

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. These are not the official minutes, which are available on the district website.

The following was discussed at the February 16, 2017 meeting:

*Middle School and High School students updated those in attendance about school happenings during the Student Council reports and Lisa Davis, PTA Council president, invited everyone to the March 27th PTA Open Council meeting at the MS Library at 9:30 AM featuring High School Social Worker Todd Benjamin, discussing the Wellness Coalition.

*Students were congratulated for their efforts in the Regeneron science contest, chess finals, and recognition of the Pegasus Literacy Magazine.

*A lengthy discussion of adding Eid and Diwali as official school district holidays was held and parents and community members offered both their support and concerns. The difficulty in including those holidays in the district calendar, while maintaining Jericho's 186-day calendar, was discussed. The Board said they would not rush to a decision and they will continue the discussion. Anyone not able to attend, but interested in voicing their opinion, should email the Board of Education at BOE@jerichoschools.org.

*The Board voted to change the next Board of Education meeting to March 23, 2017 at 7:15 PM in the Middle School Library.

*Victor Manuel presented his second budget workshop, which included information on the Pupil Personnel Department, 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>

*During the Superintendent's Report, Mr. Grishman said that there are plans in the works to create a group to increase community connections and the district will spearhead this later this spring.

*Also during the superintendent's report, Mr. Grishman said that he received a call from the New York State Commissioner of Education's office stating that, by Federal mandate, Jericho must administer the NAEP test to a select group of eighth grade students. If the district continues not to participate, the district would jeopardize our Federal Title Funds, which is approximately \$300,000. The district is only responsible for offering the tests to be in compliance. Parents can decide if they want their child to take the tests, which are not linked to the child's permanent record. Don Gately will communicate with impacted students/parents directly.

*Barbara Krieger was elected vice president of the board and will serve until June 30.

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

*Budget Workshop #3 will be held on March 9, 2017 at 7:15 PM in the MS Library. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education and the Budget Review Meeting is scheduled for March 23, 2017 at 7:15 PM in the Middle School Library. Please note this board meeting is a changed date from the district calendar.

-Bill Ferro, Board President

Sent on behalf of the Jericho Board of Education

