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

Board Members: Pam Strollo, President; Brian Lynch, Vice President; Karen Boulas; Lisa Christiansen; Daniel Christmas; Warren Conklin; Kristine Dale; Doug Johnson; David Sadler; Matthew Minor, student representative

Honors...

At Thursday’s meeting, the following honors were shared:
- Eighth-grader Sophie Kartzman was presented with the Distinguished Finalist award by the Prudential Spirit of Community program. Chris Saunders from Prudential presented Sophie with a medal signifying her award for her work to collect and make greeting cards to veterans and American military personnel across the world. In the past four years, Sophie has collected more than 77,000 cards and shared her belief in volunteerism and support for our military. Created in 1995 by Prudential and the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), the program honors middle level and high school students for outstanding service to others at the local, state and national level.
  In addition, Assemblyman Chris Friend attended the meeting to present Sophie with a resolution signed by both houses of the New York State Assembly honoring her for her work and the recognition by Prudential. The resolution read in part “Whereas, Sophie Kartzman has distinguished herself as a young woman of superlative ability, establishing a high standard of community service, purposefulness of life, and sense of responsibility rarely achieved in youthful years...”
- Center Street Principal Patti Sotero and the entire school were presented with an award from Better Outcomes for “boosting the achievement of economically disadvantaged students.” The award went on to say “leadership and staff at this school are beating the odds and building opportunities.”
Former district student Cassidy Tryon was visiting her friend Sophie Kartzman, so Superintendent Tom Douglas took the opportunity to congratulate Cassidy on her win on the Food Network Show ‘Chopped Jr’ last year. The district was unable to honor her shortly after her win, so since she was at the meeting, Tom took the opportunity to congratulate her and wish her well. Cassidy now lives in the Albany area.

‘Ridge Road Reads’…

Ridge Road students and staff told the board all about their One School—One Book initiative this year through a simulated broadcast of WRDG with interruptions by teachers, students, a parent, and a hamster to provide even more information. The school embraced the month-long project and saw great success. For weeks prior to the January kick-off, students would see a big gift box and wonder what’s inside. Staff members would start to tell them about the book but would get interrupted. Then at an assembly January 27, they finally got the word from Principal Anne-Marie Bailey and Superintendent Tom Douglas: the book would be *The World According to Humphrey*, and Dr. Douglas would be letting the school borrow ‘his’ hamster, also named ‘Humphrey.’ Students, staff, and families read the book throughout February with a big celebration and family night February 24.

Ridge Road’s Parent-Teacher Organization supported the initiative by purchasing a copy of the book for each student and staff member, providing supplies for the real Humphrey, and providing stuffed animals. They also helped coordinate and sponsor the family night. Teachers explained how the project included all content areas and character education...journal writing, trivia, interaction among grade levels, learning lab, ebooks and QR codes, responsibility through caring for Humphrey, and more.

Students presented each board member with a gift of Humphrey trail mix, and then fourth-graders wrapped up the presentation with a song from their recent play *Pirates*.

Budget adoption…

School Business Administrator Katy Buzzetti presented the 2017-18 Proposed School Budget, updating the board on budget development since February. The proposed budget is $74,993,599, an increase of 1.70%. It is within the state’s property tax cap limit with a tax levy increase of 2.19%. The budget maintains all current educational programs.

The board adopted the proposed budget to be offered to voters May 16. [Click here](#) for more information on the proposed budget.
Horseheads 2030...
Assistant Superintendent Tony Gill updated the board on the Horseheads 2030 Education Committee. The committee has met twice since being formed. Tony reported that the group has engaged in meaningful discussions about the district and its vision. The team is drafting vision statements that will eventually come to the board for approval. In the coming meetings, they’ll be working on the district’s mission statement and core beliefs.

Tom also reported that the next infrastructure discussion is April 26, 7pm, High School Auditorium.

Other items...
- The board approved the minutes from the regular meeting of March 23, special meeting of March 27, and community budget meeting of April 6.
- The board approved the following finance items:
  o March Treasurer’s Report
  o March Claims Auditor Report
  o March High School, Middle School, and Athletics Extraclassroom Treasurers reports
  o March Budget Transfers and Revenue and Expense reports
  o Budget transfers over $10,000
  o Pesticide application
  o Renewal agreement with Chemung County for universal pre-kindergarten special education evaluations
  o Appointments for May 16 budget vote
  o 2017-18 Property Tax Report Card
- The board approved the Human Resources recommendations.
- The board approved the ballot for candidates to the Schuyler-Steuben-Chemung-Tioga-Allegany (GST) BOCES.
- The board approved the 2017-18 GST BOCES administrative budget.
- The board approved changes to Policy 8414.5—Alcohol and Drug Testing of Bus Drivers, Policy 9240—Recruiting and Hiring, Policy 9270.1—Substitutes, Policy 9460—Incidental Teaching, Policy 9500—Compensation and Benefits, Policy 9520.2—Family and Medical Leave, and Policy 9520.3—Military Leave, and the proposed deletion of Policy 9520.5—Leaves of Absence.
- The board accepted proposed changes to Policy 9640—Non-School Employment for first reading.

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Dates...

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 26</td>
<td>7pm</td>
<td>Horseheads 2030 Infrastructure Discussion (special board meeting)</td>
<td>Auditorium</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>Public Hearing on 2017-18 Proposed School Budget</td>
<td>Multi-Media Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 16</td>
<td>7am-9pm</td>
<td>Budget Vote/Board of Education Election</td>
<td>Big Flats/Ridge Rd/High School</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9:30pm</td>
<td>Special Board of Education meeting</td>
<td>Multi-Media Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 25</td>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>Regular Board of Education meeting</td>
<td>Gardner Road</td>
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Note: Board meeting documents are on the district website. Click here to view them.