

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 December 22, 2016 meeting:

*Jericho High School's A Cappella singers opened the meeting with the *Star Spangled Banner* and some holiday music.

*Jackson Elementary School hosted the meeting after a successful curriculum fair focused on mindfulness. A video was shown featuring the staff and students relative to the theme of mindfulness and friendship. Please click this link to watch the

video: <http://bit.ly/2ioqZmA> or visit the Jackson website.

*The Board and community observed a moment of silence on behalf of a recent graduate who passed away.

*Since being elected to serve as a Nassau County Supreme Court Judge in November, Joseph Lorintz stepped down as a board member after serving for over 12 years and this was his last meeting. Joe was honored by his fellow board members, district administrators, all of Jericho School District's unions, and the PTA at the meeting for his dedication and commitment to the students of the district.

*The Board voted unanimously to extend the contract of superintendent Hank Grishman through July 30, 2020. Board President Bill Ferro said that in successful organizations, great leadership starts at the top, and he was happy that Mr. Grishman's contract was extended with the same terms as it was previously, with no salary increase.

*Middle School and High School students updated those in

attendance about school happenings during the Student Council reports and Lisa Davis, PTA Council president, thanked everyone for attending council events and said she looked forward to the council events in the new year.

*During the Superintendent's Report, Hank Grishman shared that the New York State Comptroller's office recently completed an audit of the school district. During the exit interviews, the auditors were very complimentary of the internal controls and functions of the business office. They praised the district for not increasing the tax levy over the last several years, but, as expected, they criticized the district for the size of the fund balance and reserves. "This has long been a philosophy of the school district as we keep the long-term educational health of our students in mind." said Mr. Grishman. The official report will be released within the next few weeks and will be posted on the district website, along with the district's response.

*With Joe Lorintz stepping down from the board, it creates a vacancy. Chris Powers, Jericho's attorney, explained the options that the board has according to NYS Law and School District policy: 1. The board members could vote to appoint someone to the seat to serve from the time appointed until the election on May 16. 2. The Board could vote to hold a special election where the voters elect someone to serve from the date of the special election until the Budget Vote on May 16. There is a cost associated with this option. 3. The Board could vote to leave the seat vacant until the May 16 election. Any option that the board decides would need a majority vote, which would be at least three of the four remaining board members.

*The board discussed these options and the pros and cons. Although they didn't vote on how to proceed, they decided to ask anyone interested in being appointed to the board until the May

17 election to submit letters to the board by January 12, 2017. Interested candidates can email BOE@jerichoschools.org or mail a letter to the Jericho Board of Education, 99 Cedar Swamp Road, Jericho, NY 11753. If interested, the board members will hold interviews.

*The board took action on a number of items, including the execution of a Memoranda of Agreement, execution of a stipulation, and the 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.

*The next regular meeting of the Board of Education and Budget Workshop #1 is scheduled for January 19, 2017 at 7:30 PM at Cantiague Elementary School.

-Bill Ferro, Board President

Sent on behalf of the Jericho Board of Education