

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 17, 2015 meeting:

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

*Jackson Elementary School hosted this month's meeting after a successful curriculum fair. Principal Benny D'Aquila presented a video entitled "We Are the World" and spoke about the community service activities happening this year at Jackson.

*The Board voted to approve tenure for John Castronova, Director of Pupil Personnel Services. "We applaud your dedication to all students and your devotion to your job and this district," said Bill Ferro.

*Representative from ALS Ride for Life were in attendance to thank Jericho Middle School for their fundraising efforts. Don Gately, and middle school student Ellie Kornberg accepted a Bronze Banner on behalf of the middle school honoring their fundraising efforts, as they donated over \$1,000 to the ALS Ride for Life.

*Representatives from the middle school, high school and PTA Council gave reports to update those in attendance.

*Dan Salzman, Curriculum Associate for English Language Arts, presented about the high school's new public speaking course. "This course helps students gain confidence, improve non-verbal communications and find their voice," said Dr. Salzman. He presented, along with teacher Charu Vardhan and three students,

the skills that the students learned in the course.

*During the Superintendent's Report, Hank Grishman gave an update on the Middle School/High School auditorium and said he hoped for a ribbon cutting ceremony to be held later this winter, and was hoping for mid-to-late February. Also, Niche.com and Business Insider recently released their rankings and announced that Jericho's three elementary schools are the top three in the state, Jericho Middle School is the best in the state, the high school is the third best in the state, and the district itself is ranked third in the nation for the top school districts. Niche rankings are the first to take more than student achievement into consideration, as they also look at student and parent feedback for example and our rankings are incredible, especially considering Jericho is an open enrollment school.

*Mr. Grishman also said it was recently announced by the New York State Board of Regents that they are de-coupling teacher evaluations from student achievement data. He said there are legislative changes that need to happen and he hopes that happens this spring. The 3-8 state assessments that will be given this spring are still created by Pearson and he is not sure what those tests will look like. He will keep everyone updated.

*The board had a first reading of a policy regarding Concussion Management. John Mankowich, Curriculum Associate for Health, Physical Education, and Athletics, said that Jericho is already following the New York State procedures, but this policy will put that in writing.

*The board took action on a number of items, including the approval schedules and donations. 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 and Budget Workshop #1 is scheduled for January 21, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. at Seaman Elementary School.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy new year.

-Bill Ferro, Board President

Sent on behalf of the Jericho Board of Education