

## Board of Education “Meeting Highlights” February 9, 2016

### **President’s Report...**

BOE President Robert C. Hughes report included the following:

*In the absence of Mr. Hughes, Amelia Brogan reported the following...*

***Snow Storms:** Welcome. I hope everyone enjoyed their surprise 4 day weekend and have shoveled out from under all of this snow. We are already into our third marking period. It is hard to believe the school year is half over! Goosehill will be celebrating its 100 days this Thursday.*

*I want to thank Mr. Margolies and his team for the great job they have done keeping our buildings clear of snow and operational. They are here early, stay late and work in difficult conditions. Thank you all for a superb job. I would also like to thank Dr. Wilansky and Dr. Bernhard for coming in yesterday to do payroll. I’m sure it meant a lot to our employees.*

***Superintendent Search:** With regards to the Superintendent’s search, we continue with the process. Since our last regular Board of Ed meeting, we have met three times with BOCES to review applications and resumes and have narrowed down our preliminary candidate pool to 9 individuals. We will be conducting interviews of these 9 candidates at the end of this month.*

***Budget:** Last week, NYS released the “Fiscal Stress” scores for all school districts and municipalities. Cold Spring Harbor received a score of 8.3% which is well below the threshold for any fiscal stress designation. We want to thank Dr. Bernhard for his strong leadership in this area. We look forward to continuing to put forth fiscally responsible budgets that will keep our district healthy and one to be proud of. This year school districts are challenged in putting together a budget that abides by the mandated 2% tax cap. As you know, the tax cap is not really 2%. It is 2% or the CPI which ever is lower. Since the CPI is nearly flat this year, and even adding in a growth factor, our tax cap will fall well below 2%. However, the good news is that the reduction in our contributions to the Teachers Retirement System and the Employee Retirement System coupled with a decrease in our energy and fuel costs (as a result of the energy contract) will offset most of this loss in revenue.*

*Dr. Bernhard presented an overview of our budget issues and unfunded mandates, as well as answered questions at the Community Budget Forum held two weeks ago. As usual, Dr. Bernhard gave an excellent presentation. Thank you, Dr. Bernhard. I am only sorry that more people were not there to see it.*

*In the next 4 to 6 weeks, the building administrators and directors will be presenting their budgets to us. These meetings are open to the public and anyone is welcome to attend. The dates and times of these presentations will be listed on our District web site. We will adopt the proposed Budget at our April meeting. In addition, Dr. Wilansky and Dr. Bernhard will take their horse and pony show on the road and will make budget presentations at each of the school’s PTG meetings. Please make an effort to attend one. I want to thank our administrators for the letter they sent to our school community providing information about the state assessments and*

*why our students should take them. Hopefully the moratorium on linking test results to teacher evaluations, and the other changes made to the assessments will alleviate concerns.*

*The Arts: Westside, Lloyd Harbor and the Jr. High schools all held their Winter Concerts. If you haven't been to one, you really should go. We have a wonderful pool of very talented students. Our music teachers chose wonderful pieces that truly showcased their talents. Thank you to Mr. Grey, Mr. Chiarello and all the teachers in the music department. Keep up the good work.*

*The Jr high "Snowball Dance" was a success. It was well attended and the kids had a great time.*

*The Sr. High musical "Jekyll and Hyde" was fabulous! Hope everyone had a chance to see it. Our students are amazing! Thank you to Arts Booster for their continued support and to Ms. McLees and everyone else involved in this production. Bravo!*

*Retirement-Mrs. Perissi: Tonight the Board will take action on the resignation for Mrs. Susanleigh Perissi who plans to retire at the end of this school year. Mrs. Perissi joined our staff in 1993 and has contributed to our students love for world language ever since her arrival. Her passion for the Spanish culture and language has been thoroughly infused into her instruction. Mrs. Perissi embodies the lifelong learner - she has kept pace with the changing face of instruction and has been a leader in using technology as an effective tool for learning. She will be missed and we wish her the best in retirement.*

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

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

### ***Snow Storm Procedures:***

*If there were one qualification that would be desirable in a skill set of a New York Superintendent of Schools, it would surely be a degree in meteorology – or even better, the possession of a crystal ball. But since no Superintendent that I know is in possession of either the degree or the orb that sees in to the future, I will briefly outline the procedures that are undertaken before making a decision regarding the opening of school on a wintry day on Long Island.*

*In every situation, the process begins with a notification from the Suffolk County Office of Emergency Management which apprises Superintendents of an anticipated weather event including anticipated accumulations, timing and impact of the storm. It is not uncommon that these advisories are revised as the storm becomes imminent or is in progress. While the most desirable course of action would be to advise the community of an anticipated closure or delayed opening the evening before the event, the timing and the course of the storms are often somewhat unpredictable; therefore, it is more common that the decision is made before dawn. My apologies for the early morning calls!*

*Four a.m. is the time for information gathering. The first call is to Mr. Margolies, our Director of Buildings and Grounds, who is always awake and prepared with a report on the conditions of the school campuses as well as an anecdotal report on the condition of the roads, usually courtesy of our Chief Groundsman, Mr. Amendolare. Then follows group electronic communication with all of the Superintendents in the Town of Huntington as well as a report on road conditions from Mr. Peter Guenther, who is the Town Supervisor for the Department of Highways. There is also a quick check in with a couple of districts to the west to ascertain what they are considering. Occurring alongside this communication, there is a conversation with Mr. Mori of Huntington Coach who has a report on the bus routes through Cold Spring Harbor's main roads as well as many of our secondary and side roads. Both his and Mr. Guenther's input are key in arriving at a decision.*

*Unfortunately, oftentimes, we are all making our best educated predictions before dawn regarding what the state of the roads is likely to be at the time of school dismissal. That is when the crystal ball would come in handy. Assuredly, at the heart of each decision, is the safe transportation of students. We make our decisions also with the realization that we live in New York, that it snows in the winter and that school buses are well-equipped to perform their routes in four plus inches of snow, albeit slowly. And, ultimately, we respect that a decision to attend school is made by a parent who weighs whether to send their child to school or pick them up early if they are concerned about the weather conditions. We understand.*

*Early dismissals, if not announced the evening before, are most unlikely to occur since school officials need to know with certainty that our young students are going home to a house that is open to receive them. A parent should never worry that they will not be able to make it home in time because our district has decided to close early. We would prefer to see students arrive home later than usual than arrive home early and unable to gain access to an empty home. That being said, please know that tomorrow morning I will be engaged in my early morning conversations as the Suffolk County Department of Emergency Management Services has sent an advisory regarding the change in weather conditions coming our way later this evening.  
Safe home, everyone!*

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

**Academic Rigor in a Developmentally Appropriate Kindergarten Program.**

**Lynn Herschlein, Principal Goosehill Primary School**

## **Board Actions...**

### **Resignations:**

**Susanleigh Perissi:** The resignation for the purpose of retirement of Susanleigh Perissi, LOTE Teacher, was accepted with appreciation for her many years of service to the District effective June 30, 2016.

**Jessica Ranieri:** The resignation of Jessica Ranieri as JHS Musical Director and as JHS Musical Choreographer for the 2015-16 school year was accepted effective January 8, 2016.

### **Appointments:**

#### **Appointment -HS Co-Curricular for the 2015-16 school year were approved:**

HS Musical Tech Director **Andrea Galeno**

JHS Musical Director **Andrea Galeno**

JHS Musical Choreographer **Bailey Whitney**

#### **Appointment - Spring 2015-16 Coaching CSHHS approved as submitted:**

JH Tennis (B) Ryan Hassel

JV Tennis (B) William Frohnhoefer

JH Lacrosse (B) Nicholas Woll

JH Lacrosse (B) Rich Haunns

JH Lacrosse (B) Mike Ferrugiari

JH Lacrosse (B) Guiseppe Alviano

JH Baseball Steven Forbes

JH Baseball Anthony Servidio

JH Spring Track Tom Wilkens

JH Spring Track Trish Sihksnel

JH Softball (G) Erica Fischetti

JH Softball (G) Pete Linderman

JV Lacrosse (G) Melanie Raso

JH Lacrosse (G) Odysseas Svolos

JH Lacrosse (G) Lauren Blackburn

JH Lacrosse (G) Nick Fengler

JH Lacrosse (G) Rory Malone

**Diana DeRise,** Teacher Assistant LH effective date Feb. 8, 2016. This is a four-year probationary appointment in the tenure area of Teacher Assistant effective February 8, 2016, subject to applicable laws and regulations regarding the granting of tenure.

**Donations:**

The Board of Education accepted the generous donations of \$1,332 from the Lloyd Harbor PTG to offset the cost of the Lincoln Center Performance/workshop for students in Grades 4, 5, and 6.

The Board of Education accepted the generous donation from the WSSPTG of a giant wall Scrabble board in the amount of \$1,794 to West Side School.

**Personnel Contracts:**

Contract for Services between the District and the following names have been approved as Adult Education Instructors for the 2015-2016 school year:

*Christine Felardi, Janice Sztabnik, Billie Westerlind, Cathy Crocetti, Dorothy Mandrakos, and Elizabeth Yaari.*

**Island Sportime** - The Contract for Services between the District and Island Tennis Sportime was REVISED for the services of Edwin V. Ramirez, Coach for the 2015-16 school year

**Special Education Contracts:**

The Board of Education approved the terms and conditions of the following contracts between the District and the following agencies or independent providers:

Sub allocation Contracts:

*Mid Island Therapy Associates, LLC*

*SCO Family of Services*

*Variety Child Learning Center*

*Kidz Therapy Services, PLLC*

*New York Therapy Placement Services*

*Building Blocks Developmental Preschool*

*Developmental Disabilities Institute, Inc.*

*Nassau Suffolk Services for the Autistic*

**Bid Awards:****1. Bid Award - Plumbing at High School and West Side**

The Board of Education approved a capital construction contract with Ambrosio & Company, Inc. of Ronkonkoma, NY on the basis of low bid meeting specifications for plumbing reconstruction work at Cold Spring Harbor HS and West Side Elementary School, in the amount of \$45,200 as per the recommendation of the school architect.

## 2. Bid Award - HVAC at HS, WS, & LH

The Board of Education approved a capital construction contract with Premier Mechanical Services, Inc. of Bohemia NY on the basis of low bid meeting specifications for HVAC reconstruction work at Lloyd Harbor Elementary School, Cold Spring Harbor HS and West Side Elementary School, in the amount of \$391,000 as per the recommendation of the school architect.

## 3. Bid Award - Electrical at HS and WS

The Board of Education approved a capital construction contract with Mainline Electric Corp. of Huntington Station, NY on the basis of low bid meeting specifications for Electrical reconstruction work at Cold Spring Harbor HS and West Side Elementary School, in the amount of \$35,300 as per the recommendation of the school architect.

### **Other Matters: Disposal of Obsolete Equipment**

The Board of Education approved the disposal of laminators, a binding machine, and television equipment that is obsolete and in disrepair.

### **Additional Business Matters:**

#### **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM 2016-2017**

SEQRA Determination. The Board of Education of the COLD SPRING HARBOR CSD is the lead agency under the State Environmental Quality Review Process for the purpose of required determinations respecting the proposed Capital Improvement Projects as follows:

#### **COLD SPRING HARBOR JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL**

*Reconstruction of Existing Recharge Basin – Headwall*

*Remove & Replace Small Gym Floor*

*Replace Corridor Lockers*

*Replace Remaining VAT Flooring*

*Replace set of (4) older tennis courts*

#### **LLOYD HARBOR ELEMENTARY**

*Replace Playground Surface*

#### **WEST SIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

*Replace Septic System & Installation of New Exterior Grease Trap*

#### **DISTRICT WIDE**

*District-Wide Site Work - Asphalt Pavement, Curbing, Sidewalks & Drainage*

*Exhaust Fan Replacement*

*American with Disabilities Act - Door Actuators, Ramps, etc.*

**Budget Line Transfer:**

The Board of Education approved the transfer of \$30,000 into the Athletic Supply code for the purpose of purchasing and replacing lacrosse helmets that meet the certification safety standards. The old helmets no longer met the standards for concussion safety and were deemed unusable.

**Upcoming Meetings...**

March 8<sup>th</sup> - 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](http://www.csh.k12.ny.us) )