



News & Notes

following the Board of Education Meetings of Nov. 1 & 15, 2022



NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

November brings a month-long celebration of Native American Heritage throughout our schools. Students learn songs, dances, crafts and language as we honor the rich history and culture and important contributions of our nation's first people.

Pictured here is Blaine Tallchief at A.J. Schmidt Elementary School.

- Photo by Principal Jill Clark.

Nov. 15, 2022 Board of Education Meeting Highlights

Personnel Actions:

Probationary Appointments of ...

Samantha Edinger, School Counselor (effective 12/17); **Meghan Mack**, School Social Worker (effective 12/7); **Karielle Case**, School Social Worker (effective 1/3); **Dawn Lamberti**, Bus Driver (effective 10/24); **Robin Coventry**, Personal Care Aide (effective 9/26); **Cindy Trask**, Personal Care Aide (effective 9/26).

Resignations for the Purpose of Retirement ...

Julie Farrell, Speech Therapist (effective 12/31); **John Page**, Senior Custodian (effective 12/31).

Resignation of ...

Matthew Ralph, Special Education Teacher

(effective 11/23); **Sydney Pittner**, Social Worker (effective 12/1); **Tara Gabryszak**, Personal Care Aide (effective 10/24); **Carrie Preston**, Bus Driver (effective 11/4).

In other matters:

Board of Education Vice President Mike Franey was honored by the New York State School Boards Association in recognition of the time and effort he has dedicated to honing his governance knowledge and skills.

Mr. Franey completed all four NYSSBA achievement levels, including state-mandated training workshops, board officers' academy, legal workshops, convention-related events or custom board retreats.

Superintendent Dan Pacos presented Mr. Franey with the NYSSBA Board Excellence Award.



News & Notes Con't ...

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Nov. 15, 2022 Meeting Highlights Con't ...

The Magic of Mentoring

Ever start a new job and feel overwhelmed as you learn the ropes and routines?

If you're a teacher at Lake Shore, that's unlikely to happen. The Mentor Teacher Intern Program (MTIP), one of only 28 in New York State, pairs an experienced teacher (mentor) with a new teacher (intern). For the next year, mentors support and coach the intern. And they remain a go-to resource beyond that first year, as well.

Details about the program were presented to the Board of Education Tuesday night by A.J. Schmidt 5th grade teachers Lori Wunder, Lake Shore's MTIP facilitator, and Alexandria Salansky, who became a mentor after experiencing its benefits first-hand when she began working here. The program is supported by a grant that provides mentor stipends, supplies and materials, and professional development, including New Teacher Orientation and other after-school programs.

The mentors and interns collaborate and navigate through the year as partners, Mrs. Wunder said, with resources to guide them in the "how to's" of everything from filling out report cards and ordering supplies to curriculum and behavior management techniques.



A.J. Schmidt 5th grade teachers Alexandria Salansky, front, and Lori Wunder spoke about the District's Mentor Teacher Intern Program at Tuesday's Board of Education meeting.

A Mentor Steering Committee, composed of teachers, psychologists, tech integrators and administrators from each building, meets three times a year to discuss the program and suggest improvements.

"It's great to have a point person to go to when you're new," observed Board member Kathleen Chiavetta.

Currently, Lake Shore has 29 mentors and 27 interns. "It has been a very smooth program and the feedback has been very positive," said Mrs. Wunder.

Nov. 1, 2022 Board of Education Meeting Highlights

What's Up at J.T. Waugh?

Principal Abby Wesley gave Board of Education members a snapshot of what's been happening at J.T. Waugh this fall at their Nov. 1st meeting.

The action includes ice cream socials, bingo, Native American craft demonstrations, bus safety and fire safety, the Book Fair, and preparations for Santa's Secret Shop. Also, bi-monthly, a JTW eagle from each grade is recognized for their SOARing qualities: **S**haring Kindness, **O**utstanding Attitude, **A**lways Respectful, **R**esponsible Behavior - and their names and photos are posted in the school's main hallway.

As the fun, informative, and celebratory activities unfold, there also is an underlying structure of priorities and direction at the school, shaped in part by staff surveys.

Principal Wesley said staff priorities on what this year's main focus should be were: increased academic stamina (58.8%), students feeling like they belong (52.9%) and improving behavior (35.3%). The top three areas staff selected for their personal main focus were: self care and reflection (47.1%), improving communication and relationships (29.4%), and incorporating new instructional tools (17.6%).

And key words from staff descriptions of their vision for the school were: respectful, grit, creativity, community, colorful, happy, and collaborative. Judging from these priorities and the bustle of activity at J.T. Waugh, their vision is well on its way to reality.



Superintendent Dan Pacos and Board of Education member Arlene DeJoy-Meckes look at J.T. Waugh's Soaring Eagle display. Students who SOAR (Show kindness, Outstanding attitude, Always respectful, Responsible behavior) are featured bi-monthly.

- Photo by Melissa Bergler. See more photos [HERE](#).