County Assessor, the following school tax amounts to be levied with approximate school tax rates are adopted and ordered certified to the respective assessors by the Board of Education for the 2015-2016 fiscal year:

	Amounts to be Levied	Approximate* Tax/Rate/\$100 AV
Town of Huntington	\$45,545,634	\$214.140
Town of Oyster Bay (Residential Class 1)	\$13,835,896	\$669.134
 Total School Levy	 \$59,381,530	

*The actual tax rates will be set by the Tax Receiver's officers of the Towns of Huntington and Oyster Bay.

6. **Audit Response Plan - Fund Balance Management** -the Board of Education approved the School District Audit Response Plan dated October 13, 2015 for the Internal Audit Report on Fund Balance Management conducted during the 2014-2015 school year as prepared by R. S. Abrams & Co. LLP.
7. **Audit Response Plan - Risk Assessment Update** - the Board of Education approved the Audit Response Plan dated October 13, 2015, for the Risk Assessment Update Report for the period ending June 30, 2015, as prepared by R. S. Abrams & Co. LLP.
8. **Employment Contract - Teacher Aides and Assistants** -the Board of Education approved the employment agreement dated October 13, 2015 between the Cold Spring Harbor Board of Education and the Cold Spring Harbor Association of Educational Resource Personnel for the contract period from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2021 and that the President of the Board of Education be authorized to execute such agreement.
9. **Affordable Care Act Consultation** - the Board of Education enter into a consulting agreement with HB Solutions of Pittsford, New York to provide Internal Revenue Transmittal services as required for compliance of the Affordable Care Act for 2015 fiscal data at a cost of \$5,000 plus \$5 per page transmittal fee and that the President of the Board of Education execute such agreement.
10. **Obsolete Equipment** - the Board of Education declared obsolete 51 Dell Optiplex 755 desktop computers that have been replaced by updated equipment and are ready for disposal, as listed on the attached.

Other Matters:

- **Discussion Jr/Sr High: Update on Master Schedule**
Andrew Rosenberg, Joseph Monastero, Jay Matuk
- **Board Review & Discussion of High School Traffic Flow**
- **Adoption of the 2015-2016 District Goals**
- **The Board of Education approved a resolution to appoint Western Suffolk BOCES to facilitate the search for a Superintendent of Schools**

Upcoming Meetings...

-November 10th - Board of Education Meeting – 8pm

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)