

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](#).

February 13, 2017 Board of Education Meeting

The District held the first of four budget information meetings. Assistant Superintendent for Business Dr. Patricia Rufo's presentation provided an overview of the budget process and the recent history of the property tax levy cap, retirement, contribution rates and health insurance costs. The Capital portion of the budget, covering facilities and security-related expenses, was discussed in detail; other budget areas will be addressed at the future information meetings.

Thereafter, the regular Board meeting was called to order. The Board voted to amend the January 25 meeting minutes to incorporate the entire statement read by Board President Dr. Michael Cohen regarding the Board's decision to terminate the sale of the 2.4-acre parcel of property at 456 Woodbury Road. The Treasurer's report was delivered and approved.

The Superintendent's Monthly Report and Other Items

- Director of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation Drew Cronin highlighted the successes of fall athletes and athletic teams. Individual honorees were: All-State/Newsday All-LI Boys Soccer player Rich Rambarran; State Qualifiers Boys Cross-Country runners Sean Ahearn, Alden Aspiras, Justin DePinto, Stanley Feldbeyn, Daniel Lee, Gary Saunter and Peter Zimbalist (also a County Champ); County Champion Girls Cross-Country runners Reilly Siebert, Lauren White, Tierney Latham, Aleena Zaidi, Hannah Tell, Casey Concannon, Samantha DeStefani, Melissa Esswein, Megan Kitagawa, Caitlin McCann; All-State Girls Soccer player Lauryn Shin; All-State Girls Tennis players Marissa Levine and Risha Malholtra; All-State Swimmer Elizabeth Lu. Certificates were awarded to every team member on hand.
- Superintendent of Schools Dr. Tom Rogers and the Board recognized Syosset High School's four prizewinning scholars in the Regeneron (formerly Intel) Science Talent Search. Science Research Coordinator Veronica Ade introduced Adam Canarick, Rushabh Mehta, Ben Rhee and Yash Samantaray and gave a brief synopsis of their respective research projects.
- Dr. Rogers announced that Syosset High School Principal Dr. Giovanni Durante is the recipient of The Harvard Club of Long Island's "Distinguished Educator" award, as nominated by a former student who currently attends Harvard University. (Subsequent to the Board meeting, the District learned that Ms. Kimberly Costa, and Ms. Georgette Kagan, teachers at South Woods Middle School and Syosset High School respectively, were also named by the Harvard Club of Long Island, which recognized just 12 teachers in total.)
- At the March meeting, the district's Technology Workgroup will present the District Technology Plan which builds on the first two years of the district-wide

instructional technology pilot initiative, and outlines a much broader deployment of student devices in the weeks ahead.

- Dr. Rogers announced that an agreement has been reached with the CSEA to resolve a traffic congestion issue raised by the Walt Whitman Elementary School PTA, resulting from maintenance staff shift changes occurring during school dismissal. The Walt Whitman School and the maintenance facility are located on the same campus, which has a single entrance/exit. The agreement creates flexible shifts changes that occur before and after school dismissal times, and reduces the number of cars entering and exiting the campus during dismissal. Dr. Rogers thanked the CSEA for its understanding and cooperation.
- Dr. Rogers also announced that a resolution will appear on the March agenda to approve expending monies in the Capital Reserve for the first phase of priority facilities projects, which is consistent with the two-phase approach outlined at the January meeting. Capital reserve use is subject to voter approval, so a public vote would appear on the May 2017 ballot should the Board approve the resolution. The two-phase approach would allow the district to use existing funds to address the first phase of priority projects and preserve its timetable for the work while moving the vote for the priority projects in the second phase to the fall. These would likely be financed through a combination of the remaining funds in the capital reserve, the annual district budget and some long-term borrowing via a bond. He indicated that conversations regarding a second phase of projects would begin after the May vote date.
- The Administration has identified contacts or leaders in all major community-based organizations (local homeowners associations, civic organizations, senior citizen communities, etc.) within the district to ensure they receive information regarding the school budget and short- and long-term future facilities projects being considered by the district, and plans to meet with seniors and other associations at their invitation.

Audience to the Public

- A parent from the Walt Whitman PTA inquired about a request to create a second entrance/exit at the Whitman campus to improve safety. She asked that the Board consider addressing the concern in the first phase of the facilities program. Dr. Rogers indicated he continues to work with the district's architect/engineer regarding this matter. Considerations to include balancing costs, approval delays inherent in more extensive approaches, and feedback from the surrounding area. The same parent also inquired about the possibility of extending fencing on the property from four feet to six feet in height. Dr. Rogers said he would explore what regulatory requirements exist regarding fencing.
- An elementary parent inquired about expanding participation in the First Lego League robotics program to elementary level students. Deputy Superintendent Adele Bovard said that a number of elementary robotics experiences already exist and that she and district Science Coordinator Raymond Loverso have been working on a plan to incorporate robotics into the regular elementary curriculum by the fall of 2017.

New Business

- Various resolutions were approved including coaching, and staff service appointments, student club charters, committee minutes, policy readings, change orders and the purchase of print and E-books, among other non-print library materials.
- The Board appointed Gregory Hamilton as Executive Director of Operations and Christopher Meyers as 2017 Summer School Principal.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting of the Board of Education is Monday, March 20, 2017 at 8 p.m. at South Woods Middle School. The second public budget information meeting will commence at 7:45 p.m., prior to the regular meeting,