



Oceanside Schools

Anchored Together

BY PURPOSE, PASSION, AND PEOPLE

In Case You Missed It: Summary of October 19 Board of Education Meeting

Please note that this overview does not constitute the official minutes of the meeting, which will be available later this month. This is a brief overview.

School Board Recognition Week

The meeting began with an acknowledgement of New York State's School Board Recognition Week. PTA Council President Wendy Swords and council member Patricia Abela spoke of the Board members as dedicated volunteers who attend many school-based events on their own time. They presented the Board of Education with a new banner using the "Anchored Together" logo to be draped from the table at BOE meetings.

Members of the high school's Thespian troupe performed on stage as part of School Board Recognition Week.

District Audit Report

As the district auditor was delayed at a meeting elsewhere, Board President Kimberly Grim Garrity and trustee Robert Transom reported that auditors had found the district's financial controls and procedures to be stellar and had issued no recommendations. Later the auditor, Alexandra Battaglia, arrived and reported findings in more detail. Ms. Battaglia re-stated that the district's financial ratings are high and that the Oceanside School District is one of only three districts on Long Island to receive an audit report with NO recommendations.

Board of Education Policy Updates

This is the second presentation of these updates to Board of Education policies. To see the policies, go to: [Agenda 10/19/16](#) and scroll to pages 17-29.

Superintendent Report

1. **Lead testing:** Dr. Harrington reported on the background of the district's testing of all water fountains and faucets within school district buildings. The district began testing voluntarily in the spring of 2016 when reports from elsewhere in the country brought the issue of water testing to light. The testing was discussed at Board of Education meetings, was reported in newspapers and the school district has posted updates regularly and prominently on the district website. Go to <http://oceansideschools.org> for the most recent update. The district will continue to keep the community informed about the status of lead testing results, particularly at school buildings that are still awaiting results. At this time, we are awaiting final reports (with many districts also testing at this time, labs are backed up) however the bottom line is that our school water supplies are safe. Sandie Schoell asked Dr. Harrington whether the new legislation on water testing in New York means there will be funding from the state. Dr. Harrington stated that it has been reported that the state will provide some form of aid but specifics are not known at this time.
2. **Tenure:** Dr. Harrington welcomed four administrators to the podium who were being recommended to the Board of Education for tenure. The administrators are: Keith Mekeel, Associate Principal, OHS; Joelle Mazun, Associate Principal, OHS; Diana DeGiorgio, Coordinator of Elementary Special Education; and Debra Kienke, Executive Director of Special Education.

Opportunity for the Superintendent

Siemens Semifinalists - Dr. Harrington congratulated Siemens Semifinalists Nathan Gershengorin and Sarah Romanelli who is also President of the Thespians and who directed the earlier student stage performance. The superintendent also congratulated and thanked the teachers who help make these awards for students possible.

Elementary STEM Program - On October 21, forty educators will visit the Oceanside School District to observe and learn more about our Elementary STEM program. Project Extra in the Classroom teacher Donna Migdol who has been instrumental in developing our STEM program and working with teachers and students in grades 4-6, has also been invited to co-chair a Washington DC convocation on STEM education with noted scientists and engineers.

Homecoming - Dr. Harrington congratulated the football team on its win of the Homecoming game and thanked all who had participated in making the parade and game a success, including students, parents, staff, spectators at the parade and game, the Marching Band, the district's new mascot, JD, and the entire community for its support.

New York State English Conference - Dr. Beth Ziropgiannis was given the Educator of Excellence Award at the New York State English Conference. Teachers Jennifer Frasca (English Department) and Laura Trongard (Social Studies Department) were recognized as Collaborators of Excellence.

PASS Meeting on October 25 - Lederek Horne, notable special education advocate, will present Dare to Dream, a presentation on pursuing possibilities for people with disabilities. [PASS Meeting Flyer](#)

Additional upcoming events:

November 2 - Special Board of Education meeting - discussion of rollout of Youth Development Survey results.

November 5 - Middle Level Parent Institute - Information and guidance for parents whose children are approaching adolescence. 450 attendees are signed up thus far.

June 3 - Oceanside School District will participate in Relay For Life. Details to follow.

Opportunity for Board of Education

Mrs. Schoell congratulated Sarah and Nathan for their recognition in the Siemens competition and pointed out that only 498 students in the nation were selected; 69 of them come from Long Island, indicating that Long Island students are performing at high levels.

Mr. Transom reminded the community of the October 27 Oceanside Community Service Dinner Dance and kickoff of OCS turkey drive. OCS needs about 500 turkeys (250 for Thanksgiving and 250 for Christmas) to provide holiday meals for struggling families.

Mr. D'Ambrosio informed the community of the November 9 Best Buddies Thanksgiving Feast at OHS. See [district calendar](#) for information.