

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2017**

**BYRAM HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT
10 TRIPP LANE
ARMONK, NY**

Meeting: 7:00 p.m. (Proposed Executive Session)

Public Meeting: 7:30 p.m.

Special Report: Curriculum Conversation Technology and STEAM Update

DATE: February 13, 2017

TIME: 7:30 p.m. Public Meeting

PLACE: Board Room in District Office

PRESENT: Board of Education Members
Mr. Brett Summers, President
Mr. Scott Levy, Vice President
Ms. Mia DiPietro
Mr. Michael Sanders
Mr. Ira Schulman
Ms. Lara Stangel

Absent
Ms. Robin Glat

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. William Donohue, Superintendent
Mr. Gregory Carlson, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Management Services, District Clerk
Dr. Tim Kaltenecker, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Ms. Jen Lamia, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

1. Call to Order

At 7:55 p.m., the public meeting was called to order by Board President, Mr. Summers.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

3. Proposed Executive Session Upon Board Approval

Procedural: 3.1 Personnel Matter - Teacher Tenure

Procedural: 3.2 Contract Matter - BHTA

Procedural: 3.3 Personnel Matter - Succession Planning

Procedural: 3.4 Personnel Matter - Superintendent's Mid-Year Evaluation

The Board met at 7:02 p.m. for Executive Session and discussed the above mentioned items:

4. Comments from the Public

Recognition: 4.1 Public Comments (if any) will be heard at this time

There were no comments from the public at this time.

5. Revision and Adoption of Agenda

Action: 5.1 Revisions (if necessary) and adoption of Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Schulman and seconded by Mr. Levy to adopt the agenda as presented.
Vote: 6-yes 0-no. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Schulman and seconded by Mr. Sanders to adopt Item 6: Consent Agenda - Personnel; Item 7: Consent Agenda - Special Services; and Item 8: Consent Agenda - Business as presented. Vote: 6-yes 0-no. Motion carried.

6. Consent Agenda - Personnel

Action (Consent): 6.1 Consent Agenda - Personnel

- 6.1 Teacher Resignation for the Purpose of Retirement:
 - 1. Marcia Plush, Elementary, WA, effective 6/30/17
- 6.2 Teacher Leaves:
 - 1. Employee #1878, Elementary (Grade 1), CH, FMLA, effective 1/18/175/05/17
- 6.3 Regular Substitute:
 - 1. Amanda O'Connor, Elementary (Grade 1), CH, effective 1/18/175/05/17
- 6.4 CSEA Resignations for the Purpose of Retirement:
 - 1. Karen Halperin, Teacher Aide, WA, effective 2/01/17
 - 2. Employee #1485, Teacher Aide, WA, effective 6/23/17
 - 3. Frances Gardner, Duplicating Machine Operator, BHHS, effective 12/31/17
- 6.5 CSEA Resignations:
 - 1. Barbara Brandt, Secretary to School Administrator, DO, effective 1/17/17
 - 2. Serena Cecere, Office Assistant (Automated Systems), Spec. Ed., effective 2/03/17
- 6.6 CSEA Probationary Appointments:
 - 1. Mariel Martorana, Teacher Aide (Probationary), WA, effective 2/01/17
 - 2. Victor Gutierrez, Custodial Worker (Night), WA, effective 2/13/17
 - 3. Lilian Limon, Custodial Worker (Night), BHHS, effective 2/13/17
 - 4. John C. Baxter, P/T Cleaner (Days), HCC, effective 2/13/17
- 6.7 CSEA Temporary or Parttime Availability Appointments:
 - 1. Mariel Martorana, Teacher Aide (Temporary), WA, effective 1/17/171/31/17
 - 2. Mary Rippy, Teacher Aide (Temporary), WA, effective 2/02/17
 - 3. Keri Cipriano, Clerk (Temporary), DO, effective 2/02/17
 - 4. Pio Barriga, P/T/A, Monitor, DW, effective 2/14/17
 - 5. Christopher Green, P/T/A, Monitor, DW, effective 2/14/17
- 6.8 Substitute Teacher Appointments:
 - 1. Amanda O'Connor, effective 1/10/17
 - 2. Maria Ferretti, effective 1/11/17
 - 3. Luke Beyer, effective 2/06/17
 - 4. Holly Bogart, effective 2/14/17

Spring Coaching Appointments: Attached

7. Consent Agenda - Special Services

Action (Consent): 7.1 CSE/SubCSE/CPSE Recommendations

8. Consent Agenda - Business

Action (Consent): 8.1 Consent Agenda - Business

- 8.1 Acceptance of Donation of a Bobcat Sculpture From Jack & Karen DiPietro

- Resolved**, that the Board accepted the donation from Jack & Karen DiPietro for the purchase of the Bobcat sculpture.
- 8.2 Acceptance of Donation From Armonk Bobcat Baseball Club, Inc.
Resolved, that the Board accepted the donation from the Armonk Bobcat Baseball Club, Inc. for the boys' baseball spring training trip.
- 8.3 Acceptance of Donation From Armonk Baseball League, Inc.
Resolved, that the Board accepted the donation from the Armonk Baseball League, Inc. for the boys' baseball spring training trip.
- 8.4 Authorization to Participate in Southern Westchester Board of Cooperative Educational Services Joint Bid With Other Schools for Supplies, Commodities, Materials and Equipment
Resolved, that the Board authorized the District Clerk to execute a contract with Southern Westchester Board of Cooperative Educational Services to bid jointly for supplies, commodities, materials and equipment through June 30, 2018.
- 8.5 Authorization to Participate in Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Nassau County Cooperative Bid for Various Commodities and/or Services
Resolved, that the Board authorized the Superintendent to execute a contract with Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Nassau County Cooperative Bid for Various Commodities and/or Services through June 30, 2018.
- 8.6 Approval of Contract for Health & Welfare Services with the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District for 201617 School Year
Resolved, that the Board authorized the Board President and Superintendent to execute a contract for health and welfare services with the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District for the 2016-17 school year.
- 8.7 Approval of Contract for Health & Welfare Services with the Harrison Central School District for the 201617 School Year
Resolved, that the Board authorized the Board President to execute a contract for health and welfare services with the Harrison Central School District for the 2016-17 school year.
- 8.8 Approval of Contract for Health & Welfare Services with the Mamaroneck Union Free School District for 201617 School Year
Resolved, that the Board authorized the Superintendent to execute a contract for health and welfare services with the Mamaroneck Union Free School District for the 2016-17 school year.
- 8.9 Approval of Contract for Health & Welfare Services with the Yorktown Central School District for the 201617 School Year
Resolved, that the Board authorized the Board President, Superintendent and District Clerk to execute a contract for health and welfare services with the Yorktown Central School District for the 2016-17 school year.
- 8.10 Approval of Cooperative Bidding Services Contract with Educational Data Services, Inc.
Resolved, that the Board authorized the District Clerk to execute a letter of intent with Educational Data Services, Inc. for a cooperative bidding program coordinated by the Clarkstown Central School District and to sign the cooperative bidding resolution for the New York/Long Island Cooperative Bid.
- 8.11 Authorization to Execute Engagement Letter with the Internal Auditor
Resolved, that the Board authorized the Superintendent to execute the Engagement Letter for 2016-17 Internal Audit Services with Raymond F. Wager, CPA, P.C.
- 8.12 Acceptance of Treasurer's Report for December 2016
Resolved, that the Board accepted the Treasurer's Report for December 2016.

9. Special Report: Curriculum Conversation - Technology and STEAM Update
Discussion, Information, Presentation: 9.1 Curriculum Conversation: Technology and STEAM Update

Dr. Kaltenecker was joined by Dr. Andrew Taylor, teachers Mr. Peter Lichten and Mr. Ken Kaplan, and high school students Justin Schmalholz and Rachel Ruscigno to discuss the high school STEAM curriculum. Dr. Kaltenecker reported how the District has been researching STEAM curriculum and its effect on the college and career readiness. He explained how approximately five years ago a District-wide committee was formed which included outside consultants and eventually, teachers began to pilot a number of STEAM programs such as the MakersSpace and implementing a 3D printer. The District has since formed a comprehensive K-12 STEAM Curriculum. Dr. Kaltenecker explained how there were challenges to be met, particularly at the high school level because of the departmentalized structure.

Dr. Taylor then provided an overview of the K-12 STEAM curriculum. He reported that two years ago, STEAM focused on four areas: Coding, Robotics, Electronics and 3D Modeling. He also reviewed the instructional approach that supports STEAM, including problem-based learning, design thinking, authentic learning tasks, performance-based assessments, new integrated technologies and the redesign of learning spaces to support student-centered and collaborative learning environments.

Dr. Taylor explained that at the elementary level, students learn with coding, 3-D printing, Nureva Span, Little Bits, Design, and Robots. Dr. Taylor presented a video of Wampus students collaborating on redesigning a house for the "three little pigs." The students reviewed materials, forces and the design itself.

Dr. Taylor further explained that the District is in year two of a three-year roll-out of a STEAM Curriculum at the middle school level. Last year, all middle school students had robotic challenges. This year, seventh and eighth grade students are receiving the year two design. Next year, eighth grade students will take a real world problem and they will use all of their tools to create a solution to a problem. For example, clean water for living or developing an app for a robot. Dr. Taylor then showed middle school students working on their tasks in small groups where the learning is self-directed.

Dr. Taylor then reported that new course offerings at the high school have increased to include: Robotics I; AP Computer Science Principles; and Pathways in Engineering.

Student Justin Schmalholz explained how his STS (Science, Technology and Society) course included a unit on robotics. The students first made a robot on a program and then built the robot. They began programming challenges and obstacle courses, which they really enjoyed, and some of the students continued on to build a second robot for competition. The robot is programmed to throw items over a wall. Student, Rachel Ruscigno, added that she is interested in going into pre-med upon graduating, however, having had this exposure with robotics was a great experience. She reported that a total of four students worked on this robotics project. Mr. Lichten mentioned that he had asked for volunteers to work on the project and those students chose to work on their own time toward the competition. Mr. Levy had commented that this is what it looks like for the future – some students working on one thing, and some on another. Mr. Kaplan said there are benefits to the Science, Technology and Society class, and there is a feeling of empowerment for a young person when they can teach an adult. He noted that the Robotics course hasn't started yet; this project is just one section of the STS class.

Ms. DiPietro asked if this has given students an opportunity to be on a team that isn't organic. Rachel said it was really nice to get to know Justin and the others on the team and learn from them. Justin then demonstrated the robots with a remote control. Justin demonstrated how the robot will grab a cube and throw it over a two foot wall. They also designed a shovel to fit the cube. Mr. Lichten reported that the students have learned perseverance, as they had worked on the robot for five weeks. Mr. Summers asked if the competition changes year to year, and it was noted that it does. The competition is held by VEX, the supplier of the robot. The Board members were invited to try the robots themselves, which they did and enjoyed it. Dr. Kaltenecker asked the students what they learned about themselves during the process. Justin replied that he learned that he is good at being hands-on and working with a team and found it very rewarding to build something from the start with no instructions, no manuals, etc. He mentioned that he has always been interested in technology and was a member of the Robotics

Club in sixth grade, went to a lego competition, took Intro to Computer Science and did summer programs as well. When he was in ninth grade, he saw Mr. Lichten with the flight simulators and immediately knew he wanted to take that class (STS) when he was a junior. Mr. Schulman asked if there was just one way to construct a robot. Justin explained that with the first small robot, there was a manual, however, for the second robot, it was built from scratch and could have been built in different ways. Mr. Schulman asked Rachel if this experience has encouraged her to pursue engineering. She responded no because both parents are in engineering and she wanted to do something different. Ms. Lamia asked Rachel about her role on the team. Rachel was the R&D (Research & Development) and did a little bit of everything. She mentioned how she is good with tools and could fix things and acted as a foreman. The Board congratulated the students and their teachers. Mr. Levy asked Dr. Kaltenecker if there is any leeway in the middle school schedule to add more course offerings in robotics. Dr. Kaltenecker and Dr. Taylor have discussed how to implement interdisciplinary projects and units and have technology be a part of it. Ms. DiPietro said this is problem-based learning at its best. The teachers said it has been a great experience for them as well. They also commented that 20 years from now, the students will never remember a specific math test they took, but they will remember the robot competition. Rachel added that she finds it relaxing to have grades based on what you are good at and also enjoy; it made her really happy, and she would rather do this work than have a free period. The Board wished the team good luck at their competition on Saturday.

A brief intermission was taken at 8:40 p.m. The meeting resumed at 8:42 p.m.

10. Unfinished Business

Action, Information: 10.1 Review of Policies: Second Read: 5151 (Homeless Children); 5220 (School-Sponsored Student Expression); 6605 (Fund Balance)

10.1 Review of Policies: Second Read: 5151 (Homeless Children); 5220 (SchoolSponsored Student Expression); 6605 (Fund Balance)

A motion was made by Mr. Levy and seconded by Ms. DiPietro to approve Policies 5151 (Homeless Children), 5220 (SchoolSponsored Student Expression), and 6605 (Fund Balance) as second reads. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no. Motion carried. (Ms. Stangel had briefly stepped away.)

11. New Business

Information, Report: 11.1 Site-Based Mid-Year Reports

Dr. Kaltenecker offered a brief update on the Site-Based Teams. He noted how the Site-Based Teams are a great structure within the District and the curricular focus this year is on the STEAM Program and Global Competency. The Site-Based Teams meet district-wide a few times during the school year and also as individual school teams at each of the schools. Dr. Kaltenecker mentioned that the Wampus Site-Based Team is working on wellness and emotional intelligence; and the high school will host the Vox Summit to introduce Global Competency to ninth grade students, which will be presented by the 10th Grade Student Leadership Board. Dr. Kaltenecker added that next year, a Global Scholars Program will be piloted at the high school.

Action, Information: 11.2 2017-2018 District Calendar - DRAFT - First Read

Ms. Lamia explained that the calendar is based on the Regents exam schedule. She noted that the calendar will be presented for a second read at the March 7 Board meeting and, if approved, will be publicized. Mr. Sanders noted that some of the sports programs scheduled this summer will begin a week earlier.

A motion was made by Mr. Schulman and seconded by Mr. Levy to approve the Draft 2017-2018 District Calendar as a first read. Vote: 6-yes, 0-no. Motion carried.

Action: 11.3 Textbook Approval: Discovery Education Publisher, Discovery Tech Book, Grade 7 & 8 US History, 2017

Mr. Schulman asked if the social studies chair approved the Discovery Tech Book. Dr. Kaltenecker confirmed that it was and this is the tech book that Dr. Powderly spoke of at the previous Board meeting. Mr. Summers noted they have the same tech book in a textbook edition which emphasizes different parts of the curriculum.

A motion was made by Mr. Schulman and seconded by Ms. DiPietro to approve Discovery Education Publisher, Discovery Tech Book, Grade 7 & 8 US History, 2017. Vote: 6-yes, 0-no. Motion carried.

Action, Discussion, Information: 11.4 Resolution: Educational Advocacy

Mr. Summers reported that the Board was contacted by some community members and asked if the Board would take a position, vis-à-vis, on the Betsy Devos nomination as Secretary of Education. Mr. Summers commented that the Board needs to be non-partisan and, therefore, the proposed Education Advocacy Resolution takes the position that privatizing the public school system or taking funds away from public schools in forms of vouchers or tax credits to fund private and parochial schools is anathema to our democratic system and education system in general. He noted there are many transparency rules in how a public school district can spend public money, but those same rules are not the same when money goes to a private or parochial school. Mr. Schulman added this resolution should be approved every year, because this really expresses what we do and why we do it. Mr. Schulman's only suggestion was to have every member of the Board sign it as it is so fundamental to what the Board does. Mr. Schulman would like it be known that this is what Byram Hills stands for. Mr. Summers had no objection to that, and noted that although Ms. Glat was not present, she saw the draft and he felt that she would likely sign it as well. Mr. Levy added there is no pending legislation in New York State suggesting a voucher program, otherwise programs would be compromised. Dr. Donohue added he is very supportive of this resolution, and said the community should be concerned about vouchers and charter schools. He noted five or six years ago a charter school for the arts was proposed for the White Plains area that would have drawn students interested in the arts from the local schools. It was noted that the District has an excellent fine arts program and it would be a shame to lose students to an arts magnet school, furthermore, the District would have had to pay tuition for those students from District funds. Dr. Donohue mentioned that such a plan may initially sound fine, however, he reminded everyone that the way the real estate value system is currently set-up, it is largely based on the quality of the school system. If tax dollars from North Castle start going to schools outside the District, then those dollars would not be supporting local real estate values. It is more than just a free choice issue.

Mr. Summers said there was another charter school targeting very successful students, but it would be leaving behind ENL or Special Education students and gutting public education in the name of choice. Mr. Schulman said there are some issues that are fundamental as to why you are in a community, and there is perhaps a slow chipping away of the fundamental public school system that served Byram Hills students so well. He noted that charter schools have never provided what Byram Hills provides. Mr. Sanders added that they have worked hard to develop and maintain the integration of the community with the school. He pointed out that Byram Hills is very high achieving and it would be disappointing to see that torn down. Ms. Stangel said she moved to the community for the school district and would support this resolution. Mr. Schulman made a motion to adopt the resolution and make the signature change to reflect the signing by all Board members.

Ms. DiPietro expressed concern that the Board is expected to be non-partisan and has an obligation to represent, as a whole, the community and thought that this action will be seen as taking a political stance. Mr. Summers noted that Ms. Devos' position has already been confirmed and her name is not mentioned in the resolution, as the resolution touches on policies and discusses the issue of charter schools. Only 5% of students in the country go to charter schools, so it is a small issue currently, but it is trending in that direction. Dr. Donohue commented that the Board members' responsibility is to support the Byram Hills School District and if something is going to take away from that, you can then take a position. Mr. Levy added they should not take a political stance, however, a policy, such as the voucher program, is the issue. If this were to happen, the District would face real choices on cutting seriously into its programs. Ms. DiPietro said she knows the Board has an obligation to represent the community, and she is more comfortable with this resolution and the timing of it, rather than sending out an email from the Board coming out against a specific candidate or nominee. She mentioned that

she was shocked how some boards took that stance on behalf of the community - that is not their place. Mr. Schulman added they are trustees of the District and, as trustees, have to protect the trust which is the public school system. When things come out that erode that trust, he has no trouble saying no. Mr. Summers added they were elected to preserve the school district and promote continuous improvement. In that regard, this resolution is unequivocal in its support of the public school system and is about not taking public funds away for other people's private choices. If some of these systems are put in place, the District will be writing checks to religious and private schools and would erode our resources and that would be a great detriment to preserving a public school system. Mr. Sanders added that this is an endorsement of the public school system, and he doesn't see it as political or a slight of any candidate. Mr. Schulman added that it is something they can sign every year, and this is a particularly good time to do so. Mr. Summers offered other examples of when the Board signed such a resolution to officially proclaim a position, such as was done with data privacy, over-testing, 3020-A, APPR and other issues. One could claim APPR is political, but we know it's an enormous expense with very little value to this District. Dr. Donohue added a greater parallel could be when the Board formally withdrew from Race to the Top. Ms. DiPietro said she is in agreement with signing the resolution, but wanted to be sure the Board is careful. Mr. Summers said that this was a great discussion to have.

With the only change of adding signature lines for all Board of Education members to sign, a motion was made by Mr. Schulman and seconded by Mr. Levy to adopt the Educational Advocacy Resolution as listed below. Vote: 6-yes, 0 no. Motion carried.

**Proposed Resolution
Educational Advocacy
(Board of Education Approval: 2-13-17)**

Whereas, America's public education system is a cornerstone of our society and a right of all who live in the United States. Strong public schools are vital to sustaining the democratic ideals of this nation. A voucher system, or even "educational tax credits," undermines the basic principles of public education and would have a detrimental impact on local districts; and

Whereas, our public schools proudly educate every child living in a district, regardless of socioeconomic status, ability, race, disability, English language proficiency, sexual orientation, or gender. No student can be denied access to a public education, and no student can be asked to leave because of low achievement or arbitrary regulations; and

Whereas, in a challenging fiscal environment, a voucher policy would put financial strain on our entire system of public education. It would divert funding from public school systems that serve the vast majority of the students in their area in order to finance a private or parochial school option for the few; and

Whereas, public school systems have multiple accountability measures to ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent appropriately. In addition to stringent state regulatory requirements, local citizens have a clear mechanism to exercise accountability through the annual school budget vote and board of education elections. A voucher system would channel public taxpayer funds to schools that do not have the same level of public accountability and local oversight; and

Whereas, privatization at the expense of public education would shift resources and make it more challenging for our local public schools to deliver educational excellence. We need to invest in all students, and we should not divert funds away from our primary mission - a quality, well-rounded education available to every child; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, the Board of Education is committed to the ideals set forth in this resolution and requests the Superintendent to communicate this resolution to all appropriate federal, state and local officials.

**12. Staff Reports
Information: 12.1 Superintendent**

Dr. Donohue noted the District is upgrading the District Office technologically. The new screens in the Board room provide the audience a better opportunity to see and understand what is being presented.

Dr. Donohue mentioned that he recently had an important meeting with the Byram Hills Education Foundation, and they are considering six high quality grants. Each of the grants is between \$25,000 and \$30,000. In the fall, the Foundation approved over \$300,000 for library renovations and they now plan to approve one of the six new grants, and probably table the others. However, depending on the profits from the Foundation's Spring Celebration and the individual donations, the Foundation may be able to fund another grant. Dr. Donohue appreciates the progressive stance they have taken toward funding these projects. In just two years, they've awarded almost half a million dollars!

Information: 12.2 Assistant Superintendent for Business and Management Services, District Clerk

Mr. Carlson discussed the Governor's Proposed Executive Budget. The Governor's budget has virtually no change from the current year. He reported that the Governor is not recognizing Foundation Aid and does not feel obligated to reimburse schools. The Governor has also said if the federal government reduces funding to New York, it could result in a mid-year state-aid cut as well. This happened some years ago and it had a large effect on some schools and took many years to recover. For this initial proposed budget, the state legislature can add or remove funds from the budget. The NYS Proposed Executive Budget is \$4.2 million, which is just \$20,000 less than last year's budget.

Mr. Levy said some organizations are pushing for a change in Foundation Aid funding formulas. Under this change, the District's two million dollars in aid went to zero, along with some of our peer districts.

Mr. Sanders asked about the O'Connor, Davies audit. Mr. Carlson said the District went out for an RFP. Mr. Carlson said the Board will need to have further discussion about it and asked the Board if they are interested in interviewing another firm or continue with O'Connor, Davies. Mr. Summers noted that the only item the report provided was to verify that their work was done according to procedure. Mr. Summers said they could look at O'Connor Davies along with the other entities and make a decision after they review the material.

Information: 12.3 Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

Dr. Kaltenecker's report was covered under the Curriculum Conversation.

Information: 12.4 Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

Ms. Lamia discussed emergency planning, particularly in light of the damaged buses within the past month. She said the emergency plans have to be kept private, but to allay the fears of parents the District has in place a District-wide Emergency Response Team and turnkey practices to the building level safety teams. She noted that at any given moment, the District is practicing plans. The District's emergency plan has been reviewed by New York State and they work with the local police departments. They are very engaged in safety planning and it is of primary importance to the District, as well as the public, but are unable to divulge all the plans to the community. Mr. Sanders noted there were two instances close to one another, and he appreciates the communication from the District. Ms. Lamia also thanked the North Castle Police Department for communicating the information to the District. Dr. Donohue added that during one of the events, he divulged what he knew to the parents. Dr. Donohue was contacted by some people afterwards about his communication and his usual response is to answer that particular individual's question. After some further discussion, Mr. Summers asked the community that if they have a complaint to voice, to try to rephrase their complaint in the form of a question for a better tone that would better serve our community and lower the temperament around some of these issues. Ms. DiPietro commented that some people automatically assume the District is being deceptive. Mr. Summers said there are ways people can get involved, such as Site-Based Teams or write the District or Board to create a dialogue. In regard to feedback Dr. Donohue added that the District receives much more positive feedback than negative.

Mr. Sanders noted if there is a current event, it gets everyone refocused on safety. But it is an important goal of the District to maintain safety all of the time. Ms. Lamia added that the District has to be cautious as well. She reported that there are many companies with great new safety systems, however, she questions who is safeguarding the information in some of the new systems? Ms. Lamia stated that she is not always satisfied with the responses. She explained that giving your personal information for others to manage may not be a good idea. Mr. Levy added that the District continues to evolve and does not let their guard down. Ms. Lamia added it is important to learn from the situations we have been through. Ms. Stangel thanked Ms. Lamia for bringing up safety matters again, as safeguarding the children is paramount and knowing that the District is constantly watching over its students and proactively maintaining safety is good to know.

13. Board Reports

Information: 13.1 President

Mr. Summers reported that WPSBA had a meeting with legislatures scheduled for last Thursday night, but was cancelled due to weather. He noted that there were over 70 people involved and the meeting has since been rescheduled for March 9. The meeting is only open for school board members to meet with regional senators and legislators to ask about the Governor's budget. He also mentioned the upcoming Town / School District Liaison meeting scheduled for Friday, February 17, the Board's visit to HCC on February 14 and the Board's visit to BHHS on March 6.

Regarding athletics, Mr. Schulman noted it is the season for Sectionals. Mr. Schulman gave a shout out to the boys hockey team who rank second in the Division 2 Section, Class A Section 1, and wished them luck. He also noted the boys basketball team ranks #1 in the state in Class A with the sectional tournament starting February 18. He reported they had only one loss over the entire season and not only have they been winning, but been winning by 20 or 30 points each game. He congratulated the players and coaches and wished them well in sectionals.

Mr. Sanders noted the Athletic Advisory Counsel met on January 27 and they now have students taking part in the counsel. Mr. Sanders reported that the students would like to see a higher attendance supporting the teams and are using an athletic twitter feed to publicize events. Mr. Rob Castagna, Director of Athletics, was also talking about recruiting attendance at the games. One of the items discussed by the coaches was about eighth grade athletic policy. Mr. Summers stated that Mr. Castagna could bring the discussion to Dr. Donohue. Mr. Schulman added that the Board labored over this policy and that the issue is usually promoted by parents, who see their child as an exception to the rule to play at the varsity level. Mr. Sanders added that a number of coaches attended the meeting. Dr. Donohue added that there is a new factor involved in decisions, declining enrollment, and how it may be time to review this again. Mr. Summers offered a reminder that the District has student athletes, and not athlete students. The only promise Mr. Sanders said he made was to discuss it as a Board. Mr. Summers said the Board should hear it as a recommendation from Mr. Castagna and the Superintendent. Mr. Schulman asked if this is a proper subject for review, and Dr Donohue noted he and Mr. Castagna are already discussing the matter for a possible recommendation in the future.

Mr. Summers reviewed some upcoming budget dates, noting that March 21 and 28 are the only meetings at which the public can request additions or deletions to the budget. The budget is adopted on April 25, followed by an information hearing on May 9, and the budget vote will be held on May 16.

Mr. Summers asked Ms. DiPietro, as the liaison for the Byram Hills Preschool Association, to contact the association and encourage people to vote, and invite them to a Principal's Coffee for budget information, as well as to have their questions answered. Ms. DiPietro stated that she is still trying to organize a District night. Mr. Summers noted this will be discussed at the Coman Hill Principal's Coffee and the Budget Information Committee will discuss this, as well. Mr. Schulman offered a reminder that the Board is prohibited from trying to influence voters as to how they should vote on the budget. All they can do is ask the community members to be informed voters. Ms. DiPietro said the preschool association no longer sends newsletters, but might be able to do an informational e-blast regarding the budget.

Information: 13.2 Committees / Board Members

- 13.2.1 February 14, 2017: Board Visitation to HCC, 9:30 a.m.
- 13.2.2 February 17, 2017: Town / School District Liaison Meeting, Town Hall, 7:45 a.m.
- 13.2.3 March 6, 2017: Board Visitation to BHHS, 9:30 a.m.
- 13.2.4 March 14, 2017: Policy Committee, District Office, 9 a.m.

Information: 13.3 Topics for Future Agendas / Requests for Information

- 13.3.1 March 7, 2017: Board of Education Meeting, Presentation of Administration's Proposed 2017-2018 Budget, 7:30 p.m.
- 13.3.2 March 21, 2017: Board of Education Meeting, Budget Hearing II, 7:30 p.m.
- 13.3.3 March 28, 2017: Board of Education Meeting, Budget Hearing III, 7:30 p.m.
- 13.3.4 April 4, 2017: Board of Education Meeting, Budget Hearing IV, 7:30 p.m.
- 13.3.5 April 25, 2017: Board of Education Meeting, Adoption of 20172018 Budget, 7:30 p.m.
- 13.3.6 May 9, 2017: Board of Education Meeting, Budget Hearing V, 7:30 p.m.
- 13.3.7 May 16, 2017: Budget Vote /Trustee Vote, HC Crittenden M.S., 6:30 a.m. 9 p.m.

14. Communications to the Board

Information: 14.1 Communications to the Board

There were two communications sent to the Board – one on Secretary of Education, Betsy Devos, and a second from Southern Westchester BOCES about a vacancy on their board.

15. Approval of Board Minutes

Action: 15.1 Approval of Board of Education Minutes: January 10, 2017

A motion was made by Ms. Stangel and seconded by Mr. Schulman to approve the Board of Education Minutes of January 10, 2017. Vote: 6-yes, 0-no. Motion carried.

16. Executive Session

The Board met in Executive Session earlier and completed discussions on:

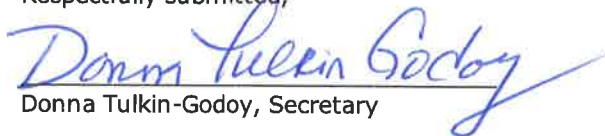
- 3.1 Personnel Matter - Teacher Tenure
- 3.2 Contract Matter - BHTA
- 3.3 Personnel Matter - Succession Planning
- 3.4 Personnel Matter - Superintendent's Mid-Year Evaluation

17. Adjournment

At 9:42 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Schulman and seconded by Ms. DiPietro to adjourn the meeting. Vote: 6-yes 0-no. Motion carried.

The public meeting ended at 9:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Donna Tulkin-Godoy, Secretary

March 7, 2017
Date

SPRING COACHES
2017

BASEBALL

Varsity - Scott Saunders
Var. Asst. - Bob Jordon
Pitching - Mike Huffman
Head J.V. - Diego Cabezas
J.V. Asst. - Matt Jordon
Head Modified - Levi Littman
Asst. Modified - Joe Grippi

SOFTBALL

Head Varsity - Tara Flaherty
Asst. Varsity -
Pitching - Nicole Wilson
Head J.V. -
Asst. J.V. -
Head Modified - Michele Wade
Asst. Modified - Denise Barnard

GOLF

Varsity Boys - Bill Twardy
Head JV - Eric Perlowitz
Varsity Girls - Ken Kaplan

TENNIS

Varsity - Rob Klugman
J.V. - Jessica Woolf

TRACK

Girls Head Varsity - Greg Govan
Var. Asst. Girls - Shannon Duffy
Boys Head Var. - Tom Andriello
Var. Asst. Boys - Bryan Horn
Head Modified - Kathleen Healy
Head Modified - Victoria Barthell

(2/7/17)

SPRING COACHES
2017

BOYS LACROSSE

Head Varsity - James Ardizone
Var. Asst. - Matt DiPietro
Head J.V. - Luke Beyer
Asst. J.V. - Mark Kronenberger
Modified -
Asst. Modified - Jim Horigan

GIRLS LACROSSE

Head Varsity - Maria DiFato
Var. Asst. -
Head J.V. -
Asst. J.V. -
Modified - Julie Wilson
Asst. Modified - Marianne White

Modified Assistant to the A.D. - Jared Christian
High School Assistant to the A.D. - Brett Alcantara
Equipment Manager - Scott Saunders

(2/7/17)