

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 September 24, 2015 meeting:

*During the External Audit Report, presented by Mr. Alan Yu from the firm Cullen and Danowski, LLP, it was announced that the audit of the financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2015 was completed ahead of schedule. Mr. Yu also stated there are no recommendations for the district and the district is in “a very good financial state.” Mr. Ferro thanked administration for managing the finances wisely.

*On August 19, during the expansive construction project that is taking place at the MS/HS, a fire started within the roof above the Middle School wing. Members of Jericho’s staff were honored at the meeting for their quick action in noticing the fire, running onto the roof to extinguish the fire and acting quickly to “take care of the building so we can take care of the kids,” said Hank Grishman as he thanked them for the swift action. Those honored from Jericho were Lori-Ann Savino, Kevin Randazzo, Fred Mandracchia, Michael Hahn, Anthony Buffolino, as well as the Chief of the Jericho Volunteer Fire Department, and John Peppard from the New York Schools Insurance Reciprocal.

*New staff members were introduced at the meeting, and also enjoyed a reception before the meeting took place to welcome them. “You all hit the ground running and adapted to the Jericho way and we are thrilled to have you all here,” said Bill Ferro.

*Matthew Herzog was honored for FBLA honors by teacher Nicole Izzo and Curriculum Associate for Social Studies, Business and Libraries Eric Sundberg.

*Elaine Margarita, Curriculum Associate for World Languages and

Home and Careers, made a presentation about the Flagship program, which is a partnership between Jericho Schools and Hunter College. It is one of the 12 K-12 Flagship programs in Chinese offered across the country. Flagship language programs are a collaborative effort between the government, businesses and educational organizations that seeks to develop a cadre of global professionals for the next generation with advanced language and cultural skills. Jericho's program is unique in that it is a "blended-learning" experience, which means students experience face-to-face instruction as well as online instruction that is tailored to their skill level and learning needs. The program began in the summer of 2015 as is continuing through the 2015-2016 school year. Instruction is held before school, after school and on Saturdays. For more information, email flagship@jerichoschools.org.

*Middle School and High School students updated those in attendance about school happenings during the Student Council reports. Jill Citron, PTA Council president, said that all PTA units are striving for 100% membership and forms are available online and at each school. Also, she invited everyone to the October 26 Open Council evening meeting, which will be a parent university and offer parents valuable resources.

*During the Superintendent's Report, Mr. Grishman said he is looking forward to the PTA Leadership Institute on September 25 that will increase and strengthen PTA leadership's knowledge and leadership skills.

*During the meeting, the board held an open discussion on the policy of foreign exchange students. This conversation was initiated when a local resident petitioned the board to allow him to have an exchange student live in his home and attend Jericho High School. Jericho currently has a policy that does not allow exchange students, as the district's policy and education law state that a student must reside in the residence on a permanent basis to attend school. In order for an exchange student to be allowed to attend school in Jericho, the board would have to draft and adopt a new policy. That policy can include any language that the

district and board approve of, including capping the number of students that could come, which was a concern raised by some board and community members. The board discussed the options available to them and ultimately decided to have the district's attorney draft a policy that they can review and discuss further at the October Board Meeting. Many questions were asked and residents are encouraged to attend the October Board of Education meeting with any questions during the continued conversation.

*The board took action on a number of items, including the approval of board policies, execution of employment agreements 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.

*The next meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for October 22, 2015 at 7:15 p.m. in the Middle School Library.

-Bill Ferro, Board President

Sent on behalf of the Jericho Board of Education