

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 October 22, 2015 meeting:

*October is School Board recognition month and in honor of their volunteerism and dedication, all of Jericho School District's unions combined their efforts and made a donation in the form of a scholarship for a graduating senior in the board's name. Also, Superintendent Hank Grishman said, "We want to thank our school board members who volunteer many hours to serve the children and the school community." Gifts were presented from the district, bargaining units, as well as from PTA Council.

*During the September Board of Education meeting, members of Jericho's staff were honored for their quick action when a fire broke out in the Middle School/High School campus in August. A representative from the Jericho Fire Department was not available to attend that meeting and Mr. Cohen was present in October to accept a citation. "Whenever we call them, they arrive so quickly," said Hank Grishman. "We appreciate their assistance, not just for this single event, but for their continued support." Mr. Cohen, who accepted the citation was appreciative and said if anyone is interested in joining the volunteer fire department they can visit www.jerichofd.com or email scohen@jerichofd.com.

*Victor Manuel, Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs, presented a report regarding LIPA/PSE&G. Based upon the LIPA Reform Act of 2013, the Nassau County Legislature approved a local law which removed all LIPA/PSE&G Properties from the tax rolls in their entirety and they will be paid as a PILOT (Payments in Lieu of Taxes). The amount in Jericho that LIPA/PSE&G pays in taxes is \$2,194,000 and that amount in their assessment is coming off of the tax

rolls and we will be paid separately as a PILOT. We were assured by the county that this year we will be made whole for our total levy. Our concern is in future years now that they are removed from the tax rolls. We will continue conversations with the county to find out what effect future PILOTS from LIPA/PSE&G. We will keep the board and community updated.

*During the Superintendent's Report, Hank Grishman thanked PTA Council and the administrative team for working together to plan Parent University, which is set for Monday evening. He also discussed a recent meeting with New York State's Commissioner of Education where she shared her agreement that there are many flaws in the system that we have been operating under for the last three years. She committed that she will do everything in her power to rectify the situation and to make things right, but she separates what is within her legal responsibility and what isn't. The Commissioner has been sensitive to the issues. She, as opposed to our prior commissioner, appreciates what it is like to be in the trenches and continually talks about, if change is going to take place, it is going to take place with the assistance and support of teachers. We want to see how she delivers on those statements.

*The Board attended the 96th annual NYSSBA Convention and Education Expo over the weekend and Board Trustee Dab Lee shared her experiences. "The first day was the school law seminar. It was very interesting and provided a lot of essential and practical legal information about the changes in the regulations. We also heard about new laws, and key issues before the board of regents. On the second day, we each attended different seminars including long term budget planning and goal setting. The highlight was when we all went together and heard the Commissioner of Education speak about the future of Common Core, testing alignment, and evaluations. I felt very fortunate after going through this meeting because our schools are so above and beyond. It made me proud to be a board member in Jericho."

*John Mankowich, Curriculum Associate for Health, Physical

Education, and Athletics, made a presentation entitled “A New View of PE: Yoga, Tai Chi, Zumba, Dance, and Judo.

*Middle School and High School students updated those in attendance about school happenings during the Student Council reports. Jill Citron, PTA Council president, announced that PTA Council is hosting a Parent University on Monday, October 26 at 7 PM in the Middle School Library. All are encouraged to attend.

*The board took action on a number of items, including the approval schedules. Also, the Board announced that a discussion will be held at the November meeting regarding a possible Foreign Exchange Student Policy. All information, including the full agenda and minutes, is available on the district website at http://jerichoschools.org/district/board_of_education.

*The next meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for November 19, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. at Cantiague Elementary School.

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