

*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 March 17, 2016 meeting:

\*The Board of Education adopted the 2016-2017 Budget of \$121,024,051. This will be on the ballot for the May 17 Budget Vote.

\*Also, the board adopted proposition #2, which would authorize the District to spend an amount not to exceed \$16,306,125. Funds will come from an already existing Capital Reserve and fund balance, and will not have any additional tax impact to the community. Various projects included in the Capital Improvement Plan and will be included in the budget newsletter and are all listed in the agenda located at [http://jerichoschools.org/district/board\\_of\\_education](http://jerichoschools.org/district/board_of_education)

\*The Board honored Dr. Don Gately, who was recently named the School Administrators Association of New York State's Middle School Principal of the Year.

\*Tom McEnany, Barbara Dempsey, and Sean Martin from First Student Bus Company presented Jackson second grader Richard Xu with a certificate and \$1,000 for supplies for the Jackson art room for winning an art contest celebrating the school bus. "Happiness Starts on the Yellow Bus" was the theme. Hank Grishman also thanked First Student, our transportation provider, for always being attentive to Jericho's needs.

\*The Board honored Jackson Elementary School for winning the Give a Note Foundation Music Contest. The school will be hosting a concert featuring a Radio Disney star to celebrate the win.

Thanks to everyone who supported Jackson and voted.

\*Middle School and High School students updated those in attendance about school happenings during the Student Council reports. Jill Citron, PTA Council president, announced that PTA Council is hosting an Open Council meeting on Monday, March 21 at 9:30 a.m. at Jackson Elementary School. Literacy Consultant JoEllen McCarthy will lead an interactive, fun and educational session, focusing on spreading book love and a joy for learning. All are encouraged to attend.

\*During the Superintendent's report Hank Grishman spoke about the meeting that was held by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) earlier this week. The acting commissioner of the DEC called Mr. Grishman after the meeting to say that the DEC would re-test all wells, push back the public comment period, and schedule another public meeting. All of the information from the DEC is available on our website under announcements or by clicking here:

[http://jerichoschools.org/departments/public\\_information/march\\_15\\_dec\\_information/](http://jerichoschools.org/departments/public_information/march_15_dec_information/)

\* Also, the Board voted at the March meeting to authorize the district to conduct their own testing at Cantiague and on the fields there. As soon as that testing is complete and we have the results, the district will release them.

\*Also in the Superintendent's report, Mr. Grishman said that one of the two boilers at Seaman is having problems and had to be shut down this week. The district is inspecting the boiler to see if it should be fixed or replaced. In the meantime, kid-friendly electric heaters have been purchased and installed at Seaman in case the temperatures.

\*There has been discussion with neighboring districts to close

schools for Lunar New Year and recognize it as a school holiday. There will be an open discussion about this at the April Board Meeting.

\*Joan Rosenberg, along with some members of the high school staff, spoke about Mindfulness and the importance of having a K-12 mindfulness program. Mrs. Rosenberg also invited all parents to a March 22 presentation by Dr. Steven Dewey at 7 PM in the MS/HS auditorium. He will be presenting about teenagers, drugs, and addiction. Please click here to RSVP  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/why-are-teens-more-prone-to-addiction-tickets-22175368123>

\*The Board reviewed a New York State School Board Association's 2016 survey, requesting information from each board member about various policies.

\*The board took action on a number of items, including the approval schedules, renewal of the Solomon Schechter Lease Agreement, and an acceptance of a donation. All information, including the full agenda and minutes, is available on the district website at [http://jerichoschools.org/district/board\\_of\\_education](http://jerichoschools.org/district/board_of_education).

\* The next meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for April 21, 2016 at 7:15 p.m. in the Middle School Library.

*-Bill Ferro, Board President  
Sent on behalf of the Jericho Board of Education*