

Community Forum I

October 19, 2006

Questions/Feedback

1. Class sizes are increasing...will that be one of the targets?
Response: Looking to solve by next year.
2. What districts were visited and what was the mission statement based on?
Response: Half Hallow Hills and Webster Central
3. When does the public get to see the targets being set? Concern about timeframe for actual achievement and measurable goals...
Response: CO staff working with other administrators on goals for student achievement.

Will the community have an opportunity to comment/give input on goals and targets?

4. Significant misinformation in community about the work being done in the District. Is the plan for class size reduction subject to the budget passing?
Response: A population study may be necessary; all options will be considered in addressing class size needs.

Is it possible to devise a "Plan B" option, i.e. increase the upper class grade enrollments to reduce elementary class sizes? Is it possible that if the budget fails, that class size could take a higher priority in the future?

5. Has there been a recent review of safety procedures in light of recent safety issues in other parts of the country?
Response: Protocols are reviewed regularly; must balance safe entrance to schools with maintaining a friendly, welcoming environment; District needs support from parents in terms of talking regularly with children to encourage them to report anything suspicious to an adult.

6. Homecoming game – crowd control!!!—especially after half-time;
Response: This will be reviewed internally with security staff.
 7. Increased concern among students regarding pollutants and runoff going to the adjacent lake...can this be reviewed?
Response: More research by students is necessary for reporting back to the Board.
 8. HS KIC Club – has a number of recycling projects ongoing; students are concerned that students/community do not understand their role...
 9. Presentation was fantastic; this District has a potential to be a shining star on the South Shore; concern about technology improvement—is the District pursuing grant funding?
Response: The Islip School District often does not fit the demographic required to receive grant funding; previously had a PT grant writer, but little funding was received because we often do not qualify for these grants; we participate and receive some grant funding from the ITRC as well as a new source, the Islip Children’s Endowment...
- Website has not been maintained in a timely manner
Response: Additional work is in progress to address the timeliness of information on the website. Technology equipment is no longer being leased, but purchased.
10. Issues that the District is facing now (rather than when on contingency) must be addressed;
Regarding security, this should be the priority over a welcoming feeling upon entering the schools.
 11. Student fears that the budget won’t pass due to monetary concerns; can Islip join with East Islip to receive grants?
Response: BOE will soon begin a legislative committee to maintain ongoing communication with legislators.
 12. Student concern that there is not much support for HS students in the EXCEL program...

Response: Plans are in progress to meet with HS students for input in order to have students more involved.

13. What is happening with the EXCEL advisory board?
Response: They are to meet 10/24.
14. Town is suffering—losing businesses; Chamber of Commerce relies on businesses and community members for support; interested in community projects with our schools; all are welcome to Chamber meetings at the Islip Library, 2nd Tuesday of the month...
15. Frost Valley – how can this be restored to the curriculum...can it be treated as a club so teachers are compensated?
Response: Mr. Van Cott has met with concerned parents and alternatives are being reviewed.
16. Why are Math B scores so low?
Response: Dr. Hearney will make a presentation on results of assessments at BOE meeting on 10/26. Islip does not include August results while other districts do include these. Generally, when August results are included, the statistics improve. Item analysis is also being conducted to identify areas of weakness/strength.
17. How can students become more involved in local businesses?
Response: Mrs. Clock has developed a work/study program (internships).
18. Trick or Treating will be held on Main Street on 10/31. Students are encouraged to participate in this safe activity where they can also meet business owners...
19. Islip Rotary Club also welcomes young people and adults to help with community projects...
20. Is the District looking at increasing the amount of parking on the MS/HS campus?
Response: A study was conducted two years ago; based on information received, the District could not act upon

recommendations. Student parking is tied into attendance, behavior, detentions/suspensions.

21. What else can be done to increase parking for students?
Response: Parking for students is a privilege; Students driving with junior licenses are in jeopardy and sometimes take spots on Main Street that qualified seniors could be using.
22. Is there a way for the community to provide opportunities for students to engage in positive activities when they are not in school?
Response: IDEA Task Force runs a series of activities; YMCA has ten programs that are free on Friday and Saturday nights.
23. As additional security, is it possible to lock school building doors and buzz in visitors to the schools during the school day?
Response: The District is exploring various methods to increase security in all buildings. The buzzer entrance system is one of these options.
24. At the Homecoming football game, the District should only let a certain number of people in; close the entrance when a safe capacity is reached.
Response: The District agrees wholeheartedly with this recommendation and will take these recommendations into consideration when planning next year's Homecoming event.
25. Why were the Math B Regents scores so low? I have seen Math B scores from other districts, and our honor classes' scores (2006) were much lower.
Response: Although it appears our students declined in percentage points compared to years past, *a greater number of students took the Math B regents this year*, which in turn means more students passed, relative to the numbers. It is also important to remember that when schools report their scores, many include summer results as well. Islip does not do this, for purposes of consistency; therefore other schools' scores may appear to be higher than Islip's scores.

26. How can Frost Valley or a similar overnight trip be added back to the curriculum? Can't it be treated like an X-schedule club so the teachers get compensated?

Response: The Middle School continues to explore various options/activities that are designed to meet the goals and objectives of the Frost Valley experience. Obviously, there are many factors that are considered when planning an overnight field trip and you can be assured that these factors will be given continued consideration when addressing this topic.

Community Forum I adjourned at 9:20 pm.