

Reporting Meeting of 18 September 2023

Calendar of Events

Last Week: 9/18 District Governor, Whitney Pangburn Visitation & Club Assembly, Dinner at Town Hall
This Week: 9/25 Speaker and Dinner at Town Hall
Dr. McGrath – School District Capital Vote
Next Week: 9/30 Octoberfest @ Maalwyck Park
10/2 Town in Bloom Viewing 5:30 – 6:30 (then Social)
10/9 4K Fun Run @ Camp Stomping Grounds 10-3PM
10/14 Town in Bloom Cleanup 9-12PM
10/18 Drive-Thru Dinner 4-6 PM
10/24 Pints for Polio in Saratoga Area
11/7 Election Day – Apple Pie

Note: Regular Meetings are held Mondays at 6:00 pm. Dinner at 6:00. 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: Fewer meetings will be hybrid or on Zoom going forward.

Please give suggestions for future programs to Linda LeTendre

Find us at bhbrotary.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

BH-BL Superintendent, Dr. Patrick McGrath, Jr.

President Peter opened the meeting with the traditional tap of the Rotary bell followed by the Pledge of Alliance, an invocation, and recitation of the Four-Way Test.

After dinner, Peter introduced our BH-BL School District Superintendent, Dr. Patrick McGrath (to right), who introduced the district's upcoming bond referendum and members of the committee who joined him to present. Attending the meeting with Patrick were Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Chris Abdo, and two community committee members, Brian Brewer and Sue Garrett. Dr. McGrath reviewed



the process the district has historically followed to develop the referendum.

Brian Brewer shared his background as a parent and district resident and further explained the committee process saying that they toured all buildings, which left him with a different perspective about the conditions of the schools. Sue Garrett explained her background and shared that committee members toured buildings, discussed proposed projects, used surveys to gather feedback, and were able to interact with the district architects during the process.

Dr. McGrath shared the broad-based membership of the committee and explained the survey process used to help the committee prioritize projects. The October 24 vote is for a 53.9 million dollar proposition focused on four areas:

1. Elementary buildings—renovations and upgrades
2. Secondary buildings—instructional spaces
3. Athletics
4. Infrastructure

The referendum includes a four-classroom addition to Pashley as a result of an increase in enrollment and the need for additional programming spaces. All district bathrooms will be upgraded.

Dr. Abdo shared information about financing the referendum, which is aidable by the state at 76 percent for any academic or transportation building improvements. At this time the amount of aid for the Pashley classroom addition is in question. The district is planning to sell the Jenkins Road property to help offset the cost of the project and yield the district additional tax revenue. There was a discussion about the current higher interest rates for borrowing and Dr. Abdo explained that the state uses a formula to adjust the aid based on the higher interest rate.

President Peter thanked our panel and reminded members of the upcoming events for the week. Peter will continue his weekly informational email with input as appropriate from the committee chairs and members.

Reminders: Town in Bloom site visits for all club members will be October 2, at 5:30 pm. Meet at south sign on Rt 50- just past Tae Kwon Do. Leave car in that parking lot, jump in with Sue Stec, Maryellen Symer or Mary Anderson, tour leaders. The tour will be followed with a social time at 6:30 at Pizza Works back room.

Goggle-Doc tentative calendar for the year:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1s5NEGkJLJNFEIYIoDKU8HdqGMjpnGSvvGcbAV-fIYM/edit>

Reported by Maryellen Symer