

Board of Education “Meeting Highlights” January 8, 2019

President’s Report...

BOE President Ingrid Wright’s report included the following:

As we turn the page on another calendar year, and approach the midpoint of the current school year, it is important to reflect on all that we have accomplished as a school board and as a school district in the past year. Our district leaders have been working hard on our district goals set out at the beginning of the school year and we look forward to hearing from our leaders this spring on their progress on these goals.

Our Capital Projects Committee has continued to meet with administrators to better understand the future needs for our buildings and student programs in order to plan for a proposal for an upcoming bond referendum. As we begin to explore ideas for our classrooms of the future, we are fortunate enough to already have some classrooms at both the elementary and high school levels that have already been transformed with flexible seating and new Promethean Boards for teaching. At next month’s meeting we will have a presentation showcasing the Promethean Boards so we can better understand the impact they are having on our current classrooms and the possibilities of adding this technology to other teaching disciplines.

I am pleased to report that our music department has once again produced a large number of All County level musicians. In fact, this year we have 86 students district wide that will be participating in the All County Performances at the Tilles Center this month. This is quite an accomplishment for a district of our size. In addition, we are honored to have two students representing our district at American Choir Director’s Association All National Honors Choir and one student selected for the National Association for Music Education All-Eastern Choir. Congratulations to our Music Department and students. We will have plenty of opportunities to enjoy our student’s musical talents in the coming weeks. Next week our elementary schools will be performing their winter concerts. In addition, our High School Theater is currently rehearsing for the upcoming production of “Anything Goes” which will be performed the weekend of February 8th. We look forward to seeing our talented students in action. Finally, tonight we will be approving the resignation of Dr. Jerry Felker of our high school music department for the purpose of retirement. We want to thank Dr. Felker for his tremendous contribution and years of service to our music department and look forward to honoring him at our retirement reception at our May board meeting.

Budget season is upon us. Please be sure to join us on Tuesday, January 29th at 7:30PM for our annual budget forum. Mr. Stucchio will be making a presentation for the board and our residents on an overview of our budget and the budgeting process. At this meeting we welcome comments and questions from residents for the upcoming budget season.

Superintendent’s Report...

Robert C. Fenter’s report included the following:

Looking at our calendars for the next several months, we know that the days ahead will be busy and long, but also very productive. Our leaders, teachers and support staff continue to demonstrate great commitment to our students and programs. Our entire team looks forward to making use of these months to ensure that the work that we are doing is meeting the needs of our

students and providing them with the very best educational opportunities. We also are planning for next year, with the 2019-20 school calendar up for consideration by the Board of Education this evening, as well as two new courses for consideration to be offered at the Jr/Sr High School next year, Forensics and Freelance 3D Art and Design. Also, as Mrs. Wright alluded to, we are continuing the process of examining our facility needs for budget, capital projects, and bond referendum discussions. I am very proud of these efforts and look forward to continuing them in the coming months ahead.

On another note, I wanted to share with the community the pride that I have with the work that is being done in the area of technology in our classrooms. This year represents the first full year of students using Chromebooks in grades 10-12, and the second full year for our students in grades 7-9. Our teachers have been working very hard to integrate this technology into their daily lessons and instruction. In addition, we have classroom sets of Chromebooks in the upper elementary grades, several new Promethean Boards in all of our schools, Virtual Reality sets at all levels, and Canvas as a learning management system at the Jr/Sr High School.

I am sure that we can all sympathize with our teachers when we remember that this technology represents a very different approach to teaching that will take time to fully implement. I have had a recent experience with technology that I would like to share as a means of demonstrating an understanding that our teachers might face of the challenges when working to implement technology. This past weekend I decided that I was going to outsmart the cable companies and shift our home television service to Hulu Live. I was determined to prove to cable companies that I could outdo them and only pay \$39.99 a month and get close to the same television service. After spending three hours figuring out the difference between an Apple TV, a Smart TV, and a really Smart TV, I was reminded that sometimes, while things look simple, they get much more complicated in the actual implementation. I then thought about what our district has done to support our teachers through this technological shift in education and how I would have benefitted from similar support as I tried to outsmart the cable world. In my effort this past weekend, I was missing talking to someone ahead of time who had made this switch to find out if there were considerations, concerns or limitations that I was not aware of. I also realized that it would have been helpful to have someone sitting with me who had made the switch to Hulu before who could help me to navigate the steps of the process. Also importantly, I could have used a cheerleader to let me know that there was great confidence that I could figure out how to make this work. Finally, I would have benefitted greatly to have someone to call after on when the TV went out.

I am proud to say that, unlike my recently failed effort to outsmart cable, under the guidance of our Board of Education, under Joe Monastero's leadership, Kurt Simon's guidance, and the support that of our principals and other leaders have provided, our Chromebook initiative, our use of new Prometheans, our implementation of Virtual Reality experiences, have included all of these elements of support for our teachers. That does not mean that all of our teachers are at the same place or do not need even more support, but I can assure you that this effort has been done with the needs of students in mind and the support needed for our teachers to be successful moving forward. So I am sad to report that, while I did not prevail in my effort to outsmart the cable companies, and yes, I continue to pay Optimum a good amount of money for cable service, I am not deterred and will revisit this effort very soon, only this time with more support!

Next month, we plan to ask Kurt Simon, Joe Monastero and several teachers to illustrate how the Promethean panels are making a big difference in the classrooms in which they have been placed and to provide a brief update on the technology program. My thanks to Joe for his leadership in this area and to all of our leaders and staff who have worked so hard to ensure that

our use of technology is thoughtful and supports the very best teaching and learning experiences for our students.

Focus on Teaching and Learning....

Cold Spring Harbor Jr/Sr High School Student Government Reports--

Board Actions...

Leaves:

Personal Leave - Lauren Blackburn, non-tenured Teacher Assistant, Lauren Blackburn, was granted an unpaid personal leave for the period January 21, 2019 through May 10, 2019.

Personal Leave - Louis Santoli, Tenured Teacher Assistant, HS, be granted an unpaid personal leave for the period January 24, 2019 through May 17, 2019. Mr. Santoli will continue to perform his co-curricular and coaching duties while on leave from his full-time position

Resignations:

Dr. Gerald Felker, Music Teacher HS - for the purpose of retirement, was accepted effective June 30, 2019 with appreciation for his years of service.

Appointments:

Janet Brancaccio - Leave Replacement Teacher Assistant HS for the period January 22, 2019 through May 10, 2019

Health Services Contracts:

Jericho UFSD - The Board of Education approved the contract with the Jericho UFSD for Health Services provided in the 2016-17 school year for 10 students attending private schools within the Jericho School District.

Additional Business Matters:

Hourly Rate Increase -The Board of Education modified the necessary hourly rates to comply with the revised New York State minimum wage requirement of \$12.00 per hour, effective December 31, 2018.

Special Education Reports:

The Board of Education approved the terms and conditions of the following contract between the District and *Nassau Suffolk Services for Autism*

Policies:

Policy 4531 - Field Trip and Excursions - *Adoption*

Donations:

Donation – GPFA: The Board of Education accepted the generous donation from the Goose Hill Parent Faculty Association in the amount of \$3,750 for artist Bren Bataclan to spend a week-long mural residency at Goose Hill Primary School.

Other Matters:

1. **New High School course offering** for the 2019-2020 school year approved:
Astronomy
Freelance 3-D Art and Design
2. **2019-2020 School Calendar adopted**

3. Disposal of Obsolete and Outdated Instructional Materials of approximately thirty Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment Kits.

For the full Agenda – please visit the Board of Education on the website

Upcoming Meeting(s)...

January 29th – Community Budget Forum Meeting
February 12th – Board of Education Meeting – 8pm
February 26th – Board of Education Work Session – 6:30pm

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