

The following is a summary of the December 6, 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:**

- This past Fall Sports season has been one of the best in recent Governor Livingston history. As I'm sure you all have heard, the Highlander Girls Soccer team won the State Group 2 Championship and finished the season with a 21-4 record, led by senior captains Emily Pires, Catalina Abusada, and Claire Donfield. The excitement at the State Final game at Kean University could be felt on the field as well as in the bleachers, where students and parents alike cheered and rallied for the Highlanders. Junior Allie Sciacchitano performed exceptionally well during the game, scoring the first two goals and increasing the spirits of the crowd. Keeping everyone on their toes, Catalina Abusada scored the winning goal with just 90 seconds left in the game. The feeling on that November 19th was unmatched and will always be remembered. Congratulations to the GL Girls Soccer team and best of luck in future seasons!
- Although the annual Thanksgiving Day Football game was not on home turf, the GL team continued to excel in New Providence, taking home its fifth consecutive Thanksgiving victory over the Pioneers and ending the season on a high note.
- With a successful conclusion to the fall season, Winter Sports are now just beginning to practice and scrimmage in preparation for their season.
- The GLHS Boys Basketball team is looking forward to its first game next Friday at Oratory.
- Similarly, the Highlander Girls Basketball team is off to a positive start, winning its scrimmage against Bernards this week.
- The Governor Livingston Hockey team is also having a successful season so far, winning against Johnson and Scotch Plains-Fanwood. The team takes on local rivals Summit and Watchung Hills in the coming days.
- Highlander Wrestling has just begun and the boys are looking forward to their scrimmage against Delaware Valley.
- Finally, the GL Swimming team recently defeated Elizabeth and is eager to take on its rivals, New Providence, later this month.

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

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

- As 2018 comes to a close, many clubs at Governor Livingston High School continue to conduct many exciting activities.
- Students in Junior Statesmen of America (JSA) attended their Fall State Convention two weeks ago, where they discussed politics in action and debated the issues against other schools from throughout the northeast.
- The Student Ambassadors have been organizing to collect toys for their annual Toy Drive. Members of the school community can go to the office of Mrs. Michelle Morin, the group's advisor, and take a paper ornament which lists the name of a gift for someone in need. Members of the Student Ambassadors will be collecting all of the presents and then distributing them to less fortunate children in the area.
- The Student Ambassadors will also be attending the Sixth Annual Union County Student Training and Enrichment Program. They will be sending 10 representatives for an all-day leadership training workshop, where the theme of the event will be suicide prevention and survivor support.
- The GL Student Council recently met and discussed the Snowball, Spirit Week, and Class Clash. The Snowball will be held in the GL cafeteria on December 14th; the names of the Senior Superlatives will be announced at this event. During the Student Council meeting, the students created a committee to decorate the cafeteria, started hanging up flyers, and discussed ticket sales. In addition, they decided on Spirit Days for the week leading up to winter break, with the themes being pajama day, meme day, and groutfit day.
- Finally, the GL Hilltop Players presented their Fall Play, "Little Women," last weekend. The name of the School Musical was announced; "Chicago" will be presented at Governor Livingston in the spring.

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Mr. Doug Reinstein, President of the Berkeley Heights Board of Education, started the meeting by asking all in attendance to join in a moment of silence for Dan Bassillo following the Pledge of Allegiance. Dan suddenly and tragically passed away this week. He was a valuable member of our Columbia Middle School custodial staff, a lifelong Berkeley Heights resident, and a 2009 graduate of Governor Livingston High School.

Mr. Reinstein spoke to various pieces of correspondence that had recently been received by the Board of Education, including letters from the Berkeley Heights Education Foundation summarizing \$28,000 in teacher grants that it recently bestowed, and letters concerning the Sandy Hook Promise Anonymous Reporting system.

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### Superintendents Report

- Dr. Richard Noonan, Interim Superintendent of Schools, opened by stating: “It’s my distinct pleasure to welcome the State Champion Governor Livingston High School Girls Soccer Team to our Board meeting this evening. We’re thrilled to have you here this evening, and enormously proud of all that you’ve accomplished. Mr. Reinstein will start the program with a few remarks, after which he will read a Board of Education Resolution. Following that, Coach Mike Roof (Union County Coach of the Year) will be invited to the microphone to share remarks, introduce all the members of the team, and, with the assistance of Director of Athletics Ann Clifton, provide each of the players with a commemorative certificate.”
- Mr. Reinstein spoke of the thrilling achievements of the GL Girls Soccer team, and he presented the team with a Board Resolution celebrating their State Championship. Coach Roof spoke of the extraordinary dedication and character of team members.
- Mr. Reinstein then extended an appreciative and affectionate goodbye to departing Mountainside Board Member Jeane Parker. He was joined at the podium by Mountainside Board President Jim Ruban. Mrs. Parker was thanked for her nearly six years of distinguished service to the Berkeley Heights BOE, while concurrently serving for seven years on the Mountainside BOE.
- Mr. McKinney provided a brief introduction for the AP Capstone Program presentation, which was delivered by Science/Art Supervisor James Finley. He was joined by four participating GL Students: Mikayla Sanchez, Evelyn Doskoch, Brendan Probst and Gregory Biskaduros. The students spoke of the advanced research projects they’ve undertaken, which were extraordinary for their reach and depth. Please click [here](#) to learn more about this report.

**Superintendent's Report (continued)**

- The district Audit Report for 2017-2018 was presented. There were no recommendations, which is a tribute to the good work of School Business Administrator Donna Felezzola and staff.
- At the next Board of Education meeting on January 7th, we'll be honoring the award-winning Governor Livingston High School Highlander Band, which is also being recognized by our constituent Town Councils this month.
- The Board of Education approved the 2019-2020 school calendar. Highlights of this calendar include:
  - Provides for a post-Labor Day start for staff and students.
  - Provides for two full staff development days on the Tuesday and Wednesday following Labor Day.
  - Eliminates half-days during the first week of school.
  - Provides for a half staff development day on Columbus Day.
  - Incorporates Good Friday in the spring vacation week.
  - Provides for half a staff development day the Friday of Memorial Day weekend.
  - Provides for the school year coming to an end on Thursday, June 18th.
  - The calendar provides for four snow days.
  - The calendar adjusts the time for early dismissals to provide for an interval of 10 minutes between each school's dismissal.

The new calendar will be distributed immediately. Please click [here](#) to view a copy of the 2019-2020 school district calendar.

- This year, the Berkeley Heights Public Schools are embarking on a strengthened plan for tighter curriculum coordination and articulation with the Mountainside Schools. "We've now conducted the kick-off planning meetings in the areas of Math and Language Arts," explained Dr. Noonan. "The sessions have been extremely productive, and we're looking forward to the follow-up visitations and planning meetings in both curriculum areas."
- The Board of Education was asked to take action on an array of new course proposals, as well as on revised curriculum guides. Mr. McKinney provided an overview of both.
- Staff appreciation was extended for the generous efforts of the Berkeley Heights Education Foundation in supporting our students and schools.

## Facilities Report

Mrs. Donna Felezzola, School Business Administrator, provided the following Facilities Report:

- Hughes Window Installation: The contractor visited the site to field measure the existing conditions. Shop drawings have been approved. The new windows are being fabricated. This is a 14-16 week process. Windows are currently scheduled for delivery by March 15, 2019. Installation takes about four weeks, so the project should be completed by mid-April 2019.
- Media Centers: The Board of Education and administration is continuing to evaluate the media centers and develop plans for renovations. A meeting with the district architect will be held to further refine the scope of work for these renovations.
- Capital Budget: Mrs. Felezzola is obtaining input from the school principals regarding the capital budget needs in their respective buildings. She will then review the list of these needs with the Board of Education's Facilities Committee.

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

- The 2019-2020 school district calendar for the Berkeley Heights Public Schools.
- The Resolution honoring the Governor Livingston High School Girls Soccer Team, the 2018 Group 2 State Champions.
- The Resolution honoring Mrs. Jeane Parker for her service as Mountainside Representative to the Berkeley Heights Board of Education.
- The following new courses to be offered in the Berkeley Heights Public Schools starting in the 2019-2020 school year:

Columbia Middle School:

Intro to Web Design

Advanced Video Game Design

Governor Livingston High School:

Applied Behavior Analysis and Students with Special Needs

Concert Choir (Honors)

Design and Structural Forms

Robotics/Advanced Robotics

STEAM Seminar

Pop, Modern, and Contemporary Art

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

- The Agreement with Educere, LLC, to provide Virtual Home Instruction services to Berkeley Heights Public Schools students during the 2018-2019 school year. These services would be needed only when the district is unable to provide Home Instruction services through its own group of instructors.
- For the following providers to perform services to the Berkeley Heights Public Schools during the 2018-2019 school year:

Donna Spillman-Kennedy                      Augmentative Communications Evaluations  
Dr. Christina Luna  
Integrated Speech Pathology, LLC

Dr. Seth Dorsky                                      Psychiatric Evaluations

- The following revised/new Curriculum Guides for the 2018-2019 school year:

Elementary Schools:  
Spanish - Grades 2-5

Columbia Middle School:  
Advanced Drawing and Painting  
App Design  
Business Marketing and Product Development  
Design Challenge  
Digital Creations 7-8

Governor Livingston High School:  
American Sign Language 3  
American Studies 2/American Studies 2 Honors  
Anatomy and Physiology  
Applied Technology  
Astrophysics and Special Relativity - Introduction to  
Capstone AP: Research  
Career Planning and Digital Portfolio  
Color Guard (Formerly "Band Front")  
Concert Choir  
Contemporary America Honors  
Creative Writing  
Digital Imaging 9-12  
Economics - Introduction to  
English 1/1 Honors  
English 3 - AP

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

- The following revised/new Curriculum Guides for the 2018-2019 school year (continued):

Governor Livingston High School (continued):

Fine Metalworking

French 4/4 Honors

Italian 4/4 Honors

Journalism - Introduction to

Open Studio - Advanced Art

Photography 1

Physics C - AP

Spanish 4/4 Honors

District:

Library K-12

Orchestra - Grades 4-8

- The employment of Kyle Kiernan as a Substitute/Replacement Teacher of English at Governor Livingston High School, effective December 7, 2018, through June 30, 2019.
- The employment of Samantha Lloyd as a Part-Time Paraprofessional at Mary Kay McMillin Early Childhood Center, effective November 6, 2018.
- For Violet Lewis to be employed as a Part-Time Bus Health Aide in the Berkeley Heights Public Schools, effective December 13, 2018.
- The request of Gina Roof for a maternity and child care leave of absence from March 2, 2019, through August 31, 2019. Mrs. Roof is a Grade 2 Teacher at Mountain Park School.
- The request of Jenna Sorrell for a maternity/disability leave of absence from April 27, 2019, through June 20, 2019. Ms. Sorrell is a Teacher of Mathematics at Governor Livingston High School.

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

- The employment of the following extra-curricular activities staff members for the 2018-2019 school year:

**Governor Livingston High School**

**Activity/Position**

Producer - School Musical  
Choreographer - School Musical  
Bowling Site Supervisor  
Diving Site Supervisor  
Volunteer Assistant Fencing Coach  
Volunteer Assistant Cheerleader Coach  
Volunteer Assistant Ice Hockey Coach  
Head Baseball Coach  
Assistant Baseball Coach  
Assistant Baseball Coach  
Assistant Baseball Coach  
Volunteer Assistant Baseball Coach  
Volunteer Assistant Baseball Coach  
Volunteer Assistant Baseball Coach  
Volunteer Assistant Baseball Coach  
Volunteer Assistant Baseball Coach  
Volunteer Assistant Baseball Coach  
Volunteer Assistant Baseball Coach  
Head Lacrosse Coach (Girls)  
Assistant Lacrosse Coach (Girls)  
Volunteer Assistant Lacrosse Coach (Girls)  
Volunteer Assistant Lacrosse Coach (Girls)  
Head Track Coach  
Assistant Track Coach  
Assistant Track Coach  
Assistant Track Coach  
Assistant Track Coach  
Assistant Track Coach  
Assistant Track Coach  
Assistant Track Coach  
Assistant Track Coach  
Volunteer Assistant Track Coach  
Head Tennis Coach (Boys)  
Assistant Tennis Coach (Boys)  
Head Golf Coach

**Instructor/Supervisor**

Tracy Procaccini #  
Laura Chaneski  
Gary Kowaleski  
Bruno Somma  
Anthony Barbera  
Alecia Collins  
Travis DeLello  
Christopher Roof  
Ralph Yezza  
Louis Clemente  
James Cariello  
Bryan Young  
John Mahon  
Mathew Rago  
Garrett Hain  
Robert Abreu  
Keith Skinner  
Christopher Affinito  
Ernie Schmidt  
Chloe Griffin  
Jacqueline Wells  
Alexandra Grossman  
James Didyoung  
Daniel Guyton  
Carmin Scuderi  
Christopher Coughlin  
Joseph Hubert  
Gregory Dunkerton  
Beryl Roman  
Lisa Dhaibar  
Jeffrey Marretta  
Zakaria Rochdi  
Michael Smookler  
Philip Acosta  
Sharon Leahy



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

- The employment of the following extra-curricular activities staff members for the 2018-2019 school year (continued):

**Columbia Middle School**

**Activity/Position**

Softball Coach

Baseball Coach

**Instructor/Supervisor**

Gary Healey

Donald Zsak

# Replaces Christine Talarico, approved by the Board of Education on August 16, 2018.

- The purchase of two (2) dual domestic replacement water heaters for Governor Livingston High School from John Tucciarone Enterprises, LLC, at the cost of \$23,300.00, installation included.
- The acceptance of a donation of \$28,140.00 from the Berkeley Heights Education Foundation in the form of gifts and grants during the 2017-2018 school year.
- For Camp Invention to use five (5) classrooms and the multi-purpose room at Mountain Park School to operate its annual summer program from July 15-19, 2019.

***The Board of Education will conduct a Combined Conference and Regular Meeting on Monday, January 7th at 7:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room of Columbia Middle School.***