

HARBORFIELDS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
GREENLAWN, NEW YORK

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| Kind of Meeting | - | Regular Meeting |
| Date of Meeting | - | February 13, 2013 |
| Place of Meeting | - | OMS Auditorium |
| Board Members Present | - | Mr. Giuliano, Ms. Boba, Mr. Banks, Mr. Mastroianni, Dr. McDonagh, Mr. Schoer, and Mr. Toles |
| Board Members Absent | - | None |
| Others Present | - | Ms. Todaro, Mr. Nimmo, Mr. Sallie, Ms. Whelan, Mr. Christopher Guercio, Esq., of Guercio & Guercio, LLP and Community Members |

Mr. Giuliano called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Toles, seconded by Mr. Mastroianni, and carried (5-0), the Board, district office administrators and district counsel moved to Executive Session at 6:11 p.m. for the purpose of confidential discussions on contract negotiations. Ms. Boba and Mr. Schoer entered Executive Session at 6:45 p.m. and 6:53 p.m., respectively.

The Board reconvened the regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Giuliano led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance, and he instructed those in attendance where to exit the building in case of an emergency. He asked that all cell phones and beepers be silenced during the meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation on agenda items at this time.

ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT - BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. Giuliano announced that Ms. Boba would be stepping down from the role of Board of Education Vice President; remaining a Board Trustee. Mr. Giuliano thanked Ms. Boba on behalf of the entire Board for her service as Vice President. He then called for the nomination of a new Vice President.

Ms. Boba nominated Dr. McDonagh as Vice President. Mr. Mastroianni seconded the nomination. The vote was as follows:

AYES: Mr. Banks, Ms. Boba, Mr. Giuliano, Mr. Mastroianni, Mr. Schoer, Mr. Toles
NAYS: None

Ms. Whelan, District Clerk, was called upon to administer the oath of office to the Vice President of the Board of Education.

BOARD RECOGNITION PROGRAM

The following students were recognized by the Board of Education for their achievements:

- Matthew Baran, William Radovich, Boris Kris, and Jacob Wax, Mathletes A team members; currently 3rd place in Suffolk County.
- Alisa Chang, Mathletes A Team member; currently 3rd place in Suffolk County and a “super sophomore” who scored a perfect 6 out of 6.
- Bridgit Ryan, scored her 1,000th point on the basketball court.
- Morgan Lange, received an appointment to Annapolis from the U.S. Navy
- Lauren Antonucci, selected as *Newsday*’s Scholar-Artist for the month of January.
- Amanda Conklin, named a National Merit Scholarship finalist.

The following staff members were recognized by the Board of Education:

- Thomas Bennett, for his dedication and support in guiding the Mathletes A team to their 3rd place standing in Suffolk County.
- Paul Lasinski, for his selection as a 2012-2013 Dowling College/News 12 Long Island Educator of the Month and for winning the John Sciera Service Recognition Award on behalf of the New York State Athletic Trainers Association.
- Russ Tietjen and Bill Zatulskis, for their dedication and support in guiding Bridgit Ryan to her impressive accomplishment of scoring her 1,000th point on the basketball court.
- Christine Collins, Suffolk Zone Elementary Physical Education Teacher of the Year

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORTS

Student Representative’s Report

Michael Carillo, student representative from HHS, gave the following report:

- The Environmental Club is holding a recycling drive this week for old batteries and cell phones. Collection boxes are located in the high school main office, guidance office and Room T2.
- Student Giles Rutson won an honorable mention award representing Haiti at the Suffolk County Model UN conference.
- Harborfields PTSA Reflections Award Winners: Film Production/Award of Excellence (Robert Riglietti), Literature/Award of Excellence (Pamela Best),

Visual Arts/Award of Excellence (Kellie Roy), Photography/Award of Merit (Eliza Greenberg).

- Harborfields Playfest weekend was very successful. Congratulations to the junior class for best overall play.
- Harborfields High School's annual Global Justice concert will be held on March 1, 2013.
- Several students (Doug Gaffney, Tim Johnson, and Ryan Rocourt) received recognition through the Random Acts of Kindness Program.
- Congratulations go out to the girls and boys basketball teams for making it to the playoffs this season.

OMS Club Presentations: Student Government & Tornadoes Listening and Caring

Ms. Todaro announced that each year the Board of Education identifies specific goals and objectives, and one of the Board's goals this year was to give the community an overview of the various clubs available to the students. Ms. Todaro invited Ms. Joanne Giordano, Principal at Oldfield Middle School, to introduce the club advisors and some student members from two of the middle school's clubs, *Student Government* and the *Tornadoes Listening and Caring Club*. Mr. Chris Havranak and Mr. Rob McCoy, *Student Government* Advisors, and Ms. Dahlia Roemer and Ms. Jennifer McCaffrey, *Tornadoes Listening and Caring Club* Advisors, along with several of their students presented an overview of their respective club's goals and objectives and the various events and activities they are involved with throughout the school year.

Superintendent's Report

Ms. Todaro noted that the recent inclement weather has been problematic. She stated that a decision was made to conduct an early dismissal on Friday, February 8, 2013, in advance of the blizzard, and she acknowledged the efforts of numerous staff members who assisted with the dismissal of students that day. She reminded everyone that due to the snow day on Monday, February 11, 2013, schools would now be in session on Monday, March 25, 2013, as noted in the school calendar. Further, June 7, 2013 will now be a regular school day for students, including elementary school students.

Ms. Todaro noted that developing the 2013-2014 school calendar was an interesting task because of how the days fall next year. She noted that the first day of school for students would be Monday, September 9, 2013. The calendar, once adopted by the Board, will be available on the district's website.

Ms. Todaro announced that tonight's Board meeting would include the second budget presentation for the 2013-2014 proposed school budget. She continued that subsequent budget discussions would be held at the special budget work session on Saturday, March 9, 2013, and the community forum, which is part of the Board's regular

meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 20, 2013. She encouraged community members to attend these meetings.

Ms. Todaro announced that the district-wide Black History Month celebration would take place on Thursday, February 28, 2013 at Harborfields High School from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Ms. Todaro noted that the Harborfields Special Education PTA had recently been in the news due to the arrest of their former president for allegedly stealing money from SEPTA funds. Ms. Todaro emphasized that the district was not in any way financially impacted by the alleged actions of this individual, as SEPTA's finances are separate and distinct from the district.

2013-2014 Budget Presentation

Ms. Todaro gave a presentation on the development of the 2013-2014 budget. She spoke about how planning the budget is a multi-step process which begins with identifying expenses associated with a rollover budget; comparing the 2013-2014 rollover budget to the 2012-2013 budget to assess the overall increase in expenses, and addressing the Tax Levy Cap Legislation which will be with us until at least 2016.

Ms. Todaro reported that a rollover budget, which maintains all current programs and staff, would represent a 4.24% increase in the budget. She explained that the district's allowable tax levy cap is presently calculated at 3.07%; noting that this calculation is based on a very detailed formula and is subject to change based on revenue. Ms. Todaro went on to explain what revenue is comprised of (state aid, etc.) and noted that reduced and/or stagnant state aid, resulting from revised state aid formulas, is an ongoing challenge facing the district. Ms. Todaro commented that the rental of classroom space at Washington Drive Primary School will help somewhat to offset other revenue reductions.

Ms. Todaro stated that enrollment is projected to decline by approximately 82 students for the 2013-2014 school year and by all indications the downward trend will continue through at least the 2017-2018 school year when it is projected that enrollment will be below 3,000 students. Ms. Todaro noted that the Board and district administrators will be continuing their discussions on the budget development during the next two months and encouraged the community to attend these meetings. She reminded everyone that the budget timeline and recent budget presentations are available on the district's website.

Board members offered several comments and questions regarding the proposed budget presentation including the impact of sequestration cuts, academic intervention support, assessing fees for the use of district facilities as a source of additional revenue, exploring the effect continuing enrollment decline would have on available space in our buildings, reimbursement by the state for safety and security improvements, health insurance tiers, changing the district's transportation mileage limits (this item would

require voter approval) and the impact of the governor's proposal on pension contributions by local governments.

Progress of Board of Education Goals

Ms. Todaro reported on the progress of goals for the 2012-2013 school year. She stated that in its continuing efforts to enhance communication with the school community, the district established a Facebook page in November 2012. The site is maintained by Syntax Communications, the district's public relations firm, and there are currently 382 "likes" on the page. She reported that a letter was sent to all key communicators in January 2013 to provide an overview of the 2013-2014 budget timeline and process. She stated that a new budget brochure is being developed that will provide enhanced details of specific questions pertaining to the annual budget process. Ms. Todaro further reported that essential information is continually posted to the district's website, and the PTA Council supports the district's goal through their own website which provides ongoing communications to the school community.

Ms. Todaro reported that the rental of classroom space at Washington Drive will provide a new source of revenue to the district beginning in September 2013. She further reported that the district continues to seek information and data from NYSHIP in order to pursue competitive bids in the area of health insurance. She stated that current legislation does not provide us with the opportunity to get the exact information we need from NYSHIP. Ms. Todaro reported that the processing of grants, consolidation of services, advertising, and partnerships with other districts, BOCES, towns and county are continually being explored in order to reduce costs and increase revenues. She mentioned the recent partnership with Suffolk County for the district's purchase of natural gas, which began in January 2013, and is expected to produce notable savings to the district.

Ms. Todaro reported that the district continues to explore alternative methods for delivering instruction, including online courses and distance learning. She reported that the distance learning process was halted due to contractual issues. She further reported that the feasibility of converting to iPads or a tablet based platform for textbooks is being assessed, as is the district's technology infrastructure for converting to wireless connectivity in order to access devices including Chromebooks, iPads, or tablets.

A comprehensive report on the Board of Education Goals is on file in the Office of the Superintendent.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

The Board of Education accepted the following minutes:

- Regular Meeting, January 16, 2013
- Special Meeting, January 30, 2013

FINANCE CONSENT AGENDA

4.1 Call for Removal of Resolutions from the FINANCE Consent Agenda

There were no items removed from the Finance Consent Agenda.

4.2 Finance Consent Agenda

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Toles, seconded by Mr. Mastroianni, and carried unanimously (7-0), all items in the area of Finance on the agenda of February 13, 2013 were approved by the Board of Education by consent. The gifts and grants were accepted by the Board with their thanks and appreciation.

4.3 Corrective Action Plan for External Audit

Whereas, the Board of Education received an audit report from the external auditor, Cullen & Danowski, LLP for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012 and pursuant to Chapter 263 of the Laws of 2005 amending education law to require school districts to develop a response to the external auditor's management letter, presented and accepted by the Board on November 14, 2012, the district has developed a response to the External Audit Report in the form of a Corrective Action Plan.

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepted the Corrective Action Plan for the External Audit Report.

4.4 Treasurer's Report

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approved the Treasurer's Report for December 2012.

4.5 Schedule of Bills

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepted the Schedule of Bills attached to the agenda of February 13, 2013.

4.6 Financial Status Report

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepted the Financial Status Report for December 2012.

4.7 Budgetary Transfer of Funds

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approved the budgetary transfer of funds as listed in the attachments to the official minutes of February 13, 2013.

4.8 Health Services Agreement

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approved the following health services contract between the Harborfields Central School District and the school district listed below, for the purpose of providing health services for children residing in the Harborfields Central School District and attending nonpublic school in said school district for the 2012-2013 school year:

- Deer Park UFSD, one (1) student attending SS. Cyril & Methodius School at a cost of \$908.01.

4.9 School Service/Specialized Education Agreement

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approved the following School Service/Specialized Education Agreement between the Harborfields Central School District and the contractor listed below, in accordance with Part 200 of the regulations of the Commissioner of Education for children with handicapping conditions:

- Mill Neck Interpreter Services to provide Interpreting Services for children with disabilities in accordance with the Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) for the period of July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013 and compensated in accordance with the schedule set forth in said agreement.

4.10 Private School Placement/Special Education Services Contract

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approved the following special education services contracts between the Harborfields Central School District "District of Resident" and the schools "District of Location" listed below. The "District of Residence" will be billed for special education services for children residing in the Harborfields Central School District and attending nonpublic schools in said school districts in accordance with Education Law Section 3602-c and regulations of the Commissioner of Education.

- Three (3) students residing within the Harborfields Central School District attending a private school within the Huntington Union Free School District effective July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012
- Two (2) students residing within the Harborfields Central School District attending a private school within the Half Hollow Hills Central School District effective July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013.

4.11 Acceptance of Gifts

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepted the following gifts:

- Gift from General Mills, Box Tops for Education, in the amount of \$1,844.10 to be applied to the TJJ Outreach Fund through the Expendable Trust Account.
- Gift from TerraCycle, Inc., in the amount of \$300.00 to be applied to the WDPS Outreach Fund through the Expendable Trust Account.
- Gift from CSC Holdings, LLC in the amount of \$500.00 to be accepted for credit to the MSG Varsity Scholarship Fund.
- Gift from the O’Lear family in the amount of \$4,000.00 to be accepted for credit to the Timothy O’Lear Scholarship Fund.

4.12 Acceptance of Gifts/Grants and Increase In Appropriations

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepted the following gifts/grants:

- Grant from Target’s Field Trips Grant Program in the amount of \$700.00 awarded based on a grant application submitted by Sandra Buscemi, Special Education Teacher at OMS to be used for field trip expenses.
- Gift from OMS PTA in the amount of \$8,515.61 to be used under the guidance and direction of the Principal at Oldfield Middle School to support the technology and instructional programs at OMS.

Further, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, pursuant to the anticipated receipt of the gifts to reimburse our expenses, appropriations for 2012-2013 be increased as follows:

| | |
|--------------------|------------|
| A2255.4190.53.2255 | \$ 700.00 |
| A2020.2000.11.2020 | \$6,163.96 |
| A2110.5100.11.2310 | \$ 466.63 |
| A2110.5160.11.2540 | \$1,138.03 |
| A2110.5130.11.2355 | \$ 631.79 |
| A2110.5130.11.2320 | \$ 115.20 |

with the understanding that this increase in appropriations is matched by unanticipated revenue and will, therefore, result in no impact on the tax levy.

4.13 Surplus Equipment & Books

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approved that the surplus equipment and books, as listed in the attachments to the agenda of February 13, 2013, be declared surplus and disposed of accordingly.

- Phonak Campus S Receiver – Serial #063C26694
- Library books in the Thomas J. Lahey Elementary School Library
- Library books in the Harborfields High School Library
- Motorola Emergency Phone from OMS (Asset ID #010683)

HUMAN RESOURCES CONSENT AGENDA

5.1 Call for Removal of Resolutions from the HUMAN RESOURCES Consent Agenda

Mr. Schoer called for the removal of Item 5.6 in order that it be addressed separately from the Consent Agenda.

5.2 Human Resources Consent Agenda

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Schoer, seconded by Mr. Mastroianni, and carried unanimously (7-0), all resolutions in the area of Human Resources on the agenda of the February 13, 2013 Board of Education meeting, with the exception of Item 5.6, were approved by the Board of Education by consent.

5.3 Resignations

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepted the following resignations:

- Elizabeth Famiglietti, part-time Teaching Assistant, TJL, effective close of business February 8, 2013
- Ellen Wilson, part-time Teaching Assistant, WDPS, effective close of business June 30, 2013

5.4 Leaves of Absence

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approved the following leaves of absence:

| Name | Assignment | School | Dates Paid | Dates Unpaid |
|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Cornell, Pamela | Special Education Teacher | OMS | 6/3/13 – 6/24/13 | N/A |

| | | | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|-----|-------------------|-----|
| Kouroutis, George | Social Studies Teacher | HHS | 4/10/13 – 4/23/13 | N/A |
|-------------------|------------------------|-----|-------------------|-----|

5.5 Revisions of Leaves of Absence

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approved the following revisions of leaves of absence:

| Name | Assignment | School | Dates Paid | Dates Unpaid |
|---------------------|----------------------------|--------|--|------------------------------------|
| Christine Collins | Physical Education Teacher | TJL | From: 4/1/13 – 3/13/13 To: 1/9/13 – 4/9/13 | N/A |
| Jennifer Washington | Special Education Teacher | TJL | From: 2/25/13 – 3/13/13 To: 2/11/13 – 2/27/13 | 3/14/13-4/30/13 2/28/13-4/30/13 |

5.7 Permanent Appointments

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approved the following permanent appointments:

| Name | Position | Building | Effective |
|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------|
| Tracy Farrell | Maintenance Mechanic II | Buildings & Grounds | 2/23/13 |
| Matthew Nunziato | Custodial Worker I | Oldfield Middle School | 3/4/13 |
| Dean Schreiner | Custodial Worker I | District-wide | 2/23/13 |

5.8 Donation of Sick Time

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorized the donation of ten (10) sick days from a staff member of the Heads & Chiefs Unit to the accumulated sick bank of the following staff member:

- Ryan, Edward

5.9 Extracompensation Appointments Schedule 2012-2013

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education, approved the appointees specified on the Extracompensation Appointment Schedule, as attached to the official minutes of the meeting of February 13, 2013.

5.10 Addendum to the 2012-2013 Substitute List

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approved the substitute list addendum, as attached to the official minutes of the meeting of February 13, 2013, for the maximum period through June 30, 2013 to serve at the pleasure of the Board.

5.11 Appointment of Chairperson of Annual Election and Budget Vote

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education, appointed Maryann Viglucci as Chairperson of the Annual Election and Budget Vote to be held on May 21, 2013.

5.12 Authorization for Board of Education Members, District Clerk, and District Office Administrators to Attend Conferences

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approved the resolution authorizing the Board of Education members, district clerk, and the district office administrators to attend the conference listed below and be reimbursed for expenses in accordance with Policy File 2521:

- SCOPE’s 12th Annual School District Awards Dinner, March 18, 2013, Villa Lombardi’s, Holbrook, New York
- NYSSBA’s 3rd Annual District Clerk Workshop, “Sharpen Your Skills and Stay Up-to-Date,” March 19, 2013, Islandia, New York

5.6 Professional Appointments

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Toles, seconded by Mr. Schoer, and carried unanimously (7-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following professional appointments were approved in accordance with the schedule attached to the official minutes of the meeting of February 13, 2013:

| Professional Appointment | | |
|---|---------------|---|
| Name | School | Assignment |
| Francesco Ianni | District | Assistant Superintendent for Administration & Human Resources |
| Regular Substitute Appointment | | |
| For the maximum period through June 30, 2013 to serve at the pleasure of the Board | | |
| Name | School | Assignment |
| Kevin Gribbin | TJL | Physical Education Teacher |

Ms. Todaro announced that Dr. Ianni and his family were in the audience. The Board members and district administrators congratulated Dr. Ianni on his appointment. Mr. Mastroianni thanked Mr. Edward Sallie for his service to the district and wished him well on his upcoming retirement.

INSTRUCTION CONSENT AGENDA

6.1 Call for Removal of Resolutions from the INSTRUCTION Consent Agenda

There were no items removed from the Instruction Consent Agenda.

6.2 Instruction Consent Agenda

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Toles, seconded by Mr. Schoer, and carried unanimously (7-0), all items in the area of Instruction on the agenda of February 13, 2013 were approved by the Board of Education by consent.

6.3 Overnight Field Trip

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approved the following overnight field trip:

- Approximately 14 students from the Harborfields High School Girls Varsity Basketball Team to attend a basketball tournament in Orlando, FL.

6.4 Review of IEP Recommendations and Authorization for Placement and Services

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education, having reviewed the IEP recommendations, approved that authorization be granted to provide for the placement and services contained in the following recommendations of the CSE, SCSE and CPSE:

- **Committee on Special Education** meetings dated December 21, 2012, January 16, 2013, January 28, 2013, January 30, 2013 and February 1, 2013.
- **Subcommittee on Special Education** meetings dated January 3, 2013 and January 23, 2013.
- **Committee on Preschool Special Education** meetings dated January 17, 2013 and January 28, 2013.

6.5 Adoption of 2013-2014 Calendar

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education adopted the 2013-2014 Harborfields Central School District's calendar, as contained in the official minutes of this meeting of February 13, 2013.

6.6 Adoption of Revised Board of Education Policy

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education adopted the following revised policy as attached to the agenda of February 13, 2013:

- File 6240: Investments

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Governor's Pension Proposal

Governor Andrew Cuomo recently proposed allowing local governments to opt into a "fixed rate" contribution plan to fund their public employee pension obligations. The proposal would allow local governments to make pension payments equivalent to 12 percent of payroll for members of the Employees' Retirement System and 12.5 percent for the Teachers' Retirement System. The rates would be fixed for at least five years but are expected to be continued for another 20 years; subject to review in the later period to reflect changing conditions.

Discussion ensued on this topic with Mr. Nimmo commenting that he attended a business officials meeting earlier in the day where this issue was discussed. He noted that in the short term, the net benefit might represent a significant savings for the district; however, he also noted that there are still elements of the proposal that need evaluation. One such example is that the "fixed" rates proposed by the Governor are well below the rates projected to be required over the next six years under current practices. Since benefit payments to retirees are guaranteed by the state constitution, if the funds are not returned to the pension systems as planned, then future taxpayers will have to fill the gap. Further consideration will be given to this issue.

BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

NSBA Federal Relations Network Conference in Washington, DC, January 27-29, 2013

Mr. Schoer attended the FRN Conference in Washington DC. This is a lobbying effort of NSBA along with NYSSBA. He reported that the big topic focused on sequestration and noted that upwards of 700 school districts across the country have passed resolutions urging Congress to stop the sequestration. Hopefully, Congress will get the message on how important this issue is to public education. He further reported that there was a lot of discussion on public education being under attack; that schools in the United States are failing. He stated that this is simply not accurate; education should not be viewed as a cost or expense, but rather as an investment, and we should be emphasizing this with the public and our local legislators. He reported that he met with Senators Schumer and Gillibrand who are very supportive of education. He also met with Congressman Steve Israel's representative, and he relayed his concerns that Congressman Israel is not out front enough about education; he should be a leader for education in Congress, especially since he represents some of the highest achieving school districts.

Suffolk County School Superintendents Association (SCSSA) Seventh Annual Advocacy Workshop, January 26, 2013

Ms. Todaro, Mr. Schoer, and Mr. Nimmo attended this workshop. Ms. Todaro reported that four superintendents made presentations. The common theme focused on

education's financial solvency. A discussion was held on what would be the tipping point for school districts; how many years would districts have before they went bankrupt.

General Council of PTAs President and Principal's Dinner, February 4, 2013, Old Fields Inn, Greenlawn, NY

Mr. Giuliano, Ms. Boba, Mr. Mastroianni, Dr. McDonagh, Mr. Schoer, Mr. Toles, Ms. Todaro and Mr. Nimmo attended this event. Ms. Todaro stated that it was a wonderful evening and the Board thanked the PTA Council for putting together such an enjoyable gathering.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A resident thanked the Board for all their hard work and stated that while she understands the Board's need to focus on this year's budget, she stressed that they should also be thinking long term. Think strategically now about what the district will look like ten years from now.

A resident stated the importance of class size, especially in the younger grades. She stated that a good number is 24 and encouraged the Board to retain smaller class sizes. She also suggested that the Board look at offering a retirement incentive to help cut costs and further suggested that the Board look at sharing buses for TJL and WDPS. She noted that HHS and OMS share buses, but TJL and WDPS do not because their starting times are the same. She also suggested that since technology is old the day you buy it, the Board should consider renting technology equipment rather than purchasing it.

A resident stated that she was drawn to the district because of our music and art programs and other extracurricular offerings, and she encouraged the Board to retain these programs; stating that she would not oppose exceeding the tax cap to do so.

A resident acknowledged how everyone on the Board makes themselves very accessible to the community. He suggested that the Board consider improving the bleachers at the high school.

A resident mentioned that in the past, there had been some discussion on selling some land at OMS and she asked if the district considered moving forward with that. She also questioned the use of reserves in the proposed budget and was told that the same level of reserves as last year is being allocated to this year's budget. She also stated that she felt very strongly that the community would support a budget that pierced the allowable tax cap levy and recommended that the Board should consider it.

A resident stated that she has been a participant in an online course of study and distance learning program, and she is of the belief that it cannot replace the value of classroom learning; it is simply not the same as having a teacher in front of the classroom.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Schoer, seconded by Mr. Toles, and carried unanimously (7-0), the Board adjourned the regular meeting of February 13, 2013 at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon M. Whelan
District Clerk