

**General Library Item**

Name May 8, 2017

Content

**Scarsdale Board of Education
Meeting Highlights
May 8, 2017**

Meeting with Scarsdale High School students

At 6 p.m., the Board of Education met with a group of Scarsdale High School students, who discussed their experiences at the High School.

Business Meeting

At 7 p.m., Lee Maude, Board of Education President, convened the Business Meeting, and announced that tenure would be granted to 26 teachers and administrators. Ms. Maude announced that at the next Board meeting, on Monday evening, May 22, the District architects, BBS Architects & Engineers, would give a comprehensive presentation of their analysis of building conditions throughout the District and their recommendations moving forward.

Ms. Maude also reported on an educational policy seminar she attended recently where federal tax reform was discussed, specifically the proposal to eliminate the deductibility of property taxes. She noted that this is a topic for further deliberation.

Dr. Thomas Hagerman, Superintendent of Schools, noted the importance of the night for all teachers, as it was the eve of National Teacher Day, part of National Teacher Appreciation Week. He stated that the night was doubly special because 26 educators were in attendance to celebrate the attainment of tenure, declaring: "I hope you note that I used the root word 'attain,' which means 'achieve' or 'accomplish' and not 'obtain,' which merely means 'to get.'"

Dr. Hagerman then gave a brief history of tenure, which began in New Jersey in 1909, and was initially adopted as a way to improve the quality of teaching and learning and to avoid a patronage system that was all too common at that time.

Dr. Hagerman noted that although various community members may view the value of tenure differently, "it must be acknowledged that our teachers serve in a unique role, answering to hundreds of constituents, including students, parents, colleagues, administrators, politicians, and the like. From both individuals and groups, there are high expectations placed on teachers, often with polarizing viewpoints and expected outcomes. Tenure provides assurance to our teachers that they can focus on excellent teaching and not be swayed by an ever-changing socio-political, and too often, controversial, educational environment. The education of our children should be entrusted to those who know them well, and who have the appropriate pedagogical knowledge and practice to best serve their unique developmental and academic needs."

Drew Patrick, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Leadership Development, then presented the 26 candidates recommended for tenure (the list may be accessed [here](#)). Each candidate was called up and congratulated by Ms. Maude and Dr. Hagerman.

Community members were invited to address the Board and seven did so. Five speakers asked the Board to resolve uncertainties concerning the future of Greenacres, which they noted was causing anxiety, and difficulty selling Greenacres properties: Raif Ezratty, 97 Garden Road; Jonathan Krisbergh, 107 Greenacres Avenue; Elena Ezratty, 97 Garden Road; Ira Hasson, 35 Sage Terrace; and Florence Alkalay, 68 Stratton Road. Paulina Schwartz, 17 Oakstwin Road, disputed the assertion of a previous speaker concerning anxiety over use of trailers; and Scarsdale High School student Holly Rittmaster, 200 Olmsted Road, presented a student petition objecting to next year's High School schedule changes.

The Board approved items on the consent agenda, including a Personnel Report presented by Drew Patrick. Mr. Patrick's report included the granting of tenure described above and also various probationary appointments, most notably the title change of the five elementary Teachers-in-Charge, who were being appointed to probationary positions as Assistant Principals.

Ms. Maude then convened the Statutory Budget Hearing, starting with a summary of the proposed budget given by Stuart Matthey, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Facilities. No community members came forward, and the Hearing was closed.

During the Information/Discussion portion of the agenda, the Board discussed drafts of a new District policy on educational research requests and a revised District purchasing policy, aligning it with current regulations, and reviewed proposed Athletic Training, Physical Therapy, and Concussion Management Services for Interscholastic Athletics; the PT Council's Annual Gift Report; and proposed High School textbooks.

The Board also heard an update from Mr. Matthey on Capital Project Planning, as follows:

Capital Project Planning

Mr. Matthey reported that the District architects, BBS Architects & Engineers, has been hard at work over the past several months, undertaking an investigation of the integrity, sustainability, adequacy, life expectancy, and overall quality of the educational experience in all District buildings.

BBS has completed all site visits of the buildings including interviews with building principals, custodial staff, and District administration. They have also analyzed and combined the reports provided by the previous architects and other independent consultants, and have had conversations with the State Education Department regarding clarification of code requirements.

BBS will give a detailed presentation of its work at the next Board of Education meeting, on Monday evening, May 22. The presentation will cover building site, envelope, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and technology components, as well as its observations and recommendations. In addition, the presentation will include an update on their District-wide analysis of space utilization.

District Administration, in concert with BBS, has drafted a timeline leading to a mid-December 2017 Public Bond referendum:

May 22nd	BBS Presentation to BOE
May-June	Building Committees Reconvene
June 12th	Board Meeting and Public Forum
June 19th	Public Forum (Morning)
July 6th	Board Meeting

BOE considers overall scope and size of Bond Referendum and identification of specific projects.

Aug. 24th	Special Board Meeting/Public Forum
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BOE continues consideration of overall scope and size of Bond Referendum and retention of specific projects.

Sept. (tbd)	BOE Meetings/Forums
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BOE refines and defines FINAL Scope and size of Bond Referendum

Oct.16th	BOE Meeting
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BOE adopts SEQRA Resolution and FINAL Bond Resolution (Scope and Size)

Dec. 12th	Bond Referendum
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Following Mr. Matthey's report, Dr. Hagerman noted that the May 22 presentation would not include cost estimates, and that the District intends to engage a PR firm to conduct community surveys to provide feedback on individual and collective proposals.

The Board approved a budget transfer, and the proposed Athletic Training, Physical Therapy, and Concussion Management Services for Interscholastic Athletics.

Community members were invited to address the Board during the second Public Comment period, and three did so: Leanne Freda, PT Council President, suggested that the Board consider a different location for the May 22 meeting to accommodate a large audience; Linda Doucette-Ashman, 159 Brite Avenue, asked whether groups as well as individuals would be surveyed; and Jon Krisbergh, 107 Greenacres Avenue, urged that the survey include parents of preschool children.

The Board conducted a wrap-up of the meeting and announced a list of upcoming meeting dates, including the Tuesday, May 16 Budget Vote and Board Election.

The Board then adjourned into Executive Session to discuss the employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, or removal of a particular person or corporation

The Board meeting may be viewed [here](#).