



Dear Parents, Staff, and Community Members:

On Tuesday, January 5th, we received the news that Paul Ulysses Jimenez passed away after a brief but heroic battle with cancer. By all accounts, Paul was a beautiful spirit, who was loved by his immediate and extended school family. All of us at the District feel the weight of this significant loss.

Many people have asked about ways to remember Paul. Several things are being planned by Greenacres students, staff, and the PTA. Be assured that details will be shared as soon as they are finalized.

When I spoke with the family earlier and asked if there was anything they would like me to share on their behalf, Paul and Joanna wanted to acknowledge and thank the entire school community for everything it has done and continues to do to support them, their children, and their extended family. Paul also asked me to let people know that they are in the process of creating a foundation to fight pediatric cancer: More information can be found [here](#). All funds raised will go to the Pediatric Oncology Team at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City for advanced research into pediatric sarcomas.

Our hearts and prayers continue to be with the Jimenez family during this difficult time.

With a heavy heart,
Dr. Thomas Hagerman
Superintendent of Schools

Board Meeting Highlights January 25, 2016

Meeting with Middle School and High School PTA Leadership

At 6 p.m. the Board of Education met with the presidents and presidents-elect of the High School and Middle School PTAs for an informal discussion. Topics at the High School included the Student Wellness Initiative and Senior College Readiness Program, as well as concerns about risky behaviors. At the Middle School, topics included scheduling and helping students become more independent. Both schools discussed the work of their Compact Committees, the new program at the High School for students with Emotional Disabilities, and the teacher evaluation process.

Work Session

At 7 p.m., Lee Maude, Board of Education President, convened the Work Session, at which it heard an update on the Scarsdale Education for Tomorrow (SET 2.0) from Dr. Thomas Hagerman, Superintendent of Schools; Lynne Shain, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction; and Jerry Crisci, Director of Instructional Technology and Innovation. The presentation included video presentations by teachers and students, and a hands-on demonstration of “Little Bits” circuitry kits, illustrative of the focus on “doing” in 21st century education. A video of the presentation may be seen [here](#).

Business Meeting

At the 8 p.m. Business Meeting, Ms. Maude reported on the Work Session held earlier, as well as the informal meeting held with Middle School and High School PTA leaders. Ms. Maude then went on to report that Board members have spent the last six weeks visiting all seven schools, meeting with principals and visiting classrooms. Ms. Maude went on to note that the Board will not be taking up the topic of Greenacres at its meetings again until after the two community forums, scheduled for Thursday evening, March 3rd, and Wednesday morning, March 15th.

Dr. Hagerman then spoke of the tragic loss two weeks ago of Greenacres fifth grader Paul Ulysses Jimenez, and asked for a moment of silence. Dr. Hagerman noted that the family is creating a foundation in his memory that will support research in pediatric oncology.

William Natbony, Board Vice President, expressed thanks to District staff, and particularly the Buildings and Grounds staff, for their work in the aftermath of the weekend’s snowstorm to ready the schools for Monday.

Community members were invited to address the Board, and nine did so. Leanne Freda, chair of C.H.I.L.D, and Jennet Walker, 14 Bradford Road, spoke in support of the new High School program for students with emotional disabilities. Four residents spoke in support of funding for the Teen Center: Mary Blum, 22 Wayside Lane; Emily Vallario, Director of Community Services, Scarsdale & Edgemont Family Counseling Service; Miriam Beveridge, 26 Circle Road; and Christine Asciutto, 1 Skytop Road. Dan Hochvert, 62 Woods Lane, praised hands-on learning; Ron Schulhof, 8 Springdale Road, urged that sustainability and green technology be considered in building a comfort station at the Middle School; and Bob Harrison, 65 Fox Meadow Road, spoke in support of constructing the comfort station and continued funding for the Teen Center, and in opposition to morning Board of Education meetings and paperless agendas.

The Board then approved items on the consent agenda, and heard and accepted a personnel report presented by Dr. Bernard Josefsberg, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Leadership Development. Dr. Josefsberg also gave a brief, eloquent tribute to the contributions of the 19 teachers who have submitted notices of retirement.

During the Information/Discussion portion of the agenda, the Board heard a Treasurer's Report and Schedule of investments for the quarter ending December 31, 2015, presented by Stuart Matthey, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Facilities. The Board also heard a brief recap of the Emotional Disabilities support program proposed for High School students; a review of new textbooks under consideration; a review of minor revisions proposed for the Compact for Learning District Plan; and budget-related updates from Mr. Matthey on funding for the Teen Center, the proposed comfort station at the Middle School, and budget assumptions. As part of the Teen Center discussion, the Board heard from representatives of the Teen Center, who reported on Center activities and programs, liaisons with the community, and funding efforts.

The Board voted to approve budget transfers and the revised Compact for Learning District Plan.

Community members were again invited to address the Board, and one did so: Bob Harrison, 65 Fox Meadow Road, again spoke in support of constructing a comfort station at the Middle School and funding for the Teen Center.

The Board accepted, with thanks, a donation from the Quaker Ridge PTA to be used toward the purchase of Robotics and Little Bits kits for the school's Robotics Club.

The Board presented a summary of written communications received by the Board from community members, and announced a list of upcoming meeting

dates.

The Board then adjourned into executive session.