



Oceanside Schools

Anchored Together

BY PURPOSE, PASSION, AND PEOPLE

In Case You Missed It: Highlights of November 16 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.

Public Hearing - Cold War Exemption

The Board held a public hearing in order to present an overview of new legislation that makes it possible for veterans who served honorably during the “Cold War” period (9/2/1945-12/26/1991) to be eligible for an exemption related to their school taxes. A veteran can only receive one of the available exemptions. The presentation can be viewed on our website under **Board of Education>Message**:

http://oceansideschools.org/BOE/board_of_ed_message.htm#Anchor

Honors

The Board of Education recognized student and staff accomplishments in an honors presentation followed by a brief recess for the students, families and staff to enjoy refreshments. Honors take place four times each year: November, January, May and June.

Report on Superintendent’s Conference Day

Diane Provido, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Research, spoke briefly about the day of professional learning conducted on November 8, when school was closed for students due to Election Day. Following last year’s successful “unconference” model, attendees had the opportunity to create workshops based on topics they wished to learn about or lead. Two conference days are held each year for and Ms. Provido stated that these opportunities for professional development are extremely valuable.

Parent Portal

In response to questions about the Parent Portal being closed during certain times in the grading period, the district researched how other districts operate their portals and presented an update on our practices in Oceanside.

To date, the practice has been to close the portal 8 times per year, during the Progress Report Period and End of Quarter. As of December 2016, the Portal will remain OPEN during Progress Report times. It will only close during the END of each quarter.

Other districts using the Infinite Campus student management system reported that they close their Portals for periods spanning anywhere from 6-15 days. Oceanside is about average in this regard, closing for a range of 7-11 days.

Why is it necessary to close the portal at all?

- Check for missing grades
- Check for comments with no scores
- Check that score matches percent
- Check for DLT or incomplete
- Check for grades that may need admin review
- Check for students with under-scheduled classes
- Calculate Honor/High Honor Rolls
- Populate Honor Roll Tab

This is all done by our Systems Manager, Susanne Murphy.

Effective Parent/School Communication Remains A Priority

- Use of Parent Portal for attendance, schedules, assignments, etc. is always available
- Guidance Counselors are accessible and responsive to parents
- Teachers are also accessible via email
- Students have been given their own access to the portal to monitor their progress
- There are various digital platforms for student learning, resources and communication
- The district website and mobile app are additional avenues for parents to obtain information; we are enhancing the website this year and continually tweaking the mobile app for optimal functionality

Draft Proposal 2017-2018 School Calendar

The district presented a draft proposal for the Board of Education's comments and input regarding the 2017-18 school calendar. The calendar will be voted upon at the December 21st Board of Education meeting and available for the community to view.

Without impeding on holiday breaks such as December, February or April that our community has come to expect and treasure, we will most likely start school before Labor Day.

Dr. Harrington explained that the calendar is built around the schedule of NYS Regents exams and the last day of school as dictated by that schedule. Additionally, we attempt to follow the BOCES calendar as closely as possible. While we could open on election day during a non-presidential election year, this would mean having voters in the building while school is in session.

Finally, the Oceanside community has a long tradition of providing additional days of instruction beyond the 180 days required by state law. Snow days are built into this schedule.

Opportunity for the Superintendent

Dr. Harrington congratulated Greg Sloan, OHS Associate Principal, on a new position in another school district that will allow him to spend less time commuting and more time with his family. Paul Guzzone, currently supervisor of OHS Special Education, will replace Mr. Sloan. The district will seek a replacement for Mr. Guzzone.

Opportunity for the Board

The Board of Education wished the community a happy Thanksgiving. Mr. Transom noted that he needs approximately 70 more turkeys for the Turkey Shoot, the school district and community food drive.

He will also need about 250 turkeys for the holidays in December. Sandie Schoell also requested volunteers to drive on Tuesday for the deliveries.

Anyone who is able to help with turkeys or driving should contact Oceanside Community Service at oceansidecommunityservice@gmail.com.

All other business conducted at the meeting can be found in the agenda which is listed on the website under **Board of Education>Agenda & Minutes**:
http://oceansideschools.org/BOE/agenda_and_minutes.htm