

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 January 19, 2017 meeting:

*Cantiague Elementary School hosted the meeting after a successful curriculum fair. A video was shown featuring the students regarding mindfulness and fifth grade students led those in attendance in some mindful breathing. The video can be seen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yPImLoo9SQM>

*With Joe Lorintz stepping down as a board member last month, there was a vacancy on the board. After requesting applications from anyone interested in being appointed, the board reviewed the nine letters they received, and unanimously voted for Jill Citron to be appointed to the board, effective immediately until the May 16 election. At that time, Jill will have the opportunity to run for re-election if she chooses. “We thank all of those that expressed interest in their willingness to be a part of this process and show a commitment to their community. We warmly welcome Jill to the board,” said Bill Ferro.

*Students were congratulated for their projects in the Lexus Eco Challenge and also for being named Regeneron Scholars.

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

*Lisa Davis, PTA Council president, thanked everyone for attending council events and invited everyone to the January 30 open council meeting at 9:30 AM at Cantiague featuring John Hildebrand from *Newsday*.

*After the High School student council representatives gave their report, Board President Bill Ferro said he and the board would like to get the students more involved in the board process and he invited the two students to sit with the board at the March meeting and participate with the board during the meeting. The students accepted his offer and look forward to March.

*A discussion of adding Eid and Diwali as official school district holidays was on the original agenda for this meeting. Although there were people in attendance to speak about this topic, the length of the meeting forced some to leave early. The Board and those waiting to speak agreed to move this discussion to the February 9 meeting and Mr. Ferro said he would move this item toward the beginning of the meeting. There were three students who did speak expressing their desire to have Eid recognized as an official holiday and the importance this holiday has on their lives. This conversation will continue at the February 9 meeting.

*Victor Manuel presented his first budget workshop, which included information on the Capital Facilities Plan, and he addressed questions from the Board and the community. The full presentation is available on the district website or by clicking this link. <http://bit.ly/2jxnDPX>

*The board voted to accept the NYS Comptroller's Audit Report of the school district. The full report is available by clicking here. <http://bit.ly/2kaEJGq>

*The board took action on a number of items, including the execution of a Memoranda of Agreement, acceptance of donations, 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 #2 is scheduled for February 9, 2017 at 7:30 PM in the Middle School Library.

-Bill Ferro, Board President

Sent on behalf of the Jericho Board of Education