

## Board of Education Highlights: 11/19/19 Meeting

The following are highlights of discussions and actions from the Nov. 19 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.

- Prior to the meeting, the Board of Education took a tour of Locust School to observe the facilities improvements. Locust School was the site of the November meeting.
- Locust Principal Jean Ricotta and members of the school faculty gave a presentation on how the school is teaching science and STEAM on an everyday basis and forming connections with other subject areas. Teachers gave several examples and also spoke on how they are incorporating the Teachers College Reading program into their daily routine.
- The Board and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kusum Sinha honored several students for recent accomplishments:
  - Caroline Crouchley earned second place in the nation in the 2019 3M Young Scientist Challenge.
  - Matthew Spirakis received the Town of Hempstead 2019 Make a Difference Award for his volunteerism through Teen Project and NYU Winthrop Hospital’s annual Swim-a-Thon.
  - Zachary Ortiz was honored by State Sen. Anna M. Kaplan for his academic achievements, including his membership in the National Honor Society and designation as a scholar by the College Board’s National Hispanic Recognition Program.
  - Ryann Henry was selected as the Grand Prize K-12 winner in the Future Creatures Challenge, sponsored by the Future Engineers Foundation.
  - The field hockey team won its seventh straight LI Class B championship.
  - Girls swimming won its 21st consecutive Nassau County championship.
  - Varsity football won Conference II and advanced to the county championship game.
  - Boys cross-country runner Grant Krawiec qualified for the New York State Cross Country championships.
- Dr. Sinha also acknowledged that Garden City High School, Hemlock, Homestead and Locust schools have earned Reward School status by fulfilling a combination of benchmarks, including scoring in the top 20% statewide in English language arts and mathematics testing for two consecutive years. Opt-out rates at the district’s remaining schools made them ineligible.
- Updates were also provided on Garden City High School’s production of “High School Musical on Stage,” the Knowledge Café staff development workshop, the SCOPE Winter Enrichment program, which will begin Jan. 4, and a major PSEG construction project to

install underground transmission lines to commence this spring. Links to additional information regarding both the SCOPE Winter Enrichment program and the PSEG project can be found on the district website under **Important News**.

- Representatives from AKRF, the district's environmental consulting firm, presented results of recent environmental testing at Locust and Stewart schools. This testing was conducted out of an abundance of caution based on a community member's concern about the Old Roosevelt Field contaminated groundwater area site and Pendaflex site's proximity to these schools. AKRF's findings confirmed that there is no evidence of soil vapor intrusion at either school. AKRF's presentation of findings can be found on the district website under **Board News – Presentations**.
- The Board introduced its new paperless system of communication, BoardDocs. The web-based system enables Board members to communicate with each another and the general public electronically. The Board also used the system to electronically vote on resolutions on its agenda for the first time.
- Board trustee Stefanie Granville reported on a recent Health and Safety Committee meeting that was very well attended. The districtwide safety plan, various safety drills being held in the school buildings, security protocols and ongoing capital projects designed to improve school safety were all discussed.
- Board President Angela Heineman alerted the community about an upcoming meeting in early December of the Audit Committee that will provide a report on the district's Annual Risk Assessment, which details how the district is complying with the state requirements for internal financial controls. The Audit Committee then will identify two areas of internal controls and make recommendations to the Board of what particular areas they feel the Internal Auditor should focus on in performing in-depth testing and a more special audit.
- The Board conducted the first reading of several revised policies. Trustee Michael Cassaro said that many of the changes were consistent with current district practices and that policies were updated to formalize compliance. Ms. Heineman explained the rationale behind some of these changes.
- Dr. Sinha announced that the district has hired a consultant to lead professional development of faculty to further address the needs of students with dyslexia.
- The Board approved the appointment of a third grade teacher at Stewart School due to a resignation, the appointment of a retired middle school administrator to coordinate the annual Tea, and the acceptance of a donation by the Friends of Wrestling for heart rate monitors.

- Dr. Sinha also announced that the agenda for the Dec. 3 Board work session has changed. An update on safety and security measures taken in the schools will be given. An update on the district facilities study, including building utilization mapping that was originally scheduled for this work session, will now be held at a future meeting to be announced.