

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 December 11, 2014 meeting:

*The Board announced that the Jericho community suffered great loss over the last few weeks with two former music teachers passing away, Joan Fyfe and William Kupferberg. Additionally Adam Singer, a 2008 Jericho graduate and the son of a Jericho teacher, lost his hard-fought battle with cancer earlier this week. A moment of silent was held in their honor.

*Jackson Elementary School hosted a curriculum fair before the meeting. To show the preparation that went into the event, staff and students created a video showing all of the artwork being created and the projects made. All K–5 activities focused on the theme “Celebrating America” and celebrated the many cultures living here in Jericho as well.

*In response to the video, Board President Bill Ferro said, “I would like to commend Mr. D'Aquila and his staff. The video presentation and the projects that the Jackson staff and students displayed tonight really exemplifies why we should not only be proud to be Americans but proud to be part of the Jericho community. It shows how we embrace many cultures here in Jericho and hopefully all of us can learn a great deal from the young students in the video.”

*The Middle School Student Council Representative updated those in attendance about what’s happening in the school and the High School Student Council representatives spoke about Twitter etiquette, educating the board and administrators.

*During the PTA Council report, Council President Jill Citron invited all Jericho residents to attend a “Conversation about New York State Testing” on Monday, December 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the MS/HS auditorium. Jeanette Deutermann will be the guest speaker, discussing opting out and other topics associated with testing.

*Bill Crugnola was honored as a National Winner in the Siemens Science Competition. Bill and his partner on the project will share a \$30,000

scholarship.

*In the superintendent's report, Hank Grishman spoke about New York State's Commissioner of Education John King leaving the post and shared his hopes that his replacement is someone with public education experience. Also Mr. Grishman mentioned that five of our athletic teams were named scholar athlete teams, which is the highest number in New York State. They will all be honored at an upcoming Board of Education meeting.

*Also included in the superintendent's report, Mr. Grishman announced that the grant was approved for the Hunter College Flagship program, which is a K-12 Chinese Language and Culture program for Jericho students. There is a tentative meeting set for January 26, 2015 for parents to learn more. Emails will be sent as a follow up with more information.

*The board took action on a number of items, including the acceptance of donations and the approval of schedules. The full agenda and minutes can be found on our website at

http://jerichoschools.org/district/board_of_education

The next meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for January 22, 2015 at 7:30 PM at Seaman Elementary School.

Wishing you and your families a happy and healthy holiday season!

-Bill Ferro, Board President

Sent on behalf of the Jericho Board of Education