

In an effort to increase Board/Public Communications, after each Board of Education meeting an email will be sent to parents, staff, and anyone who requested to receive district e-mail communications, highlighting board discussions.

The following was discussed at the March 25, 2021 meeting:

*The Board of Education started with a message to the entire community that the board and district condemn any act of hate, most recently geared toward the Asian community.

*Student representatives from MS and HS student council gave reports about recent school happenings.

*Allyson Edelman, PTA Council Vice President, announced an event for April 13 where Jericho graduates will return via Zoom to discuss their transition to college. More details will be emailed as the date gets closer, but please click here to register: <https://forms.gle/vHwzLUT7XmWxb8mc8>

*During the Superintendent's Report, Mr. Grishman made a recommendation to the board, after carefully reviewing the numbers at our middle school and high school, to bring all secondary students back every day and eliminate the hybrid model. The MS and HS looked at numbers considering all hybrid students back, and added an additional 10% for remote students that may return. After moving classrooms around, and re-arranging desks, students will be able to return and maintain 5 feet distance in almost all classrooms. This recommendation is to start April 12. A full remote option is still available, but families that choose full remote need to remain remote for the remainder of the school year. Please check your email for a survey that is to be returned by April 5. This does not impact the elementary schools.

*Additionally, mask wearing will still be mandated and desks guards will still be used. We will carefully monitor infection rates.

*The Board voted to accept the above recommendation.

*When we look at September, we hope to have all of our students back, including secondary students. We will keep parents and staff informed of plans as we meet over the summer.

*Information regarding end of the year assessments, including Regents exams, will be sent to parents from building principals.

*Mr. Grishman and Mr. Manuel presented information regarding Jericho School District's recent tax levy history of an average increase of 0.18% between 2015/16 and 2019/20 as compared to the average increase on Long Island of 1.76% during that same period. Additionally, they explained that the District only controls the total tax levy, and the County controls the assessments, adjusted base proportion, and the tax rate. In other words, the School District controls what we collect in totality, and the County controls each individual's tax bill calculation. Click here to watch Hank Grishman and Victor Manuel's explanation of this from the March meeting:

<https://youtu.be/yFkSfVU1LHk>

And please click here for the slides: <https://bit.ly/31oseKQ>

*The Board of Education unanimously adopted the 2021-2022 Budget of \$127,997,101. This will be on the ballot for the May 18 Budget Vote

*Also, the board adopted proposition #2, which will be on the ballot on May 18. Proposition #2 will authorize the Board to expend a sum not to exceed \$12,900,000 as follows: (1) \$6,677,000 from the capital reserve fund established on May 21, 2019 and (2) \$4,223,000 plus additional interest earned from the capital reserve fund established on May 16, 2017 and (3) \$1,300,000 from fund balance (unexpended funds from Proposition #2 authorized on May 15, 2018), and (4) \$700,000 from fund balance (unexpended funds from Proposition #2 authorized on May 16, 2017) for the purpose of completing capital improvements as follows: District-wide replacement/repairs of asphalt pavement, exterior masonry waterproofing, ceiling/lighting/flooring, air handling and ventilation; District-wide electrical upgrades and replacement; Installation of HVAC units at the Cantiague and Jackson Elementary Schools Gymnasiums; Hot water heater replacement at Jackson Elementary School; Roof replacement at the Jeffrey Ratner Robert Seaman Elementary School; Playground replacement at the Williams Elementary School; Athletic Field reconstruction including installation of a synthetic turf field and stadium lighting, reconstruction of the technology classrooms, and reconstruction of science rooms at the Jericho High/Middle School; all of the above to include all labor, materials, equipment, apparatus, and incidental costs associated therewith."

*The board took action on a number of items, including the approval of schedules. All information, including the full agenda and minutes, is available on the district website at http://jerichoschools.org/district/board_of_education

*The Board Meeting in its entirety is available here: <https://youtu.be/a8Jm7akty8Q>

*The next regular meeting of the Board of is scheduled for April 22, 2021 at 7:30 PM via Zoom.

-Bill Ferro, Board President

Sent on behalf of the Jericho Board of Education