



General Library Item

Name March 20, 2017

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Scarsdale Board of Education Meeting Highlights March 20, 2017

Business Meeting

At 7 p.m. Leila Maude, Board of Education President, called the meeting to order, and reported that she attended the Heathcote Expo the previous weekend, with fellow Board members Pam Fuehrer and Chris Morin, and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Thomas Hagerman. She noted that they were deeply impressed by the range of activities at the Expo, and the extraordinary efforts of the volunteers who organized it. Dr. Hagerman thanked the Special Education staff for their attendance at the meeting and for taking part in the presentation of the Education Report. Board Vice President William Natbony reported that he and Board members Pam Fuehrer and Nina Cannon, along with Dr. Hagerman and Stuart Matthey, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Facilities, had attended a League of Women Voters meeting that morning concerning the school budget.

Community members were invited to address the Board but none came forward.

The Board approved items on the consent agenda, including a Personnel Report presented by Drew Patrick, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Leadership Development.

Mr. Patrick reported on the successful conclusion of the hiring process for a new Middle School principal to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of longtime principal Michael McDermott. The new principal will be Meghan Troy, currently completing her 16th year as a social studies teacher at Scarsdale Middle School, where she has also served as Department Chair for the last five years.

Administration and Board Portfolios

Communications, Community Involvement, and Political Outreach:

Dr. Hagerman, in collaboration with Board Members Pam Fuehrer and Arthur Rublin, reported that the Winter issue of Insight was mailed to over six thousand households in Scarsdale, plus local businesses and retirees. Constant Contact distribution of Board of Education Meeting Notices and Highlights, facilities updates, and 'Dale Dispatch are getting open rates significantly better than the average open rate. 'Dale Dispatch distribution has just been expanded to include current students. In addition, Dr. Hagerman noted that the Twitter Tagboard (accessible via the District website) features a stream of posts from teachers and administrators that provide glimpses into a wide array of classroom activities. Mr. Rublin reported on meetings held with local legislators and engagement with the New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA), and the Westchester/Putnam School Boards Association concerning the proposed New York State budget's impact on education. A discussion followed on a draft letter about support for education, prepared by Mr. Rublin for the Board to send to Governor Cuomo.

Construction and Facilities: Mr. Matthey, in collaboration with Board Members Scott Silberfein and Chris Morin, reviewed the budget process which is nearing conclusion, and reported on the ongoing collaboration of the business and human resources departments to implement processes. He also reported that a complete review of the Facilities Master Plan and debt service status will be presented in the fall, well in advance of the following year's budget process.

Construction and Facilities: Mr. Matthey, in collaboration with Board Members Scott Silberfein and Chris Morin, reviewed the 2014 Bond projects now underway, and noted that groundbreaking ceremonies were held at the High School and Middle School in December. Demolition for the High School Learning Commons is near completion, and the Middle School orchestra room structure is beginning to take shape. Mr. Matthey also reported that the District's new architects, BBS, are busy familiarizing themselves with the District's facilities, and meeting with building leadership teams to become acquainted with the intricacies of building operations and, space utilization. Additionally, BBS's engineers are touring each building to confirm spatial measurements to identify the current status of building infrastructure and systems.

Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction: Lynne Shain, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction, in collaboration with Board Member Scott Silberfein, reported that work on Balanced Literacy at the elementary level is continuing, with summer work scheduled to bolster that effort, as well as professional development in elementary math using the Metamorphosis program, which trains teachers to be math instruction leaders in their buildings. Preparation is also underway for a Grade 8 Spanish oral proficiency assessment, and for the visit of the Tri-State Consortium in late April, which will review the District's K-12 wellness initiatives.

Human Capital and Leadership Development: Mr. Patrick, in collaboration with Board member Pam Fuehrer, reported that the probationary teacher review process is going well, and that the need for differentiated leadership development is being addressed, particularly with regard to supporting the transition of elementary teachers-in-charge into their new roles as assistant principals. Mr. Patrick also noted that the recruitment process for 26 vacancies is underway, as is collective bargaining with several District employee unions.

Instructional and Information Technology Portfolio: Rachel Moseley, Director of Information Technology, and Jerry Crisci, Director of Instructional Technology and Innovation, in collaboration with Board Member Chris Morin, presented updates on their work. Mr. Crisci reported that the technology team is field-testing new classroom display devices, and noted that the Center for Innovation is hosting a presentation on April 4 by Chris Lehmann, founding principal of the Science Leadership Academy, a progressive science and technology high school in Philadelphia. Ms. Moseley reported on the implementation of online student registration, which is going well.

Education Report

Eric Rauschenbach, Director of Special Education and Student Services, presented a detailed report on "The Philosophy and Pedagogy of Special Education and Student Services." Joining him in the presentation for reviews of special education in the elementary schools, Middle School, and High School were Quaker Ridge special education teacher Megan Matthews, Greenacres special education teacher Francesca Ross, and Greenacres classroom teacher Rachel Witmer; Middle School head psychologist Dr. Elliot Cohen; and High School psychologist Kristin Oliverio and High School special education teachers Eileen Cagner and Catherine Flores. The complete report may be viewed [here](#).

Following the Education Report, the Board concluded its portfolio presentations.

Board Governance: Ms. Maude reported that the Board conducted its annual Retreat in January, at which it discussed the role of the Board, the portfolio reports format, and reviewed Dr. Hagerman's work, which they affirmed was highly effective. Ms. Maude noted that the Board would not advocate for any candidates in the Village elections being held the next day. Ms. Maude then turned to the matter of the draft letter to Governor Cuomo discussed earlier. The Board voted to add consideration of the letter to the agenda as an action item, and then voted to send the letter, as amended. The text of the letter may be viewed [here](#).

Community members were invited to address the Board a second time but none came forward.

The Board then announced upcoming meeting dates, and adjourned into Executive Session to discuss litigation matters.