

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](#).

September 17, 2018 Board of Education Regular Meeting

After an executive session, the Pledge of Allegiance, and a Moment of Silence in Remembrance of a newly-enrolled High School student that passed away that morning, the regular monthly public meeting was called to order. The Board approved the minutes from the August 13 and August 28 meetings. The Treasurer's Report was delivered and approved.

The Superintendent's Report and Other Monthly Items

- Syosset High School Principal Dr. Durante announced the National Merit Semi Finalists, who are among the highest scorers in the state and nation on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. The Board of Education congratulated the following Syosset High School seniors: Ariel K. Blumenberg, Sabrina Eager, Sean S. Han, Benjamin S. Huang, Jasmine Li, Rayyan Nabi, Michael F. Wang, Lynnne Yang and Tingan Yang. The students were awarded certificates and photographed with the Board.

- Meryl Bolnick, PTA Council President, shared that the Syosset Council of PTAs was awarded the prestigious Jan Harp Domene Award for Diversity and Inclusion this past June. The Syosset Council of PTAs was one of only two PTAs chosen in the country to receive this honor. Cindy Lin, PTA Cultural Unity Committee Chair, presented a portion of the presentation she gave at the National PTA Conference outlining the PTA's efforts related to promoting cultural diversity and inclusion and the positive impact on the community. The next PTA Cultural Unity Committee Meeting is October 4, 2018.

- Dr. Rogers gave an update on the status of Phase 2 facilities projects and highlighted some minor changes that have been made to the plans since the original presentation to the community to meet heightened security needs. The finalized plans need to be submitted to the State Education Department by the end of September, so that work can begin at the start of summer, 2019. The plans reviewed included the following:
 - Overall Syosset High School Site Plan, which includes the stadium/track renovation, tennis/baseball/softball reconfiguration, outdoor comfort station, relocated faculty parking lot entrance with a dedicated turning lane on Southwoods Road, the addition of a car traffic loop to separate bus and car traffic with security bollards separating the lanes, and an added security booth at the entrance to the school grounds.
 - South Woods Middle School added parking and drop-off lane.
 - Walt Whitman Elementary School traffic loop/enlarged parking lot and relocation of an existing playground to a more secure location behind the school.

- Dr. Rogers also provided an update on the timelines associated with several projects as indicated below and reminded the community that they can track the District's progress by viewing the Capital Construction Project Milestone Chart posted on the District website.
 - Science Classrooms – Start/Complete: Summer 2019.
 - Classroom Air Conditioning – Start: Summer 2019; Timeline: 4-6 months.
 - SWMS, HBT, SHS Auditorium Air Conditioning – Start: Summer 2019; Timeline:4-6 months.
 - Stadium/Track/Turf Field – Start: Summer 2019; Timeline: 4 months (weather-dependent).
 - Energy Performance Contract/Solar – Start: May 2020; Timeline: 18 months.
- Dr. Rogers provided an enrollment update. He indicated that enrollment has leveled off this year from the two-year upward trend. Actual enrollment is 37 students off the projection done last year, representing an approximate 0.5% variance.
- Dr. Rogers also provided an update on the South Grove environmental testing. The District is aiming to report on the comprehensive results from the water testing during the October Board meeting, barring any delays.
- He announced that the High School students are now wearing ID badges, and the process of swiping in to the building has gone smoothly.
- Dr. Rogers provided an update on the research being done regarding the secondary school start times. A consultant has been engaged who has been evaluating the District's busing operations. The initial reports from the consultant are expected in early October.
- As part of an overall effort to automate administrative processes, the process by which community members request usage of the District's facilities will shortly be transitioned to an online process. The District will conduct training of the new process for frequent users.
- The District was notified that there would be paving work done on Cold Spring Road and advised the community that there would be resulting traffic delays.

Audience to the public

- Two residents commented on the tax cap and the effect on resident tax bills.

Discussion items

- The Board named Trustee Susan Parker to be voting delegate and Trustee Christopher DiFilippo to be alternate delegate for the 2018 NYSSBA Convention.

- Board members discussed making board meetings available by streaming video over the internet and providing archived video of the broadcast available on the District website. Questions were raised about costs, permissions for students who might appear, legal obligations to provide the broadcast with captions or translation, whether such systems typically accommodate comment functions, and whether the system could be used for other purposes such as broadcasting concerts and plays. Dr. Rogers indicated he would research all of the above issues and report to the Board at a future meeting.
- Board members had a discussion about the practices the District uses to ensure that classroom instruction is free of partisan political advocacy.

New Business

- Various resolutions were approved relating to staff appointments, resignations, leaves of absence, event judges, tutors, service providers, extracurricular assignments and the approval of committee meetings and minutes, adoption of grants, authorization of service contracts and cooperative bidding and purchasing agreements, and other financial operations of the District.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for Monday, October 15, 2018 at South Woods Middle School, beginning at 8 p.m.