

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, 2016 Board of Education Meeting

After an executive session, a brief ceremony was held in celebration of Syosset High School's National Blue Ribbon Award of Excellence. Regent Roger Tilles attended and presented a proclamation on behalf of the New York State Education Department to Superintendent of Schools Dr. Thomas Rogers and Syosset High School Principal Dr. Giovanni Durante. State Assemblyman Charles Lavine was also in attendance to present a certificate and State Senator Carl Marcellino sent a proclamation as well. The Adelettes, the Brave Gentlemen Quartet and two quintets of string musicians, all representing the high school, gave performances.

Immediately following the ceremony, a public hearing was opened to consider the Cold War Veterans Tax Exemption for veterans serving from 1945 to 1991. The Board of Education adopted resolutions approving the exemptions

The regular Board meeting was then called to order and the minutes from November 14, 2016 and the December 12, 2016 meetings were approved. The Treasurer's report was delivered and approved.

The Superintendent's Monthly Report and Other Items

- H.B. Thompson Middle School Student Council representatives Aidan Charlip and Muntaha Sabir provided an update on activities at the school, including: a well-attended extracurricular club fair; the Drama Club's performance of "Rumpelstiltskin;" successful Spirit Week book and food drives; school trips to the Metropolitan Opera House and Washington D.C.; recent participation in a Model U.N. competition, a student Leadership Conference and the national Hour of Code; and adoption of the Anti-Defamation League's Resolution of Respect, designating H.B.T. a "No Place for Hate" school.
- The Syosset High School Adelettes and Brave Gentlemen's Quartet returned to perform a trio of popular holiday songs, collaborating on "Baby It's Cold Outside."
- Updating the community on a discussion from the November Board meeting regarding the development of the 2017-18 school district calendar, Dr. Rogers announced that a draft calendar representing the least impactful scenario to students and families will be posted on the district website shortly and placed on the January Board meeting agenda for formal action.
- Dr. Rogers also informed the community that, following direction by the Board, the process is underway to seek a food service provider with the capability to provide greater detail regarding ingredients in school menu

options, and if possible, post information online. The request is designed to further guard against students being exposed to food allergens.

- Reporting on his recent meetings with Student Cabinets that represent the elementary, middle and high schools, respectively, Dr. Rogers noted that cyberbullying was one of several topics of discussion during the student input sessions which he will look into.

Audience to the Public

- Residents expressed concern about the recently approved sale of 2.4 acres on the corner of Woodbury Road and Jericho Turnpike. Major concerns raised were increased traffic, loss of the viewshed from the Woodbury Cove senior community, safety during construction, and the proximity of a retail establishment near the school building and the senior community.
- Residents also expressed concerns about a proposal the Board is no longer considering which would have permitted a larger retail development, created a second entrance to the Walt Whitman school property, and relocated and enlarged play spaces and fields.
- In response to the questions, Dr. Rogers provided an overview of the history of the attempts to sell the property with the real estate broker Greiner Maltz in 2007, through the hiring of a new broker (CBRE) in early 2014. The rationale for the sale was to avoid the costs of maintaining a building with likely asbestos remediation needs and eroding structural integrity, while generating proceeds from the sale to offset the costs of capital repairs needed in all the District's buildings. Rogers stated that although an RFP process wasn't required, the Board conducted 3 such processes – to select the broker, to initially market the property, and when the first RFP failed, to market the property again.
- The Board convened into its second executive session of the evening. Upon its return, Trustee Tracy Frankel said that the Board understands the community's concerns regarding the sale and said it will take their comments under consideration and "while we have been advised by our attorney that we've said all that we can say tonight, this will not be the last time you hear from us on the Woodbury sale."

New Business

- Various resolutions were approved including coaching, special assignment, and staff service appointments, acceptance of contracts, student club charters, and committee minutes and recommendations.
- The Board approved the appointment of Dr. Robert Hanna as Interim Coordinator of Mathematics effective January 3, 2017.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting of the Board of Education is Monday, January 23, 2017 at 8 p.m. at South Woods Middle School.