

Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting
Great Neck Public Schools
Board of Education

Meeting Summary
Monday, May 6, 2019

The Citizens Advisory Committee met for its final session of the 2018-19 school year on May 6, 2019. This meeting was the fourth of the term. Subjects addressed included:

The adoption of the District's annual Budget and the vote upon on the proposed Budget, taking place on Tuesday, May 21. Matters discussed included the allowable tax levy limit and the Board of Education's and Administration's emphasis on balancing needs for educational programming and security with fiscal restraint. This year's budget is under the state cap with a 1.99% spending increase, representing a 1.94% tax levy increase since last year. A mailing of the GNPS Budget Bulletin, which includes Budget highlights, is being posted to every mailing address in the district. There is a final Budget Hearing on Monday, May 13 prior to the Tuesday, May 21st election.

The District's Registrar updated the CAC regarding the forthcoming implementation of online registration application submission software. This online program will enable more streamlined intake at registration, as well as uploading and organization of a host of information, including: student proof of residency, legal guardian information, allergies, medications, immunizations, and more.

As with all CAC meetings, committee members were given the opportunity to raise subjects related to the schools. Discussion was had regarding continuous improvement on school security; inculcating respect and civility; GNPS communication within schools and to the broader community.

At the conclusion of the meeting, members ending their two-year terms were thanked for their service and asked for candid feedback on the utility of their time spent on the committee. Each member who spoke acknowledged their appreciation for the opportunity to dialogue with members of the Board of Education, the Superintendent of Schools, and other committee members throughout the year. Those completing their first of two years on the committee expressed the intention to return next year and appreciation for the opportunity to serve.

Suggestions were made regarding calendaring and generating goals for advisory committees. The pros and cons of tasking the committee were discussed, including that the Board already sets annual goals as do the Superintendent and Administration. The purpose of the Advisory committees remains to engage members of differing stakeholder groups from the community (parents, empty nesters, administrators, teachers, high school students) in a reciprocal dialogue about topical issues concerning the Great Neck Public Schools.

A notice to the community asking volunteers to apply to serve in place of those rotating off the Citizens Advisory Committee will soon appear in the local press and on the District website.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Sassouni
Chairperson, CAC
Trustee, GNPS