



IRVINGTON
UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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An End-of-Year Message from the President of the Board of Education

Dear Irvington School Community,

We end the 2018-19 school year on a high note as we celebrated the immensely talented Class of 2019 at the graduation ceremony June 22nd. It was a privilege for me to speak on behalf of the Board of Education to the Class of 2019 and to hear the remarkable and moving student speeches. It's been a thrill for Board trustees to participate alongside families, faculty, and staff in our joyous school moving up ceremonies.

As we look forward, the Irvington Schools are in a strong position thanks to the overwhelming support for the 2019-20 school district budget and the capital project plans approved by IUFSD voters on May 21. The Board of Education and District administration have more good news to share in that the District signed a long term contract with the faculty and will soon settle contracts with the administrator and custodial units. The recent District climate survey results confirmed broad and deep support for our schools and also opportunities where the District can focus on related to communication and student academic experiences. Finally, the end-of-year school presentations to the BOE demonstrated important progress in further developing evidence-based systems for supporting continuous improvements to instruction and supports for aiding student academic achievement and well-being. You can find all of this information on the District website, www.irvingtonschools.org.

The school year, as every year, presented unforeseen challenges, but none more than the currently unresolved reviews related to allegations of the misuse of leave time by the former Director of Instructional Technology. In May the BOE provided a community update, sharing that the District continues to cooperate with the Westchester District Attorney and Office of the NYS Comptroller in their reviews of certain discrepancies we brought to their attention in March. As of this writing, we have not been provided with any new information or projection for when the reviews will be completed.

The Board will soon publish an extensive report it commissioned looking into the District's human resources practices and processes that was conducted by an independent third party. The intensive audit analyzed current HR functions using as a basis the District's implementation of the recommendations found in a detailed 2012 HR audit. The current report shows broad improvements in nearly every function, with the key recommended focus on addressing employee attendance systems. After review with District leadership, and faculty and staff, this report will be made available this summer to the public on the District website, www.irvingtonschools.org.

This summer will be busy with personnel transitions and planning for the new school year. We wish our retiring and departing faculty and staff success in their future endeavors. We are excited to welcome our new IHS Principal, Ms. Juliet Gevargis-Mizimakoski and look forward to introducing you to new members of our school community as appointments are made.

It is bittersweet for the Trustees as we thank our departing colleague, Deb Hargraves, for her service after completing a productive three-year term. We happily welcome our newly elected member, Erin Bernstein. Additionally, it has been an honor to serve as BOE President these last two years. At our July 2 annual reorganization meeting a new BOE leadership team will be elected that will continue, in partnership with the Superintendent of Schools, to facilitate progress to meet our goals under the current strategic plan.

Thank you, again, for your enthusiastic support of the Irvington UFSD. We wish you a healthy and restful summer.

Sincerely,

Michael Hanna

President, Board of Education
Irvington UFSD

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