

# The Bulletin Board

News from the Hicksville UFSD

## Graduation 2015: *A Celebration of Success*

*"Seated before us today is a class filled with talent."*

Overcast skies and a rainy forecast could not dim the shining stars on McCormack Field for Hicksville High School's 101st annual commencement ceremony.

Proud families and loved ones filled the bleachers in support of the graduates, who formed a black and white sea of gowns and custom-decorated caps as they took their seats to the tune of "Pomp and Circumstance."

Following the Pledge of Allegiance and "The Star-Spangled Banner," Principal Raymond Williams greeted all in attendance and encouraged the graduates to continue striving to achieve great things and be the best they can be. "Seated before us today is a class filled with talent," he said. "They are well-rounded, conscientious young adults. Graduates, you must always continue to dig deeper and discover gifts you never knew you had."

Mr. Williams introduced salutatorian Priya Mishra, who advised her fellow graduates to be grateful, kind to others and involved in the world. "You all have the power to leave the world a better place than you found it," she said. "You've

already started."

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Carl Bonuso discussed the history and symbolism of cathedrals, comparing their supportive structures to those found within families and schools. He asked the graduates to think about what types of cathedrals they will build and be. Board of Education Vice President Kevin Carroll and Hicksville Public Schools Hall of Fame inductee Timothy Myers addressed the seniors and audience members as well.

Also addressing the students was Legislator Rose Marie Walker, a Hicksville resident with deep roots in the school district. "Always remember to look at those less fortunate than you and to give of yourselves," she said.

Valedictorian Sebastian Niculescu thanked his family members, teachers and classmates. He acknowledged that he and his peers will be on their own for the first time, and that this will bring opportunities for growth and progress. "This loneliness will force us to construct a new world for ourselves," he said. "This is a productive solitude, a creative one. We are entering the world at a turning point unlike any other, and we have the ability to change

society for the better."

Mr. Williams and Dr. Bonuso were joined by members of the Board of Education for the presentation of diplomas. Each student was called to the stage to conclude their high school years and embark upon new beginnings.

Following the announcement of their names, the jubilant graduates tossed their caps high in the air. The custom served not only as a prelude to the continuance of celebrations among family and friends on the field, but also as a way for the Class of 2015 to take their "hats off" to their Hicksville High School years as they go forward to follow their dreams.





# Celebrating

## Talent for Troops

### District Welcomes **Dr. Carl Bonuso** as SUPERINTENDENT

Hicksville Public Schools welcomes Dr. Carl Bonuso, who served as interim superintendent of schools for the 2014-15 school year, as superintendent.

At its April meeting, the Board of Education voted unanimously to appoint Dr. Bonuso to the post, effective July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018.

"I am grateful to the Board of Education for the confidence they have expressed in me to serve as [the] next superintendent of schools," said Dr. Bonuso. "During these past few months as interim superintendent, I have had the privilege and pleasure of working closely with the Board of Education, administrators, staff, students, parents and community residents and experiencing firsthand the professionalism and daily commitment to doing what is in the best interest of our children. I look forward to continuing to work together on behalf of the children we love, support and serve."

Prior to joining the Hicksville School District, Dr. Bonuso served as superintendent of the Wantagh School District and as interim superintendent of the Sag Harbor School District. Dr. Bonuso is an award-winning veteran administrator and educator and has been a guiding force in educational excellence and collaborative leadership. He is a well-known and highly recognized educator and has written numerous articles on topics ranging from "School/Business Partnerships," to the "Image of a Leader," which appeared in journals such as Kappan, Psychology Today and Today's Education. He has



led training workshops and presented both locally and nationally in areas such as the new APPR mandates, effective schools research, creating a positive work environment, effective supervision of instruction and shared leadership/decision-making. In addition, Dr. Bonuso has served as an adjunct professor at Dowling College and Stony Brook University and is the former editor-in-chief of the highly regarded peer-reviewed journal, Long Island Educational Review.

"During the past several months, as the search process unfolded, it became increasingly evident that Dr. Bonuso possessed the superior qualities that the Board of Education was seeking to lead the Hicksville School District and its students to the next level of excellence," said Board of Education President Phil Heckler. "As interim superintendent, Dr. Bonuso clearly embraced our community as his own and demonstrated through his professional leadership, vision and commitment to our goals that he is without a doubt the unanimous choice of the Board of Education as our next superintendent of schools."

The district hosted its first Talent for the Troops program at the high school on June 3 and raised more than \$10,000 for the Wounded Warrior Project, a nonprofit organization that offers programs and services for wounded military veterans.

Faculty members throughout the district hosted the widely successful talent show, delivering a variety of singing, dancing and acting performances for their colleagues and students, who filled the school's auditorium to capacity. The program opened with the singing of the national anthem by Nassau County Legislator Laura M. Schaefer. Attendees also watched a patriotic slideshow featuring veterans' thoughts about their service.

"So many leadership and life lessons are



## Plaques and Plates



# Success and Service

## ops Nets \$10K



earned in the military, and one of those lessons is that we stand by each other,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Carl Bonuso. “There are thousands of wounded warriors returning [home] who are dealing with pain and suffering. It is important to stand shoulder to shoulder with them as they deal with these challenges. God bless the wounded warriors and the United States of America.”



## BOE RECOGNIZES SUCCESS

In the final months of the 2014-15 school year, the Board of Education hosted student and staff recognition ceremonies to honor outstanding members of the elementary and secondary schools’ communities.

At both ceremonies, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Carl Bonuso, members of the Board of Education, central office administrators, department supervisors and building principals distributed certificates to staff who have reached milestones in their careers and to students who performed exceptionally in academic and artistic tournaments and competitions during the year.

The elementary ceremony featured a musical performance by the middle school’s seventh-grade orchestra, directed by Benjamin Sher, and honored staff and students of all seven elementary schools. The secondary ceremony began with a musical performance by the middle school chorus group and celebrated members of the middle and high school communities.



*(from left) Hicksville Middle School Chairperson of Guidance Services Efbhymia Rafaelides recognized Dhanush Sivasankaran, Sejal Gupta and Murtaza Shah for their outstanding performances in the Johns Hopkins “CTY” Talent Search.*



*Burns Avenue Student Council members Paige Fragoso, Ella Fragoso and Trinity Williams were recognized for their work throughout the year.*



*Hicksville High School Principal Raymond Williams presented Kasper Dworzanczyk with separate certificates to recognize his excellence in the Summer Leader Experience at West Point and American Legion Boys’ State.*

As a longstanding tradition, these ceremonies are held to give the Board of Education members who advocate so rigorously for public education an opportunity to honor the extraordinary members of the district’s nine schools.

## es: A Celebration of Longstanding Greatness

During a special candlelit ceremony held on the high school patio in June, the district honored its 2015 retirees and staff members celebrating their 25th year at Hicksville Schools.

The program recognized the longstanding members of the district with plaques for retirees and silver plates for those celebrating their silver anniversaries. Each retiree was honored with heartfelt words from building principals and department chairpersons, who spoke fondly of the memories they have of them.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Carl Bonuso led the distribution of plaques and plates, thanking every staff member for his or her hard work, commitment and dedication to students. He wished all retirees the best of luck in the new chapter of their lives and encouraged them to enjoy every moment because they had earned it.

While words cannot describe the impact the district’s newest retirees and 25-year veterans have had on the district and its students, the ceremony served as a small token of appreciation and a celebration of their careers.



THE HICKSVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Administration Building  
200 Division Avenue  
Hicksville, NY 11801

**Board of Education:**

**Phil Heckler, President**  
**Kevin J. Carroll, Vice President**  
**Brenda Judson, Secretary**  
*Trustees:*  
**Steven Culhane**  
**James Mott**  
**Patrick Stines**  
**Michael Beneventano**

**Carl Bonuso, Ed.D.**  
*Superintendent of Schools*

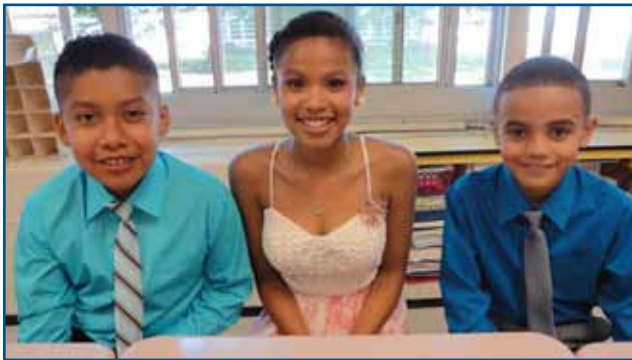
NONPROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
HICKSVILLE  
NEW YORK  
PERMIT NO. 126

\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*\*

**Postal Customer**  
**Hicksville, New York 11801**

[www.hicksvillepublicschools.org](http://www.hicksvillepublicschools.org)

# Congratulations to All on **Moving Up**



## Fifth-Graders Move Up

Hicksville High School's Class of 2022 is one step closer to graduation.

During the final week of school, fifth-graders at Burns Avenue, Dutch Lane, East Street, Fork Lane, Lee Avenue, Old Country Road and Woodland schools bid farewell to their beloved teachers and principals. The students, who will come together in the fall at Hicksville Middle School, were also recognized for their outstanding achievements. Each fifth-grader was called upon to receive a certificate and was commended personally by his or her building principal.

With their families and peers cheering them on, the fifth-graders took the next step in their academic careers.



## Class of 2019 Moves Up

Hicksville Middle School's Class of 2015 celebrated their graduation ceremony among proud family members and district staff, who encouraged them to continue reaching for the stars.

The students filed into the gymnasium to "Pomp and Circumstance" for what was their final graduation prior to entering high school in the fall. After the presentation of colors by the color guard, Student Council President Kenneth Eutsay and National Junior Honor Society President Katherine Jergensen addressed their peers. Both students discussed how quickly the last three years had passed, reflected on their middle school experiences, congratulated their classmates on making it this far, and thanked the staff for their endless guidance and support.

Board of Education President Phil Heckler encouraged the students to not worry about what anyone else thinks, but rather to follow their hearts, chase their dreams, make good choices and be fearless.

Superintendent of Schools Dr.

Carl Bonuso shared some secrets to success and Principal Mara Jorisch spoke about the academic, artistic and altruistic accomplishments of the eighth-grade class. Ms. Jorisch quoted Confucius saying, "Wherever you go, go with all your heart," and continued, "Every accomplishment starts with a decision to try. The potential that lies here is immeasurable, and success comes in many forms. We hope you remember that as you move forward. I am incredibly proud to have had the opportunity to be your principal."

Dr. Bonuso, along with Ms. Jorisch, then led a presentation of awards for outstanding students. Among the recipients were those with perfect attendance for all three middle school years, as well as the two students with the highest and second-highest GPAs in the class, Catherine Chen and Rohil Agarwal. Following the awards portion of the program, chorus students performed "Breakaway" by Kelly Clarkson.

Each graduate was then called up to receive a certificate, after which they celebrated with their families.