

Board of Education “Meeting Highlights” February 10, 2015

President’s Report...

BOE President Anthony Paolano’s report included the following:

On January 29, I attended the Western Suffolk BOCES 17th Annual Legislature Program. Dr. Wilansky, Dr. Bernhard, and Beth Packert, (president of CPC) were all in attendance. At this meeting, it allows for several elected state senators and assemblymen to participate in a forum, whereby 19 Suffolk school districts explain the major issues that are impacting every school district on LI.

A major issue that impacts the state aid given to school districts is the “ Gap Elimination Adjustment” (GEA). The GEA was initially introduced in the 2009-2010 school year as a way to help reduce the state’s \$10 billion budget deficit. The GEA is a formula in the state budget that reduces the amount of state aid each school district is entitled to receive. Because of this, districts that are dependent on state aid for their funding are more negatively impacted by the GEA formula. Over the past four years, Long Island’s school districts have lost a total of \$1.2 billion in state aid due to the GEA.

What does this mean to Cold Spring Harbor?

In the current school year we lost \$412,693. The total amount of state aid that we lost for the past five years is \$2,688,913.

At this meeting, there was a huge support for the full elimination of the GEA. State Senator John Flanagan, represented that although he was doubtful for the complete elimination of the GEA, he hoped to restore more of the state aid to Long Island districts, to pre “GEA” implementation.

Interesting facts:

- *Long Island enrolls nearly 17% of the state’s students, but receives only 12.2% of school aid.*
- *Despite the fact that Long Island school districts receive only 12.2% of school aid, 21% of the statewide GEA reduction is absorbed by Long Island School Districts!*

Other topics included common core standards and implantation, property tax freeze, and the regents reform agenda. It was a worthwhile event, and allowed us the opportunity to speak directly to our state legislatures.

On February 3, the BOE held its Community Budget Forum. It had been rescheduled from January 27th (due to the snow storm). Dr Bernhard presented the preliminary budget details. This year all school districts have a cap of 1.65%. CSH has an additional growth allowance of .64% for a total cap of 2.29%. The initial budget proposal is for under 2.00%.

I mentioned snow! As our allotment for snow days has been fully utilized, an additional

Superintendents Conference Day has been scheduled for June 26th to cover the school closing this past Monday. Therefore, if any additional school days are cancelled, the April vacation would be shortened. Beginning with the last day of the vacation Friday April 10th and moving backwards. The February break will not be touched!

The school district has received the fact finder's report on the teachers on January 30th. The BOE had discussions with our labor attorney on February 3rd to proceed with a resolution to the teacher's contract. The fact finders report has not been made public. However, I contacted the Director of Conciliation today to request the posting of the CSH fact finder's report as soon as possible.

Superintendent's Report...

Dr. Judith A. Wilansky's report included the following:

Theodore Roosevelt has been quoted for saying:

"This country will not be a good place for any of us to live in unless we make it a good place for all of us to live in."

And those words underscore the theme of community service which is highlighted during tonight's focus on Teaching and Learning. We welcome Mrs. Allison Halloran and our distinguished group of HS students:

*Seniors George Carmi is President of Student Council
 Maggie Fitzsimmons is an alumnus of the Leadership Class*

*Junior Tamana Bhatia-member of the School Improvement Team

 Kaitlin Coughlin is an alumnus of the leadership class and a current member of
 School Improvement Team*

*Sophomore Paige DeNatale is a member of Student Government and an alumnus of the
 Leadership Class.
 Jillian Futter is an alumnus of the Leadership Class*

Freshman Elizabeth Cronin is a member of the Girls Varsity Soccer Team

Mrs. Halloran was awarded the District's Exemplary Service Award in 2012 for her consummate efforts to instill a strong sense of community service among our students. And because community service is an integral component of the District's educational philosophy – it begins from the time our students enter the doors of Goosehill Primary School. This year our GH students conducted a food drive for Thanksgiving and decorated the cartons of food in a festive manner before sending them on to those in need. Our 1st graders honored our Veteran's by writing letters of appreciation to the residents of the Northport Veterans Hospital.

Our Lloyd Harbor students made this past Halloween extra special by collecting both old and new Halloween costumes and sending them to Tri-CYA in Huntington where local families were invited to come in and select the just right costume. And after Halloween, the students donated

much of their candy to donate to soldier's overseas in Operation Gratitude. There is nothing more enjoyable than reading a good story in your pajamas – so once again LH students could be counted on to donate a pair of pajamas and a good book for the local pajamaprogram.org which provides these wonderful gifts to displaced families.

Our West Side students have also contributed to the local community in creative and meaningful ways. They recently held “Souperbowl” Friday and collected cans of soup for local area residents in need. A favorite at Westside is “Birthday in a Box” whereby students fill a box with all of the trimmings for a birthday celebration and donate it to needy children. One can only imagine the delight!

By the time our students take their leave at graduation they have experienced 13 years of care and concern for others. They have learned this not only from their experience in school, but also through the generous acts of their parents. CSH is fortunate to receive the gifts of time and resources from our community.

Also tonight, the Board will be appointing Mrs. Ingrid Wright to the Board of Education. Mrs. Wright is well known in our community for her leadership in the schools and we are fortunate that, despite a very busy life, she is willing to serve our community in a very significant manner.

Recognitions:

Appointment of Mrs. Ingrid Wright to the Board of Education

The Board of Education appointed its newest member, to replace Dr. James Robins. The BOE decided on February 3rd that it was in the best interest of the district to appoint a replacement. Mrs. Ingrid Wright was notified and the BOE had a brief interview this past Friday. It was unanimous by the members of the Board and Ms. Wright happily agreed! Mrs. Wright currently serves as President of the West Side School PTG, and has three boys attending school in the district. Mrs. Wright will fill the position for the remainder of the 2014-2015 school year. The Board will hold its annual Budget Vote and Board Election Vote on May 19th. Please welcome, Ingrid Wright to the CSH Board of Education.

Appointment of Mr. Robert C. Hughes as Vice President of the Board

Mr. Hughes was officially sworn in by the school attorney to serve as Vice President of the Board of Education for the remainder of the 2014-2015 school year. In the absence of the president of the Board or in his/her inability to act, the Vice President is authorized to assume all of the responsibilities and perform all of the duties of the President of the Board as provided by law.

New York State School Board Association Recognition Award

Dr. Janice Elkin received the New York State School Board Association Recognition Award for her time and commitment of 75 hours of professional in-service training. This recognition is given to a school board member who attends various seminars and completes a certain amount of hours of their time and commitment. President Anthony Paolano thanked her for the enormous amount of time spent at these seminars, and her continued dedication to the students in the district.

Boys Varsity Soccer Team –

Awarded New York State #1 Scholar Athlete Team!

The Varsity Boys' Soccer team was named as the Number One Scholar Athletic Team in the State of New York. This award requires a minimum of 12 student-athletes to have a 90 average or above. All 23 members of the team contributed to the teams GPA being above 90. The teams overall GPA was a 97.25. In presenting the award, Athletic Director, Michael Bongino stated that this team represents the true definition of student-athletes with "A Commitment to Excellence" in the classroom and on the athletic field.

Focus on Teaching and Learning...

Community Service at the High School - Allison Halloran

Mrs. Halloran was joined by many students representing Student Government and the Leadership Class, who shared many fundraising drives and events held throughout the school year. The enormous amount of dedication, commitment, and generosity of volunteerism was recognized by Board President, Anthony Paolano, who extended his thanks on behalf of the Board of Education. A sampling of ongoing community service includes; Homework Helpers, Peer Mentors, Seahawks Sports Camps, planning of "special events," service within our community (CSH Library, Whaling Museum, Fire Dept, Huntington Youth Forum), Team Service (athletic team drives included a toy drive for the Salvation Army, a Halloween Party for Tri-CYA, a Breast Cancer Walk at Jones Beach), Dodgeball Tournament fundraising for HiHi Homeless shelter at a local church with food service set up/baking/serving, a "Jeans for Teens" collection, a "School Supplies" collection, the annual "Manuary" event for food bank collections, and annual coat drives, toy drives, and Thanksgiving drivesto name a few!

Board Actions...

Resignations:

The resignation for the purpose of retirement of **Peter Cunningham**, Lloyd Harbor Elementary Teacher, be accepted with appreciation for his many years of service to the District, effective June 30, 2015.

Appointments:

Appointment (Rescinded) - The appointment of [Elizabeth Christiansen](#) as JV Lacrosse (G) Coach at the December 9, 2014 board meeting was rescinded.

Revised Probationary Period - The probationary period for [Joyce Schmieder](#) noted in the October 8, 2013 Agenda be revised to reflect an end date of February 29, 2016.

[Alyssa Nordstrom](#) was appointed Student Teacher at West Side School working under the direction of Linda Gerver and Kurt Simon for January 2015.

Appointment-Spring Coaching

The following spring 2015 coaching assignments were approved:

Varsity Baseball Asst. (B) Joe Del Gais

Varsity Softball Asst. (G) Jay Murphy

V Lacrosse Asst. (G) Elizabeth Burkhard

JV Lacrosse Asst. (G) Lou Santoli

Donations:

1. [The Gordon Family](#) - The Board of Education accepted the generous donation of a 50" video monitor and mounting bracket for installation at the main entrance of the High School. "This video monitor is dedicated by the Gordon Family in appreciation of and to honor the wonderful faculty and staff in the Cold Spring Harbor School District."
2. [WSSPTG](#) - the Board of Education accepted the generous donation from WSSPTG for an additional robot for the WS Robotics Program.

Contracts:

The Board of Education of the Cold Spring Harbor Central School District hereby approved the terms and conditions of the following contract between the District and the following agencies or independent providers:

Brookville Center for Children's Services - SEDCAR
Building Blocks Developmental Preschool – SEDCAR
County of Suffolk - SEDCAR
New York Therapy Placement Services - SEDCAR
Nassau Suffolk Services for the Autistic - SEDCAR
Mill Neck Manor - SEDCAR XIV.

Policies:

Policy 1000 - Community Relations (First Read)

Addendum to School Calendar:

On Tuesday, February 10th, the Board of Education amended this year's school calendar. Friday, June 26th, was added as an additional Superintendents Conference Day. ***This addition does not impact students; their last day of school remains Thursday, June 25th.***

If there are any additional days when school must close due to inclement weather or unforeseen emergencies, days will be taken from the Spring Recess, beginning with Friday, April 10th then working backwards.

Upcoming Meetings...

March 10th - Board of Education Meeting – 8pm

March 31st – Board of Education Work Session – 6:30pm

Meetings are held at the Francis Roberts Community Center (District Office)
75 Goose Hill Rd., Cold Spring Harbor
District web site – www.csh.k12.ny.us)