

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](#).

May 9, 2016 Board of Education Meeting

After an executive session and the official budget hearing, the regular public meeting was called to order and the minutes from the April 19 and May 5 Board meetings were approved. The Treasurer's Report was delivered and also approved.

The Superintendent's Report and Other Monthly Items

- Superintendent of Schools Dr. Thomas Rogers commended district staff members and thanked the community for exercising patience in the moments that followed last week's tragic plane crash. On behalf of the Board of Education, Board President Dr. Michael Cohen thanked Dr. Rogers and District Clerk Francine Benjamin for keeping the Board apprised of developments occurring following the crash.
- Dr. Rogers welcomed Syosset High School Student Senate President Josh Thomas, who gave a report on various student-led initiatives and happenings at the school. They include a "news anchor" style format for students to narrate morning announcements; proposals to install new benches at the student drop-off area and motion-sensor restroom facilities for sanitary purposes; the biannual blood drive which collected 82 pints; student club participation in national competitions; the upcoming ACT performance; the varsity tennis and boys lacrosse teams' strong records; and upcoming events including the student government elections, the music and art festival and the prom. He concluded by thanking the Board, administration, teachers and peers for the opportunity to serve as a student leader. Dr. Rogers thanked Josh and briefly touched on his own admiration for the selflessness demonstrated by Syosset students, drawing on a recent backpack donation drive as an example.
- Math coordinator Angela Kozlowski introduced two of the 10 high school Mathletes (along with their coaches) who represented Syosset on the county team, which captured second-place at the state-level competition and advanced to the national regional competition. The Board of Education awarded certificates of recognition to Syosset Mathletes who scored in the Top 50 of all students in Nassau County.
- Dr. Rogers updated the community on meetings that were rescheduled following last Tuesday's plane crash: middle school PTA meetings have been moved to May 12 and middle school parent orientations were moved to June 6. He also noted that: 368 students are registered for kindergarten this fall; due to the lack of inclement weather days used this winter, the District will be closed May 26 and 27; polling centers for the May 17 school budget vote and Board election are Robbins Lane ES, H.B. Thompson MS and Syosset HS.

- A representative from Johnson Controls gave a presentation on work to be performed under a proposed Energy Performance Contract, as well as the projected savings in utility costs to the district. Work detailed included retrofitting approximately 13,000 light fixtures for LED bulbs as well as installing digital temperature controls, dual fuel boilers, cogeneration units for heat and electricity, computer power management systems, water conservation fixtures, transformer replacement, pipe insulation, and weather stripping among other smaller projects. In total, the project could net between \$4-\$6 million in savings over 14.4 years. In response to a Board member's question, the representative said that change orders could be made in the event more feasible technologies are developed over the life of the contract.

Citizens Advisory Committee for Finance Update: a representative reported that at the April 20 meeting, administration discussed the proposed 1.98% budget-to-budget increase for the 2016-17 school year and the 0.14% increase in the tax levy, the restoration of Gap Elimination Adjustment funds by the state, the temporary LIPA PILOT relief provided as a result of a recent court injunction, the proposed roof-work as part of the budget, snow removal efficiencies, computer equipment upgrades in the proposed budget and the budget newsletter information.

Board Member Report: a Board member provided an update from the National School Boards Association Conference where he attended workshops and spoke with Board of Education trustees from throughout the country about how other districts are advancing technology education. He expressed a personal interest in replacing Microsoft Word and PowerPoint instruction with computer coding classes. He also noted that there is a lack of diversity among students taking AP Computer Science exams nationally and that several Board members at the conference praised Syosset for its quality programs.

Audience to the Public

- A community member expressed concerns over cars speeding on Lesley Drive in the vicinity of H. B. Thompson Middle School. Dr. Rogers said he would speak with local legislators about ways to more effectively control traffic in the area. The resident also expressed concern over an incident last summer in which he believed a for-profit organization conducted a tennis clinic without a permit at Thompson Middle School. Dr. Rogers said the district was made aware of the issue, addressed it and has a plan in place to monitor school sites to prevent this from happening in the future.
- The PTA Council President announced that all 11 PTA units of the district have voted to endorse the proposed school district budget for the 2016-17 school year. She also commended district and school leadership for ensuring that Syosset students continue to receive an excellent education.

Discussion Items

- Following previous Board discussions on the possibility of changing to a later high school start time, Dr. Rogers indicated that administration will identify the potential impact to various facets of school operations, including its affect on other school start times, transportation to other Syosset CSD and private/parochial schools, before- and afterschool programs including clubs and athletics, as well as BOCES programs.
- In response to a petition from residents, the Board voted to recognize the Lunar New Year as a holiday on the school calendar, noting that Great Neck, Jericho and NYC schools are all closed for this day. Syosset schools will not be closed for the Lunar New Year in 2017, as the holiday falls on a Saturday.
- Board members discussed student performance data and individual experience to consider whether to offer a General Math 8 class. Several members expressed an interest in offering the program as soon as next year. The administration was tasked with surveying parents' level of interest in such an option.

New Business

- Various resolutions were approved relating to appointments, the awarding of tenure, district policies, student club charters, acceptance of donations, acceptance of service contracts and other financial operations of the district.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for Monday, June 13 2016 at South Woods Middle School, beginning at 8 p.m. The budget vote is Tuesday, May 17.