

In Board Briefs, we summarize key agenda items and discussion topics from previous Board of Education meetings. Full meeting minutes are usually not available until approved by the Board at a subsequent meeting. The community is encouraged to attend each meeting, and the Board welcomes questions and comments. Previous Board Briefs can be found on the district website [here](#).

November 18, 2019 Board of Education Meeting

After an executive session and the Pledge of Allegiance, the Board observed a moment of silence for the victims of the school shooting at Saugus High School in Santa Clarita, CA. The regular monthly public meeting was then called to order. The Board approved the minutes from the October 7, 2019 and October 28, 2019 meetings. The Treasurer's Report was delivered and approved.

The Superintendent's Report and Other Monthly Items:

- H.B. Thompson Principal Kevin Bonanno introduced Student Council Representative Nathalia Guzman, who provided an update on the many activities the middle school students have been engaged in since the start of the school year. Nathalia reported on the positive reaction of students to the Advisory program meeting every day, and the opportunity to build empathy, friendship, support and kindness in the school. Other activities included the Club Fair, which resulted in increased participation in extracurricular activities; "Fun Friday" mini spirit days; the 6th grade trip to Cold Spring Harbor Lab; the Drama Club's production of "Law & Order: Nursery Rhymes Unit" and the support of the AV Club by controlling lighting and sound; Red Ribbon Week, hosted by the Peers as Leaders Club to increase awareness of drug abuse; an author visit by Rachel Vail; the 6th grade social; 8th grade trip to Washington D.C.; the Girls Who Code Club's visit to Google's office in New York City; and the Project Beyond trip to Hudson Yards to learn about energy efficient design and environmental sustainability. Upcoming activities include a toy drive, the Deck the Halls competition, Spirit Week, and the third annual Pie in the Face Fundraiser where a teacher will be covered in pie to raise money for charity.
- The NYSSMA All-State and NAFME All-National Musicians, a combined number of over 40 Syosset student-musicians, were announced by Mr. Michael Salzman, Coordinator of Fine and Performing Arts and current President of NYSSMA.
 - Dr. Rogers congratulated the many students on their achievements and Mr. Salzman on nearing the end of his two years of service as the state-wide president of NYSSMA.
 - Mr. Salzman commented that the number of students achieving All-State and All-National status in Syosset is quite unique and speaks to the strength of the program in Syosset. Mr. Salzman thanked the Board for its support of the music program and for seeing the value of student participation in NYSSMA solo festivals.
 - Mr. Salzman stated approximately 1,300 Syosset students participate in NYSSMA solos, each realizing the value of receiving prompt feedback to inform their continued efforts to improve as musicians. In a demonstration of a NYSSMA festival evaluation, three Syosset student-musicians performed for three Syosset music teachers who are all active NYSSMA adjudicators. Students performed scales and solos for the adjudicators and then received feedback on their performances, as done during the actual NYSSMA festival.
- Dr. Rogers stated the District has been working on updating the Code of Conduct to incorporate restorative practices and has renamed it the Code of Character, Conduct and Support. Students,

teachers and parents worked to write Plain Language Summaries of the Code to highlight sections most relevant to each group and clarify some of the language to be sure it is understood by all. A video was shown of students talking about what the Code means to them and how they feel it will impact their lives in Syosset schools. The Plain Language Summaries, the full Code of Character, Conduct and Support, and the video can be viewed on the District website:

<https://www.syossetschools.org/code>

- Dr. Rogers stated the District is working on the calendar for the 2020-2021 school year and will present a proposal to the Board at the December monthly meeting.
- Dr. Rogers stated the District continues to stay abreast of developments in anti-vaping technology.
- Dr. Rogers updated the Board on work being done with the elementary school principals on the subject of homework and “right-sizing” the amount of homework assigned. Different buildings are exploring different paths to that same goal, the District will evaluate and harmonize the individual work of the buildings.
- Dr. Rogers reported that training for the Sandy Hook Promise *Say Something* program has taken place at the secondary schools. This program trains students on how to identify concerning behavior among their peers and report it to a trusted adult. It also provides an anonymous tip line that is monitored 24/7 by crisis counselors, should students not feel comfortable speaking to an adult.
- Dr. Rogers stated the District continues to work on improving food service at the elementary schools. Data is being recorded and District personnel are observing lunch on a daily basis and based on the information gathered, the District is working with Aramark to make improvements where needed. While there have been weekly improvements since the start of school, the program is not yet where it needs to be. The District is making equipment investments to improve the situation and pressing Aramark to make additional investments in staffing.
- Dr. Rogers stated that all Nassau County superintendents maintain good relationships and are in frequent communication with the Nassau County Police including the Commissioner, and that occasionally the Commissioner will make himself available to meet with community institutions. At the Board’s invitation, Nassau County Police Commissioner Patrick Ryder will attend the next monthly Board meeting in December.

Audience to the public

- No community members addressed the Board at this meeting.

Discussion Items

- **LED Messaging Boards:**
 - As an update to previous discussions regarding the purchase and use of LED messaging boards, Board President Tracy Frankel reported the Syosset Public Library is unable to accommodate a sign on the District’s behalf because of anticipated construction on the site. Dr. Rogers reported on the investigation done by the administration on the cost of the signs.

He stated a sign is typically \$25k per side, plus installation costs for a permanent lighted sign. He also stated the District architects, H2M, confirmed installation should not be too cumbersome.

- The Board discussed the expense of the signs, timing of the purchase, optimal locations, appearance, the potential benefit of enhancing communication with the community, the potential of starting with the purchase of one sign to gauge the effectiveness and reaction of the community, and the potential of student involvement in operating the signs.
- Board President Tracy Frankel asked Dr. Rogers to investigate options for multiple locations and styles of signs, and Dr. Rogers stated he will work with H2M on renderings and cost estimates at various price points. Once a preferred location is chosen, the administration will seek community input.

- **Nassau BOCES Budget Review Committee:**

- Nassau BOCES annually asks for component school district Board representatives to serve on its 2020-2021 budget review committee. Trustees Susan Parker and Christopher DiFilippo volunteered to represent Syosset.

New Business

Various resolutions were approved relating to staff appointments, transfers, reassignments, resignations, retirements, appointment to extracurricular assignments, coaching recommendations and stipends and hourly rate activities.

The Board approved a number of resolutions related to the management of the District, including committee meeting minutes and policies, second reading and adoption of the Code of Character, Conduct and Support, appointment of representatives for the Nassau BOCES Budget Review Committee for the 2020-2021 budget, and approval of student club charters.

The Board approved a number of resolutions related to financial operations of the District, including authorization for contracts, awards of bids, authorization for change orders, authorizations for piggybacking, authorizations for cooperative contracts, the disposal of obsolete equipment and books and the acceptance of donations.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for Monday, December 16, 2019 at South Woods Middle School, beginning at 8 p.m.