

Board of Education “Meeting Highlights”

May 10, 2016

President’s Report...

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

Three weeks ago, the Board reviewed progress on several of the goals we set back in October. Potentially the most far reaching of these goals is “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.” To be completely unfair, one could define 1:1 learning as giving each student a tablet device. But a meaningful 1:1 experience is much more than just technology. It requires utilizing that technology to its fullest extent so that it becomes a tool of effective teaching and learning and not just an expensive substitute for a notebook and pencil. We need to ensure that the widespread use of technology is guided by innovative approaches to teaching, such as the approach to small group instruction we saw demonstrated by some of our elementary school teachers at the April meeting.

Work on the 1:1 initiative continues. In anticipation of a successful completion of that work, the Board has allocated money in the budget, so we will be ready to implement an effective program when that work is done.

Speaking of the budget, next Tuesday is a very important day in the school calendar. Residents will be given the opportunity to vote on the budget for the next school year. As you will hear in a few minutes during the Budget Meeting, the budget features a tax increase of less than 1% and is below the district’s tax cap limit. We encourage all residents to come to the Field House next Tuesday (May 17) between 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. to cast their votes.

Superintendent's Report...

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

An Open Letter to Incoming Superintendent Robert Fenter,

Welcome to the Cold Spring Harbor Public Schools! With your recent appointment to become the 10th Superintendent of this district, you will be leading a most impressive student body, supportive and generous parents and a community that is wholly supportive of our schools. You will find the culture of the schools remarkable in that our history speaks to a long line of Board members who have developed policies and traditions that set us apart from many other districts.

For example,

Next year when you preside over the High School commencement ceremonies you will note that there is neither a Valedictorian nor Salutatorian, for in its wisdom the Board of Education knew that the culture of cooperation and collaboration would do more to engender a healthy learning environment than a system of competition. You will also note the absence of politicians from that day as it is reserved for the graduates - their musical performances, their speeches, their opportunity to gather one last time as a class - their day.

You will also note that the senior class enjoys a banquet in their last week before finals - a time to join together without the pressure of a date, formal attire or late evening plans. Their parents will also gather for a pre-banquet reception - a time for them to reflect on their child's journey through school and spend an evening with other parents who marvel equally on how quickly the time has passed. It is a most special evening.

You will also readily realize that parents are welcome in the schools! Volunteer opportunities for parents exist everywhere - parents support the theatrical performances, pre-screen cultural arts events, supervise lunch periods and organize fundraisers for every type of student interest - their efforts give new meaning to the word "booster."

You will meet teachers, administrators, and support staffs that are incredibly skilled and committed to their work - they will be working alongside you in the challenging times as well as the celebrations. You can rely on them as I have - and they will not disappoint.

You will have your challenges and your goals on the path to continuous improvement. There is always more to be done and an area for a plan of improvement. Folks will be eager to share their perspective with you on what needs to be accomplished!

I wish you many years of students who thrive physically, academically, socially, and emotionally.

I wish you mild winters.

I wish you continued increases in State Aid and fewer State mandates.

I wish you and the Board more local control in your decision making.

I wish you high energy, restful nights and many proud moments.

Also, remember to take in a view of the Harbor on your way into town each morning - it will surely set the tone for your day.

You will begin your journey of discovery in a few short weeks and will undoubtedly come to believe, as I have, that it is the most fulfilling period of your career. It is an honor to lead here.

I wish you the very best.

New Superintendent Welcome Reception

Mr. Robert Fenter 7:30 PM

BUDGET MEETING

Dr. William Bernhard, Chairperson of the Budget Meeting

Presentation of the Budget, Dr. William Bernhard & Dr. Judith A. Wilansky

Budget VOTE: May 17, 2016, 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. CSHHS Field House

Introduction of the Board Candidates

George Schwertl

Amelia Walsh Brogan

Lizabeth S. Squicciarini

Board Actions...

Appointments:

Danielle Gil - was appointed leave replacement working in the Social Studies Department at a per-diem rate effective May 6, 2016 through June 24, 2016.

Kristen Wilkens – Secondary LOTE Teacher HS, this is a four-year probationary appointment in the tenure area of LOTE effective August 31, 2016, subject to applicable laws and regulations regarding the granting of tenure.

Personnel Contracts:

The Health Care Contracts between the District and Susanleigh Perissi, Felice Kestenbaum, and Jane Tofel, Teacher Retirees, were approved as submitted.

Official Consultants, Ltd: The Contract for Services between the District and Official Consultants, Ltd., at a per diem rate of \$750 for the period May 31, 2016 through June 9, 2016 was approved as submitted

Health Services Contracts:

The Board of Education approved the contracts with Westbury UFSD for health services for 1 student attending private schools in the 2015/16 school year, and with the Mineola Union Free School District for two students attending private schools in the 2015/16 school year.

Additional Business Matters:

1. The Board of Education approved the [charter and by-laws for the Baking Club](#) to begin operating during the 2015-2016 school year.
2. The Board of Education approved a contract extension for the 2016- 2017 school year, with Triad Group, LLC, Troy, New York [for Workers Compensation Claims Administration Services](#) at an annual fee of \$9,600 and that the President of the Board of Education be authorized to execute such contract.
3. The Board of Education approved the [Claims Auditor's reports](#) for warrants, with exceptions and notes as reported, for reports dated April 1, April 8, and April 15, 2016.
4. The Board of Education accepted the [Audit Report](#) related to internal controls for Capital Projects of the Cold Spring Harbor Central School District for the period from July, 2015 through February 1, 2016 as performed by R. S. Abrams & Co. LLP.
5. The Board of Education delegated to the President of the Board of Education of the Cold Spring Harbor School District the power to authorize the issuance and sale of [Tax Anticipation Notes](#) of said school District in anticipation of the collection of real estate taxes levied or to be levied for the fiscal year of said school district commencing July 1, 2016.
6. The Board of Education entered into a professional service agreement with KGO Consulting, Inc. for the purpose of providing the Board of Education assistance with the administration of the [State Environmental Quality Review Act for a proposed building addition at the Jr./Sr. High School \(Fitness Center\)](#) at a fee of \$850 and that the President of the Board of Education be authorized to execute such agreement.

Special Education Contract:

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: *Locust Valley Central School District*.

Policies:

Policy 9150 - Non Fraternalization Second Read & Adoption

Other Matters:

Appointment of Election Officials to the Budget Vote on May 17, 2016:

Inspectors and/or Clerks:

1. John Lewin
2. Timothy Swanson

Upcoming Meetings...

May 17th – ANNUAL BUDGET VOTE, BOARD ELECTION & APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURE FROM CAPITAL RESERVE FUND.

June 14th –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)