

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](#).

## **July 2, 2019 Board of Education Reorganization and Regular Meeting**

After an executive session, the annual reorganization meeting was called to order. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Board Trustees Ms. Tracy Frankel, Mr. Rob Gershon, Ms. Susan Parker and Mr. Thomas A. Rotolo and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Thomas Rogers were sworn in by Nassau County Legislator Joshua Lafazan. Board members Ms. Tracy Frankel and Mr. Rob Gershon were elected to serve as president and vice president, respectively.

- Legislator Joshua Lafazan presented the newly elected Board members and Superintendent Dr. Tom Rogers with Citations in recognition of their service to the community.

The Board also re-appointed Francine Benjamin as District Clerk, Brian Cleary as District Treasurer, and made several other annual appointments of staff and designations for services. In addition, the dates for the monthly Board meetings and budget information meetings for the 2019-20 school year were approved.

Following the reorganization meeting, the regular monthly public meeting was called to order. The Board approved the minutes from the June 10 and June 25 meetings. The Treasurer's Report was delivered and approved.

### *Public Hearing – District-Wide School Safety Plan*

- Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Research and Technology, Ms. Joanne Mannion, presented the Draft District-Wide School Safety Plan to the Board. Education Law 2801-a and Commissioner's Regulation 155.17 require school districts to develop District-Wide School Safety Plans. The purpose of the Plan is to prevent or minimize the effects of violent incidents and emergencies, and to facilitate the coordination of schools and school districts with local and county resources in the event of such incidents or emergencies. The Plan will be posted on the District website for 30 days during which the public can provide feedback. Following the public comment period, the Plan will be adopted at the August 12, 2019 Board of Education meeting. [The Plan can be found here.](#)
  - A resident asked for an explanation of the timeline of posting the Plan for public review and asked if it is possible for changes to be made to the Plan based on public feedback.
    - Dr. Rogers explained the timeline is determined by the State deadlines, which requires the Plan to be set in place by the start of school in September. He further explained the Plan was developed in conjunction with the school safety planning service of Nassau BOCES, the Department of Homeland Security, the Nassau County Police Department and the District's security consultant. Although the Plan has already gone through an extensive vetting process with these external partners, feedback from the community will be considered prior to adopting the plan.

- A resident inquired if notification of the Plan being posted for public review will be sent to the community.
  - Dr. Rogers stated that there will be multiple notifications of the Plan being posted for public review, including in the upcoming Bits and Briefs e-newsletter, inclusion in the Board Briefs and an announcement on the homepage of the District website.

*The Superintendent's Report and Other Monthly Items:*

- Dr. Rogers reported on the results of the school breakfast program survey recently sent out to elementary level parents and guardians. State legislation requires public schools in New York participating in a National School Lunch program to implement a school breakfast program if more than 20% of survey responders indicate they would take part in the program. Four of the seven buildings surpassed this threshold and the remaining buildings were close to the threshold, therefore, as the cost of the extending the program to all elementary schools would be minimal, Dr. Rogers recommended implementing the program across all seven elementary schools for consistency.
  - A Trustee asked what the cost of the breakfast would be and what would be provided to students.
  - Dr. Rufo explained that the breakfast program was included as part of the food service bid that was recently awarded to Aramark, and the District is currently working with Aramark on the menu. The District pays a “per breakfast” and “per lunch” fee to Aramark.
- Dr. Rogers provided a status update on the school start time research the District has been conducting. A parent survey is currently being developed to gauge the community’s level of interest in shifting start times to address the issue of inadequate amount of student sleep time and to determine what tradeoffs may be acceptable to implement a later start time for high school students. Working with the PTA, the District intends to solicit feedback on the survey, which the District is planning on sending out in the beginning of the school year.
- Dr. Rogers spoke about the construction work to be started this summer throughout the District.
  - The District is currently awarding bids for construction work. Park East Construction has a Construction Manager on site at the high school campus and much of the work will begin shortly.
  - The District has received approval from the state on the plans for the fitness center. The next step is to go out to bid on that work as quickly as possible with the hope of addressing the more disruptive work before the start of school.
  - As discussed at the last Board meeting, after receiving higher than expected bids for the air conditioning work due to high mechanical and engineering labor costs, the air conditioning plans have been redesigned to require less plumbing and electrical work. This project will be re-bid and the plan is for the work to take place during a second shift, which is after school hours.

- Dr. Joseph LaMelza, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel Service, gave an update on the June 26 meeting of the MercyFirst Community Advisory Task Force. MercyFirst implemented new security measures and as a result, there has been a significant decrease in the number of students leaving the facility. The officer from the Second Precinct in attendance at the meeting reported that Calls for Service were down almost 68% and Missing Person's Reports are down 84% this year as compared to last year.
  - A Trustee asked for clarification of the security measures implemented at MercyFirst, and Dr. LaMelza replied that an estate fence was installed, and a director of security was hired.

#### *Audience to the public*

- A resident shared a concern about the Woodbury housing development and the potential impact to the District. The resident asked if the District will be receiving any revenue from the developer and shared that the developer recently met with homeowners. The resident also asked at what time breakfast would be served in the elementary schools.
  - Dr. Rogers stated the project was approved in 2008 so the opportunity for the District to comment on the project may have lapsed. The District has submitted FOIL requests to the Town for all of the documents related to the development. Dr. Rogers stated he will follow up with the school's attorneys on the FOIL request.
  - Dr. Rufo explained the current scenario being investigated for the breakfast program is a "grab and go" system, where the students would collect their breakfast upon arriving at school and bring it to their classroom to eat, but the logistics are still being worked out with the food service vendor. Once the details are confirmed, the process will be communicated to the community.
- A resident expressed support for the restorative justice practices the District is investigating and asked for more information regarding the social-emotional learning pilot program at the elementary level. The resident expressed her belief in the importance of these practices at the elementary level and also in the importance of a social worker to work along with the school psychologist. The resident requested the District consider research-based phonics programs for kindergarten through second grade. The resident also requested the District utilize the elementary level websites to communicate more with parents and provide more information on what parents can do to help their children at home. Lastly, the resident expressed a concern about using CogAT scores to determine admittance into Project Beyond and encouraged the District to look into other testing instruments.
 

Dr. Rogers replied to the resident as follows:

  - Regarding the Sanford Harmony elementary pilot program, the District is working on expanding the program based on positive results so far.
  - Every building has a form of the character-development PRIDE program to support social emotional learning.
  - The District added an additional social worker and school psychologist during the last school year. For the 2019-2020 school year, the Board approved the addition of a board-certified behavior analyst and social worker or psychologist at the high school level. The District was able to find a candidate that is both.

- The District utilizes a research-based phonics program called Foundations and will be piloting Teachers College's new research-based phonics program in the fall.
- The District developed parent guidance documents for every grade level along with the new standards-based report cards, which are posted online, to provide information to parents on how they can support their children at home. The documents are translated into multiple languages.
- The District has identified some limitations in using the CogAT score including disproportionate results based on gender and language-learner status. The District is exploring other criteria for determining admittance into Project Beyond.

### *New Business*

Various resolutions were approved relating to staff appointments, transfers, reassignments, resignations, retirements, leaves of absence, appointment of Continuing Education staff, fall coaching appointments, appointment of Summer School staff, appointments to committees and appointments of individuals to serve as volunteer judges for Forensic events.

- Board President Tracy Frankel congratulated Ms. Christine Payne on her appointment to the position of K-12 Coordinator of Instructional and Administrative Technology, as well as welcomed and congratulated newly hired teachers.

The Board approved a number of resolutions related to the management of the District, including committee meeting minutes and policies.

The Board approved a number of resolutions related to financial operations of the District, including authorization for contracts, award of bids, authorization for rejection of bids, authorization for emergency repairs, participation in a school facilities purchasing consortium and awarding of bids under the consortium, attendance at conferences; award of a bus transportation bid, the disposal of obsolete equipment and books and the acceptance of a donation.

### *Next Meeting*

- The next meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for Monday, August 12, 2019 at South Woods Middle School, beginning at 8 p.m.