

The upcoming school board election is quickly approaching for the community of Warwick, as well as for other areas across New York State. On May 16th, voters will have the opportunity to choose three candidates to serve on the board for the next three years. As is often the case with these elections, incumbent board members are facing challenges from other members of the community hoping to win a board seat.

The candidates are listed in the order they will appear on the ballot: Robert Howe (i), Dory Masefield (i), John Garcia (i), Angel Maysonet, Adrienne Tveter, and Luis Abramson. Three of these individuals are incumbents (i) seeking another term, while the other three are hoping to win their first election to the school board.

Over the past three budget cycles, Warwick Valley CSD has had the highest voter turnout for its annual budget and board elections in the county. Last year, the number of voters in Warwick alone surpassed the combined total of three larger school districts in the region. Given the average annual tax levy increase of less than 0.75% over the past three years, the contested board seats are likely a key reason for the high turnout.

The Board of Education is composed of nine elected citizens who serve staggered three-year terms. Its main responsibilities include setting broad objectives and policies, delegating authority to the Superintendent of Schools to accomplish these objectives, and evaluating progress. The trustees only act with authority when gathered as a board.

The Board of Education typically holds meetings twice a month on the first and third Thursday of the month, beginning at 7 p.m. in the Dorothy Wilson Education Center Board/Community Room. Please check the Board of Education webpage on our website as meeting dates, times, and locations are subject to change. Individuals have two chances at each regular meeting to express their opinions on issues of interest.

In addition to its regular meetings, it is sometimes necessary for the board to hold executive sessions. These sessions may precede or follow regular meetings and are for the discussion of sensitive subjects such as personnel matters and employee contract negotiations. However, all official actions take place at public meetings.

If you are interested in learning more about the candidates, please read their bios on the district website. Moreover, the local radio station, WTBQ, will broadcast live a "Meet the Candidate

Forum” on Saturday, May 6th, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and replay the broadcast the night before the election on Monday, May 15th, at 8:00 p.m.

*Here are some highlights from our schools this week:*

### **Park Avenue Elementary School**

The Park Avenue Student Council debuted their spring project, Alex’s Lemonade Stand. For this project the Student Council will raise money that will be donated to the nonprofit organization Alex’s Lemonade Stand, which supports children’s cancer research. Student Council representatives will visit each Park Avenue classroom to encourage their peers to participate in the fundraiser by reading a short story and passing out materials for the project. Each classroom will participate in fundraising by collecting coins for the fundraiser.

The PTA hosted Park Avenue’s annual book fair. The book fair was held each day of the week and during our most recent PTA conferences, and managed by PTA volunteers. Students were invited to visit the book fair during the school day and when they had the opportunity to purchase new and exciting books for their home collections. Students were encouraged to bring their “I Love Warwick” reusable canvas bag to carry their books home. We are extremely grateful to the PTA for hosting this event.

### **Sanfordville Elementary School**

At Sanfordville, Jennifer Disy’s fourth-grade students are “Reading Like a Fan!” Students worked in book clubs and chose an author to study such as Gordon Korman, Katherine Applegate, Kate DiCamillo and Andrew Clements. As a class they studied Sharon Creech and read together *Saving Winslow*, *Moo*, *Granny Torrelli Makes Soup* and *Love That Dog*. At the end of the unit each student chose from a book club menu a project they would like to complete. Some of their choices were to create a new ending, design a new cover, write a letter to the character, write a news article, write a book review, or write a comic strip on their favorite part of the book.

### **Warwick Valley Middle School**

The Middle School SADD Club was invited to attend a gala in recognition of their efforts in competing in the Warwick Valley Prevention Coalition’s Public Service Announcement Video Campaign Challenge. Our middle school students and their families took to the red carpet in their most formal attire to celebrate completing these important messages. Students were presented with the challenge of creating a short video presenting the dangers of underage drinking, vaping, or drug misuse. Students created their own teams and worked diligently for months to develop a concept, write a script and film their videos.

After an evening of speeches, performances, and food, two middle school teams from the SADD Club tied for the middle school category. Congratulations to Genny Cloutier, Maddie Bates, Maddy Palumbo, and Leah Purta for their videos portraying the dangers of underage alcohol consumption. We also want to congratulate Sean Perez, Alex Pearce, Doug Evans, Liam Pinelli, Braedan Hayes, Jacob Barnett, Chris McFadden, Evan Santiago, Lorelai Cerulli, Emma Canjura, and Sophia DeJesus who also received awards for their hard work on this campaign. Congratulations to all of our students that participated.

### **Warwick Valley High School**

Warwick Valley High School held its annual Career Fair. Representatives from over 50 career paths spoke with 10th and 11th graders about their professions and the types of schooling that is required to attain positions in their fields. Mary Fox, Director of the school's Counseling Department, worked in concert with the Warwick Valley Chamber of Commerce to recruit representatives from local private and public businesses, trade unions and military branches to speak to the students about their career options. Students from the Florida Union Free School District also attended the career fair and were given a tour of the Communications Suite where we house our Video Production program.

Approximately half of the senior class went on the annual class trip to Virginia Beach this week. On Thursday, students spent the day at the beach, enjoying the nice weather, playing beach games and spending time with friends. Later, they drove go-karts at a local track where they had fun behind the wheel. On Friday, the seniors went to Busch Gardens and enjoyed some amusement park rides and games. They went back to the hotel for some late night swimming and more time with their friends. On Saturday, the trip concluded with a lunch cruise before taking the eight-hour ride back home. Carlos Barquero organized the trip and was joined by several chaperones from the faculty and administration.