

**OLD BRIDGE BOARD BRIEFS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
March 18, 2008**

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Simon M. Bosco

- praised Frank Batsch, who led our Jonas Salk Middle School strings students in an entertaining and impressive mini-concert. Bosco added we should imagine the exponential growth they will experience under the continued tutelage of the middle level strings instructor that will be provided next year as a result of the proposed school budget.
- commended the high school students who are included in the job training, workplace readiness program that was designed, implemented and overseen by Roberta Mongioi and Karen Lewicki. He also commended the commitment, enthusiasm and creativity of our Special Needs Department, led by Barbara Cuthbert and Melanie Minch-Klass, who are dedicated to fostering the maximum and complete development of all of our children, regardless of individual needs.
- said the Middle States Evaluation Team will visit and conduct the assessment of the high school from April 29 to May 2. OBHS will undergo the new Accreditation for Growth (AFG) process. Annual assessments and reports on progress will be submitted to Middle States for the next six years leading up to the next evaluation in 2015.
- said Parent University will open its doors at OBHS at 7:00 p.m. on April 8. This university, the first of what we anticipate being an annual occurrence of workshops for parents, will enable the parents of elementary children to learn about a variety of topics, including developing good readers, understanding Math Trailblazers, internet safety and preparing for kindergarten. Registration deadline is March 28.
- said March 19 is the public hearing on the tentative 2008-2009 school budget, and the budget reflects a **ZERO** tax increase. Next year's budget has a \$1.4 million line item for Lombardi Field renovations. This amount represents about 30 percent of the estimated amount required.
- said the State Department of Education released its comparative school funding data. Old Bridge is one of 104 K-12 school districts with more than 3,500 children in the state. He said he could not believe how efficiently the district operated, and Bosco shared a few of these statistics. Districts are ranked from one, spending the least amount within the category, to 104. In the overall category of Total Cost Per Pupil, Old Bridge ranked 12th; in the category of Total Classroom Instruction Costs, Old Bridge ranked 12th; for Total Support Services, Old Bridge ranked 10th; and for Total Administrative Costs, Old Bridge was the ninth lowest spending district. The district also ranked 58th in median teacher salaries and 54th in median administrative salaries.

Recognition

The Board

- commended the James A. McDivitt Elementary School for pledging \$6,200 to Saint Jude Hospital through a school-sponsored Math-A-Thon.

Certificated Personnel

The Board

- approved the retirement of the following staff members with deep appreciation for their years of dedicated service to the District. They are: Michael DeSimone, McDivitt, elementary principal, 39 years; Judith Warn, Shepard, BSIP, 38 years; Karen Moffat, McDivitt, 38 years; Bonnie Goldman, Memorial, 21 years, all effective July 1, 2008.

Resolution

The Board

- authorized an architectural firm to look into establishing a self-sustaining day care center, open to employees and township residents based on a lottery for the 2008-2009 school year. The program would utilize five classrooms at the Glenn School. The cost of the program would be about \$800 per month per child.
- authorized the architect to prepare the necessary application to the State Department of Education for preparation for a referendum for Full Day Kindergarten. The referendum vote should take place December, 2008.

Miscellaneous

The Board

- approved the following meetings: organization meeting, 7:30 p.m., on April 22, 2008, in OBHS Main Campus TV Studio; agenda session, following the organization meeting, on April 22, 2008 in the Patrick Torre Administration Building Conference Room; and regular meeting, 7:30 p.m., on April 29, in the OBHS Main Campus TV Studio.
- acknowledged managers from local places of business who welcomed and supported job coaching experiences for Old Bridge High School students during the year. They include: Staples, US Dollar Store, Details Hair Salon, Kohl's, TJ Maxx, Friendly's and Stop & Shop.
- accepted the donation of a 2000 Isuzu Rodeo Wagon 4x4 and a 2000 Chevrolet Blazer two-door for the automotive program at Old Bridge High School and express its sincere appreciation to Lincoln Technical Institute.