

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](#).

December 19, 2019 Board of Education Meeting

After an executive session and the Pledge of Allegiance, the regular monthly public meeting was called to order. The Board approved the minutes from the November 18, 2019 meeting. The Treasurer's Report was delivered and approved.

The Superintendent's Report and Other Monthly Items:

- Dr. Rogers introduced South Woods Middle School Student Council Representatives Sally Jamieson and Maria DiBello, who provided an update on the many activities the middle school students have been engaged in since the start of the school year. Some of the activities the students reported on included the Morning Show broadcast, the Advisory program, the G.I.R.L Talk upcoming brunch event to showcase female leaders, the winter concert and the production of The Lion King Jr., activities related to the character education program PRIDE, participation in the Anti-Bullying Conference at Hofstra University, the fifth grade trip to Washington D.C., spirit week and activities of the many clubs at the school.
- Dr. Rogers introduced the Adelettes and Choral Pride acapella groups who, under the direction of Ms. Kristin Howell, performed Jingle Bells, Frosty the Snowman and White Christmas.
- Dr. Rogers introduced Coordinator of Math Dr. John Genova, who was joined by faculty members Jill Weinberg, Danielle Villalba, Sharon Voelpel, Kristin Peterson, Anthony DePalo and Kim Dwyer to present some exciting new initiatives in the Syosset math curriculum. Syosset has embraced the shift from "procedural" math (which emphasizes mimicry of a problem-solving routine) to "conceptual" math (where students understand math concepts well enough to apply them as tools in unfamiliar situations). Consistent with the Board of Education vision of preparing for a future we can't yet imagine, that strategic problem-solving approach will provide a foundation for whatever the future will bring. It emphasizes perseverance and multiple attempts while integrating real-world applications. Small group collaboration in engaging workspaces with flexible furniture promotes discussion and uses technology to illuminate concepts, hopefully contributing to a love of the subject. [The presentation can be found on the District website.](#)
- Dr. Rogers presented a new enrollment study that was completed by a consultant at the request of the Board, which included an enrollment projection for "The Sagamore" estates (at the former Woodbury Country Club location). The data presented included a projection of 25 new students to the District from the projected 76 units at The Sagamore, with 12 at the elementary level, 7 at the middle school level and 7 at the high school level (totals do not match due to rounding).
- Dr. Rogers presented several renderings of LED road signs to the Board at various locations throughout the District for consideration.

- Dr. Rogers provided a construction update on the security vestibule in front of the high school and the Athletics Center. He noted a delay in the work for the security vestibule due to an unmarked sanitary septic vault that was discovered underground. The security vestibule is now projected to be completed at the end of February but is still very sensitive to weather-related delays. Work is moving swiftly on the SHS Fitness Center, which remains on schedule to be completed by March 27.
- Dr. Rogers reviewed several cyber security initiatives already implemented by the District, as well as those underway and upcoming. Dr. Rogers announced emails will soon be available to students in grades 8 through 12 (Regents-level classes) to facilitate research-related projects, teacher conversations, and to gain access to the grade portal.
- Dr. Rogers announced that the High School Curriculum Guide is now online in a mobile-responsive format. Informational pages for each department, course descriptions and course selection information, and a search option are included. [The Curriculum Guide can be found here.](#)
- Dr. Rogers announced the District mobile app is launching soon and will provide customizable calendars, notifications, menus, access to Facebook and more. Community members can visit the [iTunes Apple Store](#) or [Google Play](#) to download the app for free.
- Dr. Rogers announced that after the winter recess, the District will be soliciting community feedback on the high school start time utilizing a new online tool named Thought Exchange. More information will be provided after the break.

Report from the Spokesperson of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Finance

- A representative from the Citizens Advisory Committee for Finance reported on the Committee's November 21, 2019 meeting. Topics discussed included the reports from the external auditors, facilities update, Committee's work plan, the budget process, ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) reporting, cybersecurity and enrollment demographics.
- The next meeting of the Committee will be held on January 14, 2020 at 6:15 pm.

Audience to the public

- A resident inquired about a donation to the District in the value of \$1 million.
 - Dr. Rogers confirmed the donation is an unrestricted gift from the developers of The Sagamore (the former Woodbury Country Club), based on an agreement the developers negotiated with a 3rd party in the 2008 timeframe.
- A resident expressed concerns about the quality of food being served by Aramark in the Syosset schools and expressed a desire to investigate "farm-to-school" initiatives. The resident inquired about when and how often the Student Wellness policy is reviewed and suggested students be more involved in the food selection process.
 - Board President Tracy Frankel asked the resident for some additional information related to farm-to-school initiatives and recruiting food service workers and Board Trustees inquired about the cost and options for schools without cafeterias.
 - Dr. Rogers stated the ingredients of the food served by Aramark are posted online and stated the District is always interested in improving Food Services. He also noted that all policies

have been reviewed over the last 5 years, and the District is now entering a second cycle of reviewing all policies.

- A resident expressed a concern about proposed legislation related to the requirement of the HPV and influenza (flu) vaccines for students aged 9 and above and the lack of parental consent required prior to the administration of the vaccines. The resident requested the Board express opposition to these bills.
- A resident expressed support for the proposed legislation related to the influenza (flu) and HPV vaccines.

Discussion Items:

- **School Security:** The Board invited Nassau County Police Department Commissioner Patrick J. Ryder to the meeting to discuss the topic of school safety.
 - Commissioner Ryder reviewed statistics related to school safety including school violence and drug abuse; active shooter training for superintendents, principals and security personnel; the increase in highly-trained Tactical Vigilance officers in the spring, tactical gear and equipment used by police officers; officer mandates to visit school buildings; the RAVE app and how it decreases emergency response time; the increase in emergency service trucks and long guns to highly trained officers; issues with armed guards and metal detectors; the importance of drills; and the importance of the connection of police officers and community members.
 - Board Trustees engaged in conversation with the Commissioner and asked several questions related to the above-listed topics.
 - Related to the topic of SROs (School Resource Officers), Commissioner Ryder confirmed of the 56 districts, there are three districts in Nassau County that have SROs assigned, which are districts with a high rate of gang activity. The Commissioner explained the school resource program for all Nassau County schools has been expanded significantly. The county has an ESU (Emergency Service Unit) and a SWAT team, 12 Homeland Security officers that visit schools every day, and 3 POP (Problem-Orientated Policing) officers per precinct, and a school threat assessment team.
- **NYSSBA Conference Update:**
 - Board Trustees reported on the conference and workshops, classes and programs they attended at the annual New York State School Board Association Conference, which included the following topics: measuring school climate, restorative practices, social media, school board communication and standards-based grading (presented by Dr. Rogers and South Grove Principal Mi Jung An).
- **LED Road Signs:**
 - A Board Trustee expressed support for single-sided LED road signs as opposed to double-sided, and inquired about any possible cost difference between the locations proposed.

New Business:

Various resolutions were approved relating to staff appointments, transfers, reassignments, resignations, retirements.

The Board approved a number of resolutions related to the management of the District, including committee meeting minutes and policies, acceptance of audit reports, approval of club charters and approval of the [2020-2021 school calendar](#).

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, January 13, 2020 at South Woods Middle School, beginning at 8 p.m.