

Board of Education Highlights: 12/15/20 Meeting

The following are highlights of discussions and actions from the Dec. 15 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.

- Director of Athletics, Health and Physical Education Eamonn Flood presented on the athletics program and shared feedback obtained from students, parents and coaches. He discussed the middle and high school training and conditioning opportunities, the new rip current and ocean safety unit, the college commitment ceremony and athletes’ community service efforts. He also discussed athletics plans for the rest of the school year as they currently stand under Section VIII’s guidance. The winter sports season is expected to commence on Jan. 4 and will be limited to sports deemed low risk by the New York State Department of Health Guidelines and NYSPHSAA. The delayed fall season will begin on March 1 and spring sports will start on May 1.
- Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kusum Sinha discussed the reopening plan and results of the survey that was available to middle and high school parents. She noted that approximately 64% of parents are in favor of returning to full-time, in-person instruction and 36% prefer hybrid or remote. Many of those who took the survey expressed concern with full-time, in-person school and reduced social distancing during the spike in COVID-19 cases. Decisions will be made in conjunction with Department of Health guidelines.
- Dr. Sinha announced that the district has contracted with CareATC for COVID-19 testing in the event that the district is designated as a yellow zone. This program does not impose any cost to the district or families, as it goes through parents’ health insurance.
- Public use of district facilities has not been permitted during the pandemic, and these limitations have been extended to February 2021.
- Dr. Sinha shared highlights from the past several weeks. She announced that high school senior Ryan Padala was named a semifinalist in the Coca-Cola Scholarship Program, and Stratford fifth grade student Matias Archer and Stewart School second grader Valentina Carr were recognized as winners in the 2019 Shanti Fund Calendar Art Competition. She also noted that middle school students Maddie Mitchell and Elsie Ross Maddie raised \$226 for Americares through ornament sales. They made their donation, which was multiplied by eight through a Giving Tuesday match opportunity, in Dr. Sinha’s name as a way to thank the district’s administrators and staff members.