



Oceanside Schools

Anchored Together

BY PURPOSE, PASSION, AND PEOPLE

In Case You Missed It: Highlights of November 15, 2017 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. The agenda and financial documents for this meeting can be found on the website:

<http://oceansideschools.org/board-of-education/>

Teaching With Passion and Purpose

Dr. Harrington provided an overview of “Oceansidex” – a day of staff development in which Oceanside School District administrators and faculty created the school district’s own version of Tedx. (For those unfamiliar with Tedx, it features short presentations in which people share their knowledge of a topic they know a great deal about or feel passionate about.)

According to Dr. Harrington, it was a wonderful day of learning and professional growth for everyone involved. Although it was a remarkable team effort that made it happen, Dr. Harrington offered special kudos to Dr. Beth Ziriogiannis, Director of English Language Arts, Beth Castiello, Principal of School #3 and Mitch Bickman, Director of Social Studies for their work in envisioning and organizing the day.

Dr. Harrington shared with the audience a short video thanking teachers for their efforts every day. The video featured students expressing gratitude to their favorite teachers, as well as administrators and fellow teachers also saying thank you. The video can be found on our website at oceansideschools.org or on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/tCVsPX7On0>.

Dr. Harrington also mentioned how NYS Regent Roger Tiilles had come to Oceanside to spend an entire morning with teachers and administrators and was “blown away” by our schools and staff.

Construction Report

Christopher Van Cott reported that work on a School #9 maintenance building is ready to begin. The funds for the new building will come entirely from a FEMA grant (related to superstorm Sandy). Completion of the work is scheduled for August. The building is required to be five feet above existing grade.

Policy Review

Mary Jane McGrath-Mulherne of the Board of Education reported that three policies were under review. The proposed changes on the policy on homeless children are to clarify district requirements.

Changes to the school records policy are to digitize records, clarify the district's responsibility and provide definitions.

The law required that the district create procedures for meal pricing and now a policy needs to be developed around those procedures. That policy would be added to the policy on school lunch. See [Agenda](#) for more information.

Opportunity for The Superintendent

Dr. Harrington reported on the first Veteran's Flag Ceremony held at Schoolhouse Green and hosted by OHS Castleton students with an assist from two School #6 children. The first ceremony on November 9 recognized WWII veteran Fred Morse. The flag that is now flying in his honor will be lowered and presented to him. At the next ceremony on December 7, another veteran will have a flag raised in his or her honor. There will also be ceremonies in May (for Memorial Day) and June (Flag Day).

Dr. Harrington reminded the audience of the upcoming high school play, *She Kills Monsters* and wished the community a happy Thanksgiving.

Opportunity for the Board of Education

Robert Transom reported that there will be a community Thanksgiving celebration on Thanksgiving Day at Oceanside High School and asked volunteers to help out. Local bus companies are donating transportation for the day. Additionally turkeys are needed for both Thanksgiving and Christmas (to be delivered to families by Oceanside Community Service).

Michael D'Ambrosio stated that, as the son of a Korean veteran, he found the veteran's ceremony to be a wonderful program and enhanced by the cute School #6 children who presented Mr. Morse with bouquets of flowers. Mr. D'Ambrosio was also at the Best Buddies Thanksgiving Feast and recounted what a terrific event that is, with a large turnout by the community and donated food.