



News & Notes

following the Board of Education Meeting of Nov. 7, 2023



- Photo by LSHS senior London Nickolai

By all accounts, it was grand!

Lake Shore launched its inaugural Indigenous Makers Faire Wednesday night, an extravaganza of music, dance, arts and crafts and creativity featuring some 40 “makers,” including Indigenous artists, as well as Lake Shore teacher and student “makers.”

“This was a make-and-take event where you could learn something, make something, try something,” says Native American Support/Title VI coordinator Stacey Purpera. “There also were door prizes, a book giveaway, social singing and dancing, an impressive hoop dancing demonstration, and two food trucks.” Plus, Hawk Creek Wildlife!

A WBFO episode on *What’s Next* the previous day featured Mrs. Purpera, Seneca language teacher Jordan Cooke, and High School principal Dr. Katy Berner-Wallen discussing the importance of the Indigenous community, and the honoring of diverse cultures, traditions, and histories. You can listen [HERE](#).

- LSHS senior Travis Bernhard contributed to this story.

Nov. 7, 2023 Personnel Actions



Julie Schwab

- The Board of Education approved the:

Probationary Appointment of ...

Julie Schwab, Elementary Principal, effective 12/27/23. Mrs. Schwab is currently Assistant Principal at the High School.

Resignation of ...

Julie Schwab, Secondary Assistant Principal, effective 12/26/23.

J.T. Waugh Takes Concrete Steps to Foster Academic Success & Well-Being



*Andrea Cwynar, J.T. Waugh principal, speaks to the Board of Education.
—Photo by Melissa Bergler*

At Tuesday night's Board of Education meeting, Andrea Cwynar, the principal of J.T. Waugh Elementary School, provided an overview of several new programs and initiatives aimed at improving student attendance, fostering a positive school environment, and increasing family engagement.

"These initiatives reflect the school's commitment to addressing the holistic needs of its students and building strong connections with families and the broader community," she said.

The efforts include:

- An Attendance Committee that has developed new procedures to review, track and improve attendance
- A "Zen Den/Wellness Suite," which is a place for re-regulation, de-escalation, conflict resolution, group sessions, and practice of skills learned in Second-Step Lessons from the Social Emotional Learning Curriculum
- Specific duties for increasing daily connections and building relationships with students, as well as more frequent connections with families, and increasing the sense of community among staff
- Activities promoting family engagement, including volunteer opportunities, the Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads Of Great Students) program, and "Cwynar's Spotlight" in the school's monthly newsletter

These initiatives reflect the school's proactive efforts to address key challenges and create a supportive learning environment for all students.

In Other Matters:

New York State Report Card

Melissa Bergler, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, shared the 2022-23 New York State School Report Card, which is based on 2021-22 data. Mrs. Bergler shared the progress of the District's performance levels in the 3-8 assessments as well as Regents and graduation performance data. She compared indicators to state levels, and also discussed the impact of COVID on participation rates at the Regents level since Regents exams were cancelled in June 2021.

Chronic absenteeism data was shared, as well. Students are chronically absent when they miss 10% or more of the instructional days.

Instructional Space Study

The Board of Education continued its discussion of the Elementary Instructional Space Study. Throughout September and October, staff members joined committees to provide input on different ways to think about space in our elementary programs.

The Board of Education conducted K-8 building tours. Parent meetings were held this month, as well.

Click [HERE](#) for details about the various suggestions and considerations addressed thus far.