

Reporting Hybrid Meeting of 2 May 2022

Calendar of Events

Last Week: 4/25 Social/Guest Night/Pints for Polio at Frog Alley Brewing Sch'y - In person
This Week: 5/2 Dr. Patrick McGrath - BHBL School Budget
Next Week: 5/9 Jimmy Bulmer - Boys & Girls Club of Capital Area
Coming Up: 5/16 Mary Moller on Albany Guardian Society
5/18 Drive Thru Dinner – Fund Raiser
5/23 Town in Bloom Planting Night

Note: Regular Zoom Meetings are held Mondays at 6:30 pm. Check your e-mail inbox the day of the meeting for the computer Zoom link and password, as well as the phone number you can use to phone in if using your cell phone to participate. Note: Some Meetings are now hybrid with an in-person option.

Please give suggestions for future programs to Darlene Bower & 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

Dr. Patrick McGrath – BH/BL School Budget

The hybrid meeting was held at the BHBL Middle School with about 6 members present and at least 12 on Goggle Meet. (*The Inter Club Dinner was cancelled*)

The program was more a discussion than a presentation with active participation with the members present. It would be difficult to capture all the information shared. Dr. McGrath was generous with his time and we thank him.

The evening started with a review of the many outstanding accomplishments by BHBL students and staff. We shared pride with Dr. McGrath as we heard that review, Then Dr. McGrath presented a set of clear objectives for this year's budget preparation focused largely on pushing forward after the effects of the COVID pandemic.

Several facts heard by your reporter:

The new bus garage has prompted a collaborative with Scotia Glenville School System. This is offering an opportunity for additional collaborations.

There are now 25 Distance Learning Classes being offered to students. This BOCES aided programs provides 60% of the teacher's salary.

The technology for this program has been placed in 8 subject areas which provides the opportunity for greater subject matter options and a unique opportunity for student interaction across a geographic area.

The student population remains stable at 3100. Elementary buildings are full and class size is at 20-25 with the hope of lowering it to 18-20.

The new Auditorium at the high school will be completed and opened in September! Dr. McGrath shared descriptions of the exciting changes.

The proposed budget is \$76,634,726 with an estimated tax rate increase of 1.82%. These numbers were discussed in detail. Data showed the careful planning using a 5-year planning process.

There are 8 candidates running for 2 School Board positions. There will be a meet-the-candidates meeting on May 12, at 7pm at the Black Box Theater/TV Studio with a livestream link available.

The Budget vote will be held Tuesday, May 17. Absentee ballots can be obtained.

More information is available on the website www.bhbl.org

CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Community Drive-Through dinner at the BHBL HS by Spartan Catering, is set for 5/18. Italian food will be featured. Club members were urged to help. Details soon.

A fund raiser is scheduled on Sunday 5/22 at Camp Stomping Grounds. The club has volunteered to do the cleanup. Support our new club member, Laura Kriegel. See www.campstomping.org for more information.

Town in Bloom, our Rotary-sponsored community-supported community-beautification program, will hold PLANTING night on Monday, May 23. Sign-up sheets will be available for the 5 sites. The best thing about Rotary is working together on a project, so get out your Rotary T shirt and share the night. Pizza for all present.

Reported by Mary Anderson