A summary of Thursday’s Horseheads Board of Education meeting...

Board Members: Brian Lynch, President; Michael Buck, Vice President; Rose Apgar; Mark Brinthaupt; Mary Anne Holleran; James Jacobus; John Lively; Ruth Miller; James Snyder (student representative); Pam Strollo

Approximately 150 people attended Thursday’s Board of Education meeting.

Awards, honors, and recognition...

Superintendent Ralph Marino recognized the following:

- Junior Paarth Shah won the state Rotary Oratorical Contest last week at SUNY Brockport.
- The Intermediate School raised $605 for the Heavenly Hats Foundation March 11. They also collected some 1,100 items for local food banks during their February food drive.
- Senior Alyssa DeRichie was named the Section 4 Class AA Girls Basketball Player of the Year at the Basketball Coaches Association of New York’s Section 4 awards breakfast. She was also named to the association’s Section 4 Girls All-Star Team.
- Two teams of students from the Intermediate School placed at the Odyssey of the Mind competition February 26. The team of Dominic Magistro, Kirstie Dean, Samantha Bancroft, Karl Hauptman, Abi Mosely, Alex Lee, and Haley Gross won first place in the “As Good as…Goldberg” event in Division II. The team will go on to represent the school at the state level. They are coached by contract substitute Erica Greer. The team of Samantha Fairbanks, Alexander Myers, Kelsey Hayes, Hailey Tetreault, Nathan Fayerweather, Peter Grella, and Allison Eustace competed in “Le Tour Guide” Division II, placing third. They are coached by Teaching Assistant Christine Myers.
- Students and staff at the Middle School collected more than 1200 items and donated more than $1100 to the Chemung County SPCA. This was a program of the Student Council and National Junior Honor Society.
- Twenty-eight High School students are eligible for the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society as a result of their ACE credits.
- High School staff members, district retired teaches, the Senior Class, and the Sophomore Class contributed $3,186 to the family of a High School teacher seriously injured in a car accident in early January.
- High School Family and Consumer Science Teacher Lisa Heller and a group of students are making sundresses to donate to girls in Africa.
- Middle and High School students once again did well in the regional Scholastic Arts Competition. One, senior Tyler Morley, went on to win a national American
Visions medal for his painting *Under the Red Umbrella*. At the regional competition, 16 High School students and eight Middle School students won 30 of the 134 awards handed out over an eight-county region. In addition to Morley’s regional American Visions medal, eighth-grader Olivia Piazza won an American Visions medal, and Caleb Harrington and Caitlin Kohan received Matthias Arnot Society awards.

Class of 1996 graduate William J. Congdon has penned a book titled *Policy and Choice: Public Finance through the Lens of Behavioral Economics*.

**From the Middle School**

Susan Cites, PTO representative, reported on parent involvement at the school, noting that parents have provided 419 hours of service during 13 middle school events, and that 210 families have signed up for email to receive communication about Middle School events and programming. She also noted that the principal has instituted monthly Principal Parent Coalition meetings to give parents an opportunity to share concerns and hear about programming at the middle school. Discussions have included bullying, wellness, budgeting, internet safety, clubs, and transition to high school.

Teachers Hether Gillette, Christine Murphy, and Julie Stratton; and Principal Carl Guidotti reported to the board on how the Middle School has been doing more with less. They noted the challenges they face, which include the change by the state in ELA/Math cut scores, resulting in more students requiring AIS services; changes in state assessment formats for Math/ELA; the state’s educational reform plan with the national common core standards; new teacher and administrator evaluation system; and preparing students for the 21st century. They also talked about the school’s site-based team goals, and how they align with the district’s Ten-Year Strategic Plan. The described their efforts in student achievement, literacy, character education, and wellness. They noted the school’s extensive efforts toward promoting community service. They also described their work toward meeting the needs of the community in terms of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) instruction.

**Budget discussion**

About 25 audience members commented on the budget process, proposed reductions, and spending. Ralph informed the board that the state budget, on time this year, provides the district just under $660,000 in restoration of state aid. After a lengthy discussion, the majority of the board agreed that the amount should be used to restore some of the proposed cuts. The board directed the superintendent to meet with the administrative team to determine what will be restored in the proposed budget.

The board will hold a budget workshop Thursday, April 14, at 6pm in the High School Auditorium.

**Other items**

- The board discussed the 2011-12 school calendar. They will vote on it at their April 28 meeting.
- Director of Elementary Education Virginia Abrunzo updated the board on Race to the Top. More information will be sent to staff through the Educational Support Center.
- The board approved the Budget Transfer Report, Revenue and Expense Reports, Internal Claims Auditor Report, High School and Middle School Extra-Curricular Treasurer's Report, Treasurer's Report, and Athletic Accounts Report for February.
- The board approved the GST BOCES Regional Transportation Pilot Study and the service contract with Day Automation.
- The board approved a tax payment from Appleridge.
- The board approved a health and welfare services contract with the Ithaca City School District.
- The board approved the legal notice for the budget vote.
- The board approved the Single Audit Reports for the 2009-10 school year and the corrective action plan regarding single audit reports.
- The board approved the Extra-Classroom Activity Funds Manual.
- The board approved an increase in appropriations for the Intermediate School Arts in Education fund.
- The board approved the disposal of district property from Ridge Road, the Intermediate School, and the High School.
- The board approved a request for proposals for legal services.
- The board approved the Human Resources Committee recommendations.
- The board approved the use of the supplemental reading materials Language for Learners/Reading Mastery/Corrective Reading program for all appropriate students starting September of 2011. Special Education teachers will implement this program for classified students who have reading goals on their individual education plans and who are reading two years or more below grade level. Implementing the program with other classified students will be determined on a case-by-case basis.
- James Snyder, student representative to the board, reported on High School dates and events, including the change in the Parents Night and Guidance Information Session to March 30 due to the March 23 snow day. He also reported that the National Honor Society raised $596 for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.
- Board subcommittee chairpeople reported on the subcommittees’ recent meetings.

The board will hold a budget workshop Thursday, April 14, at 6pm in the High School Auditorium. The next regular board meeting is Wednesday, April 20, at 6pm in the Multi-Media Center. All boards in the GST BOCES region must meet on this day.

Note: Board meeting documents are on the Board of Education section of the district website. Go to http://boe.horseheadsdistrict.com/default.aspx and click on Meeting Documents.