

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](#).

### **June 13, 2016 Board of Education Meeting**

After an executive session, the regular public meeting was called to order. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a moment of silence was held in memory of the victims of the recent Orlando shootings. The minutes from the May 9, 17 and 22 Board meetings were approved. The Treasurer's Report was delivered and also approved.

As a tribute to retiring Deputy Superintendent of Schools Dr. Jeffrey Streitman, Board members gave a light-hearted 'review' of Dr. Streitman's 26-year career in Syosset, citing his strong leadership, personnel, communication, budgetary and multi-tasking skills, while noting that he played an integral part in hiring most of the current Syosset staff. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Thomas Rogers also thanked Dr. Streitman for his help during Dr. Rogers' first two years in Syosset. The Board presented Dr. Streitman with a plaque and a small gift for his service to the district.

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

- Dr. Rogers introduced Student Council officers from South Woods and Harry B. Thompson middle schools, each of whom provided updates regarding student-led initiatives that took place at their respective schools throughout the year. At South Woods: students collected more than 900 pounds of food to feed the hungry; held a blood drive that collected more than 40 pints for a local blood bank; raised money for the Ronald McDonald House during its Brave Bolt event; and experienced successes in Science Olympiad, Model UN, Mock Trial, and a Multicultural Expo, among other achievements. At Harry B. Thompson: students collected more than 700 pounds of food during its Souper Bowl canned food drive; held Cupcake Wars, a Maker Day, and Thompson Idol events; enjoyed the Drama Club's production of Cinderella; and experienced successes in History Day, Model UN, the Long Island Math Fair, Science Olympiad and Scripps Spelling Bee with school champion Rika Mizoguchi advancing to the national competition as the Long Island champ.
- Director of Athletics Drew Cronin introduced the championship varsity teams and athletes for the winter and spring seasons: the Girls Basketball team was honored with the Nassau County Sportsmanship Award; Girls Bowling team member Mackenzie Wagner won the County Tournament; Boys Golf team member Matt Catton qualified for the NY State Championships; the Girls Golf team won its third consecutive Long Island Championship; Boys Lacrosse won the Nassau County Conference I Championship and Mac O'Keefe was named to the Under 19 World Team; Wrestlers Vito Arujau and Alex Vargas qualified for the NY State Championships, with Vito winning his weight class for the third consecutive

year and qualifying for the cadet World Team; Boys Swimming won the Nassau County Dual Meet, led the County in scoring and was undefeated in Conference I; Boys Tennis went undefeated and won the Nassau County Championships; Boys Track and Field produced an All-State Championship Relay team as well as two individual champions; and Girls Track and Field were Co-County Champs in the spring while qualifying two members for the New York State Championships during the winter season.

- Dr. Rogers publically commended Syosset High School senior William Long for winning the National Merit Scholarship, demonstrating academic skills and achievements, extracurricular accomplishments, and great potential for success in rigorous college studies. Additionally, Dr. Rogers commended sophomore Wanlin Li, who tied for the fourth-highest score on the American Junior Math Olympiad Exam and is one of just 50 students in the country to be invited to the Mathematical Olympiad Summer Program with an opportunity to qualify for the International Math Olympiad team.
- Dr. Rogers also recognized Syosset High School music teacher Larry Ballereau for being named a quarterfinalist in the prestigious GRAMMY Music Educator Award competition, one of only 290 music teachers to advance this far.
- Applauding Syosset High School's Future Leaders of America Club, Dr. Rogers recognized the recent Senior Citizen Prom organized by the group, which welcomed more than 200 area senior citizens to the high school gymnasium for a day of refreshments, entertainment and intergenerational mingling.
- In light of recent attention given to water testing in local school districts, Dr. Rogers noted approximately 40 hydration stations have been installed in schools throughout the district, with another dozen to be installed in the next few months as part of the district's proactive effort to ensure safe drinking water. He also directed residents to the district website, where regular updates regarding the latest testing results are posted. He said all data will be published on the website once all area testing is completed.
- Following the Board's approval of a new Student Health Services policy earlier in the year, Dr. Rogers has been working closely with a Food Allergy Committee to increase the availability of EpiPens at the schools and provide staff training on their use. A draft letter is being sent to every district school with guidelines for streamlining the process and implementing additional measures to further avoid student exposure to known allergens.
- Dr. Rogers announced the expansion of a Teacher's College Reading and Writing project that was piloted this year to help teachers implement more rigorous and engaging writing instruction techniques.
- Following discussions over the course of the last four Board meetings, Dr. Rogers suggested the creation of a Math 8 fallback option for 8<sup>th</sup> graders who struggle with Algebra I.

### *Audience to the Public*

- A community member questioned a portion of the district's policy regarding privacy provisions for transgender students. Both Dr. Rogers and the Board President identified student privacy provisions in the policy that are consistent with both required procedures established under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and explicit guidance provided from the State Education Department on the development of such policies. Dr. Rogers noted that there is nothing in the policy that indicates avoidance of communication with parents on the matter. A Board member also noted that there is a provision in the policy that gives all students the option of using private/alternate areas in locker rooms, if desired.

### *New Business*

- Various resolutions were approved relating to appointments and abolishment of positions as well as the approval of district policies, acceptance of donations, acceptance of service contracts, awarding of bids and other financial operations of the district.
- The Board appointed Adele Bovard to succeed Dr. Streitman as Deputy Superintendent, Joanne Mannion as the new Assistant to the Superintendent for Curriculum, Research and Administrative Support and Mi Jung An as the new Principal at South Grove Elementary School (to fill the vacancy created due to the retirement of Principal Theresa Scrocco).
- The Board approved the Annual Professional Performance Review Plan for teachers and principals for the 2016-17 school year, which will be submitted to the Commissioner of Education for review.
- The Board announced the ratification of an agreement with the Clerical Aides and Monitors unit.

### *Executive Session*

The Board reconvened to executive session at the conclusion of the public portion of the meeting.

### *Next Meeting*

- The next meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for Monday, July 11 2016 at South Woods Middle School, beginning at 8 p.m.