

This past Tuesday night, I had the honor of presenting the Board of Education with a tribute and some tokens of appreciation on behalf of the CPC, because this week National School Board Appreciation week. For this month's chair report, it seems fitting to simply say here what I said on Tuesday night:

Our district is so fortunate to have many parents who donate their time, energy, and brainpower towards making our community a wonderful place to live. But of all the ways to do so, serving on the Board of Education is truly the apotheosis of school-related volunteerism. Because BOE work often takes place outside of classrooms, fields and playgrounds, it has fewer immediate gratifications than other ways of volunteering for the district: It is inherently less social, more time-consuming, and subject to all of the pressures that go along with crucial decision-making. Because the products of the Board's work are so imperative for the community, at a time in which the larger national climate is rife with all sorts of controversies big and small, a seat on the Board is not for the faint-hearted. It is, in short, a labor of love, and also of courage. Being a Board member signifies that you are devoted to a community that you treasure as it exists, even as you want to find evermore ways to improve it, and that you are willing to work towards that common goal. It is a way of demonstrating your concern for not only your own family, but for families across the district. For all of these reasons, we can be grateful to our Board of Education—collectively, as a unit, and for each member individually.

When a community goes through a hardship together, it may either fracture through either conflict or isolation— or it can coalesce more strongly than before. This fall, after 2.5 years of all the stresses attendant to the pandemic, I sense renewed optimism and community spirit from students, parents, faculty, and administrators— who are excited to reengage at all levels of school involvement. This renewed enthusiasm is something precious and not to be taken for granted. The CPC board wishes the BOE both a productive year, as well as a sweet and meaningful one.

At our most recent pre-CPC meeting, we talked about future presentations for this monthly meeting. The administration is working on updated security measures, and has committed to oversight and feedback from outside security experts who can evaluate our safety protocols and equipment with fresh eyes. They are also looking at more academic review sessions taught by faculty to supplement lessons during classtime. We are also hoping to have an encore presentation of digital safety by a Suffolk County police officer who can speak about protecting our kids from the various dangers of social media— both the physical dangers like predation, as well as the social/legal hazards such as inappropriate posts that can follow them around forever. Finally, we are arranging for one of our school psychologists will speak about ways that we as parents can raise more resilient children.

As always, if you have ideas for future CPC presentations, please bring them to our attention.

*Jennifer Kornreich Cahn*

*October 20, 2022*