

A Message From Your Board of Education



As we begin a new school year, some reflection on the past year is important. Last year the administration and your School Board were presented with drastic cuts in state aid in the midst of the worst recession in more than a generation. Despite the State's failure to provide funds for the education of our children, we were able, with the help of the unions, to present you with a budget that had one of the lowest increases on Long Island, without eliminating programs that are crucial to children's education.

Your Board promises to continue its fiscal responsibilities while insuring we still have the best system possible. Our kids are our future. We will continue to ensure it is a good one.

We close with a poem by Will Allen Dromgoole that we think represents what our job is as School Board members better than a lot of figures. It speaks to each generation's responsibilities to its successors.

The Bridge Builder

An old man, going a lone highway,
Came, at the evening, cold and gray,
To a chasm, vast, and deep, and wide,
Through which was flowing a sullen tide.
The old man crossed in the twilight dim;
The sullen stream had o fears for him;

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Don't Let A Tax Cap Become a Learning Cap

A Message from your Superintendent



A new school year always gives me hope for the future. It also brings new challenges.

The district will face new fiscal challenges now that New York State has passed a tax cap. The tax levy is capped at a zero percent

increase unless more than 50 percent of the voters cast a ballot for an increase. It can only increase more than two percent, or the Consumer Price Index (whichever is lower), if 60 percent of the voters vote "yes".

We all support lower taxes, but the State legislature and the governor have passed and signed this legislation without mandate relief. School districts are required to fulfill over one hundred mandates that cost millions of dollars. A tax cap without mandate relief will require difficult decisions about our educational program.

How will this tax cap affect our students? Our school district offers a rewarding, academically rigorous educational program that supports students' intellectual, social and emotional growth. Our elementary school students learn to prevent bullying by forming "Caring Majority" clubs in each school. Middle school students create community during team spirit week and through fundraising activities all year long. High school seniors mentor freshman through our GEM program and have the opportunity to take life-saving courses for certification in CPR/AED. Teachers in all schools mentor "at risk" students through the AIM program. This list does not include the art shows, musical performances, theatrical events, as well as the 65 sports teams and dozens of clubs that promote students' learning

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School Re-Opens September 6. Welcome back!!

and Objectives 2011-2012

Objective 8: To review the middle school master schedule in an effort to make more efficient use of instructional time and to provide support and opportunities for student enrichment by their core academic teachers.

GOAL 2: To review and evaluate current research in effective models of supervision, evaluation and staff development.

Objective 1: To examine the new requirements for Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) as it applies to Oceanside teachers and administrators.

GOAL 3: To continue to develop a wellness program that addresses and promotes healthy options in terms of the nutritional, physical, and emotional development of all students.

Objective 1: To enhance and establish programs that address the risky behaviors of drug and alcohol use among our students.

Objective 2: To expand our social and emotional literacy program which has been implemented in all K-6 classrooms, to middle school students and appropriate high school staff members.

Objective 3: To continue the district's bully prevention efforts to ensure that programs and rules of conduct support the principles of the Dignity for All Students Act.

Objective 4: To implement the new district-wide health curriculum that addresses emotional well-being, Internet safety, cyber-bullying, bullying, drug and alcohol use, risky behaviors, and appropriate use of social networking sites.

GOAL 4: To increase the use of technology as an enhancement to student learning and as a management information tool.

Objective 1: To continue to explore, evaluate, and promote the use of effective technologies to enhance student learning, including SMARTboard technology, Moodle, CPS clickers, as well as other programs and technologies.

Objective 2: To upgrade all computer labs in the district to state of the art machines to enable greater and more potent use of technology in the classroom and to explore the use of virtual desktops to enhance storage capacity, speed and access for students and staff.

GOAL 5: To ensure that our facilities are adequate to meet the needs of all students.

Objective 1: To continue to monitor all capital construction projects.

Objective 2: To continue to provide all stakeholders with timely and appropriate information about the initiation and ongoing progress of all capital projects.

Upcoming Board of Education Meetings

All meetings begin at 7:30 pm

- September 13 - Regular Meeting, School #7 (OHS)
- October 18, Regular Meeting, School #9E/9M
- November 15, Regular Meeting, School #2
- December 6, Special Meeting, Board Room
- December 13, Regular Meeting, School #5

Walk of Lights To Benefit Scholarship for OHS Students

On Saturday, October 22 (rain date October 29), the Susan Satriano Memorial Scholarship Foundation will host a candlelit walk at the High School Track beginning at 6:30 PM. Entertainment will include two OHS bands, face painting and balloons, refreshments and holiday shopping. Registration forms are at www.susansatrianofoundation.com/walk.php