

# Board of Education Highlights

## June 18, 2019 Business Meeting

The Board of Education meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

### Student Recognition



**Pictured with recognized student Pippa Bernard are, from left, kindergarten teacher Ms. Hayley Byron, Board of Education President Mr. John McEvoy, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laura Seinfeld and Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School Principal Ms. Tami McElwee.**

Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School kindergartner Pippa Bernard was recognized by the Board of Education for outstanding citizenship as a member of Theodore Roosevelt School and had the honor of leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Board trustee Ms. Nancy Castrogiovanni read a biography about Pippa that described why she was deserving of the honor.

### Superintendent's Report

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laura Seinfeld noted the many recognitions on the agenda this evening and introduced Dr. Ryan O'Hara, Supervisor for English Language Arts, Reading and Library Media, to present students who received honors in writing. Students received certificates from the Board of Education and were congratulated by Board of Education President Mr. John McEvoy and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laura Seinfeld. They included:

Riley Baehr, Grade 5 - A Winner in the 5th grade category of the Nassau Reading Council's Young Authors' Writing Contest

Elizabeth Chester, Grade 9 - A 1st Prize Winner in the 7th - 9th grade category of the Raynham Hall Museum and the Oyster Bay Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution Valentine's Day Poetry Contest

Olivia Silver, Grade 10 - A Winner in the 9th - 10th grade category of the Walt Whitman Birthplace Association's 33rd Annual Poetry Contest

Greta Flanagan, Grade 10 - The Grade Champion in the 9th - 10th grade category of the Walt Whitman Birthplace Association's 33rd Annual Poetry Contest

Max Miller, Grade 12 - A Fourth Prize Winner of the Martin J. Kelly Writing Contest of the Irish Cultural Society

Brenda Perez Palaez, Grade 11 - A Fourth Prize Winner of the Martin J. Kelly Writing Contest of the Irish Cultural Society

Cal Tumminello, Grade 10 - A Fifth Prize Winner of the Martin J. Kelly Writing Contest of the Irish Cultural Society



**Pictured with Dr. O'Hara are award winners Elizabeth Chester, Olivia Silver and Brenda Perez Pelaez.**

### **Founders of SAVE**

Mr. Kevin Trentowski, Director of Athletics, Physical Education and Health, recognized students who founded Students Against Vaping and E-Cigarettes (SAVE), an 11 member group committed to helping students access factual information about vaping and e-cigarettes. These students, accompanied by health and physical education teacher Mr. Charles Rizzuto, were invited to the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Drug Free Hero Awards Gala in Great Neck where they were applauded for their efforts. Mr. Trentowski said that the group has met with Mr. Rizzuto, Oyster Bay High School Principal Ms. Sharon Lasher, and Assistant Principal Dr. Peter Rufa to discuss creating a support group to mentor 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders and the idea of connecting with 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents so they can be informed about this alarming trend as well. "They discussed stress, addiction, prevention, and restorative discipline with such poise and maturity," he said. "Not only are they advocating for healthy habits and behaviors, but they are looking to assist anyone who is wrestling with the challenges that face students as they enter adolescence."





The founding SAVE members were recognized by the Board of Education and Dr. Seinfeld. Pictured, from left, are Mr. Charles Rizzuto and students Stephanie Vojdich, Carly Scognamiglio, Gregory Wulffen, Jessica Layne, Marc Iacono, Jason Hom and Maggie Ford. Erica Duke, Katie Moore, Eve Pace and Karina Paone are also founding members but are not pictured.

Mr. Trentowski also recognized the tremendous athletic accomplishment of Giselle Grassi, a junior, who won the single rower event at the New York State Championship. Her great season earned her a trip to the US Rowing Youth Nationals in Sarasota, Florida where she raced in the B finals and finished 7<sup>th</sup> in the nation.

**Student Song**



**Students Giavanna Gerken, Muskan Kumar, accompanied by Benjamin Rivera, sang a school song written by Giavanna and composed by Benjamin, titled “The Gem of Oyster Bay.”**

### **New York State School Boards Association**

Dr. Seinfeld presented gifts of appreciation from the New York State School Boards Association to Board of Education Vice President Mr. Todd Cronin and Board of Education Trustee Mr. Laurie Kowalsky.

### **Retirement Celebration**

Dr. Seinfeld recognized 13 staff members who are retiring at the end of the school year. Dr. Seinfeld expressed her sincere appreciation for their service to the District and noted that the 13 retirees had a combined service of 365 years, an average of 28 years per person! Each honoree received a token of appreciation wrapped in a purple and gold gift bag.

The honorees included:

Johanna Canonica, Assistant Director of Special Services, 30 years of service

Pedro Diez, Oyster Bay High School custodian, 32 years of service

Heidi Gross, Oyster Bay High School science teacher, 36 years of service

Diane Hannah, Buildings and Grounds Principal Clerk, 32 years of service

Deborah Hom, Oyster Bay High School special education teacher, 26 years of service

Maryellen Kerr, special education teacher, 30 years of service

Roberta Kosak, Typist Clerk, Oyster Bay High School Guidance, 19 years of service

Nina Koumoulis, Vernon School teacher assistant, 26 years of service

Scott Lyle, Oyster Bay High School head custodian, 30 years of service

Kevin McCarthy, Oyster Bay High School special education teacher, 28 years of service

Liliana Policano, Supervisor for Languages Other Than English (LOTE)/English as a New Language (ENL), 15 years of service

Mary Samuels, Vernon School elementary teacher, 23 years of service

Antonia Woodman, Oyster Bay High School home economics teacher, 38 years of service



**Pictured from left are Heidi Gross, Liliana Policano, Nina Koumoulis, Maryellen Kerr, Johanna Canonica, Mary Samuels, Kevin McCarthy, Scott Lyle and Pedro Diez.**

## **Business/Facilities Report**

Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations Mr. Michael Cipriani introduced Mr. Robinson from SchoolSource Technologies to answer questions about a transportation efficiency study the company completed. The study provided options such as alternate mileage limits and potentially adjusting school times to accommodate bus schedules/routes. The Board asked many questions about the study to help determine what option would be best to bring to voters in the form of a referendum in the 2019-20 school year. Results from that referendum would be implemented in the 2020-21 school year.

## **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items**

The Director of the Centro Cultural Hispano after-school program announced that due to lack of funds, the program will no longer continue to function.