

Reporting ZOOM Meeting of 26 April 2021

Calendar of Events

Last Week: 4/19 Jon Costolo – Rotary Foundation Update

This Week: 4/26 Patrick McGrath – '21'22 BHBL CSD Budget

Next Week: 5/3 Club Assembly

Coming Up: 5/10 Future City on the Moon – MS Students
5/17 Town in Bloom Planting Work Night

Note: Regular ZOOM Meetings are held Mondays at 6:00 pm.

Check your e-mail inbox the day of the meeting for the computer ZOOM ID# and Password, as well as the phone number you can use to phone in if using your cell phone to participate.

Please give suggestions for future programs to Darlene Bower and Dan Stec.

Find us at bhblrotary.org and on Facebook

Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities and in ourselves

BHBL CSD Budget – McGrath, Collins, Abdo

Our guest speakers from the Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Central School District included Superintendent Patrick McGrath, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction David Collins, and Assistant Superintendent for Support Services Christopher Abdo. Each year we are pleased to receive this very informative and professional presentation on the 2020-21 school year budget. Patrick opened with a slide showing the middle-school students who won the state competition and received 5th place (out of 142) in the nation with their "City on the Moon" project. We will be lucky to meet those young people and receive their presentation at our May 10 meeting. The second important opening statement was that our school district was open every day this year despite the pandemic.

More good news: Following turbulent times with early predictions of big budget cuts, there has been no decrease in state aid and one-time federal funding for specific, authorized purposes. All the potential reductions have been restored. The benefit of 5-year financial planning and the study given for possible reductions provided for a proposed budget below the tax cap for the 8th consecutive year.

The proposed budget maintains student programming, reduces 19 positions, and carries an estimated 1.98% tax rate increase.

Contractual costs such as salaries and other benefits, health insurance, out of district student placements, etc. are driving the increase. A newsletter with an expenditure summary, revenue summary, overall budget proposal, STAR impact, bus proposal, and more will be mailed out. Visit <https://www.bhbl.org> and the 2021 Budget Packet pdf for more information. Vote on Tuesday, May 18.

David Collins discussed restoration of Guidance Counselor positions, maintaining class size, the benefit of distance learning courses, the benefit of a 5-year plan, the predicted growth in new students (birth rate versus families moving into the district). Capital improvements such as the new bus barn and the renovation of the high school auditorium were discussed by Chris Abdo.

Many good questions were asked and answered. The future of education, the use of computers, vaccine requirements, State Ed direction, enrollment choice in elementary schools and electric school buses were some of the many topics covered. Mike stimulated our thinking about the future of the automotive industry.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Community Drive-Through Dinner fund raiser was a big success even through the weather was miserable. While we don't know the profit yet, we know that doing pre-order dinners was important. We collected some recyclable bottles, (Thanks Mike for a big trailer); we know that we had a carload of food donated for Operation Hunger. The tally of the dinners sold included dinners donated to more than 25 family of 4 dinners. We had volunteer help from our Interact Club and many 4-H members. Thank you to Spartan Catering for good food. Thank you to all who participated.
- On Saturday, April 24, the following members worked at Stomping Grounds Camp: Ken, Pete P, Maryellen, (Stained a big ship structure); Gregg, Steve G, Dan and Mary (Raked and cleared the waterfront). These projects can be continued. Sunday work was cancelled due to predicted rain.
- Other service projects continue: food for Operation Hunger, Care Cards for Kingsway Community, May 1 Ballston Lake Clean up. Town in Bloom plans are underway.

Serve with us – the world is waiting.

Reported by Mary Anderson