

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 they are approved by the board members 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](#).

September 21, 2015 Board of Education Meeting

After an executive session, the meeting was called to order and the August 10, 2015 board meeting minutes were approved.

The board accepted \$1,250 from South Woods Middle School student Kevin Li, who donated proceeds he earned from teaching Math Olympiad to fellow students over the summer. The funds will be used to purchase 22 Raspberry Pi devices to teach computer programming and coding.

Athletic Committee Update: Trustee Andrew Feldman reported that the committee discussed the need to address athletic facilities including athletic bathrooms, lockers and a new turf field. A joint venture with the Town of Oyster Bay to develop the field was also discussed but it is unclear whether this remains an interest of the town.

The Superintendent's Monthly Report and Other Items

- Syosset High School Principal Dr. Giovanni Durante introduced the school's 16 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists for the 2015-16 school year.
- The school district attorney provided an in-depth presentation on the advantages, costs and process of entering into an Energy Performance Contract to obtain long-term energy costs savings. The effort is currently in the RFP phase.
- Superintendent of Schools Dr. Thomas Rogers announced that the district has four New York State Reward Schools of Academic Excellence: Syosset High School and Berry Hill, South Grove and Village Elementary Schools.
- Dr. Rogers indicated that responses were positive to changes made to language in a letter regarding class assignments implemented when certain class sizes are approaching their maximum capacity. There have been no class splits since the start of the year and classes approaching max capacity will be monitored closely.
- In response to a letter sent by the District to the Town of Oyster Bay regarding a heliport operating near Thompson Middle School, the Town concluded that since the heliport preexisted the Town Code, it can continue to operate as long as the manner/purpose for which it is currently used does not change.
- A report on computer coding opportunities revealed that there are opportunities to obtain seven credits through various courses at Syosset High School and that there are additional programming/coding opportunities available throughout other courses of study including Robotics

and elements of the elementary math and science curriculum. A part time STEM specialist is also being shared among the elementary schools.

- A Technology Working Group (teachers, administrators, counselors etc.) has developed a list of projects to pilot for the 2015-16 year including 1:1 computing, the use of tablets, Chromebooks, flipped classes (part video instruction, part traditional class instruction) and Makerspaces to promote creativity and innovation using 3D printers, software, and other technologies.
- Coordinator for Mathematics Angela Kozlowski gave a presentation regarding the challenges of a potential change by the Board of Regents to allow students to take both the Algebra 2 Trigonometry and Algebra 2 Common Core exams, contrary to original direction given by the state. Since the District had been proceeding with the Algebra 2 Common Core curriculum (at the state's direction) in order to provide students with enough instruction to cover the content of both exams, additional time would have to be allocated in one of several possible ways. The district intends to solicit feedback from 10th and 11th grade parents before making a decision.

Correspondence

- The Syosset Teacher's Association sent the Board of Education a letter indicating its appreciation for a letter sent to Regent Roger Tilles regarding the District's position on and concerns over proposed changes to the teacher evaluation system.

Legislative Items-State and Federal

- There were no legislative items addressed by the board.

Audience to the Public

- Representatives of the PTA Budget and Know Your Candidates committees inquired about the possibility of expanding voter registration opportunities and posting board of education candidate biographies on the district website, respectively. Board President Michael Cohen said opportunities for registration expansion will be reviewed, however he expressed concerns with collaborating on election activities, citing a potential conflict of interest.
- A parent inquired about the possibility of installing air conditioning in schools. Dr. Rogers offered information regarding the pros, cons and costs of various cooling options. However there are no inexpensive options.
- A parent suggested moving high school start times to later in the morning. President Cohen said there are numerous challenges and factors that must be taken into account before even entertaining such a decision.
- A parent suggested sending home a description of standardized tests administered to elementary students. Dr. Rogers is discussing this with principals as well as with other Superintendents in the area.

Unfinished Business

- There was no unfinished business addressed by the board.

New Business

- Various resolutions were approved including appointments, transfers, reassignments, resignations, retirements, awarding of tenure, policies, purchases and bids.

Discussion Items

- Although the district's discussions to develop a new APPR (educator evaluation) plan have not encountered significant impediments, because the State has not released sample growth SLOs nor RFQ winners, it may be impossible to complete work prior to the October 1 filing deadline. Therefore, the District may have to consider filing a waiver application in order to preserve its state aid increase.
- The board named Trustee Susan Parker as board delegate for the 2015 NYSSBA convention and voted in block on numerous proposed NYSSBA resolutions.

Additional Items

- The board exercised NYS Civil Service Law Section 75 (disciplinary action) against a member of the civil service association.
- The board appointed trustees of the Syosset Teachers Trust Fund.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting of the board of education is Monday, October 26, 2015 at 8 p.m. at South Woods Middle School.