

PUBLIC COMMENT AND RESPONSES

HILLSIDE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting of 4/30/20

1)

Hello.

J'ne Brathwaite

11 Vine St, Hillside, NJ 07205

Wondering if there is a contingency plan in work for graduation. As a parent, I wouldn't want our kids to have a virtual/ impersonal graduation. It would be great to have it in person - depending on the current stay at home or social distancing orders, of course.

Is the board open to moving the graduation out a month ? Is it possible since it takes place on BOE property ?

RESPONSE:

Hello,

There will be a graduation ceremony for our seniors.

Once the governor updates the guidelines for schools, the board will make a determination as to the specifics.

The new LED signs that are currently being installed will also be utilized to honor our class of '20 graduates.

Dr. Eichenholtz

2)

First of, hope everyone is safe and healthy. Thank you for all the work that you are all doing.

I have a few questions- hope this reaches you in time for the meeting but if not I'd appreciate a response nevertheless.

Are we working on a system for grading in this last semester of school?

Is George Washington also getting a playground?

The budget summary says there will be \$0 tax increase to local taxes. The agenda says the general fund will be increased by X amount and \$30M raised by tax levy. Could you explain?

Thank you,

Marisa West

RESPONSE:

Hello,

Mr. Gregory responded to your first point:

We have explored various grading options for 4th marking period and will be announcing our grading policy in the coming weeks, after the governor makes his decision on reopening schools.

And I responded: The footings are now being prepared for the GW playground. Poor weather has slowed the process, but it continues on.

And I responded: There truly is not going to be a tax increase for the 20-21 school year. The \$30 million figure is the actual amount of the local tax levy for next year, as it was last year and this current year, as well. Increases in state aid and strong fiscal oversight has allowed the board to "hold the line" on taxes.

Dr Eichenholtz

3) 4)

Kimberly lungerman 855 Winchester Ave, Hillside

1) During the last meeting you voted to explore a Magnet school in Hillside, even after responding to questions about this at the February meeting, where the Acting superintendent said his first goal was address the lapses in education before expanding upon additional offers. Please Outline the plans for this Magnet school, including the following areas:

- How will it be staffed. Will this impact funding for other areas of education at the HS or elementary schools?
- Who will be eligible?
- Define what you mean by Magnet--and what the offerings will be
- Why are we negotiating with Christ the King or other private organizations? Is there an intent to partner with private schools to do this?
- How was it determined that Mr Salters will be responsible for negotiations? Will he be compensated? If so, why was this position not posted prior to the March meeting?
- What research has been done and has any feedback from Parents been requested

AND:

I had some additional questions for you after the meeting and responses:

What grades will the Magnet school cover?

What will be specialized curricula?

Thank you.

RESPONSE:

Hello,

In response to your inquiry regarding a Magnet School:

The process is ongoing, but Mr. Salters, who is consulting for the board of education on this matter, provided an update last night, and will every 3 months going forward.

A parent meeting will be held in Sept. Mr. Salters will update on all aspects of the proposed magnet school at that time. That will be the time for parent feedback.

For now, negotiations are ongoing for properties that would best meet the needs of the proposed school.

Eligibility, offerings, etc will be examined over the next few months and determinations in those areas will be provided publicly during the Sept meeting.

Mr. Salters was chosen by the board of education to consult on this matter given his strong background in this field. He will not be compensated.

Dr. Eichenholtz