

Board of Education Message



Welcome back everyone! Buildings & Grounds personnel have worked hard over the summer implementing the various bond projects approved in the spring. They have scrubbed, sanded, painted, screwed, nailed, moved and assembled to get our classrooms ready for your children. District administrators, Department Chair Persons and Teacher committees have been evaluating and tweaking curriculum to meet the standards without sacrificing that personal touch only a teacher can bring to the classroom.

The financial climate is still tight. We have to work harder and smarter and do more with less. The Board is committed to keeping our schools in both an excellent financial condition as well as maintained to the highest standards. We will be vigilant

about keeping our approach to education at the cutting edge.

continued on page 2

Superintendent's Message

Dear Families and Community Members,

It is hard to believe that a year is already behind me! I am eager to begin another wonderful year serving the Oceanside School District and community.

Our theme for this year is a simple but powerful statement: "What starts here changes the world."

While September is the start of school for your children, our staff have been busy all summer. I am pleased to report that one of our main goals, to increase security at each of our buildings, is now complete.

You will recognize some obvious differences such as internal and external cameras placed strategically throughout the buildings. Special access cards will be required for all authorized users. Parents and other visitors to the buildings will follow the same procedures as in the past. This new security system allows us to monitor activities 24/7, which, in the long run, will improve safety and security for all.

Our roof projects at School #3 and School #4 are also complete and we will use the coming school year to plan for our future bond projects.

Curriculum staff were also hard at work over the summer preparing for a new school year. As a district, we have embraced the Common Core Learning Standards and have continued to shift curriculum to meet those objectives. The more closely we examine the learning standards and implement them in our classrooms, the more we understand that they position students as independent learners, resourceful problem solvers and creators of meaning. These are critical life skills.

Continued on page 2



Board of Education Message *continued from page 1*

All students will receive the support necessary for the fast paced, changing future without losing sight that learning should be cherished for a lifetime. Our goal is that all students receive what they need to succeed in school.

This coming year there are 12 planned Board of Education meetings listed on the school calendar. We ask that you get involved – come to a meeting and learn what's going on around the schools.

Meetings rotate among all of the school buildings throughout the year. It is the best place to ask a question and get an answer. Your involvement will add

to the success of the school district and contribute to a productive school year.

Sincerely,
Oceanside Board of Education
Robert M. Transom, *President*
Donald Maresca, *Vice President*
Seth J. Blau
Michael D'Ambrosio
Kimberly Grim Garrity
Mary Jane McGrath-Mulhern
Sandie Schoell

Superintendent's Message *continued from page 1*

This summer, we placed special emphasis on our Social Studies curriculum K-12 because it was the most recent shift in the Common Core Learning Standards. We recognize that the assessments connected to these standards remain a concern for many. I assure you that we will present many opportunities to address those concerns throughout the year. Please keep an eye out for these informative sessions both districtwide and at the building level.

We continue to expand and enhance the digital learning environment for our students. Our middle school will once again engage students in using the iPad as a primary instructional tool. This year, we are thrilled to be able to move this initiative to the 9th grade level as well. In preparation, our high school is now completely Wi-Fi and our staff have been planning and undergoing professional development to optimize their use of this innovative way of educating students.

Improving communication continues to remain a districtwide goal. Our district website has been updated to make information easier to find and more descriptive in general. We also continue to expand our use of the Infinite Campus Parent Portal to keep parents updated regularly on their children's academic progress.

I want to also welcome back our amazing faculty and staff who continue to focus on what's best for students. I am thrilled, as well, to introduce four new members to the administrative team replacing

others who have retired or have moved to other positions. Mr. Paul Guzzone will serve as the Coordinator of High School Special Education. Mr. Dan Keegan will assume the role of Middle School Assistant Principal for the upcoming school year, replacing Christina Sapienza. Jessica Keegan will also be assuming a leadership role for one year as the Elementary Curriculum Coordinator. Finally, it is with extreme pleasure that I introduce the community to Mr. Christopher Van Cott as the Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations. I am confident he is the right person to guide us in the long range planning necessary to prepare a fiscally sound budget. Stay tuned for more about these administrators in an upcoming issue.

As I have said to many, Oceanside is truly a very special place where the community works together for the needs of its constituents, young and old alike. I continue to feel honored, as the school superintendent, to have a role in your efforts.

I wish you all a most successful school year filled with good health and happiness. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns via email to pharrington@oceansideschools.org or call 678-1215.

Sincerely,
Dr. Phyllis S. Harrington
Superintendent of Schools

Goals and Objectives 2014-15

GOAL 1: To review programs, curriculum/instructional strategies, and assessment tools in order to evaluate and improve the achievement of students with different ability levels as they work to achieve the learning standards.

Objective 1: To further maximize the benefits of the small-group instructional model and to make best use of the vast resources from the Reading Street program in order to enhance student learning.

Objective 2: To continue to align our curriculum at all levels and in all departments with the CCLS and to ensure that appropriate staff development for the successful implementation of the standards is provided.

Objective 3: To examine the instructional schedule at Oceanside High School Castleton to ensure that students are provided with sufficient and relevant workplace, cultural, and team-building experiences in an effort to develop character and college and career skills that will serve them well beyond high school graduation.

Objective 4: To align our elementary social studies curriculum to the recently released New York State Common Core Social Studies Framework, which emphasizes critical thinking, problem-solving, and the use of questioning to deepen social studies investigations and understandings.

Objective 5: To explore multiple professional learning experiences to improve instruction and raise student achievement, including the use of the Teaching Channel platform for teachers and administrators, enhancing opportunities for teacher leadership, and to explore the use of instructional rounds and peer visitations as a means of sharing professional expertise.

Objective 6: To examine the new state guidelines related to the instruction of English Language Learners to ensure that our district is meeting the expectations in support of our students in our ESL program.

Objective 7: To examine the changes made to our Project Extra enrichment/gifted program at the elementary level that will include school-based instruction for all students in grade 4 and a new 6-day schedule for the pull-out program in grades 4, 5, and 6.

Objective 8: To ensure that the new organizational structure of the Special Education Department promotes continued program effectiveness and greater efficiency through collaboration and communication with all school community partners.

Objective 9: To enhance the preparation for our students as they transition from the high school to the college years by providing focused support for placement exams that determine remediation requirements.

Objective 10: To collaborate with local college representatives in an effort to establish programs that help ensure our students enter the post secondary setting without the need for remedial coursework.

GOAL 2: To increase the use of technology as an enhancement to student learning.

Objective 1: To continue the implementation of the use of iPads in our instructional program at the middle school and at Oceanside High School (9th grade) as our teachers and students

utilize this learning tool to promote a student-centered learning environment, collaboration, research, the extension of student learning beyond the school day, and flipped classroom models.

Objective 2: To begin to explore the use of Google Apps in Education as our school district implements the use of Gmail accounts for all students and staff.

GOAL 3: To evaluate current systems of communication with parents, students, community members, faculty and staff in order to increase effectiveness and efficiency.

Goals continued on page 4

OMS Principal Named Distinguished Educator

Dr. Allison Glickman-Rogers, Principal of Oceanside Middle School, has been selected as the sole recipient of the *Association for Middle Level Education 2014 Distinguished Educator Award*.

"This is a tremendous honor not only for her but for the entire school district and we are so very proud to have Dr. Glickman-Rogers on our administrative team," said Superintendent Dr. Phyllis S. Harrington.

Dr. Glickman-Rogers was quick to state that this honor has been made possible through the



dedication and hard work of faculty and staff at Oceanside Middle School and the continued support of the Board of Education and the entire school community.

"The work that happens at our middle school is amazing and innovative. I could not ask for a more supportive and committed school community," she said.

Congratulations Dr. Glickman-Rogers!

Oceanside Union Free School District Board of Education

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Superintendent of Schools

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about our schools.
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Goals and Objectives 2014-15 *continued from page 3*

Objective 1: To update the district website as a means of providing the community with more fluid access of important information regarding district programs and upcoming events.

Objective 2: To enhance parent communication regarding student academic progress by making greater use of our Infinite Campus Parent Portal, including access to student unit test grades at the secondary level and access report cards at all levels.

Objective 3: To improve digital communication with our parents and community through the enhanced use of district e-mail as a means of ensuring that parents have timely and accurate information.

Objective 4: To examine the impact of our expanded parent-teacher conferences at the elementary level as we continue

our commitment to ensure that parents stay informed as to their child's academic progress as we enter our second year using a trimester grading model.

GOAL 4: To continue to develop a wellness program that addresses and promotes healthy options in terms of nutritional, physical, and emotional development for all students.

Objective 1: To continue to strengthen our anti-bullying efforts by reviewing existing programs to ensure that we are providing our students with consistent and meaningful learning experiences on the dangers of cyberbullying and the importance of digital safety and citizenship.

Objective 2: To continue the implementation of our Social and Emotional Literacy Program (SEL) by providing parent training, continued integration of the SEL

Feeling Words Curriculum (FWC) through our Reading Street program, school-wide events, and, at the middle level, continued integration of the FWC in the social studies program.

GOAL 5: To ensure that our facilities are adequate to meet the needs of all students.

Objective 1: To continue to monitor all capital construction projects.

Objective 2: To provide regular updates regarding the projects, schedule of work, and completion of capital projects as they relate to the recently passed bond issue.

GOAL 6: To evaluate and adjust current offerings and structures within the Department of Community Activities in order to ensure that the programs meet the varied needs and interests of community members in a cost-effective way.

UPCOMING BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS: September 16, #7; October 21, #9M; November 18, #2; December 9, #3, January 20, #9M. See calendar for more information. Meetings begin at 7:30 pm.