

In Board Briefs, we summarize key agenda items and discussion topics from previous Board of Education meetings. Full meeting minutes are usually not available until approved by the Board at a subsequent meeting. The community is encouraged to attend each meeting, and the Board welcomes questions and comments. Previous Board Briefs can be found on the district website [here](#).

August 15, 2016 Board of Education Meeting

After an executive session, the regular monthly public meeting was called to order. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the minutes from the July 11 Board meeting were approved. The Treasurer's Report was delivered and also approved.

The Superintendent's Report and Other Monthly Items

- Superintendent of Schools Dr. Thomas Rogers welcomed the cast of this year's Summer Stock production, "Peter Pan JR." They performed songs from their August 11 and 12 shows. Cast members also had the opportunity to introduce themselves to the Board and others in attendance.
- Wrapping up the 2015-16 school year, Dr. Rogers provided some facts about the Syosset High School Class of 2016: 99 percent of the class is enrolled in post-secondary education; 584 scholarships were awarded totaling about \$38 million; and almost 13 percent of the Class of 2016 was accepted into Ivy league institutions, the highest percentage at Syosset High School in the last 16 years.
- Dr. Rogers also reported that 748 students attended district summer school programs – enrichment and remedial. He announced that all faculty and staff will participate in professional development workshops on August 31 and school will open for students (full session) on September 1.
- Coordinator for Educational Services Peggy Grosso updated the Board on the work of the Nutrition Advisory and Food Allergy committees:
The Nutrition Advisory Committee has discussed an increase in the number of healthy food choices. Secondary student representatives have met periodically with the committee and have provided significant input, resulting in an expansion of fruits and vegetables that will be made available to students this year, along with the addition of premade sandwiches, hummus and breakfast carts at the secondary schools. Procedural improvements have also been made, as the food service staff will receive additional assistance to cut down on wait times for students purchasing food.
The Food Allergy Committee has prepared a comprehensive letter to be sent to all parents about steps being taken to protect students against known food allergens. This includes outlining the district's auto injector EpiPen program. Other enhanced safety measures include greater communication with food services staff members to ensure they know which students have food allergies and whiteboard postings that list potential allergens in the featured entrée of the day. In response to questions, Ms. Grosso indicated that one oven at the high school is kept gluten-free, but gluten-free items have not generated sales. The whiteboard posting works in conjunction with

enhanced Nutrikids database to provide better alerts about potential allergens. Grosso said special ovens are used to prevent cross-contamination, however, they are not a 100 percent deterrent and that menus are constantly being revised to minimize risk.

- Dr. Rogers provided an update on two major summer facilities roof projects: The final phase of the high school roof replacement is near completion, and, barring inclement weather, should be done by the end of the week. The plan if rain occurs and the work cannot be completed within that timeframe would be to have crews work over the weekend to ensure completion by the Sept. 1 opening of school. He also noted that the replacement of the A.P. Willits School roof is near complete and that only minor “punch list” items remain to be addressed.
- Assistant Superintendent for Business Dr. Patricia Rufo provided an overview of the tax levy calculation for the 2016-17 school year, including how the total tax levy is computed after deducting state aid, local revenues and applied reserves from the district budget. For the 2016-17 school year, the school tax levy will increase by 0.14%, which is below the district’s property tax cap of 0.30%. She also reviewed how Nassau County determines the distribution of taxes to individual homeowners and businesses using an adjusted base proportion formula that determines how the tax obligation is divided among residential, rental, commercial, utility and PILOT eligible properties.

New Business

- Various resolutions were approved relating to appointments and resignations, approval of special assignments, service contracts and committees, policy changes and adoptions, settlement agreements and other financial operations of the district.
- The Board approved a resolution establishing the school district and public library tax levies for the 2016-17 school district year. As approved by voters in May, the school levy was set at \$187,650,187 while the library levy was set at \$6,919,960.
- The Board awarded multiple bids under a Nassau County school facilities purchasing consortium, authorized a piggybacking purchase agreement for hardcover, E-books and other non-print library materials from the Southampton School District and approved the disposal of broken, surplus and obsolete equipment and books.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for Monday, September 19, 2016 at South Woods Middle School, beginning at 8 p.m.