

## Board of Education Highlights: 1/22/20 Meeting

The following are highlights of discussions and actions from the Jan. 22 Board of Education meeting. For the full minutes and audio recordings from the meeting, please refer to “Agendas and Minutes” under the “Board of Education” section.

- The Grade 7/8 Debate Club and adviser John Cronin were honored for their impressive performance at the inaugural “Winter Classic Debate Tournament,” sponsored by the American Debate League and hosted by Garden City Middle School. The club won two first-place awards and one second-place honor in the three categories that comprised the tournament.
- Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kusum Sinha announced that the 132 inductees into this year’s World Language Honor Society was the largest single induction into the society in school history. She congratulated the inductees and World Language Coordinator Peter Giacalone.
- Dr. Sinha praised high school band members and teachers and Jim McCrann and Dan Dellamonica on their recent concert.
- Dr. Sinha also announced that field hockey and girls lacrosse head coach Diane Chapman was named Coach of the Decade by Newsday. Head football coach Dave Ettinger was named No. 6.
- Board of Education trustee Stefanie Granville reported that the Legislative Affairs Committee continues to work with the Nassau Board of Elections, village officials, parents and other community members to remove November general election voting from district school buildings, as well as primary voting. She shared the committee’s concerns regarding upcoming elections scheduled for April and June, the latter during Regents exams.
- Dr. Sinha gave an update on the LIRR expansion project, including information about the New Hyde Park road closure, effective Feb. 3. Information is posted on the district website, <https://www.gardencity.k12.ny.us>, under “Important News” on the homepage. The district transportation department will notify parents if bus routes are impacted.
- Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance Dana Di Capua reviewed the inflation rate and updated the community on the allowable tax growth factor (1.81%) which helps to determine the district’s tax levy cap.
- Ms. Di Capua also updated the community on the new Visitor Management System, including the installation of security kiosks and subsequent staff training, which is taking place during February.

- Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Ted Cannone provided an update on the Parent University and the Jan. 30 Community Support Services Fair, including information on the services available to the community during the fair and the valuable workshops parents can take advantage of at the Parent University.
- Dr. Cannone also discussed some of the real-life learning opportunities Garden City High School students are enjoying as a result of the work of the STEAM Advisory committee. This included a trip to Boyce Technologies in Long Island City, where 32 Project Lead the Way students received an in-depth tour of the state-of-the-art facility and the software systems the company creates that help run transit systems.
- Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Leadership Development Nanine McLaughlin provided an update of the SCOPE Winter Enrichment program that runs on Saturdays. Over 250 students are enrolled in various courses that include art, cooking, coding, sports, STEAM and theater, to name a few.
- Dr. Sinha reminded the community about the upcoming Hoops for Hope fundraiser basketball game in support of the I'm Not Done Yet Foundation, formed in honor of Bobby Menges, scheduled for Feb. 12. Garden City High School student Timmy O'Hanlon coordinated the event.
- The Board of Education adopted the 2020-2021 school calendar. Board of Education President Angela Heineman noted that school will begin on Sept. 2, prior to Labor Day (Sept. 7). A Superintendent's Conference Day for professional development is scheduled for Sept. 1.
- Ms. Heineman also reminded the community that budget development work sessions will be held over the next several months, including the first on Feb. 4, when the revenue component of the budget will be discussed. All budget work sessions take place in the Garden City High School library, beginning at 8:15 p.m. The complete schedule of work sessions and meetings can be found under the Board of Education section of the district website <https://www.gardencity.k12.ny.us> under "Meeting Dates and Topics."