

*In an effort to increase Board/Public Communications, after each Board of Education meeting an email will be sent to parents, staff, and anyone who requested to receive district e-mail communications, highlighting board discussions.*

The following was discussed at the October 20, 2016 meeting:

\*October is School Board recognition month and in honor of their volunteerism and dedication, all of Jericho School District's unions combined their efforts and made a donation in the form of a scholarship for a graduating senior in the board's name. Also, Superintendent Hank Grishman said, "We want to thank our school board members who volunteer many hours to benefit the children and the school community." Gifts were presented from the district, bargaining units, as well as from PTA Council.

\*High School teacher Nicole Izzo announced that Jiya Singh and Samantha Lustberg received first place at the National FBLA Conference this summer.

\*Middle School and High School students updated those in attendance about school happenings during the Student Council reports.

\*Lisa Davis, PTA Council president, invited everyone to the Parent University scheduled for Tuesday, October 25 at 7 PM starting in the Middle School Library. This is a great opportunity for parents to learn more about Jericho's great programs. More information, as well as the topics being presented, is available by visiting <http://bit.ly/2eePzrB>

\*Lori Ann Savino was congratulated for her appointment as President of the NYS Transportation Supervisors Association and Keith Van Emmerik was honored at NYS School Bus Mechanic/Technician of the Year. "Lori Ann and Keith both go

above and beyond for the district and we want to congratulate them on their well deserved recognitions,” said Hank Grishman.

\*Ken Pollitt presented statistics regarding buying versus renting instruments within the district. He presented a long-term plan that allows the district to purchase instruments over time as owning is more cost effective than renting. Also, some Jericho music teachers have been trained to do instrument repair to save costs to the district as well.

\*During the Superintendent’s Report, Hank Grishman shared that the construction on the high school pool is progressing and hopes to have water back in the pool by the end of the month. Also, Mr. Grishman shared that the district is continuing to install the filtered water bottle filling stations and has plans to add 13 more this year throughout the district.

\*Some residents attended the board meeting to request that the district consider adopting the holidays Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha and Diwali as official school holidays. This was something that the Syosset School District did earlier this week. Mr. Grishman took this opportunity to say how proud he is of Jericho and the way the Jericho school community has addressed the changing demographics. “The district has made sure that we have parent education, student education, translation services, and have taken other extremely aggressive actions to make sure that we have program and education in place so our school district, with great sensitivity, could welcome our changing populations.”

Mr. Grishman explained that when the board voted to recognize Lunar New Year as an official school holiday last year, that was a result of informal and formal discussions over the course of a few years. The district currently has a 186 day school calendar and adding more holidays means the days have to be taken from somewhere to keep this calendar in tact, and keeping in mind that

the district typically already starts before Labor Day.

In response to the request for the additional school holidays, Mr. Grishman and Bill Ferro said that the board and district needed to look at the school calendar and analyze what adding additional holidays to the school calendar would look like.

Bill Ferro said, “I want to stress that we are discussing this tonight with all of you here, but we would discuss it if even just one parent asked us to. Our superintendent has an open door policy and even if one person has a concern, we will listen. We will always have these conversations. There is a process involved and we like to include all stakeholders – community, PTA, parents, staff, administration –and discuss how additional days impact everyone. When we look at future calendars, we would like to have a plan in place. We like to keep an open exchange. This district and board will always listen.”

The district and board will begin to analyze how this would impact the school calendar and will add this discussion to a future board meeting’s agenda. Mr. Grishman stressed that the district always supports students who are absent to observe holidays and those are legal and excused absences.

\*The board took action on a number of items, including the acceptance of a donation, and approval of schedules. All information, including the full agenda and minutes, is available on the district website at [http://jerichoschools.org/district/board\\_of\\_education](http://jerichoschools.org/district/board_of_education).

\*The next regular meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for November 17, 2016 at 7:45 PM at Seaman Elementary School.

*-Bill Ferro, Board President  
Sent on behalf of the Jericho Board of Education*