

HARBORFIELDS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
GREENLAWN, NEW YORK

Kind of Meeting	-	Regular Meeting
Date of Meeting	-	April 22, 2015
Place of Meeting	-	OMS Auditorium
Board Members Present	-	Dr. McDonagh, Mr. Mastroianni, Ms. Gaughan, Mr. Giuliano, Mr. Lee, and Mr. Steinberg
Board Members Absent	-	None
Others Present	-	Ms. Todaro, Dr. Ianni, Mr. Nimmo, Mr. Cox Ms. Whelan, Greg Guercio, Esq. and Community Members

Dr. McDonagh called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Giuliano, seconded by Mr. Mastroianni, and carried (6-0), the board and district office administrators moved to Executive Session at 6:02 p.m. for the purpose of meeting with the district's legal counsel to discuss collective bargaining negotiations.

The board reconvened the regular meeting at 7:50 p.m., and Dr. McDonagh led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

BOARD RECOGNITION PROGRAM

The following students and staff members were recognized by the Board of Education for their accomplishments:

Students:

- Alisa Chang, Ryan Dondero, Hannah Johnston, Matthew Pressman and Eli Slamowitz; finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program.
- Alex de Borja, Brendan Deegan, Ian Leskody, Aniah McLeod, Kristen Shore and Michael Wegmann; 2015 New York DECA State Career Conference finalists.
- Isabella DeMatteo; Award of Excellence at the Art League of Long Island Go APE (Advanced Placement Student Exhibition) show.
- Shannon O'Reilly; Award of Excellence for artwork in the High Arts Showcase exhibit at the Huntington Arts Council.
- Pamela Best and Shannon O'Reilly; their artwork was accepted into the Long Island's Best: 2015 Young Artists at The Heckscher Museum.

- Alex Coventry, Jake Dombrower, Ethan Thomas, Jacob Tschinkel and Connor Stewart; earned “Most Polished Android App” at the HackBCA Competition.

Staff:

- Christopher Murphy and Augustino Rettino; for hosting the annual Variety Show.
- Kim Cagnazzi, Alison Kraham and Ellen Rieger; for their many years of dedicated service organizing the district’s annual Variety Show.
- Annie McClintock; named NYSUT’S 2015 School Related Professional of the year.
- Dr. Rory Manning; recipient of the 2014-2015 Western Suffolk BOCES Model Schools Program Administrator Award.

Ms. Todaro congratulated all students and staff on their accomplishments. She announced that Dr. Manning also received a proclamation from the Town of Huntington at last night’s Town Board meeting. The proclamation is a result of how well our students perform overall and on state assessments. Ms. Todaro also announced that the Washington Post released their rankings for the Challenge Index and Harborfields High School has moved up significantly since last year, ranking 2nd in Suffolk County, 12th on Long Island, 24th in New York State and 302 in the nation.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORTS

Student Representative’s Report

Katherine Ryan, student representative from HHS, reported on the following:

- Last week marked the start of the fourth quarter at HHS, and students are working hard in preparation for AP testing, finals and Regents and continue their accomplishments outside the classroom as well.
- The high school hosted the annual Walk for a Wish fundraiser, which raised over \$17,000 thanks to the hardworking members of the PTA and the entire Harborfields Community.
- The Global Justice Club put on a great concert and raised over \$6,000 for the Magic Penny Foundation, an organization created by a former Harborfields teacher to support education in Sierra Leone, Africa.
- Six more students were given Random Act of Kindness awards for their selfless compassion for others within our high school.
- Thirteen Harborfields students and alumni attended the Rotary Youth Leadership awards, representing our school at this weekend retreat. They learned about leadership, participated in team building activities, and created relationships with other young leaders from high schools across Long Island.

- The Harborfields Theater Company has been hard at work preparing for their production of the Addams Family. Opening night is April 23, 2015 and the cast would appreciate the support of the community during their first show.

2015-2016 Proposed Budget Presentation

Ms. Todaro gave an updated presentation on the 2015-2016 proposed budget, which is slated to be adopted by the board at tonight's meeting. She explained that in planning the 2015-2016 budget, an anticipated allocation of \$300,000 in additional state aid was included. On April 1, 2015, the district learned that the approved state budget provides an increase of \$600,000 in state aid; \$300,000 more than anticipated. This additional \$300,000 will be distributed throughout the budget by allocating \$100,000 to reserves and \$200,000 towards staffing, furniture/equipment and professional development. Ms. Todaro presented an overview of the proposed staff changes included in the budget. In addition to the staff changes previously presented, Ms. Todaro explained that the guidance program will be enhanced with the addition of two new guidance counselors, one at HHS and one at OMS, and the library program at Washington Drive will be enhanced with the addition of a 0.5 teaching assistant and a 0.1 librarian. She noted that the district will continue to study the library services throughout the district during the 2015-2016 school year to determine if other enhancements are indicated.

Dr. Ianni continued the presentation with an overview of the restructuring of the guidance program. He explained that six guidance counselors will provide services to over 1,100 students entering the high school in the 2015-2016 school year. As a result, the caseload of all the counselors will be significantly reduced. Dr. Ianni reviewed how the implementation of the guidance coordinator position would change the responsibilities throughout the department. Academic teams will be created within the department and will be comprised of three counselors on each team. Supervision and oversight will be managed by the two assistant principals. Guidance counselors and/or the guidance coordinator will address questions related to the guidance program while matters requiring administrative intervention will be handled by the assistant principals or the principal. Computer-related tasks, such as Naviance, will be managed by district office. Dr. Ianni then reviewed the responsibilities that will be overseen by the guidance coordinator some of which include the creation of a college search handbook, developing communication materials to keep parents informed, fostering partnerships with colleges and universities, serving as liaison with the college admissions office, etc.

Mr. Nimmo continued the presentation with an overview of the district's reserves. He explained that the district has been seeking to restore and enhance many of the programs that were reduced several years ago, and therefore, we rely on our fund balance and reserves to help offset the increase in expenditures. In the 2014-2015 school budget, over \$5 million in reserves and fund balance were used. A reduction in anticipated pension costs for next year, allowed the district to scale back on how much was allocated from our reserve funds to the 2015-2016 school budget. The budget includes over \$4 million in reserves and fund balance. Mr. Nimmo reported that the tax levy increase for 2015-2016 is 1.74%, slightly lower than our original projection of 1.97%. Mr. Nimmo

explained that the approved New York State budget contained some technical corrections, mostly to building aid, that affected our exclusions, thus affecting our tax levy.

Capital Improvement Bond Project Presentation

Ms. Todaro gave an updated presentation on the Capital Improvement Bond Project. She reviewed the list of proposed projects, and presented preliminary cost estimates associated with each project. She emphasized that the cost estimates presented this evening were preliminary ones and are subject to modification as the district and the architect continue to review the projects throughout the process. Ms. Todaro explained that the financing of a bond project is generally fifteen years, and during that period, the district will receive state aid on the capital bond, estimated to be at a rate of 50%. Ms. Todaro announced that the referendum will be put before the community on Tuesday, October 27, 2015. The Board of Education will adopt the resolution to proceed with the bond referendum at the August 26, 2015 meeting. The resolution will specifically outline what projects are to be included in the capital bond. Ms. Todaro reminded everyone of the upcoming board meetings where the capital improvement bond would be addressed. Dr. McDonagh also commented on the list of projects, emphasizing that what is presented today might not wind up being the final list. Some projects may be added while others may be taken away.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Several residents expressed disappointment with the 0.1 librarian position at WDPS noting that it falls short of the actual need. They suggested using some of the additional state aid money to fund a part-time librarian. One resident asked how many hours of work 0.1 amounted to. Ms. Todaro responded that a 0.1 librarian would work approximately 1 hour a day. The part-time librarian at TJL would fulfill that responsibility by visiting Washington Drive prior to heading over to Thomas J. Lahey. The schedule could be restructured, if needed.

A resident asked what projects were covered under the old capital reserve fund. Mr. Nimmo explained that the original capital reserve fund provided for the renovation of roofs, windows, masonry work, and other repairs that were needed in the district at the time. The new reserve fund would expand the scope to include boilers, heating systems, ventilations systems, etc.

The President of the HBAA (Haborfields Building Administrators Association) questioned the guidance restructuring stating that he heard “enhancing and restructuring” but he hasn’t heard “eliminated or reduced,” and he asked for clarification on the guidance director position – is it being eliminated? Ms. Todaro responded that the position is being eliminated, thereby facilitating the restructuring of the department. The president then read a prepared statement on behalf of the HBAA, a copy of which is on file in the district clerk’s office.

A resident suggested that the guidance department should be represented on the list of areas to visit at back-to-school nights. She also stated that we should go back to having one guidance counselor assigned to students for their entire four years in high school.

A resident stated that she is in support of full-day kindergarten and she wondered how the committee would be selected. Ms. Todaro responded that the applications would be reviewed with the intent of selecting a cross representation of our district. Ms. Todaro anticipates the committee will be made up of 10-12 people.

A resident stated that she hopes the kindergarten committee will look into the research on the Common Core requirements and how it correlates to full-day kindergarten. The resident also questioned what the annual cost to the district would be on a \$10 million dollar capital bond? Mr. Nimmo responded that it would cost the district approximately \$800,000 annually before state aid. The resident also commented on the proposed synthetic turf field expressing concern over reports that suggest the crumb rubber material used in manufacturing the field can be a carcinogen, and she urged the board to investigate the health risks before proceeding with the field.

A resident inquired if the district intended to use the capital reserve fund as part of the capital bond? Ms. Todaro explained that a decision has not been made at this point, but it will be addressed. The resident also inquired if it was possible to have two propositions, one that includes the turf field and one that does not? Dr. McDonagh responded that the board would make the final decision on crafting the wording of the proposition, and he indicated it would be taken into consideration. The resident also suggested that if it were possible, they should consider adding in extra stalls to the students bathroom in the A wing at TJL.

A resident and member of the District Advisory Committee stated that she's proud of the work the committee did in putting together their recommendations. She noted that the printed copies of the PowerPoint presentation contained only odd numbered pages, not the entire presentation. Ms. Todaro thanked her for pointing this out and stated that the entire presentation would be posted to the district's website.

A resident suggested that the board consider adding a pathway to access the high school fields, as there is no handicapped access near the field. When the parking lot in the back is opened, access is okay, but if it's closed, it's difficult for a wheelchair-bound person to navigate to the fields. Ms. Todaro explained that they did look into a pathway but it was discovered that it would interfere with play on the fields. Other alternatives will be investigated.

A resident and member of the District Advisory Committee stated that many districts throughout Long Island and the Town of Huntington have installed synthetic turf fields. He supports investigating the alleged health concerns, but noted that there are other products that can be used that are not made from recycled tires. He also noted that the cost estimates provided are much higher than original estimates obtained by the committee. He suggested that a different approach could be considered whereby the district look at paying the architect a fixed fee to handle the paperwork and appropriate filings with the

State Education Department and obtain the construction estimates directly from the contractors who would be bidding on the work.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

The Board of Education accepted the following minutes:

- Regular Meeting, March 18, 2015
- Special Meeting, April 15, 2015

FINANCE

4.1 Treasurer's Report

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Giuliano, seconded by Mr. Mastroianni, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Treasurer's Report for February 2015 was approved.

4.2 Schedule of Bills

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Mastroianni, seconded by Mr. Steinberg, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the schedule of bills, as attached to the agenda of April 22, 2015, was accepted.

4.3 Financial Status Report

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Giuliano, seconded by Mr. Mastroianni, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Financial Status Report for February 2015 was accepted.

4.4 Health Services

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Gaughan, seconded by Mr. Steinberg, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following health services contracts between the Harborfields Central School District and the school districts listed below, for the purpose of providing health services for children residing in the Harborfields Central School District and attending non-public schools in said school districts for the 2014-2015 school year were approved:

- Smithtown CSE, two (2) students attending St. Patrick's School at a cost of \$836.21 and four (4) students attending Smithtown Christian School at a cost of \$836.21, totaling \$5,017.26.
- South Huntington UFSD, forty-four (44) students attending St. Anthony's High School at a cost of \$742.34 and six (6) students attending Long Island School for the Gifted at a cost of \$742.34, totaling \$37,117.

4.5 Contract for Services to Sub-Allocate IDEA Flow through Funds to Special Education Providers

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Mastroianni, seconded by Mr. Giuliano, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following contract for services to sub-allocate IDEA flow through funds to providers for services to students with disabilities, ages 3-21 (Section 611) and ages 3-5 (Section 619) was approved:

- Developmental Disabilities, Inc.

4.6 Surplus Equipment

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Gaughan, seconded by Mr. Steinberg, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following computer equipment, as listed in the attachments to the agenda of April 22, 2015, were declared surplus and will be disposed of in accordance with board policy:

- District-wide computer & technology equipment (72 items)

4.7 Budgetary Transfer of Funds

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Gaughan, seconded by Mr. Mastroianni, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the budgetary transfer of funds, as listed in the attachment to the official minutes of April 22, 2015, was approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Steinberg, seconded by Mr. Lee and carried (6-0), the board moved to Executive Session at 9:45 p.m. to discuss staffing issues prior to voting on the resolution to adopt the budget. The board resumed the regular meeting at 10:04 p.m. Ms. Todaro thanked the community for attending all the budget meetings and for the feedback they have provided. She announced that the board has re-evaluated the librarian position at WDPS, and she's pleased to report that the position will be reinstated as 0.5 instead of 0.1 as originally recommended. The 0.5 teaching assistant will be removed from the budget, leaving one full-time teaching assistant assigned to the library. The board members each expressed their support for the budget.

4.8 2015-2016 Budget Adoption

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Giuliano, seconded by Mr. Lee, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education adopted the 2015-2016 school district budget in the amount of \$80,473,955 to be presented to eligible voters of the Harborfields Central School District at the Annual Election and Budget Vote to be held on May 19, 2015.

4.9 2015-2016 School District Property Tax Report Card

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Steinberg, seconded by Ms. Gaughan, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the 2015-2016 School Property Tax Report Card, as attached to the official minutes of April 22, 2015, was approved.

4.10 Use of Classroom and Supportive Services by Western Suffolk BOCES

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Giuliano, seconded by Ms. Gaughan, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the request from Western Suffolk BOCES for the use of one (1) classroom and supportive services at Oldfield Middle School for the Alternate Learning Program for the period September 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, in accordance with the agreement attached to the official minutes of April 22, 2015 was approved.

HUMAN RESOURCES

5.1 Resignations

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Steinberg, seconded by Mr. Mastroianni, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following resignations were accepted:

- Etherson, Ileana, Part-time Teaching Assistant, OMS, effective the close of business June 30, 2015.
- Hernandez, Leticia, Food Service Worker, OMS, effective the close of business March 13, 2015.
- Lom, Judith, Part-time Teaching Assistant, TJL, for the purpose of retirement, effective the close of business April 2, 2015.
- Nevirs, Maryann, Part-time Teaching Assistant, WDPS, effective the closing of business May 1, 2015.
- Tucci, Elizabeth, Assistant Director of Pupil Personnel Services, effective the close of business June 30, 2015.

5.2 Revision of Resignation

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Mastroianni, seconded by Ms. Gaughan, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following revision of resignation was accepted:

Name	Assignment	School	Change in Resignation Date
Glenn Murray	Custodial Worker I	OMS	From: August 14, 2015 To: May 31, 2015

5.3 Revision of Leaves of Absence

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Giuliano, seconded by Mr. Mastroianni, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following revisions of leaves of absence were approved:

Name	Assignment	School	Dates Paid
Judith Lom	Part-Time Teaching Assistant	TJL	From: 09/01/14 – 06/30/15 To: 09/01/14 – 04/01/15
Kerri McGinty	English Teacher	HHS	From: 03/20/15 – 06/05/15 To: 02/25/15 – 05/27/15

5.4 Increase in Hours

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Gaughan, seconded by Mr. Steinberg, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following employee was granted an increase in hours:

Name	Assignment	School	Change in Hours	Effective Date
Kathleen Robinson	Part-time Teaching Assistant	HHS	From: 6.50 hrs./day To: 6.75 hrs./day	03/16/15

5.5 Leave of Absence

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Giuliano, seconded by Mr. Lee, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following leave of absence was approved:

Name	Assignment	School	Dates Paid	Dates Unpaid
Jennifer Harmon	Math Teacher	HHS	09/02/15 – 11/24/15	11/25/15 – 08/31/16

5.6 Professional Appointments

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Steinberg, seconded by Mr. Lee, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following professional appointments, in accordance with the schedule attached to the official minutes of April 22, 2015, were approved:

Name	School	Assignment
Lynnsey Gaska	HHS	Guidance Counselor
Elizabeth Tucci	District	Director of Pupil Personnel Services
Part-Time		
for the maximum period through June 30, 2015 to serve at the pleasure of the Board		
Name	School	Assignment
MaryEllen Carroll	WDPS	Part-time Teaching Assistant
Christine LaRocca	WDPS	Part-time Teaching Assistant
Mary Storm	WDPS	Part-time Teaching Assistant
Erin Sullivan	TJL	Part-time Teaching Assistant

5.7 Substitute List Addendum

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Giuliano, seconded by Ms. Gaughan, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the substitute list addendum, as attached to the official minutes of April 22, 2015, was approved for the maximum period through June 30, 2015 to serve at the pleasure of the board.

5.8 Extracompensation Appointment Schedule

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Steinberg, seconded by Mr. Giuliano, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the appointees specified on the Extracompensation Appointment Schedule, as attached to the official minutes of April 22, 2015 were approved.

5.9 Approval of Head and Chief Custodians Unit Agreement

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Giuliano, seconded by Ms. Gaughan, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the agreement between Harborfields Central School District and the Head and Chief Custodians Unit, as attached to the agenda of April 22, 2015, was approved.

Further, the Superintendent of Schools was authorized to execute the agreement on behalf of the Harborfields Central School District.

5.10 Compensation to Inspectors from the Board of Elections for Attendance at Carillon Nursing Home for Residents to Vote by Absentee Ballot

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Steinberg, seconded by Mr. Mastroianni, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, pursuant to Education Law §1501-c, and Election Law §8-407, the following Inspectors from the Suffolk County Board of Elections will participate at the Carillon Nursing Home in order for residents to vote by absentee ballot with regard to the Harborfields Annual Budget Vote and Election to be held on May 19, 2015. The Inspectors will receive \$10.00 per hour or a minimum per diem rate of \$50.00 for their service.

- Rose Gangi, Irene Levee, Gerald Schehr

5.11 Appointment of Election Inspectors for the Harborfields Central School District Annual Budget Vote & Election

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Gaughan, seconded by Mr. Mastroianni, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following people were appointed to serve as Inspectors of Election for the Annual Election and Budget Vote of Qualified Voters to be held on May 19, 2015. The Chief Inspector and Chairperson will be compensated at a rate of \$15.00 per hour and the Inspectors of Election at a rate of \$12.50 per hour.

Further, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the District Clerk was authorized to hire additional Inspectors of Election, if necessary.

Kathleen Riker, Chief Inspector		
Laura Antonison *	Lottie Bennett *	Joan Caldarella
Theresa Damm	Lawrence Davis *	Jackie Dwyer
Barbara Endres *	Helen Gillen Flanders *	Shelly Feinman
Rose Gangi *	Joann Guido	Barbara Hanna
Claire Intemann *	Irene Levee	Mary MacDonnell *
Dena Maldon *	Jacqueline Martello	Carol O’Hea
Lorri O’Malley	Janet Palacios *	Janice Perdikoylis
Jane Pressman *	Carol Ann Queally *	Ronald Sabo *
Kate Shreck	Irene Smith *	Carol Solimando
Marilyn Valeo		

*These inspectors are certified by the Suffolk County Board of Elections on the use of the new optical scanning machines.

INSTRUCTION

6.1 Review of IEP Recommendations and Authorization for Placement and Services

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Mastroianni, seconded by Mr. Steinberg, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, after reviewing the IEP recommendations, the Board of Education granted authorization to provide for the placement and services contained in the following recommendations of the CSE, SCSE, and CPSE.

- **Committee on Special Education** meetings dated February 24, 2015, March 6, 2015, March 13, 2015, March 16, 2015, March 18, 2015, March 20, 2015, March 25, 2015 and March 30, 2015

- **Subcommittee on Special Education** meetings dated February 24, 2015, February 26, 2015, February 27, 2015, March 3, 2015, March 6, 2015, March 10, 2015, March 12, 2015, March 13, 2015, March 17, 2015, March 19, 2015, March 20, 2015, March 24, 2015, March 25, 2015, March 26, 2015, March 27, 2015 and March 30, 2015
- **Committee on Preschool Special Education** meetings dated March 12, 2015, March 16, 2015, March 19, 2015, March 26, 2015 and March 31, 2015

6.2 Overnight Field Trip Quinipet Camp and Retreat Center, Shelter Island, NY

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Steinberg, seconded by Ms. Gaughan, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the overnight field trip to Shelter Island, NY to attend the Quinipet Camp and Retreat Center for approximately 60 high school students from November 1-3, 2015 was approved.

6.3 Appeal for Alternative Art Credit

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Mastroianni, seconded by Ms. Gaughan, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby denies the appeal of the parents of the student identified in Confidential Schedule "A", and authorizes the Board President to issue a decision letter to the parents on behalf of the Board of Education.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Western Suffolk BOCES Budget

Ms. Todaro announced that at next week's special board meeting, the board will vote on the Western Suffolk BOCES budget. Mr. Mastroianni commented that the past few budgets from BOCES tended to be more than the tax cap and those costs flow through to the component districts. He was pleased to see that this year's proposed budget remains within the tax cap, and that Harborfields is one of six component districts that will see a decline in the combined administrative and capital charges.

Administration of 3 – 8 ELA and Math Assessments

Ms. Todaro stated that she wanted to take a moment to address the "opt out" movement that is occurring state-wide with regard to the assessment testing for grades 3-8 in English Language Arts (ELA) and Math. Federal law requires that states assess students in grades 3-8 on an annual basis in specified areas. It also requires that 95% of students in each school participate in such assessments. Extensive media coverage of this issue has led to many parents notifying school districts that their children will be opting out of the tests. Ms. Todaro reported that while the number of test refusals last year was less than 5%, this year, the number of refusals has significantly increased. For the ELA testing that took place last week, approximately 31% of students in grades 3-8 refused to take the test. The math testing that began today saw 37% of students refusing to take the test.

with the most significant test refusals coming from students at OMS. As a result, the district did not make the 95% participation rate required by law which may impact the district's Title I funding, as well as funding available under other federal programs such as IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act).

Ms. Todaro stated that information was posted to the district's website and letters were sent to the school community in an effort to educate parents on what the impact would be on their children. Mr. Mastroianni questioned how a student's academic standing might be affected by refusing the tests? Would they be placed in AIS? Ms. Todaro noted that the state has indicated that the assessments cannot be the sole indicator; it's only one indicator. If we don't have the ability to use any of the assessment test results (state, local, and Star assessments), it's then based on teacher recommendations and how a student is completing all of the course requirements, final exams, Regents, etc.

BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

SCOPE's 14th Annual School District Awards Dinner, March 23, 2015, Villa Lombardi's, Holbrook, NY

Mr. Lee, Mr. Mastroianni, Mr. Steinberg, Ms. Todaro, Mr. Nimmo, Dr. Ianni, Mr. Cox, Ms. Tuzzi and Ms. Whelan attended SCOPE's 14th Annual School District Awards Dinner. Ms. Todaro reported that this is an annual awards dinner where we honor some key people in the district. Each person is called up and presented with a plaque in recognition of their service to the district. The following people from Harborfields were honored:

- Ms. Irene Gaughan, School Board Service Award
- Ms. Victoria Melone, Administrator Service Award
- Ms. Diana Brown, Teacher Service Award
- Ms. Maryann Viglucci, Support Staff Service Award
- Ms. Ellen Reiger, Community Service Award

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Lee, seconded by Mr. Steinberg, and carried (6-0), the Board adjourned the regular meeting of April 22, 2015 at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon M. Whelan
District Clerk