

The following is a summary of the September 13, 2018, Combined Conference and Regular Meeting of the Berkeley Heights Board of Education:

Report of the Student Representatives

Senior Mikayla Sanchez reported on the following GLHS items:

- The new school year is off to a great start and many programs are changing for the better. Specifically, Yearbook and Newspaper are now meeting during the same period, allowing for students to maximize school-wide coverage. The GL Newspaper has transitioned to being completely online and has collaborated with TAP into Berkeley Heights in order to reach greater audiences.
- Student journalists have been busy covering the excellence of our sports program at the beginning of the season. The Highlander Football team played an impressive game against Arthur L. Johnson, winning their season-opening game 21-14. Along with the Cheerleaders, GL Football players are looking forward to the Friday Night Lights game on September 21st.
- The GLHS Girls Soccer team performed well during its scrimmages and was pushed to play hard in its game against Kent Place last week. The Highlanders were behind at the half by a score of 3-0, but pushed through and scored back-to-back goals before losing 3-2. The team then bounced back with a 6-1 victory over Linden, as senior Emily Pires scored three goals. Great job girls!
- The Highlander Boys Soccer is looking forward to a victorious season after upsetting Cranford by a score of 2-1.
- The GL Volleyball team moved up to the Mountain Division of the Union County Conference this year and they are excited to play against stronger competition. Last Saturday, Governor Livingston was invited to play at the Jersey Classic Tournament at Paramus High School. The girls faced tough competition and were grateful to have played against the reigning state champions, Immaculate Heart Academy. GL then won its first game against Cranford in two sets.
- The Highlander Field Hockey team shut out Livingston, keeping fans on their feet after winning by an impressive score of 7-0.
- GL Cross Country has also been off to a great start, with Victoria Vanriale taking First Place at the Cherokee Challenge.
- In addition to preparing for upcoming meets and games, the GLHS Highlander athletes are busy perfecting their dance moves for the Dance-Off at next week's Pep Rally. The school is looking forward to a successful season and jaw-dropping pep rally performance next week!

Report of the Student Representatives (continued)

Junior Alexander Janiak reported on the following GLHS items:

- Even though it is only the second week of school, students are already organizing events and getting involved in clubs and activities. Some clubs will not be active until later in the school year, or at least until the Club Expo, while others have already begun activities.
- During the summer, the Environmental Club members weeded GL's rain gardens and learned about native plants while preparing the GL campus for the start of school.
- Also during the summer, the Technology Student Association attended the National TEAMS Competition in Atlanta, Georgia. The GL students competed against other schools on the national level with two junior teams and also benefitted from a great team-building experience.
- During the first few days of school, Link Crew assisted the Freshmen as they searched for their classrooms.
- Many other clubs have also become active over the last few days. The Junior Statesmen of America recently set its goals for the year: to attend the Fall, Winter, and Spring Congress. This school year will be the first time JSA is planning to attend the Spring Congress and the organization intends to conduct a fundraiser at Back-to-School Night to defray the cost of this trip.
- Many clubs, like Student Ambassadors and Interact, are also preparing to attend Back-to-School Night in order to inform parents about the variety of clubs and activities available at Governor Livingston.
- Along with the start of all the clubs, the GL chapters of the National Honor Society and Science National Honor Society have begun their application processes for returning Juniors and Seniors.
- Overall, the clubs and activities offered at GLHS have just begun and many students are also just starting to join these clubs and attend the activities as they explore their interests.

Superintendent's Report

In her *Mission Moment* address, Mrs. Judith Rattner, Superintendent of Schools, provided the following message:

“The Board of Education’s Student Representative Program was initiated in 1999 by Board of Education President Helen Kirsch and Dr. Richard Bozza, who was the Superintendent of Schools at that time. Two students are selected by the Governor Livingston High School Administration to share information regarding the happenings at GL and to also provide the Board of Education with different perspectives on various issues.

“One interesting fact – one of our Student Representatives in 1999 was Mr. Mark Cantagallo, who went on to serve as Assistant Principal at Governor Livingston and is now the Principal of Cranford High School. Mr. Cantagallo also currently serves as President of the Califon Board of Education.

“Tonight, it gives me great pleasure to introduce Mikalya Sanchez and Alexander Janiak as our Student Representatives to the Berkeley Heights Board of Education for the 2018-2019 school year.”

- Mrs. Rattner expressed her gratitude for the schools and community coming together to bring about a successful opening to the 2018-2019 academic year.
- Professional development training sessions, aimed at improving instruction, support services, and safety for students and staff, have been conducted throughout the district over the past three weeks.
- Earlier in the week, Back-to-School Nights were held at the 2-5 Elementary Schools and Freshman Parents Night was conducted Governor Livingston.
- Mrs. Rattner announced the schedule for the upcoming “Superintendent’s Chats,” as follows:
Thomas P. Hughes School – September 17th at 6:30 p.m.
Governor Livingston High School – September 24th at 7:00 p.m.
Columbia Middle School – October 8th at 7:00 p.m.
William Woodruff School – October 17th at 9:00 a.m.
Mountain Park School – October 17th at 4:30 p.m.
Mary Kay McMillin Early Childhood Center – October 18th at 7:00 p.m.
- Back-to-School Nights will be held during the coming weeks, as follows:
Columbia Middle School - September 20th
Mary Kay McMillin Early Childhood Center – September 25th
Governor Livingston High School – September 26th

Superintendent's Report (continued)

- The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Thursday, September 27th at 7:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room of Columbia Middle School. Topics of discussion will include student achievement on various assessments.
- Mr. James Finley and Mr. Drew Ziobro, District Supervisors, provided the Board and public with a Summer Institute Update. Please click [here](#) to learn more about this presentation.

Facilities Report

Mrs. Donna Felezzola, School Business Administrator, delivered the following report:

- The bid opening for the window replacement project at Thomas P. Hughes School was on August 29th. Five (5) bids were received. R.D. Architectural Products, Inc., is the apparent low bidder. The bid was structured with several alternates. The bid prices came in low, which is good news for the district. We will be able to replace all of the windows at the rear of the school. The contract the district is awarding is for the base bid and alternates for the additional scope of work, and for upgraded balances with an extended warranty. District representatives met with the contractor and window supplier to review the scope of work, and references were checked.

Once the contract is awarded, the contractor will be provided with shop drawings and production of the windows will begin. Installation is planned for the winter. The window installation will be done outside of school hours. The contractor plans to complete the work in one classroom per night.

The Board of Education formally voted to approve the following:

- The following revised and new District Policies after second reading:
Substance Abuses 5133 (Revised)
Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion Techniques for Students with Disabilities 5561 (New)

- The employment of the following Teachers for the 2018-2019 school year:

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Position</u>
Danielle Bamundo	Thomas P. Hughes School	Grade 5 Teacher (Substitute/Replacement)
Melany Castellanos	Thomas P. Hughes School	Grade 3 Teacher
Nancy Cinquino	Governor Livingston High School	Teacher of Family and Consumer Science
Sadie Pepitone	Mary Kay McMillin Early Childhood Center	Teacher of Music (Part-Time)

- The employment of the following Paraprofessionals for the 2018-2019 school year:

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>
Christina Apicella	Mountain Park School
Phoebe Cook	Mountain Park School
Samantha Cornacchia	Columbia Middle School
Michael Coughlin	Governor Livingston High School
Christine Hahn	Mary Kay McMillin Early Childhood Center
Nicholas Palladino	Columbia Middle School
Blair Wagner	Columbia Middle School

- The employment of the following Lunchroom/Playground Teacher Aides for the 2018-2019 school year:

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>
Michael Koubek	Mary Kay McMillin Early Childhood Center
Violet Lewis	Mountain Park School

- The employment of Bruce Harms as a Bus Driver for the 2018-2019 school year, effective September 14, 2018.

The Board of Education formally voted to approve the following (continued):

- The re-assignment of the following personnel for the 2018-2019 school year:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Original 2018-2019 Assignment</u>	<u>New 2018-2019 Assignment</u>
Ashley Reedy	Governor Livingston H.S. Paraprofessional	Governor Livingston H.S. Secretary (Full-Time, 10 months)

- The transfer of Shannon O’Shea, Teacher of World Language, from Mountain Park School to Thomas P. Hughes School, effective September 1, 2018.
- The appointment of the following extra-curricular activities staff members for the 2018-2019 school year:

<u>Governor Livingston High School Activity/Position</u>	<u>Instructor/Supervisor</u>
Assistant Soccer Coach	James Cariello
Volunteer Assistant Cheerleader Coach	Alecia Collins
Volunteer Assistant Band Director	John Leister

- The request of Christine Talarico for maternity/child care leaves of absence from December 8, 2018, through August 31, 2019. Mrs. Talarico is a Teacher of English at Governor Livingston High School.
- The acceptance of the retirement of Virginia Guida from her position as Lunchroom/Playground Teacher Aide at Thomas P. Hughes School, effective September 1, 2018.
- The acceptance of the following resignations, as indicated:

Sharon Angelos, Lunchroom/Playground Teacher Aide at Mary Kay McMillin Early Childhood Center, effective August 23, 2018.

Wendy Guidetti, Paraprofessional at Mary Kay McMillin Early Childhood Center, effective August 27, 2018.

Christine Turner, Paraprofessional at Columbia Middle School, effective August 22, 2018.

The Board of Education formally voted to approve the following (continued):

- The designation of Donna Felezzola, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, as Purchasing Agent for the Board of Education, authorizing her to award contracts, in full accordance with the law, for purchases that do not exceed in the aggregate in a contract year the total sum of \$40,000.00 without public advertising for bids.
- The release of Executive Session Minutes of the Berkeley Heights Board of Education for the meetings of April 1, 2018, through June 30, 2018.
- The acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$13,315.31 from The Highlander Booster Club to support all district athletics teams and programs.
- To award a contract for window replacement at Thomas P. Hughes School to the apparent low bidder, R.D. Architectural Products, Inc., in the amount of \$276,260.00.
- The purchase of Science Kits from Frey Scientific for students in Grades 3 through 5 at Mountain Park, Thomas P. Hughes, and William Woodruff schools at the cost of \$45,558.60.

Other Information:

- Mr. Doug Reinstein, President of the Berkeley Heights Board of Education, announced that the Board was in the process of conducting interviews of candidates for the Interim Superintendent of Schools position. He indicated that the Board expects the Interim Superintendent to be appointed and working in the district prior to Mrs. Rattner's last day on the job, which will be October 18th.
- Mr. Reinstein added that, as part of its continuing efforts to enhance communication with all district stakeholders, the Board of Education will conduct "Office Hours" at Columbia Middle School on October 27th, December 8th, and January 26th from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. During these Saturday morning sessions, members of the community will be welcomed to discuss matters of interest and/or concern with members of the Board of Education in an informal setting. More details about this initiative will be shared with the public as they become available.

The Board of Education will conduct a Regular Meeting on Thursday, September 27th at 7:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room of Columbia Middle School. Topics of discussion will include student achievement on various assessments.