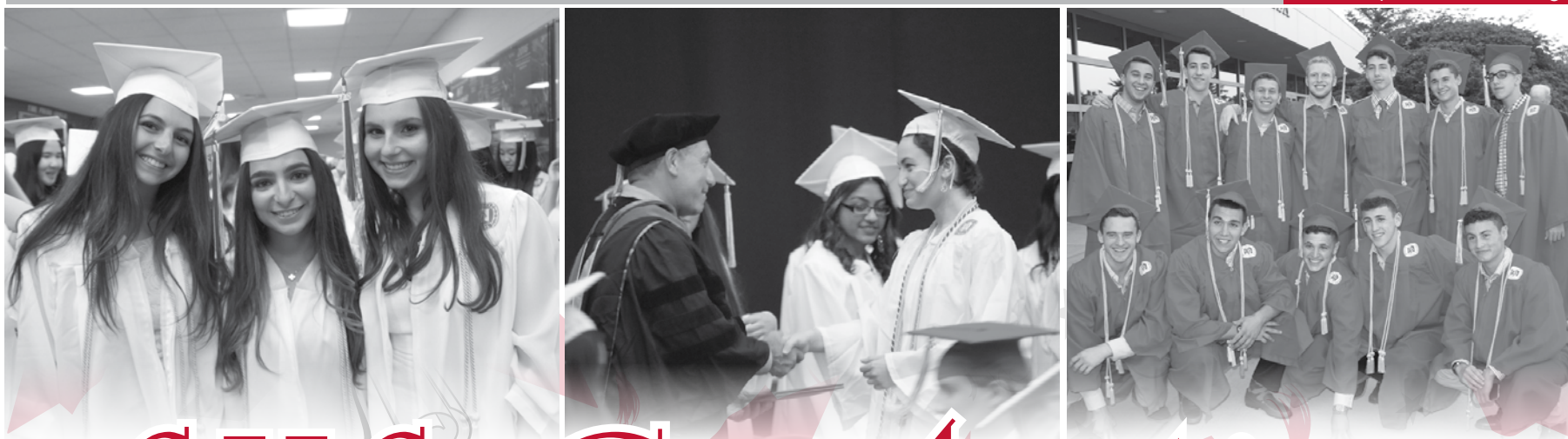


Syosset Pride

A Publication of the Syosset Central School District

www.syossetschools.org



SHS Graduation

In front of a proud and enthusiastic audience of family and friends, approximately 560 seniors in Syosset High School's Class of 2018 took their turn at the podium to accept their high school diplomas during the school's 60th annual commencement, held at Hofstra University.

Following the traditional processional march performed by the Syosset High School orchestra and "The Star-Spangled Banner" from the Adelettes and Choral Pride, Syosset High School Principal Dr. Giovanni Durante delivered the welcoming remarks before addressing the graduates.

This year's class was highlighted with eight National Merit Scholarship semifinalists, 43 Commended Students, three Regeneron Science Talent Search scholars, one Siemens Competition regional finalist and one semifinalist,

and one National Merit Scholar, as well as numerous other award winners in math, science and writing.

"I have seen the great work you have done inside and outside the classroom and I want you all to know I believe in you, I have confidence in you, and I look forward to hearing about all of your future successes," said Dr. Durante to the Class of 2018, praising them for demonstrating the virtues of Syosset PRIDE: patience, respect, integrity, dignity and empathy.

The evening also featured inspirational speeches from Board of Education President Dr. Michael Cohen and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Tom Rogers, as well as class speaker Brooke Lewitas, valedictorian Jarrad Li and salutatorian Daniel Israel.

In his remarks to the graduating class, Dr. Rogers focused on passion

and kindness. He commended the graduates for being a part of a generation known for being "fully conscious of your place in a global community, anxious to find employment with purpose, and thirsty not just for knowledge, but for meaning."

Dr. Cohen reflected back to when this graduating class started kindergarten, the same year he began serving on the Board of Education, and how quickly the years have passed. In pursuing a career, he advised the graduates "Do the work because you love it" and reminded them of the importance of the simple grace of being kind. "You can change the world, one little kindness at a time."

Brooke spoke about the openness of the school staff, its willingness to listen to students and the overall dedication to the student body's success. "I can honestly say that I am proud to have gone to a school that worked hard in every opportunity to give us an education that would make us into citizens capable of enacting change."

Daniel put a humorous spin on the four years at Syosset High School, and how some adapted from the onset of their freshmen years, while others took a little more time to settle into the culture of the high school. "Fortunately, with time, we

grew, we discovered, we felt safe with ourselves. It didn't matter if it was a sport, a subject, or a club or even yet a group, because, it was ours!"

Jarrad told the Class of 2018 how proud he was of all of them and how he was rooting for everyone's success. "It's been an incredible ride and it's amazing to see how far we all have come. What lies ahead is a road of wonderful new opportunities and discoveries. Challenge yourselves. And don't be afraid of obstacles, as they are there to help you become a stronger and better person."

Class President Andrew Goldman and Vice President Zachary Chan presented the class gift: a special plaque engraved with inspirational messaging that will be placed near the entrance of Syosset High School for every student to see upon entering the building.

Dr. Durante honored students who received scholarly recognitions. Members of Syosset's PTA/STA presented scholarship awards, as did members of SEPTA.

The commencement culminated with each student walking up to receive their diploma and the traditional cap toss. While the 60th class of Syosset High School said farewell for now, many undoubtedly will be heard from again.

Syosset Central School District
Syosset, New York 11791

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No.36
Syosset, NY 11791

****ECRWSS****
Resident of
Syosset Central School District

A Message from Your *Superintendent*

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Graduation is always a favorite time of year for me, but 2018 was a little different. This year's graduates were freshman during my first year at Syosset. I've come to know and admire so many of them; it was bittersweet to wave them goodbye. Each year's class of graduates and their successes are the best reminder of all we are trying to accomplish as an educational enterprise.

That reminder is what makes some of the less glamorous aspects of the work worthwhile. After planning, public votes, state approvals, construction bids and awards that have literally taken years, it has been exciting to see Phase 1 and Phase 2 construction projects taking shape around the District to address both aging facilities as well as provide significant security enhancements. And while watching a roof being ripped, corridor glazing be installed and vestibules being constructed may not sound like the most exciting of summer activities, it is gratifying to see these projects finally underway. Much has been accomplished so far with regard to electrical updates, roofing and flooring replacement, and installation of security vestibules and corridor glazing. There is considerable work to be done before the fleeting summer comes to an end, and we will continue to keep the community updated on our progress.

While I am pleased with what is being accomplished

in regard to our facilities, our focus has not shifted from providing an extraordinary education for the children of Syosset. There are some exciting new curriculum enhancements for the upcoming year, one of which is expansion of the Next Generation Science Standards, a cross cutting approach to learning that provides students with opportunities for investigating and understanding complex ideas that span across multiple areas of study.

This past school year was not without challenges. Our students were faced with some very difficult situations, both at the national level and closer to home. What most impressed me was that while students appreciated that we live in an uncertain world, they chose to approach adversity with character. The resilience of our students, their unwillingness accept hate in any form, and not only their desire but their action to shape their world for the better has greatly inspired me during these challenging times. Student voices, in our own community and nationally, are being heard loud and clear. I couldn't be more proud of our students and their dedication to ensuring the voice and perspective of a young generation are heard addressing the challenges that will shape their futures.

There is much to communicate about the work of educating our students, preparing them for this continually changing world, and providing a safe and secure environment in which they can thrive, and the

District is at work on implementing some new methods in which to convey information to the community. I will periodically be sending out an e-newsletter named District Bits and Briefs which will provide a high-level overview of the current areas of focus for the District, the first of which went out this month. We've added a Back to School newsletter this year, which you will receive in late August, that will cover security enhancements and the procedural updates being implemented for the start of the school year, as well as provide a detailed update on the work done over the summer. We are planning on a greater social media presence as an added way to share information and we will be revamping the District website to make it a far better resource for the community.

I hope your summer is an opportunity to rejuvenate, spend time with family, and get excited for all the new year has in store.

Dr. Tom Rogers
Superintendent of Schools



A Message from Your *Board of Education*

Dear Syosset Community,

As each school year comes to a close, we feel it is important to take a moment to reflect on the events that shaped the year, the successes as well as the struggles, in order to appreciate what we've accomplished together and best prepare ourselves for the new school year to come. We are fortunate to be part of a community that is so passionate about education and providing opportunity for our students, while maintaining a safe, secure yet welcoming environment that all community members can be proud of. We are privileged to work with the community to accomplish these objectives, and we're proud of the growth in the District this past school year. We look forward to continuing our work in the 2018-19 school year.

The Board would like to congratulate the members of the Syosset High School Class of 2018, as well as the students moving up from South Woods, H.B. Thompson and the elementary schools. We know how hard you have worked and you all deserve to be commended on your accomplishments. You have all made an impact on the schools you are moving on from, and we cannot wait to see what you will accomplish in the future.

Once again, this year was highlighted with impressive accomplishments by our students. As you'll read in this newsletter, our student body earned top honors in many regional and national competitions, covering arts, academics and extracurricular activities. And our sports teams had an impressive spring season, earning a number of both team and individual honors.

As we appreciate the accolades received by the District, our admiration for the student body grows, but not just because of the many impressive academic accomplishments. It's the character and compassion of the student body, what they contribute to our community, and their eagerness to take part in all the opportunities presented to them that really impresses us. This year both middle schools received the No Place for Hate designation from the Anti-Defamation League, which recognizes the schools' commitment

to combat bias, bullying and hatred. The students underwent two days of training by representatives of the Anti-Defamation League to earn this designation, and we congratulate them on this accomplishment. At the High School a "Be Brave, Speak Up" campaign was launched, encouraging students to be upstanders against bullying. And to kick-off it's No Place for Hate campaign, a school-wide assembly was held at the high school highlighting the importance of standing up against bias, after which students signed a banner pledging to support the campaign. In the elementary schools, PRIDE character development (patience, respect, integrity, dignity and empathy) continues to be interwoven with the daily curriculum and is fully embraced by the students. We would like to take this opportunity to commend the entire student body for their commitment to maintaining a positive and supportive environment for all in our schools.

The Board would like to thank the community for supporting the 2018-19 budget. With the help of the Citizens Advisory Committee on Finance, the District put together a budget that allows us to continue to enhance the curriculum and remain on the cutting edge, address aging facilities with much-needed upgrades, and continue to take a proactive approach to security enhancements. Your support of the Capital Reserve Fund for Security will ensure that the District is prepared to continue enhancing security well into the future. And to provide an opportunity for enhanced participation from the community on the decision-making process related to security measures, the Board recently established a Security Advisory Committee, the first meeting of which was held this month. We would like to thank the community members who participated and provided their feedback. We look forward to continuing to work with you on this on this important topic.

We are pleased to report that work on many of the Phase 1 and 2 Capital Projects previously approved by the community has begun this summer. Crews are hard at work at every school building in the District,

implementing essential security enhancements and making necessary upgrades to aging facilities. You can track our progress by viewing the Capital Construction Project Milestone chart posted on the District website.

Though we have focused much effort on our facilities and security initiatives, we continue to remain committed to our mission of academic excellence and preparing our students to be responsive to a continually changing world. To that end, our focus on expanding the use of technology remains strong. This fall, the 1:1 Chromebook initiative will be expanded so that every secondary student will be provided a Chromebook. You may have heard about the successful launch of KidOYO, a coding program that ignites collaboration and innovation, which will also be expanded this coming year. There is much excitement over the new LEGO robotics EV3 kits coming to the middle schools, which will allow us to enhance the STEM and computer science curriculums in a fun and engaging way. And the District will continue to rollout new library redesigns and acquire flexible furniture, modernizing the school environments to keep pace with the evolving way our students are learning.

Finally, we would like to congratulate Mr. Chris DiFilippo and Mr. Andrew Feldman on their re-election to the Board, as well as newly-elected Board member Mr. Chris Ulrich. We are honored to be working together to uphold our commitment to provide the very best education for every Syosset student.

We hope you have a happy, restful and safe remainder of the summer.

Warm regards,

The Syosset School District Board of Education

Dr. Michael Cohen
Tracy Frankel
Carol C. Cheng
Chris DiFilippo

Andrew Feldman
Rob Gershon
Anna Levitan
Susan Parker
Chris Ulrich

Meet The Val And Sal

Valedictorian Jarrad Li

Science research is a major area of study for Jarrad academically, having medaled in Science Olympiads 34 times since 2015, with several first- and second-place awards. He is a 2017 Siemens Semifinalist and was awarded third-place at the 2018 Long Island Science and Engineering Fair for his research on materials science/nanoscience and chemical engineering. He won second place at LISEF last year for his biomedical research project. Jarrad is also a recipient of the U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad Honors Award, a discipline of science he intends to pursue in his postsecondary career.

Jarrad has won numerous awards in various mathematics competitions, including first-place in the 2017 Nassau Math Tournament as well as securing a spot on the Nassau Mathematics All-Star team the last two years. He is also a five-time medalist on the Le Grand Concours National French exam.

Music is a big part of Jarrad's life. He excels at both piano and clarinet, having achieved perfect New York State School Music Association scores on exams for both instruments. He has also won many prestigious honors for piano, including gold in the International Music and Arts Society's Young Artists Music and Arts Competition. In ninth grade he was concertmaster and first chair, first clarinet.

As a leader, Jarrad serves as president and co-founder of the Theta Math Organization and as an officer with the French National Honors Society. He is also past vice president of the Mathletes and served as secretary of Quiz Bowl in 2017.

Other awards include National AP Scholar with Distinction, the New York State Scholarship for Academic Excellence, National Merit Scholarship Commended student recognition and the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth Search High Honors award.

Jarrad spends his spare time tutoring other students in math and entertaining residents at the Glen Cove Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation by playing the piano.

"I am honored to have received the title of valedictorian," said Jarrad. "I would like to thank my family, friends, and teachers for making this achievement possible."



Salutatorian Daniel Israel

Numerous accolades have been bestowed upon Daniel in the area of science research. This includes capturing first place in the Andromeda Division of the 2017 New York State Science and Engineering Fair and second place at the WAC Invitational Science Fair. Daniel's research through the years includes developing a neural network to analyze Alzheimer's disease, constructing a Java program to validate quantum key distribution, and studying the effects of microgravity on humans. He has participated in the Science Olympiad dating back to his early years in middle school, placing in the top five in various categories the last four years.

Despite his knack for science research, Daniel's true passion lies within the numbers as he intends to advance his studies in a mathematics-related field at the post-secondary level. He has been a member of Mathletes since 2010 and served as vice president. In the last two years he has won a Silver Certificate in the Nassau County Interscholastic Math League and a Silver Medal at the Al Kalfus Long Island Math Fair.

Daniel's leadership experience includes his service as president of the high school Quiz

Bowl and Web Development and Bridge clubs. He was also the vice president of the Programming Club.

Other awards for Daniel include the Le Grand Concours National French Exam, the National AP Scholar of Distinction Award, the New York State Scholarship for Academic Excellence, the Outstanding Research Literacy Award and the Elmer Heinecke Award for Sportsmanship, Leadership and Team Spirit.

Daniel also uses his free time constructively, tutoring other students in math and volunteering as a tour guide at the Gregory Museum in Hicksville. He also serves as a liaison to the museum.

"Being named salutatorian and academically representing my school is a true honor" remarked Daniel. "While I did work long hours and nights for the past three and a half years, I never thought that it would lead to this position."

Jarrad plans to major in chemical engineering and will attend Princeton. Daniel will major in Math and Business Administration with a concentration in Finance at Northeastern.

The District congratulates both Jarrad and Daniel on their outstanding accomplishments.

Elementary Moving Up

Fifth-graders in the Syosset School District looked ahead to the next step in their K-12 careers and a new home as all seven District elementary schools conducted moving up exercises to celebrate the culmination of their students' elementary education, and their advancement to the middle schools. One thing was perfectly clear: Whether attending H.B. Thompson or South Woods, they will all arrive well prepared for the challenges of the future.

During their respective promotion ceremonies, fifth-graders at each elementary school were honored with various awards

that included academic awards, recognitions for their participation in Student Council, NYSSMA, the Nassau All-County Artist program and the character education program PRIDE.

Principals and teachers presented each student with a certificate to recognize their promotion from elementary to middle school. Some recalled this group's days as kindergartners, while others provided helpful suggestions for the future. Most importantly, they all conveyed confidence in their students' abilities to succeed and become caring, constructive members of society.



Walt Whitman



Robbins Lane



Baylis



Village



A.P. Willits



Berry Hill



South Grove

June 18th was a special evening for all Syosset eighth-graders advancing to the high school, as 256 South Woods students and 308 H.B. Thompson Middle Schools students participated in moving up ceremonies at the LIU Post Tilles Center.

Inspirational remarks were made to the students by Board of Education trustee and proud South Woods graduate parent Rob Gershon, and Board of Education vice president and proud HBT graduate parent Tracy Frankel.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Tom Rogers shared some special sentiments with the graduates in the form of a letter he penned in which he reflected on a year in which middle school students led the charge to be changemakers in

their community. “It’s been a year of sweet voices raised nationally and those raised in unison closer to home,” Dr. Rogers said. “Together, what you have shown is that age is no barrier to impact, your voices are audible, and people are listening. Your voices are already shaping the future.”

The aspiring Syosset High School freshmen exited the Tilles auditorium to applause and waves from proud parents and family, as they moved on to the next chapter of their educational experience. The students held their heads up high with their eyes wide open, ready to be heard by even larger audiences and ready to use their knowledge and voices to make a difference in the future.

Middle School Moving Up



South Woods Middle School



South Woods Middle School



H.B. Thompson Middle School



South Woods Middle School



H.B. Thompson Middle School



H.B. Thompson Middle School



H.B. Thompson Middle School

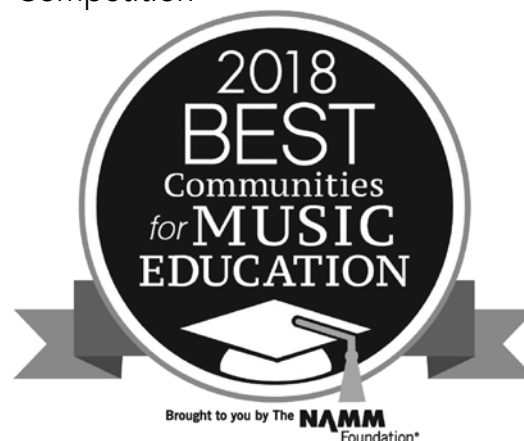
Student *Achievements & Accolades*

ACADEMICS

- 351 SHS students inducted into the National Honor Society Thalian Chapter
- SHS Forensics team named champion of the NYS Forensic League Championship
- SHS Mock Trial team advanced to the final round of the 2018 New York State Mock Trial Tournament
- SHS DECA team qualified 38 members – a school record – for the International Career Development Conference
- SHS team Solarity placed in the 6th Annual Nassau County Comptroller's Entrepreneurial Challenge
- 16 awards for SHS students at the Long Island Science and Engineering Fair and the New York State Science and Engineering Fair.
- First Place at Mathematics Tournament by the Sea for middle school students.
- 38 Medals for Syosset at the 2018 Al Kalfus Long Island Math Fair
- South Woods Middle School took ninth place out of 40 teams in the New York State Science Olympiad competition.
- Seven HBT students qualify for National History Bee National Finals and seven students qualified for the New York State National History Day competition, with four advancing to the National level.

ARTS

- Syosset named one of the country's Best Communities for Music Education for the 17th time.
- SHS students won first-place award in the Architecture and Typography categories and third place in Drawing and Illustration at the Olympics of Visual Arts Competition.
- Syosset High School junior Caroline Lee won a gold medal in the 2018 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards national competition.
- Four SHS students won prestigious 2018 NCTE Achievement Awards in Writing
- Two Syosset High School student-artists, Cailin Ferrari and Brett Kaplan, had their work selected for the 2018 Long Island's Best: Young Artists at The Heckscher Museum exhibit.
- The Alliance for Young Artists & Writers awarded South Woods Middle School student Sabrina Guo a gold medal for her poetry collection.
- SHS student Lingfei Zhao named a 1st place award recipient in the 2018 Long Island's Finest High School Art Competition



The District would like to congratulate the Syosset Council of PTAs on receiving the 2018 Jan Harp Domene Award for Diversity and Inclusion by the National Parent Teacher Association. This award recognizes the Syosset Council of PTAs as a group for demonstrating exemplary work in the areas of diversity and inclusion. The National PTA established the Jan Harp Domene Award in 2012 to recognize outstanding PTAs across the country who have succeeded and continue to make diversity and inclusion a priority. Congratulations on the well-deserved honor!

SPRING SPORTS WRAP-UP

Syosset High School sports teams wrapped up an impressive spring season with numerous team and individual accolades.



Varsity Boys Lacrosse
Runner-up in the County championship game
Daniel Ochs - All-American, Nassau County
Defenseman of the Year
Maxwell Verch - All-American, Nassau County
Long Pole Midfielder of the Year

Varsity Girls Lacrosse
Amanda Alejo - Academic All-American
Taylyn Stadler - All-American

Varsity Boys Tennis
Nassau County and Long Island Champions
Eli Grossman - All-State, Individual County
Champion
Preet Rajpal - All-State, Individual County
Champion
Zachary Chan - All-State
Justin Oresky - All-State

Varsity Girls Golf
Nassau County and Long Island Champions
Malini Rudra - LI Player of the Year, County
Champion, All-State

Varsity Boys Spring Track
Nassau County Champions
Justin DePinto - State qualifier
Andrew Lafferty - State qualifier
Hunter Pick - State qualifier
Ross Reddock - State qualifier

Varsity Girls Spring Track
Reilly Siebert - All-American, County
champion, State qualifier

Cultivating Inquiry, Excitement and Innovation in Syosset

Focus on Technology

This fall, the 1:1 Chromebook initiative will be expanded so that every secondary student will be provided a Chromebook, empowering them with critical digital learning resources. Expansion of the popular coding program KidOYO is also planned, which allows for student-led, project-based learning in the areas of computer science, engineering, and entrepreneurship education. And middle school students will have the opportunity to engage in coding and engineering with the exciting new LEGO EV3 kits, a hands-on, cross-curricular STEM solution.

Enhanced Curriculum

The Next Generation Science Standards have been incorporated into the curriculum, which is a K-12 science program that supports three-dimensional learning. All lessons involve not only content, but science and engineering practices as cross-cutting concepts so that science is connected to math and literacy.

Empowerment

The District is happy to support the exciting work of G.I.R.L Talk, a group of intelligent, creative, and dedicated young women in grades 6-12 whose mission is to empower young women, inspire confidence and encourage them to reach their full potential as future female leaders.

• District News & Notes •

Register Your Child for 2018-19

If you are new to the District or if our child will turn 5 years old on or before Dec. 1, 2018, you may register for the 2018-19 school year.

Please call the District Registrar at 516-364-5669 to obtain a link to our Online Registration System. The office is open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday-Friday and is located at South Woods Middle School, 99 Pell Lane, Syosset, NY.

More information can be found on the District website, www.syossetschools.org. Click the "Parents/Students" tab and scroll down to "Student Registration."

First Day of School

As a reminder, the first day of school for students for the 2018-19 academic year is Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2018.

New Principal for H.B. Thompson

Mr. Kevin Bonanno has been appointed as the new principal at H.B. Thompson Middle School. Mr. Bonanno, who had been serving as the assistant principal, fills the vacancy created as a result of the retirement of Mr. James Kassebaum. The District would like to congratulate Mr. Bonanno and extend a sincere thank you to Mr. Kassebaum for his many years of service to the Syosset community.

Newest Board Member Sworn In

The District would like to welcome a new member to the Board of Education, Mr. Chris Ulrich, who was sworn in on May 16, 2018.

Mr. Ulrich and his wife Dina have lived in Syosset for 19 years. All three of their children attend Syosset schools. An attorney for 24 years and business owner for 30 years, Mr. Ulrich has been an active member of the PTA and has coached numerous community sports teams.

The District would also like to congratulate re-elected trustees Mr. Chris DiFilippo and Mr. Andrew Feldman.

Security Advisory Committee

The Board has established a Security Advisory Committee to allow for enhanced public engagement in the District's evaluation of security measures. The first meeting was held in early July and the following topics were discussed: school security and safety, mental health, and District communications. The Committee will present a report to the Board of Education by December 2018 on its findings and recommendations. Please visit the District website to view the meeting notes.

SUMMER 2018

SyossetPride

A Publication of the Syosset Central School District

www.syossetschools.org

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dr. Michael Cohen, President	Tracy Frankel, Vice President		
Carol C. Cheng	Christopher DiFilippo	Andrew Feldman	
Rob Gershon	Anna Levitan	Susan Parker	Chris Ulrich
Dr. Thomas Rogers, Superintendent of Schools			