



**GREAT NECK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

345 Lakeville Road
Great Neck, New York 11020
Telephone (516) 441-4001
Email boe@greatneck.k12.ny.us

REBECCA SASSOUNI
President

JEFFREY SHI
Vice President

BARBARA BERKOWITZ
Trustee

DONNA PEIREZ
Trustee

GRANT TOCH
Trustee

DR. TERESA PRENDERGAST
Superintendent of Schools

PATRICIA McSHANE
District Clerk

STACEY PEDONE
Treasurer

April 27, 2023

Dear Members of the 2022-23 Board Advisory Committee,

Thank you for your participation on the committee this year.

As you are aware, discussion at the April 19, 2023 meeting, last week, included a generative exercise in which members of the committee shared ideas for ways to foster community across the district.

It was a pleasure to observe members of the committee select their own cohort, share ideas, and prioritize. This was especially meaningful following last meeting's generative exercise regarding what each of you and your cohort valued about GNPS. The discussion led regarding the district's Responsive Classroom approach to classroom management and group dynamics was resonant in this regard as well.

The ideas shared by members of the committee regarding the demographic study presented to the Board at its 4/18 public action meeting were well received and appreciated. In furtherance of the discussion, along with the committee, we await the executive summary requested of the demographic information. When it becomes available, it will be posted to the district's website.

During the Board Advisory meetings thus far, we appreciated your perspectives. We also guided your coming to know one another during conversations across your own varied stakeholder perspectives.

In that spirit, it was a pleasure to receive this note from a committee member. We share the commendation with you, the members of the committee, who volunteered to be part of this Board Advisory Committee in service to our shared interest in the district. *"I wanted to thank you both for the thoughtfulness and time that went into the advisory committee. While I don't feel that I "advised" the board in any capacity, I'm walking away from the experience with a tremendous amount of renewed respect for our Board of Education. Great Neck is a remarkable community and for me, this experience reminded me of the good in our community. I spent the 3 sessions speaking with a diverse and interesting group of parents, residents, teachers, and administration. I was struck by how little division I encountered in my discussions and the overall sense of pride in our schools and community. I hope we're able to find more opportunities for guided discourse in the future. As we head into the budget and board vote, I'll hold onto this experience. I hope that the good in Great Neck will shine brighter than the bitterness."*

Very truly yours,

Rebecca Sassouni & Grant Toch
On behalf of the Board

RS:pm