

Welcome to Board Briefs, in which we summarize key agenda items from prior Board of Education meetings and address topics that were brought to the Board's attention. Full meeting minutes are typically not available until reviewed and approved by the Board at a subsequent meeting, but we hope that this summary of key items from the previous meeting will 'keep you in touch' with the notable actions of the Board. As always, our community is encouraged to attend our meetings. We welcome your questions and comments.

April 9, 2015 Board of Education Meeting

Recognitions

The Board of Education recognized student Victoria Ulrich, who was named the BOCES Student of Distinction for April 2015. The Board also recognized Michael Plotkin, assistant principal of PVC Middle School, who was named Assistant Principal of the Year by the School Administrators Association of New York State (SAANYS).

The Board also extended its thanks to the Croton Harmon community for advocating on behalf of the district students. In one short week, residents sent over 1,200 letters to Albany fighting for the education rights of our students. Requests included the restoration of millions of dollars in funding that has been cut due to the Gap Elimination Act and Foundation Aid, a decrease in mandated testing, and eliminating the push for an increase in the percentage of assessments that factor into teacher evaluations.

Adoption of 2015-16 Proposed Budget

The Board adopted the proposed budget for 2015-16 in the amount of \$46,076,000. The budget as adopted provides for a increase below the tax levy cap for our district, and maintains class sizes in the elementary grades while adding high school class offerings and a flexible support program for students in the middle school and high school with medical or other issues.

It is estimated that the budget, if approved by the voters, will result in an average 1.64% tax increase for Cortlandt residents, and a 4.40% tax increase for Yorktown residents. A copy of the adopted budget will be available at the district office, at each of the schools, at the Croton Free Library, and on the district's website. In addition, the district will be mailing to all residents a newsletter outlining the proposed spending plan as well as a legally-required notice about the budget.

The Board will conduct a public hearing on the budget on Thursday, May 7 at 7:30 p.m at the CHHS Community Room, at which time the public will have an opportunity to comment on the budget. The community will vote on the budget and for board trustees on Tuesday, May 19, 2015. Polls will be open from 6 a.m.-9 p.m. at Croton-Harmon High School.

Board Goals

The Board adopted its goals for 2015. They will soon be posted to the website under the “Board of Education” tab (click on “Goals”).

Policies

The Board of Education discussed for a first reading of ten policies. These policies can be found on the district’s website for community review.

Grading Changes

The three building principals made their recommendations for grading changes at each of the schools. More information will be sent home to parents regarding the upcoming change.