

**SYOSSET CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 20, 2023**

SUMMARY OF MEETING AGENDA

The Special Board Meeting will take at the South Woods Middle School, 99 Pell Lane, Syosset at 6:30 PM in the Auditorium.

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Executive Session, if necessary**
- 3. Special Meeting at 7:30 PM**
 - A. NYSSMA All-State Student Musicians Recognition
- 4. Superintendent's Report**
- 5. Discussion Items**
 - A. N-SSBA Fiscal Governance Workshop
 - B. NYSSBA Resolutions
 - C. NYSSBA Annual Convention & Education Expo
 - D. Facilities
 - E. Anti-Bias Taskforce
 - F. Additional Anti-Bias Initiatives at School

6. Audience To The Public

The Syosset Board of Education and Administration welcome your attendance at Board of Education meetings. The meetings will be livestreamed and recorded. A link to access the livestream is available on the District website at the following URL: www.syossetschools.org. The Board of Education recognizes the value of community participation. As such, Audience to the Public affords residents of the District the opportunity to address the Board of Education.

The procedure for public participation during that portion of the meeting designated for this purpose is as follows:

- Those who wish to speak during Audience to the Public must first be recognized by the Chair.
- Residents must enter their full name and address into the Register located at the microphone before they speak.
- Only residents of the Syosset School District are permitted to address the Board.
- Each resident will have four minutes to address the Board of Education, which may be extended at the discretion of the Chair for good cause.
- The Board will not permit "polling" of Board members by speakers.
- After every resident wishing to speak has had an opportunity to do so, the Board of Education and/or Administration will do their best to provide responses to residents' questions or comments.
- If time permits, after every resident has had a chance to speak, and the Board/Administration has responded, the Chair may recognize residents who wish to address the Board of Education a second time after their initial four-minute turn.
- Because of statutory privacy rights of students and staff, no speaker is permitted to address issues concerning an individual student or staff member. Neither the Board nor Administration will discuss questions from the public regarding collective bargaining negotiations, personnel matters, student matters, or legal matters.
- All in attendance at the Board of Education Public Meeting must conduct themselves in a respectful manner.

The Board of Education is aware that someone may seek to speak about a personnel issue involving a staff member, or occasionally a student. It has not been the practice of this Board to entertain public discussion of specific personnel matters, and certainly any comments or statements regarding individual student issues. The reason for our inability to address these matters of concern is the Board's important responsibility, imposed upon us by the Education Law of the State of New York and Federal statutes, to protect the rights that employees generally have to a reasonable expectation of privacy with respect to such matters as their appointment, promotion, and employment history.

Various Federal and State statutes protect the privacy interests of students which, of course, the Board follows to the letter of the law. Another reason for the policy is that the Board cannot enter into a dialogue with the community on the merits of any particular employee, since the teacher's expectation of privacy

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precludes the Board from speaking frankly, and from sharing information of a confidential or privileged nature concerning the employee with the general public. To do otherwise would interfere with the employee's due process right to be heard in an appropriate and private forum. Consequently, Boards of Education are not free to engage in public discussion as to the competence or ability of particular staff members. We are advised that the law prohibits such discussions regarding students. Hence, the Board will not respond to any comments from the public regarding particular staff members from those who seek to make a statement. The Board will not entertain any statements regarding any student. To do so opens to public debate something that must remain private. The Board of Education hopes that you understand its responsibility to ensure that the privacy and due process rights of staff and students are fully protected. The only way to meet this duty is to avoid any and all public commentary concerning individual staff and students. If anyone in the audience believes that it is necessary to communicate with the Board of Education regarding these matters, the Board will accept written statements delivered to the Board in a confidential fashion. Hence, we strongly urge that you refrain from such statements.

7. Adjournment