

## Board of Education Message

Welcome back students, families, faculty and supporting staff after the hot sticky summer break! We hope all had a great time to relax and recharge for a new and exciting school year.

The school district has been preparing for the students' return to school since before they left for summer vacation. Our bond projects are moving forward on time at School # 2 and the high school. We anticipate implementing some of the minor



projects this coming fall and winter.

Teachers have been attending workshops - modeling the kind of lifelong learning that we envision for our students - and writing curriculum to align with state standards. Their summer wraps up with getting classrooms ready for a new crop of fresh-faced students on September 1st. Office support staff have been preparing the materials that teachers need to enhance learning.

The board, superintendent and central administration have framed a financial plan for the school district that passed as the lowest budget increase in well over a decade without reducing the quality of programs for our students. We will continue to grapple with the funding challenges that all school districts in New York are facing.

*continued on page 4*

## Superintendent's Message

Dear Families and Community Members,

Summertime offers a wonderful respite from the rigors of the academic year but beginning a new school year is always exciting! There is nothing like greeting students on the first day, hearing about their summer exploits and starting a thrilling new learning adventure together.

In just a few short years of working in the Oceanside Schools, I have learned that the



people here are extraordinary. With that in mind, our administrative team chose the following theme as our touch-stone for the 2015-16 school year:

*Anchored together  
by purpose,  
passion and people*

Students do best, as you know, when members of the school community work together. As superintendent, I couldn't ask for a better team! Visiting our schools, meeting with staff and parents, attending school events, I am struck by two facts about Oceanside:

1. Oceanside residents are remarkably devoted to strengthening families, helping neighbors and promoting optimal growth and development for children;
2. Our school staff are strikingly focused and committed to the well-being of students.

Together as a community, 2015-16 brings new opportunities to hone our **purpose**, unleash our

*continued on page 4*

# Goals and Objectives

**At the core** of the Oceanside School District are essential beliefs that drive our school culture and commitment to excellence. Goals established annually help foster the overarching conviction that we are all learners who work collaboratively in an environment of educational excellence.

**At the Core** We believe that curriculum, instruction, and assessment must be developed in a manner that provides a challenging, engaging, and meaningful education for all students.

**Goals 15/16 Writing K-8:** To enhance process writing in K-8 classrooms through ongoing staff development that promotes the use of best practices and identifies appropriate resources to mentor growing writers.

**Algebra II:** To implement the new Algebra II curriculum into our high school program, thus completing the transition of the Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS) as it applies to high school Regents coursework.

**Project Extra in the Classroom:** Grade 5- To expand the 4th grade Project Extra for All program to the 5th grade, thereby providing all students in these grades with Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematical (STEM) educational experiences while supporting our teachers' professional learning in the essential components of a STEM program.

**In Progress Social Studies**

**Frameworks:** To continue to align social studies education in grades K-12 to the NYS and College, Career & Civic (C3) Framework, to engage students in a powerful learning experience that prepares them for broader, more integrative thinking.

**Big History:** To continue our efforts to implement the Big History program to include all 9th grade Regents-level conferencing pairs.

**Small Group Instruction:** To continue efforts to promote the use of small group instruction at all levels as a means of ensuring that students receive an engaging and differentiated learning experience.

**CCLS-Aligned Curriculum:** To continue to adjust our curriculum and programs to address the requirements of the CCLS at all levels.

**At the Core** We believe that our programs should be designed to address the needs of all learners so that Oceanside's students will perform at their highest potential with equitable educational opportunities consistent throughout the district.

**Goals 15/16 Bilingual Program/Integrated ENL:** To support the needs of our English Language Learners (ELLs) and meet the requirements of new state regulations by establishing a bilingual program at our Kindergarten Center and by creating integrated ENL learning environments at all levels.

**Integrated Co-Teaching (ICT):** To strengthen our co-teaching model at all levels so that all students who participate in our ICT program are immersed in positive and effective integrated learning environments.

**At the Core** We believe that communicating timely and accurate information is a critical component to fostering a positive relationship with all school and community members.

**Goals 15/16 District/School Stories:** To utilize improved methods of digital communication in an effort to streamline access to important information and to "tell the story" of the Oceanside School District to provide parents with a glimpse of what is happening in our schools.

**Mobile App:** To create a mobile application that allows easy access to all important school-based information.

**At the Core** We believe that by providing our residents with intellectual, social, and recreational opportunities, we enhance the lives of our community members.

**Goals 15/16 Community Interests/Needs:** To analyze the interests and needs of our community members and expand and refine course offerings.

**In Progress Financial Implications:** To continue to analyze



# ctives 2015-16

*We provide experiences that develop the diverse talents and abilities of our students to prepare them for successful lifelong learning as contributing, responsible citizens.*

financial aspects of DOCA in order to ensure its sustainability.

**At the Core** *We believe that all district facilities must be safe, secure learning environments and that district operations must be continually strengthened to provide the appropriate resources to support and enhance the educational experience for all.*

**Goals 15/16 Bond - Planning & Implementing Phase 3:** To complete the planning and implementation of the Phase 3 elements of our bond referendum.

**Storage Facility:** To make the best use of federal monies recently awarded for the storage facility damaged as a result of Hurricane Sandy at the 9M/9E complex.

**Safety & Security:** To utilize the district-wide Safety Team in a way which enhances building-level security protocols. Observations, creation of manuals, tabletop exercises, and revisiting safety plans will be performed to improve the security of students and staff.

**In Progress Bond - Implementing and Completing Phase 2:** To complete the implementation of

the Phase 2 elements of our bond referendum.

**At the Core** *We believe that the skills associated with Social and Emotional Literacy (SEL) promote physical, mental, and social well-being, that allow children to grow to be healthy and productive citizens in their community.*

**Goals 15/16 Youth Development Survey (YDS):** To gather important data regarding risky behaviors, as well as to identify factors that deter risky behaviors and promote positive decision making, that will serve as the basis of future programs.

**In Progress Anti-Bullying/Cyber-bullying Efforts:** To continue our efforts to support the social and emotional needs of our students through instructional experiences, adherence to the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA), and by establishing caring and supportive communities in our schools

**At the Core** *We believe that professional learning is the cornerstone of the growth and development of our faculty and staff committed to continual improvement.*

**Goals 15/16 Mentoring Continuum:** To develop an effective mentoring/coaching paradigm for all newly-hired professional staff throughout their 4-year probationary period.

**In Progress Teaching Channel:** To maximize the use of the Teaching Channel as a resource and a virtual forum for the support of the professional growth of our newest teachers and for the continued professional learning of our more veteran teachers through the use of video, self-reflection, and collaboration in order to explore new techniques that promote student growth.

**At the Core** *We believe that technology should be used to maximize and enhance learning by becoming a natural integration into existing best practices.*

**Goals 15/16 Elementary Technology Initiative (ETI):** To establish and support the implementation of the ETI in grades K-6 as a means to explore the enhancement of teaching and learning through meaningful integration of state-of-the-art technological devices.

**SMART Bond:** File for SMART Bond monies to effectively utilize the district's allocation to upgrade our network infrastructure in support of creating wireless environments at the elementary schools.

**In Progress Google Apps/Classroom In Practice:** To continue our use of Google Apps and Google Classroom in order to support digital learning environments, student collaboration, and secure storage of work for students and staff.

**iPad Use at OMS/OHS:** To continue the iPad implementation at the middle and high school levels, from grades 7 through 10.

*In true Oceanside tradition, children in the Summer Playground program washed cars to collect approximately 200 pounds of non-perishable food for the Community Service pantry*





## Oceanside Union Free School District 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

Dr. Phyllis S. Harrington  
Superintendent of Schools

Donna Kraus  
Public Information Coordinator; Editor

### Administrative Offices:

145 Merle Avenue, Oceanside, NY 11572.

Please call 678-7525 with any questions  
about our schools.

Visit our website @ [oceansideschools.org](http://oceansideschools.org)

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Oceanside, N.Y.  
Permit No. 417

## ECRWSS POSTAL PATRON

### **Board of Education Message** *continued from page 1*

We assure you that we will do everything in our power to hold our elected officials accountable to taxpayers to adequately support the financial needs of our programs, facilities and instruction for our students.

And now, it begins....the pencils are sharpened, the iPad fully loaded, and our students are off on another year's adventure in learning.

The Board of Education wishes everyone a good year!

Sincerely,

#### **The 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*

**passion** for teaching and learning, and empower all of our **people** to do their very best work.

We have established new goals and objectives for the coming school year and are making good progress on initiatives that are under way. Please see our goals, which begin on page 2, for details.

I want to also welcome back our amazing faculty and staff, including those who are new to our district. Space doesn't allow us to name them all here, however, please greet our new principals Mr. Josh McPherson of School #9E and Mr. Brendon Mitchell of OHS Castleton High School and Ms. Suzanne Dwyer who will serve as our district's

Director of Technology. They join a team ready to engage in shaping young minds to succeed now and in the future.

I wish you a wonderful school year filled with the wonder of curiosity and the joy of learning. Please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns via email to [pharrington@oceansideschools.org](mailto:pharrington@oceansideschools.org) or call 678-1215.

Sincerely,

Dr. Phyllis S. Harrington  
*Superintendent of Schools*