

BOE Highlights Feb 13



GLEN RIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

February 13, 2024 BOE Meeting Summary

President's Report

Mrs. Ginsburg updated the Board of Education (BoE) on the superintendent search. The Personnel Committee completed the first round of interviews of eighteen candidates. They are currently in the midst of second-round interviews with eight candidates. The Committee will narrow it down to two or three finalists who will be interviewed in early March. The BoE will host focus groups of staff and school-related organizations next week.

Mrs. Ginsberg also announced that the BoE and Town Council representatives will meet next week.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Phillips started his report by thanking the Glen Ridge Educational Foundation (GREF) for funding (\$85,000) the primary SEL program *Capturing Kids' Hearts*. The primary principals expect this thorough 2-year staff training program will improve the building climate and address student needs.

Mr. Phillips recognized the recent achievements of staff members and students.

Teachers:

- Shihong Zhang (GRHS Chinese) is receiving the “Excellence Award” from the Suburban Essex Chamber of Commerce for her dedication to the students and contributions to Chinese education.
- Maria Desipris (GRHS Spanish) has been accepted to participate in the GenEc Teacher Fellowship Program in Armenia this summer. She is 1 out of 15 nationwide teachers accepted into the program.

Students:

- Mr. Majewski took four teams (11 students) from The Middle School History Club Academic Team to Washington D.C., to compete in the Geography Nationals. Our top team went 7-1, losing in the championship match. The four teams included:
 - Quentin Cunnigham, Fatehbir Potukuchi and Corbin Wunderlich
 - Asa Lebien, Leo Gashi, and Nate Yasso
 - Noah Magalnick and Neville Canteenwalla
 - James Colello, Leo Holzapfel, and Steven Majewski
- Three Glen Ridge students won awards for the Essex County Education Association PRIDE essay contest.
 - Boaz Cheney, 1st grade in Central School. 2nd place
 - Benjamin Reinert, 2nd Grade in LAS, 3rd Place
 - Finn Peterson, 7th Grade in GRHS. 2nd place
- This past weekend, 9th grader Jude Rothman's audition earned him a spot in the NJ Region 1 Concert Band. Jude received the highest score in North Jersey and will represent GRHS as 1st-chair euphonium in the Region Band concert in March!

Lastly, Mr. Phillips announced that Barbara Murphy, School Business Administrator, will present the tentative budget for the 2024-2025 school year at the March 5 BoE meeting. He encouraged people to view the [Budget Calendar](#) to learn more about the development of the budget.

BOE Agenda Highlights

- The BoE approved the appointment of two new head coaches
 - Michael Tully - Boys Volleyball Coach
 - Christopher Strumolo - Football Coach
- Four field trips were approved.
- The BoE accepted five donations
 - GREF: Tuition for one teacher to attend Orton Gillingham courses (\$6,528)
 - LAS H&SA: 25 Chromebooks (\$6,238)
 - GREF: Fall Mini Grants (\$7,425)
 - GREF: Capturing Kids’ Hearts (\$84,550)

- The Bowman's: Sharing the Arts (\$200)
- Approved the Emergent and Capital Maintenance Needs grant for \$42,494
- Approved two Regularly Operating District (ROD) grants
 - GRHS Cafeteria HVAC Replacement (\$364,000)
 - GRHS Roof Replacement (\$216,000)

Board of Education Public Meetings

The Glen Ridge BOE's agendas can be accessed at: [BOE Meeting Agenda](#)

Video recordings of the BOE meetings can be viewed at: [BOE Meeting Video](#)

Upcoming Events

February

19: District Closed

20: Schools Closed

21 & 22: Superintendent Focus Groups

26: FAS Read Across America

29: RAS Spelling Bee finals Grades 3 & 4

March

1: LAS Read Across America

1: CS Read Across America

1: RAS Spelling Bee finals Grades 5 & 6

5: BOE Meeting 7:00 Public Session (GEOR Teacher Recognition and Tentative Budget Proposal)

*The April 23 BOE meeting is being moved to April 30 due to the State's timelines to conduct the 2024-2025 budget hearing.

Sincerely,

