

In an effort to increase Board/Public Communications, after each Board of Education meeting an email will be sent to parents, staff, and anyone who requested to receive district e-mail communications, highlighting board discussions.

The following was discussed at the October 12, 2023 meeting:

*Stacey Schwartz, psychologist at Jackson Elementary School, received the honor of School Psychologist of the Year for Nassau County from the New York State Association of School Psychologists.

*October is School Board recognition month and in honor of their volunteerism and dedication, all of Jericho School District's unions combined their efforts and made a donation in the form of a scholarship for a graduating senior in the name of the Jericho Board of Education. Also, Superintendent Hank Grishman thanked the school board members, who volunteer many hours to benefit the children and the school community. Gifts were presented from the district, bargaining units, and PTA Council.

*Middle School and High School students updated those in attendance about school happenings during the Student Council reports. And in the PTA Council Report, Allyson Edelman spoke about all of the great upcoming events.

*Superintendent Hank Grishman spoke about the events in the Middle East. He stressed that we are protecting and supporting our students. Hank thanked the staff for the incredible job they did this week.

*Niche named Jericho the number one school district in New York State. Niche takes many factors into consideration while ranking districts, making this honor a big accomplishment.

*At the September Board of Education Meeting, the Board accepted the resignation/retirement of Kim Conger, Director of Pupil Personnel Services. Kim started in Jericho in 1995 and the district is a far more inclusive place because of her dedication and commitment to all students. Hank thanked Kim for her service and congratulated her on her retirement, effective June 30.

*The district's current enrollment is 3,330, which is 40 students over this time last year. Hank said we constantly monitor enrollment and enrollment projections with regard to room utilization and budgeting. Also, the recertification process is complete. Through the process, no students were found to be improperly attending the school and student records were digitized.

*Also in the Superintendent's Report, Hank said that all school buildings will be getting electric car charging stations through a grant. Also, security is constantly being reviewed and adjustments made. All camera upgrades have been completed.

*Victor Manuel, Assistant Superintendent for Business, said the district received the 2023 assessments from Nassau County and he was happy to report that the tax rate slightly lowered by 0.72% in CLASS I properties. This is primarily due to an increase in total assessments. Jericho's tax levy increase (the only item on the table the district is responsible for)

for the 23-24 school year is 2.77%. Unfortunately, the County continues to divert a larger portion of the pie from Class IV (commercial) properties to CLASS I (residential) properties. CLASS I has now crossed the 80% threshold which places more of the tax burden onto residential properties and reduces the burden on commercial or CLASS IV properties. Please remember that even though the tax rate decreased by 0.72%, and our tax levy increased by 2.77% from last year, some individual taxpayers will see an increase greater than that. There will be widely varying effects to individual taxpayers from a decrease in taxes, minimal effect on taxes, or an increase in taxes higher than the 2.77% depending on their individual situation as well as any grievances that were approved by the County on individual properties.

*Greg Sloan, Curriculum Associate for School Counseling, spoke about the current process that Jericho uses to determine the valedictorian(s). Jericho currently uses the unweighted GPA to determine. He said he surveyed districts in Nassau and Suffolk and a majority use the weighted GPA, a few use unweighted and a few decided to eliminate the valedictorian altogether. The information Greg presented is available 47 minutes into the board meeting (link below). The Board welcomes input from all stakeholders regarding the valedictorian determination process. If you would like to share your opinion, you can email the Board at BOE@jerichoschools.org.

*The board took action on a number of items, including the approval of schedules and the acceptance of a donation. All information, including the full agenda and minutes, is available on the district website or by clicking here: <https://www.jerichoschools.org/district-nav-main/board-of-education>

*The Board Meeting in its entirety is available here: <https://youtube.com/live/OYWQ4WeXdjU?feature=share>

*The next regular meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for Thursday, November 16, 2023 at 7:30 PM at Cantiague Elementary School and will be streamed.

*-Jill Citron, Board President
Sent on behalf of the Jericho Board of Education*