

# BOE Briefs

## BERKELEY HEIGHTS *Public Schools*

The following is a summary of the September 27, 2018, Regular Meeting of the Berkeley Heights Board of Education:

### **Report of the Student Representatives**

#### **Senior Mikayla Sanchez reported on the following GLHS items:**

- The Governor Livingston Highlanders have been off to a great start this sports season. GL Girls Soccer now has a record of 6-1 after a 5-0 win against Union Catholic. Prior to that, they defeated rivals New Providence and Oak Knoll, and they are looking forward to playing at Elizabeth next.
- The Highlander Boys Soccer team is regaining its momentum after a tough start to the season. GL beat Arthur L. Johnson earlier this week and the team is determined to improve its record when it plays its next game at home against Jonathan Dayton.
- GLHS Volleyball is also off to an excellent start, having defeated Roselle Catholic and Rahway this week. The girls are excited to play new opponents as they continue their first season in the Union County Conference - Mountain Division.
- The Highlander Field Hockey team faced a tough matchup against Westfield earlier this week but their spirits are high as they prepare for their Senior Night game against Scotch Plains-Fanwood. Make sure to come out to support the Field Hockey seniors on September 29th at 7:00 p.m. at Snyder Avenue Field.
- The Governor Livingston Girls Tennis team traveled to Plainfield to compete in the Union County tournament earlier today. The GL girls played and won their first matches of the day. Congratulations girls!
- September 21st was extremely busy for all Governor Livingston sports. The Pep Rally took place during the last period of the day and was a huge hit. Teachers and students alike had a great time watching the band amplify the gym while cheerleaders and different sports teams took to the dance floor to showcase their best moves. The day continued to be a success as GL students gathered in the back field to paint up and cheer on the Highlander football team. The football team played an amazing game against the North Plainfield Canucks that evening during Friday Night Lights. Players on the field and Highlanders in the bleachers had an equally thrilling night, celebrating a huge win for GL.

**Report of the Student Representatives (continued)**

**Junior Alexander Janiak reported on the following GLHS items:**

- As the first month of school concludes, many clubs and activities have started to assemble and define their goals for the upcoming months.
- Many clubs have held meetings to appoint officers and schedule events.
- The Interact Club, GL TV Crew, Student Auxiliary, FBLA, and Photography Club all held their first meetings during the past week.
- Last week, Interact held its first event, “Slam Dunk the Junk,” during which club members took part in the Berkeley Heights town cleanup, particularly in the area of Roosevelt and Plainfield Avenues.
- This week, TREND hosted its annual “Meet and Greet” event where students had the opportunity to buy TREND tee shirts and make some new friends.
- The Environmental Club also held its first meeting recently with its new advisor, Dr. Meredith Morgan.
- National Honor Society applications were due for eligible Juniors and returning Seniors during the past week.
- Many of these meetings are allowing Grade 9 students to assimilate and other activities, such as Student Council elections, are further integrating them into the GL community. In addition, Back-to-School Night and the Club Expo, which were both held recently, helped Freshmen, returning students, and parents to explore interests and learn more about the clubs and activities offered at GL.
- Several organizations used the opportunities afforded by the Club Expo to promote their groups, raise funds, and recruit new members. For example, the *Claymore* staff took the opportunity to sell their yearbooks, which have received prestigious awards from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association and the Garden State Scholastic Press Association.

**Superintendent's Report**

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

“Lifelong learning is the ‘ongoing, voluntary, and self-motivated’ pursuit of knowledge for either personal or professional reasons. Therefore, it not only enhances social inclusion, active citizenship, and personal development, but also self-sustainability, as well as competitiveness and employability. I did a little research and found the following:

- “Things Lifelong Learners have in common:
- Always on the move – never settle down
  - Attend various courses/workshops
  - Believe it’s never too late to start something
  - Constantly challenge themselves
  - Embrace change
  - Enjoy making progress
  - Have diverse interests
  - Leave their comfort zone
  - Read daily
  - Seek opportunities to grow
  - Strive to get better
  - Take care of their health

“As a district, we subscribe to the notion that learning is a life-long process of keeping abreast of change. We strive to help students realize the merits of becoming lifelong learners and realize that as Peter Drucker noted, ‘The most pressing task is to teach people how to learn.’” Once we have taught students how to learn, we focus on developing their interests and hopefully instill the desire for them to become lifelong learners.

“As educators, we model lifelong learning for our students through our emphasis on our personal growth by participating in the professional development program offered in district and throughout our state. We have a number of established committees that focus around all us continually learning from each other, whether our focus is on implementing a new curriculum, developing a course, honing our instructional skills, or reviewing best practices and making them an integral part of our day and experiences.

“One such example is what has transpired as a result of our Crisis Planning meetings and the decision to utilize an options-based response to active shooters. Research, visits, presentations, administrative training, staff training, and finally student training are all part of the process in implementing this new approach in our district.”

**Superintendent's Report (continued)**

- The 2017-2018 *Claymore*, the Governor Livingston High School Yearbook, has been named as the recipient of the Gold Medalist award from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association in addition to being recognized with the All-New Jersey Platinum Award (for the second straight year) by the Garden State Scholastic Press Association. Congratulations to all of the students, graduates and current staff, who worked on this book. Congratulations also to Ms. Staci Toporek, faculty advisor to the *Claymore*.
- Mrs. Anne Corley-Hand, Principal of Mary Kay McMillin Early Childhood Center, delivered a presentation titled "Curiosity, Creativity, & Persistence – STEAM in Early Childhood Settings," at the national District Administrator Leadership Institute STEM Conference held this week in Orlando, Florida.
- Back-to-School Nights have been held at all district schools.
- Mrs. Rattner will be conducting "Superintendent's Chats," as follows:  
Columbia Middle School – October 8th at 7:00 p.m.  
William Woodruff School – October 17th at 9:00 am  
Mountain Park School – October 17th at 4:30 p.m.  
Mary Kay McMillin Early Childhood Center – October 18th at 7:00 p.m.
- Representatives from over 120 colleges and universities will be in attendance when Governor Livingston High School hosts its annual College Fair on Monday, October 1st from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- Parent Conferences begin on October 9th
- The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Thursday, October 11th at 7:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room of Columbia Middle School. Topics of discussion will include the report of incidents of Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying, and Violence and Vandalism for 2017-2018 reporting period 2; introduction to the *Sandy Hook Promise* initiative; and a report on student participation in extra-curricular activities/athletics.
- Mr. Scott McKinney, Assistant Superintendent, and members of the District Administration delivered the New Jersey Student Achievement and School Performance Report to the Board of Education and public gathered at the meeting. Please click [here](#) to learn more about this presentation

**Facilities Report**

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

District officials are in the process of finalizing the contract for the window replacement project at Thomas P. Hughes School. The contractor recently visited the school to take field measurements, and the architect is in the process of developing shop drawings.

**The Board of Education formally voted to approve the following:**

- The appointment of Dr. Richard Noonan to the position of Interim Superintendent of Schools in the Berkeley Heights School District, effective October 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019. He will replace Judith A. Rattner, who has announced her retirement as Superintendent of Schools after having served in that capacity for the past 13 years. Please click [here](#) for more information about Dr. Noonan.
- The introduction for study and first reading of the following new and revised District Policies:  
Disclosure and Review of Applicant’s Employment History 1613 (New)  
Student Suicide Prevention 5350 (Revised)  
Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying 5512.01 (Revised)
- For Linda Carella, Learning Disabilities Teacher-Consultant, to conduct up to twenty (20) Educational Assessments during the 2018-2019 school year.
- The employment of Laura Grant as a Long-Term Substitute Teacher of Special Education at Mountain Park School, effective September 25, 2018.
- The employment and compensation rates of District Transportation Staff members for the 2018-2019 school year.
- The appointment of the following extra-curricular activities staff member for the 2018-2019 school year:

Thomas P. Hughes School

Activity/Position

Computer Club Advisor

Instructor/Supervisor

Ellen Massa

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

- The employment of the following Lunchroom/Playground Teacher Aides for the 2018-2019 school year, effective September 28, 2018:

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>
Suzanne Honey	Mary Kay McMillin Early Childhood Center
Sharon Izzo	Thomas P. Hughes School
Laura Walker	Thomas P. Hughes School

- The acceptance of the retirement of Jill Fischer, School Nurse at Mountain Park School, effective January 1, 2019.
- The appointment of Steven Buonaspina, Vincent Gulbin and Michael Roof as Columbia Middle School Lunchroom Supervisors for the first semester of the 2018-2019 school year.

***The Board of Education will conduct a Combined Conference and Regular Meeting on Thursday, October 11th at 7:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room of Columbia Middle School. Topics of discussion will include the report of incidents of Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying, and Violence and Vandalism for 2017-2018 reporting period 2; introduction to the Sandy Hook Promise initiative; and a report on student participation in extra-curricular activities/athletics.***