

“Board to Community” notes from November 9th Board of Education meeting

HUDSON, NY –

Board of Education meetings follow the agenda published on the Friday prior to the meeting via the district website. The following notes follow the order of the November 9th agenda:

6pm Curriculum Workshop:

At the October 26th meeting, the Board participated in a Curriculum Workshop at JLE. We learned about the implementation of a new school-wide schedule and the associated addition of RtI (Response to Intervention) and ELT (Extended Learning Time) this year. These programs are being employed to help teachers and students target the reading and math areas where students need additional assistance.

On November 9th, the BOE, along with many students and parents in attendance, learned about the ELT and RtI programs at MCSIS. Students in the ELT reading enrichment program created a presentation about the real news issues and solutions they are studying in the program (The Drinkable Book, Meal Worms Recycling Plastic, and Drones). Next, a presentation from Principal Brenneman, (Literacy Teacher) Lisa Dolan, and Jill Hanley showed how in-depth data on student learning and teaching practices—collected through frequent benchmark assessments, teacher-driven assessments, and state tests—is being used to review the efficacy of the curriculum, the effectiveness of teaching practices, and to break students out into smaller groups for targeted RtI and ELT in math and ELA to assist students in mastering the material. After 3 years of implementation, the school leadership and teachers at the presentation feel this new approach is showing real results for both teachers and students.

After the Curriculum Workshop, the regular 7pm Board meeting resumed:

At the previous meeting, the Board welcomed our new Student Representative, James Chaplin, to the Board. This representative sits with the Board at each meeting and presents the BOE and public with a student's perspective on important events going on in the High School. This week, Mr. Chaplin updated the Board on the following: Art Club, Year Book, Newspaper, SADD, Varsity Club, Robotics, NHS, Mock Trial, DREAM Council, and the Student Council.

Personnel Agenda: At each meeting, the Board is asked to approve or deny changes to teaching, aide and staff positions. This includes changes to staffing for items that are funded outside the District's budget, such as grants for the After-School Program and Community Schools. All of these items are important. This week, there are two items the Board would like to highlight:

8D. The district recently proposed, and the Board approved, creation of new Parent Education Workshops (K-8). These workshops are aimed at helping guardians help their children with homework, and to better understand the State and Federal requirements of the Common Core Standards. This effort is funded through Title 1 Funds for Parent Engagement, and will be taught by HCS D teachers. These teachers receive a stipend to create the curriculum and teach the workshops. Last night, the BOE approved the staffing assignments for these workshops. The workshops are set to begin NEXT TUESDAY, November 17th, with Kindergarten and 1st grade,

and will continue on a regular basis going up in grade. If you are interested in attending, the Board urges you to contact your school. Again, the workshops will begin next week with grades K-1, and in future weeks will continue up through the 8th grade. Please see HCSD's website for the full schedule (<http://www.hudsoncityschooldistrict.com>).

8L. (Hand Carry) Hand carry items are items that come up after the agenda has been published. This week, one of the hand carried items was Superintendent Suttmeier's recommendation of a candidate to fill the open position of Business Executive. This position was vacated by Bobby Yusko last month, and the district is pleased to announce the Board unanimously voted to accept the appointment of Sharifa Buckmon Carbon to the position. Ms. Carbon comes to Hudson from the position of Treasurer at Putnam-Northern Westchester BOCES.

Public Forum: At every meeting the Board offers two opportunities for the public to present their concerns. Last night, the Board welcomed Maija Reed, who spoke of the unsafe conditions for children crossing State, 4th, and Carroll streets near JLE. This topic has come up numerous times in the past and was put on the agenda for the Facilities Meeting on November 10th.

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Suttmeier shared details about the upcoming Capital Project and the schedule for building-level meetings with staff regarding the project. HCSD is facing a Capital Project for required building improvements and maintenance for each of our three schools, as well as possible discretionary improvements. The proposed scope of the project will be outlined in greater detail in coming months, with public hearings certain. As part of the process, the BOE was asked (and approved) a SEQR study (NYS Environmental Quality Review) at MCSIS regarding a Building Addition and Improvements to Traffic and Parking.

Consensus Agenda:

Another regular part of the Board agenda is the Consensus Agenda. For these items, Board members review supporting documentation ahead of the meeting and often vote in blocks on this section. Sometimes an item will be pulled out for further discussion or amendment before going to a vote. This week, there are many important items in this section related to student extra-classroom activities, field trips and the foreign exchange program. It also includes changes in busing expenses and court-ordered changes in assessments for properties in our district which affect our tax base and our budget.

The next BOE meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 23rd at 7:00 PM in the JHS library. Look for the agenda on HCSD's website the Friday prior to the meeting.

###