

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 May 18, 2017 meeting:

*Board President Bill Ferro thanked the community for their support in passing the budget by over 85% and he congratulated Jill Citron, Barbara Krieger, and Pam Wasserman-Heath for being elected to the board. Pam began serving immediately, filling the remaining two-years of Joe Lorintz's seat and Jill will take the seat being vacated by Gina Levy in July. Gina did not seek re-election. Barbara will continue her board position, and Bill thanked her for her service.

*Board trustees Dab Lee and Gina Levy were honored by New York State School Boards Association with awards of excellence for their commitment.

*Middle School and High School students gave the student council reports and Lisa Davis, president of PTA Council, invited everyone to the last open council meeting of the year on May 22 at 9:30 AM in the MS Library featuring Jo Ellen McCarthy discussing summer reading books and tips to get your children interested in reading.

*The Board appointed Kathryn (Katie) Behr as Curriculum Associate for Fine and Performing Arts. Ken Pollitt announced his retirement earlier this year and will be recognized with the other retirees at the June Board meeting. Katie said she is excited to start in Jericho on July 1 and looks forward to working with everyone.

*Continuing an earlier public discussion, the Board voted to recognize Eid and Diwali as official school holidays starting in the 2018-2019 school year. The board took a great deal into consideration when making this decision, including the potential impact to the school calendar. Mr.

Grishman explained that the impact is minimal to the school calendar when analyzing the next five years and we are able to add the holidays while maintaining the school breaks that we currently have. “We are certainly not the first board to adopt these holidays, but I believe we spent the most time with the community discussing this and I am really proud of that,” said Bill Ferro.

*The board recognized 11 tenure recipients –Jeanne Boyle, Melissa Carnes, Allie Cohen, Karen Dentato, Georgeta Gropineanu, Allyson Grossman, Joseph Kuehn, Dyanna Lambe, Kristine Raynis, Alyson Silagy, and Anthony Vittorino. Administrators, the Board and Mr. Grishman congratulated the tenure recipients and said how well-earned tenure in Jericho is.

*In the Superintendent’s report, Mr. Grishman invited everyone to the Family IMPACT forum that is being sponsored by 10 local school districts and features Dr. Stephen Dewey talking about the teenage brain and drugs. There will also be break out sessions, including “13 Reasons Why... Not” and “Not My Child.” To register, visit the district website under announcements.

*In 2015, the topic of exchange students was discussed with the community and the board voted 3-2 not to consider a policy to allow exchange students in Jericho. This topic was brought up again at the May meeting and it was decided to put the conversation on the agenda at the June 15 meeting.

*Numerous students were honored in a variety of subjects. Check the full agenda for a complete list.

*The board took action on a number of items, including 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 Board of Education meeting is scheduled for June 15, 2017 at 7 PM in the MS/HS Auditorium.

-Bill Ferro, Board President

Sent on behalf of the Jericho Board of Education