

Superintendent's Community Meeting on October 20, 2009

The first of a series of meetings between Elmsford School's Superintendent Barbara A. Peters and the Elmsford community was held on Tuesday, October 20, 2009 at the Alexander Hamilton Cafeteria. There were approximately 45 people in attendance.

Dr. Peters shared with the community the district's Mission, Vision, and Belief Statements. She also discussed goals and programs designed to increase student learning and productivity. She informed the community of current issues concerning the school district as a whole. Additional topics included trend performance data, district demographics, recent achievements and awards within the district, and initiatives the district is working on such as our Strategic Planning Process. Mr. Richard Julius, Student Assistant Counselor, provided an overview of programs that he runs at the school, as well.

The purpose of Superintendent Community Meetings is to build supportive relationships between the district and the community, and to engage in meaningful, continual dialogue so that the community is involved as opposed to simply informed of decisions being made.

Near the end of the meeting, Dr. Peters opened the forum by asking community members two questions:

1. What do you see as the strengths of the Elmsford School District?
2. What do you think needs improvement?

All comments will be shared with Elmsford staff in an effort to support what is going well and to upgrade areas needing improvement. A summary of the responses are bulleted below.

STRENGTHS OF DISTRICT

- Good Leadership
- Diversity
- Small class sizes
- Small community
- Desire for change – to make better
- Improved communication
- Willingness to involve community
- Good kids
- Most kids together since pre-K
- Committed parents
- Acceptance
- School/Village cooperation
- Close-knit community

- Increased Accountability
- Vision
- Accessibility to Superintendent & BOE

AREAS NEEDING IMPROVEMENT

- More school spirit
- More parent involvement
- Poor reputation
- More academic rigor
- Communication with parents
- Communication about all school programs
- Extra-curricular programs
- Opportunity for students to participate in debate or public speaking
- No homecoming
- Service requirement for students
- Student Mentor Program (possibly start one)
- Good enough is not good enough
- More teacher involvement in PTA
- More involved HS/MS students with Global Affairs
- Delayed kindergarten programming

At the conclusion of the meeting, Dr. Peters thanked those in attendance for their insightful and relevant comments. Additional meetings are scheduled for the following dates:

Thursday, February 25, 2010	Village Hall	7:00 PM
Monday, April 19, 2010	Dixson Primary School	7:00 PM

The meeting in February at the Elmsford Village Hall will be a joint meeting with Elmsford Mayor Robert Williams.