

CPC Chair Report for November 18, 2021

In our last BOE meeting, we learned about many of our students' achievements in the academic, creative, and athletic realms. Eleven senior-year scholar-athletes have accepted offers from prestigious colleges and universities where they will continue to play their respective sports at the Division I, II, and III levels. Audiences at the high school fall play were impressed with the production's actors, who also received congratulations and encouragement from Broadway luminaries via video. Moreover, our district's robotics team placed fourth among seventeen teams. No fewer than 160 students were inducted into the art, music, and world language honor societies. It was wonderful to hear how the district's oldest students are thriving onstage, on fields and courts, and in classrooms and laboratories.

Other highlights of the last Board of Ed meeting included a summary of our most recent financial audit, as well as an overview of recent capital improvements to our buildings. Before-and-after photographs demonstrated the various renovations of our physical infrastructure. We also received preliminary updates regarding the composition and work of the DEI Task Force in their first meeting. The Task Force will meet once more on 11/30, and we expect to hear about the outcomes of their collaboration at the January BOE meeting.

At our monthly pre-CPC meeting, the CPC Board talked with Ms. Gierasch and Mr. Stucchio about expanding opportunities for community members to attend CPC meetings. Next semester, we are hoping to reschedule one of our CPC meetings from a morning meeting to an evening one, so that parents who are generally unable to attend daytime meetings have a chance to not only hear district news but have a back-and-forth dialogue with administrators, since CPC meetings provide a different, more informal format than BOE meetings. Additionally, we discussed the 2021 NYS standardized test results for grades 3 through 8, and how we fared in comparison to other districts, and in comparison to our performance from previous years. We also spoke about the upcoming Parent Math nights whereby elementary students' parents can learn more about their kids' math curriculum.

A really great idea came up at one of the PTG meetings, regarding the possibility of having a local police officer talk directly to students about protecting themselves online. We revisited this suggestion at the pre-CPC meeting. This topic is important at the more basic level of kids protecting themselves against predation online—but also, for older students, managing themselves on social media ways that protect their reputations with future university administrators and future employers. Ms. Gierasch agreed that digital safety and digital self-presentation are topics about which our buildings' school resource officers in particular could make a substantive impact. She spoke about beginning a process of fostering more familiarity between students and their school resource officers, so that the kids could eventually hear about potentially sensitive subject matter from trusted figures in their orbits.

Today we will hear from Joe Monastero—Executive Director of Instructional and Administrative Technology—about how we as parents can enhance our kids' digital safety and citizenship.

This is the last CPC meeting until Thursday, January 20th. The CPC Board and I wish everyone a joyful Thanksgiving and winter holiday season; we look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Jennifer Kornreich Cahn, CPC Chair
November 2021