

Minisink Valley NEWS

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



Superintendent's Letter

Dear Fellow Community Members,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year. My hope is that each of us took a moment during our winter break to spend time with family and friends. The extended break is an excellent occasion to recharge our batteries and prepare for the next part of our school year. It is hard to believe that it is already January; it seems like yesterday we were putting our children on the bus for the first day of school.

During the first half of the school year, our faculty, staff, and students worked so very hard to make great strides in all that they do. It continues to be exhilarating to visit the buildings and see our students engaged in their studies. Our middle school students are excited about the expanded Chromebook initiative in their building. Our athletic teams continued to show commitment to both athletic and academic achievement with all eight of our fall varsity teams maintaining a grade point average of 90 or above to earn the distinction of *Scholar Athlete Team* by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association. We are proud of our very talented students and the teachers and coaches who motivate them every day. We concluded the first half of the school year and headed into our winter recess on the tails of impressive holiday concerts in all of our buildings, as well as an excellent theater production in our high school.

As we begin the next part of the school year, we now focus on the development of the 2016 - 2017 school budget. We are dedicated, as always, to provide the very best education to our children while remaining cognizant of the financial needs of our community. It is our goal to balance fiscal responsibility with our pursuit of academic excellence. We are fortunate that our district is in a stronger financial position than in years past, which allows us to consider programs that will prime our district for even greater success in the future.

The Minisink community plays a vital role in the budget development and serves as an integral part of this planning process. The finance committee of the board of education will be meeting with our administrative team. They have been tasked with the development of the district's comprehensive budget plan. Our board of education members are committed to reviewing and assessing the plan, which will be presented to them over the next few months. I encourage all community members to become part of the process by joining the public sessions of the finance committee, which will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the middle school auditorium on the following Thursdays: February 11, February 25, March 10 and March 31. At the end of each of these meetings, there will be time for input from the public and I hope you will join us to share your thoughts. Also, updated information will be available on the budget page of our website. I am excited to hear from all our community members during the budget development process.

I know each of us is committed to giving our children every opportunity we can to help them succeed in this world. Thank you for your continued support. Best wishes for a great second half of the school year!

Brian C. Monahan, Superintendent

We **TEACH** someone you **LOVE**

Contact Us

Good communication between home, school and community is important. Our automated system means that you will be able to leave voice mail messages after hours.

Central Admin. 355-5110

Business Office 355-5120

Human Resources 355-5810

Pupil Personnel 355-5105

Transportation 355-5140

Buildings and Grounds 355-5130

Otis. Elementary 355-5850

MV Elementary 355-5270

Intermediate School 355-5250

Middle School 355-5200

High School 355-5150

Reminder: Be sure to bring picture identification when visiting any of the buildings.

Bus Fleet Information

The Minisink Valley Transportation Department is entrusted with safely transporting our children to and from school every day. Collectively, our bus drivers log more than 1,500,000 miles each year. We would like to thank not only our hard working and dedicated school bus drivers that log all of these miles, but also take the time to thank our bus mechanics for the maintenance and upkeep of our fleet of vehicles. Their combined efforts allow our district to meet the stringent inspection standards set by New York State.

Each year the district faces increased maintenance costs to maintain the high level of safety required by the New York State Department of Transportation. In order to preserve our current bus fleet, we have outlined a ten year bus replacement cycle that allows us to replace aging, high mileage buses with much needed new buses. By replacing aging and high mileage buses annually, the district is able to offset the cost of the new buses with 74% of that expense reimbursed to the district from New York State Aid, thereby minimizing the cost to our community.



Please join us at our future finance committee public budget sessions to hear more about the bus replacement cycle plan for the 2016-2017 budget year. As always, we will be posting additional budget information to our website for you to review throughout the budget development process. We hope we can again count on our community to support our bus replacement plan at the budget vote to be held on May 17, 2016.

Minisink Valley CSD

P.O. Box 217, Rte. 6, Slate Hill, NY 10973

Board of Education

Joseph Flaherty, *President*, William Cooper, *Vice-president*, Shawn Cahill, Kathlee DeRose, Alfred Gibbs, John Odland Catherine Prezioso, Paul Rickard, Thomas Salamone

Superintendent of Schools

Brian C. Monahan

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The District hereby advises students, parents, employees and the general public that it does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, gender, national origin, religion, age, economic status, marital status, military status, disability, predisposing genetic characteristics or sexual orientation in its educational programs, activities or employment practices and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

This policy of nondiscrimination includes, but is not limited to: (a) access by students to educational programs, counseling services, course offerings, student athletics, student employment assistance, extracurricular activities and other school resources; and (b) recruitment and appointment of employees, as well as their compensation, benefits, opportunities for advancement and/or terminations.

Further, the District, its officers, employees and agents shall not discriminate against students on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sex; sexual orientation, or gender (including gender identity and expression).

The following are the District's Compliance Officers: Mr. Michael Gillespie, 845.355.5810 - Title IX (sexual harassment/gender or sex based discrimination), Title VII (discrimination in employment based on race, color, religion, sex and national origin); Mr. Christian Ranaudo, 845.355.5111 - Title VI (discrimination based upon race, color, creed, national origin, ethnic group, religion); Mrs. Elizabeth Law, 845.355.5248, Section 504 (disability based discrimination and/or harassment).

General Nondiscrimination - Questions about this nondiscrimination policy may be directed to the appropriate Compliance Officer, c/o District Clerk, PO Box 217, Route 6, Slate Hill, NY 10973. The appropriate compliance officer has information related to grievance procedures. The Board also prohibits any retaliatory behavior against complainants or any witnesses. Any individual who believes that he/she has been subject to discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sex; sexual orientation, or gender (including gender identity and expression) should report the alleged misconduct immediately, to the appropriate compliance officer, so that corrective action, up to and including discharge of an employee or suspension of a student, may be taken at once. In the event that the Complaint Officer is the offender, the complainant shall report his/her complaint to the next level of supervisory authority. The complainant shall not be discouraged from reporting an incident of alleged discrimination or harassment. In the absence of a victim's complaint, the Board, upon learning of, or having reason to suspect the occurrence of any discrimination or harassment, will ensure that an investigation is promptly commenced by appropriate individuals. Any person who has knowledge of specific acts that he or she reasonably believes constitutes wrongful conduct should disclose the conduct to the appropriate District official.

No Child Left Behind (NCLB)

Pursuant to the federal No Child Left Behind Act, parents may request information regarding the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teachers and teaching assistants including:

- Whether state requirements and licensing criteria have been met for the grade level and subject area being taught.
- If the teacher is working under emergency or other provisional status under which state qualification and licensing criteria have been waived.
- The teacher's college major and subsequent advanced degrees.
- Qualifications of any teaching assistants providing services to your child.
- If an uncertified teacher will be working in a classroom for four or more weeks.

Requests for the above information may be directed to Minisink Valley CSD, Attn: Superintendent of Schools, PO Box 217, Route 6, Slate Hill, NY 10973.

Board of Education Meetings

Community members are always encouraged to attend the Board of Education meetings held at 8 PM in the middle school auditorium on the following evenings: Jan. 7, 21, Feb. 4, 18, March 3, 17, April 7, 20, May 5, 19, June 2, and 16.

Exemptions

STAR and Veteran's Exemption applications must be filed with your local assessor's office by March 1, 2016.

Budget Development Calendar

- 2/11 Finance Committee Mtg. - Budget Development - 6:30 PM
- 2/25 Finance Committee Mtg. - Budget Development - 6:30 PM
- 3/10 Finance Committee Mtg. - Budget Development - 6:30 PM
- 3/18 Deadline for Propositions Submitted by Registered Voters
- 3/31 Finance Committee Mtg. - Budget Development - 6:30 PM
- 4/01 Absentee Ballot Applications Available
- 4/07 Public Budget Presentation - 7:00 PM
- 4/18 Submission of Petitions by BOE Candidates by 5:00 PM.
- 4/19 Absentee Ballots Available
- 4/20 BOE Approval of 2016-2017 Budget at Regular Board Mtg.
- 5/05 Public Budget Hearing - 7:00 PM
- 5/12 Last Day to Register to Vote
- 5/17 Budget Vote/Board of Education Election - Noon to 9:00 PM