

Red Hook Central School District Board of Education Newsletter – Fall 2018

Board of Education Members	Kate Kortbus
Johanna Moore, President	Jennifer Munn
Dawn Morrison, Vice President	Maggie Rothwell

Welcome Back!

On September 4th, 2018, all district employees gathered for Opening Ceremonies at LAMS to begin another school year. We were reminded of making connections to one another, to support each other in good times and bad, to acknowledge our accomplishments, and to respect a diverse population we work with. The Red Hook Central School District Mission Statement was a key focus. Our Mission Statement is: The mission of the Red Hook Central School shall be to develop in its students the knowledge, intellectual integrity, and social consciousness to prepare them to accept the obligations and opportunities found in a complex society. The district seeks to provide a challenging educational environment that fosters and rewards the values of respect, responsibility, honesty, integrity, and community service in all its members.

New Administrators Welcomed to the District



On October 9th, Robert McKiernan became the new High School Principal. The PTSA hosted a meet and greet for him October 2nd. He was joined by the Assistant HS Principal Margie O'Brien, Stacie Smith, Assistant Principal at Linden Avenue Middle School, and Jack Costello, Pupil Personnel Services Director. We thank Paul Finch, Superintendent, and Dr. Kitty Summers, Assistant

Superintendent, for their work supporting the high school until Mr. McKiernan came on board.

District Audit

In October, the Board of Education approved the 2017-2018 audit, submitted by Bruce Martin, Business Official, and conducted by Nugent and Haeussler, PC, CPA. Information or questions on the Audit can be directed to Bruce Martin at 845-758-2241 ext. 53010.

Transportation Management

The leadership team is exploring options to better manage bus capacities and alleviate issues with students going to multiple locations on different days. The law allows for one pick up and drop off location. The level of accommodation RHCS D currently provides far exceeds the legal minimum and is resulting in more frequent capacity issues and confusion. Changes will be likely in 2019-2020.



New Look for District Website

Please visit our improved website for the latest updates. Our website is a great resource for information such as: the school calendar, the Virtual Backpack, Athletic Information, information on upcoming events, Announcements, the Parent Portal, information on the individual schools, media releases, and the Board of Education meeting schedule.

Student Representatives for 2018-19



The Board of Education welcomes Eli Staubi and Rachel Gifford who will serve as Student Representatives on the Board of Education for the 2018-19 School Year!

Summer Highlights

The Board conducted many meetings this Summer. Much work was centered around hiring key members of the administrative staff. We are pleased to announce the hiring of: Jack Costello, Pupil Personnel Services Director, Stacie Smith, Linden Avenue Assistant Principal, and Robert McKiernan, High School Principal.

Safety Audit

Altaris Company conducted an audit of security needs in the district this past spring. They came and presented to the Board a report on their findings. It was noted that we have initiated many safety measures here at RHCS. We have been seeking appropriate measures to introduce Sandy Hook Promise's 24-hour anonymous reporting system with training to staff/students on its use. Sandy Hook Promise is an app that monitors our district, evaluates, and provides reports to the appropriate personnel for investigation.

Summer Academy

This year, the High School held its first Summer Academy with leadership from then administrative interns Aaron McCasland and Stacie Smith. Attendance was high, and students could take courses they might not be able to enjoy during the regular school year at no cost. Course offerings were varied and included such topics as: Writing Your College Essay, SAT Prep, Quilt Making, Automotive Repair, and Woodworking to name a few. Plans are underway to have another Summer Academy next year. Thanks to the Red Hook Education Foundation, the Ascienzo Family Foundation, Hannaford, and the Mill Road PTA for helping to sponsor this. KUDOS to all for a job well done.



No Pets on Campus

You may have noticed "No Pets" signs on the middle school/high school campuses and the grounds of Mill Road school. This discussion has been a hot topic for many years and more recently came to light. Discussions were held by the Administrative Team, the District Leadership Team (DLT), and the Board of Education. We recognize that this is a new prohibition that will necessitate a change in past practice.

We trust that the community will understand that after many years of discussion we have made this decision with the health and safety of students/staff in mind.

Board Goals

At the September 26th BoE meeting, the Board adopted goals. Various tasks have been outlined under each goal to be worked on with administration for implementation. General goals are listed here:

- Student Learning
- Student Culture
- Facilities/ Operational
- Auditorium Project
- Communication
- Capacity Development

Dutchess BOCES Capital Project

BOCES has announced that they will have a Capital Project Vote. All Red Hook qualified voters are encouraged to vote. The vote will be held on DECEMBER 11TH, 2018, 12 noon – 8:00 p.m. Voting will take place at 7401 South Broadway, Red Hook, NY (the former District Office location).



PROJECT DETAILS: Major renovations needed to sites. K-8: more capacity at the Salt Point Center, increased space to meet growing demand for high quality instruction for county students with disabilities. Gr 9-12: Prepare for increased partnership with Dutchess College and area businesses. Improve career ready graduates with integrated programs and modern learning spaces. Adult Learners: Improve facilities for Adult Ed in the county and a Conference Center for the public.