

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](#).

### **August 12, 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 July 2, July 12 and July 31 meetings. The Treasurer's Report was delivered and approved.

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

- Superintendent of Schools Dr. Thomas Rogers welcomed the cast of this year's Summer Stock who performed three songs from their August 8 and August 9 productions of "Free to Be You and Me." After the performance, cast members introduced themselves to the Board and audience members.
- Dr. Rogers announced that new live-streaming equipment has been installed and is being tested. Beginning in September, Board meetings will be streamed live online with both audio and video.
  - A Trustee asked how the public will be made aware of the live stream. Dr. Rogers explained it is part of the same software being used to distribute Board Agendas and Minutes, and a link will be posted online in the same place to access the stream. An announcement will be posted to the website and instructions will be provided in an upcoming Bits and Briefs email.
  - The Trustee also asked if the meetings will still be broadcast via radio. Dr. Rogers explained the radio station does not broadcast in the summer as it is a student-run project, and he will report back on the plan for the school year.
- Dr. Rogers provided an update on the construction work taking place throughout the District. He acknowledged that it may appear as if much of the work will not be complete prior to the start of school, but stated the District works closely with the construction manager and architectural firm and is monitoring schedules closely and adding extra shifts in some cases. It is not anticipated that any of the projects planned to be complete before start of school will extend beyond the first day of school. Dr. Rogers reminded the community that every last day of the summer is needed to complete the extensive work being done. There are a few large-scope projects that were always planned to continue well into the school year, including the track and field, high school fitness center and the security vestibule at the high school. The District is hoping to complete the demolition phase on the fitness center prior to the start of school in order to minimize disruption to students after school begins.
  - Dr. Rogers noted that much of the work will provide an enhanced level of security throughout the District and the updates will be reviewed with the Board at the next meeting. The District's security consultant has commented that no other district has done more work related to security initiatives.

- Dr. Rogers also provided an update on the re-verification process the District has implemented as per a new Board policy, which requires parents and guardians of students entering the middle and high school to verify their residency in the District. The process has been completed for the upcoming fall and has already begun for the 2020-2021 school year and is 10% complete.
  - A Trustee asked if there were any students excluded from the District as a result of the re-verification process. Dr. Rogers stated that, as typically happens each year, there were a couple of examples of principals identifying students that were not residents and the resulting investigation led to them being excluded, were no students excluded as a result of the re-verification process.
  
- Dr. Rogers noted that in September the District will propose some amendments to the District Code of Conduct to better align it with the Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) work being done and to build on the social-emotional learning of students in relation to restorative justice.
  
- Dr. Rogers stated an updated Elementary Lunch Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document will be distributed shortly. He noted there have been a couple of changes since it was first distributed; most notably that for security reasons, there cannot be food drop-offs for multiple children by one parent or guardian. There will also be no drop-off services permitted by local vendors or services such as Uber Eats or Door Dash. This decision was made after speaking with the security consultants, who shared that these deliveries have presented some security concerns in other districts.
  - Dr. Rogers also noted that a group of PTA members sampled some of the menu items from the new food service provider, Aramark, and provided feedback. The District received a favorable response on the food that was sampled.
  
- Regarding the legislation enacted by the State which authorizes the installation and use of photo monitoring devices by municipalities on school buses to detect and record vehicles illegally passing a school bus, the District is awaiting advice from its law firm on the law's specifics. Notably, it is the municipality (the Town) who must adopt the cameras. Once that advice is received, the District will present its analysis to the Board who must adopt the cameras.
  - Dr. Rogers noted that in a meeting with Huntington Coach, the District's bus service provider, it was confirmed that all the buses have the interior three-camera system in place (cameras in the front, center and rear of the bus), and all camera equipment has been upgraded, and all GPS systems are functional.
  
- Dr. Rogers stated the District met with developer of the multifamily project at the former Woodbury Country Club site. The developer understands there is an obligation to make a payment to the school district and confirmed they will fulfill that obligation. Dr. Rogers also noted that there was a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) prepared for this project in 2005, and in that DEIS there is a letter from the School Board President at that time that stated the District would meet with the developer once the project was approved to negotiate an agreement and discuss the terms of how the payment to the District would be made.
  - A Trustee asked if the payment and terms of the agreement originally discussed 14 years ago would be updated. Dr. Rogers stated that that will be part of the discussion with the developer.

- Dr. Rogers stated there was a meeting with a group of parents to review a survey the District intends to send out early this fall regarding the high school start time. The District received a lot of feedback and will edit the survey accordingly.
- Dr. Rogers announced that Syosset Central School District was ranked by Niche.com as third in New York State and twelfth in the country. The District had previously been ranked at number 13 in the State and 82 in the country approximately five years ago.

#### *Audience to the public*

- A resident referenced a legal notice published in the newspaper regarding proposed law changes in the Village of Muttontown regarding homes to be built on undeveloped land or golf courses. The resident expressed concerns regarding impact to the school district, including class size, and asked the Board to remain proactive in monitoring the proposed changes.
  - Dr. Rogers stated he will ask the District's law firm to research this legal notice along with all the potential developments they are monitoring.
  - Note: The Village of Muttontown subsequently canceled the public hearing they had announced.
- A resident requested at least one lunch aide be CPR certified per lunch period, per school. The resident also commended the District on live-streaming Board meetings and provided some recommendations on where to place the link to access the video on the website.
  - Ms. Mannion, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Research and Technology, stated all school monitors were trained last school year in the Heimlich Maneuver and there is training scheduled for this school year.
    - The HR department has been scheduling lifesaving skill training for staff members (additional training beyond those mentioned at the BOE meeting during Audience to the Public has been scheduled). All teacher aides, bus attendant/teacher aides, and HS teacher assistants received 3 hour required CPR, First Aid, Choking Prevention, AED, Stop the Bleed trainings and certifications on Wednesday August 21. Part-time security guards were also invited to participate. All school Monitors will be trained on how respond in the event of an emergency and how to support first responders, with particular attention given to notifying first-responders and the immediate lifesaving actions of the Heimlich Maneuver and use of Stop the Bleed tourniquets. Additional, role specific, CPR/First Aid/AED/Heimlich Maneuver/Stop the Bleed Trainings will be provided for school nurses and custodial staff. Multiple after-school opportunities for all staff to receive this training will be offered throughout the 2019-2020 school year.
  - Dr. Rogers thanked the resident for the suggestions on ways to provide access to the live stream and stated that it will be promoted in several places on the website as well as in a mobile app that will be launched by the District shortly.

#### *New Business*

Mr. Neil Block, Esq. with the District's law firm Ingerman Smith, provided a summary of pending litigation involving Nassau County and commercial entities with the district. This litigation does not impact the school district, though since it involves properties within the district, a judge determined the District could be involved in the litigation. If the District excludes itself from the litigation it then waives its rights under any settlement. Mr. Block advised the Board to participate in the litigation with the intention of removing itself from the litigation at some point in the future while preserving its rights.

- The Board voted to participate in the litigation.

Various resolutions were approved relating to staff appointments, transfers, reassignments, resignations, retirements, leaves of absence, appointment of substitute staff, stipends and hourly rate activities, summer school staff, appointment of an athletic trainer consultant, ratification of the Stipulation of Agreement for a successor agreement – Syosset Registered Nurses Unit, and Section 75 charges.

The Board approved a number of resolutions related to the management of the District, including committee meeting minutes and policies, a settlement agreement and the adoption of the revised District Plan for Students with Disabilities and the District-Wide Safety Plan.

The Board approved a number of resolutions related to financial operations of the District, including authorization for contracts, award of bids, participation in a school facilities purchasing consortium and awarding of bids under the consortium, award of a Request for Proposal, the disposal of obsolete equipment and books and the acceptance of donations. The Board officially established the school and library tax levies for the 2019-20 school year.

- A Trustee asked if there is a cap on the value of donations accepted at each school with the intention of maintaining parity among schools. Board President Tracy Frankel suggested adding this as a Discussion Item for a future Board meeting.

#### *Next Meeting*

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