

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 April 23, 2015 meeting:

*Middle School and High School students updated those in attendance about what's happening in the schools and Jill Citron, President of Jericho's Joint PTA Council, shared that they are looking for suggestions for meeting topics next year. To make a recommendation, email PTACouncil@jerichoschools.org. Jill also encouraged residents to come out and support Jericho's budget in May.

*High School Students from the Kids Helping Pets club collected \$6,000 through fundraising efforts and were able to purchase a dog for the Guide Dog Foundation and named him Jericho. The students presented Jericho and his trainer with an engraved nametag.

*The board unanimously voted to approve a new contract for Hank Grishman to remain as superintendent through July 2018. The contract includes no increase to salary or benefits.

*Jericho's Curriculum Associate for Science and Technology Education Brian Cummings received tenure at the meeting and Jericho's treasurer Diane Castonguay's resignation was accepted effective June 30 as she moves on to her new position of Assistant Superintendent for Business in Amityville School District.

*Two board seats are up for election in May. Shawn Gladstone announced that she will not be seeking re-election. Bill Ferro and Daborah Lee submitted successful petitions and will be on the

ballot in May.

*Jericho's Curriculum Associate for Health, Physical Education & Athletics recognized the boys varsity wrestling team, boys varsity bowling team, girls varsity bowling team, and boys varsity basketball team as NYS Scholar Athlete Teams. Also, John recognized Jericho's fencers for various awards and honors.

*John Mankowich also spoke to the board about the district's vacation policy for athletes. Currently, if an athlete misses practice over a vacation, he or she must sit out a game for each practice missed. This policy was enacted to deter athletes from going on vacation and missing practice. After reviewing the policy, John found that families are still traveling over the vacations and the programs are suffering. The athletics department is taking a year off from the policy and letting the coaches decide how to handle the students who are not there over the vacations and missing practice.

*Jericho's Elementary principals Benny D'Aquila, Tony Sinanis, and Ivy Sherman, presented the Robotics Program that was piloted this year with all fifth grade students. They spoke about the success of the program and said the program will be evaluated to see if it can run in future years. It is definitely their hope to continue and expand the program.

*During the Superintendent's report, Hank Grishman thanked the community and staff for helping our families that were impacted and displaced by the fire at Westwood Village. Also, he announced that, after a conversation with the board, next year's board meetings will start at 7:15 pm and this will be reflected in next year's calendar.

*In a middle school/high school auditorium update, Mr. Grishman shared that the seats have been removed from the auditorium and

the general contractor requested that the asbestos tiles be removed from the floor over Memorial Day weekend. The area will be sealed and air quality testing done throughout the weekend to be sure the building is safe for staff and students on Tuesday. Staff from Jericho's Building and Grounds department will be on hand throughout the weekend to oversee the progress. Completing this project will allow contractors an additional week during the summer to complete contracts in a timely manner.

*During last week's ELA testing, Mr. Grishman shared that approximately 18% of students opted out in grades 3-8 and during the math tests, approximately 21% of students opted out.

*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. All district photos taken at the Board Meetings are available on the district website under "News" and "Photos."

*The next meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for May 14, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. in the Middle School Library. The Budget Vote will be on Tuesday, May 19 from 6 AM – 9 PM in the Sam Springer Gym. For information on the budget, please click on the vote logo on the district website under announcements.

*-Bill Ferro, Board President
Sent on behalf of the Jericho Board of Education*