

# The Bulletin Board

News from the Hicksville UFSD



More Inside

Graduates  
earned more  
than \$5 million  
in scholarships.

## Class of 2017

93.2% are  
headed to  
a two- or  
four-year  
college.





# CLASS OF 2017: POISED TO FOLLOW ITS *River of Dreams*

The Piano Man struck a chord with the graduating Class of 2017. Renowned class musician and Hicksville High School alum Billy Joel joined the graduating class to celebrate their momentous milestone and look ahead to their promising futures at the annual commencement ceremony.

Following their march to the tune of "Pomp and Circumstance" and a remarkable rendition of the national anthem, Principal Raymond Williams encouraged the graduates to continue realizing their dreams and quoted author Marianne Williamson in his address:

"It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us. We are all meant to shine. We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be?"

"Passion, combined with practice and grit, will lead to success," Williams continued.

In his speech, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Carl Bonuso spoke about the importance of passion. "When passion and compassion are combined and individuals are able to spread a smile or a kind word, both sunny and rainy days are manageable."

Board of Education Vice President Brenda Judson expressed excitement about the new

beginnings that await the graduates.

"Your future is yours and you will experience enormous joy in creating your own life," she said. "Have the courage to follow your heart and intuition. When you are determined to succeed, you will handle everything that comes your way."

In their addresses, valedictorian Awaiss Butt and salutatorian Sailesh Srinivas spoke to their classmates about the fond memories they have of their high school years, praised school staff for their incredible support system, and wished their peers continued success in the future.

"Take risks and don't let opportunities go to waste," Awaiss said. "Work hard pursuing your ambitions and never forget to appreciate those who help you along the way. Block out outside noise that may hinder you from achieving your dreams."

"We have formed a lifelong bond," Sailesh said. "Think about all the laughs, adventures and hardships we have gone through with the friends surrounding us. I hope you remember that no one has ever existed exactly like yourself, the way you were born. Each one of you has something that this world, no, this universe, has never seen before. We can go

anywhere."

Following a performance by chorus students of one of his hit songs, "The Longest Time," Joel, who was presented with a gift basket of Hicksville High-themed memorabilia prior to the ceremony, spoke to the graduates about the importance of finding a passion and doing a job they would enjoy.

"Right now, you are probably at the height of your idealism," Joel said. "You need to know what the right thing to do is. You may know what the smart thing to do is, you may know what the convenient thing to do is, you may know what the lucrative thing to do is. But you may not always know the right thing. Who you are today is going to be very important later on in life. Pick a job that you love, if you can. I'm lucky I picked a good job. I had a teacher here at Hicksville High who inspired me to become a musician."

The students were individually called upon to receive their diplomas, and with thunderous ovation, the graduates then tossed their hats high into the air, marking the end of their high school careers.

## Sights Set on 2021 and 2024

Eighth- and fifth-graders celebrated their advancement from the middle school and seven elementary schools with families, teachers, district administrators and Board of Education members applauding their accomplishments. As they prepare for their respective transitions to the high school and middle school in the fall, the Classes of 2021 and 2024 are set to continue climbing the ladders of success.

***Congratulations to all on their moving-up!***





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

**Board of Education:**

**Phil Heckler, President**

**Brenda Judson, Vice President**

**Carla Hoene, Secretary**

*Trustees:*

**Kevin J. Carroll**

**Lynda Parmely**

**Christopher Amato**

**Sunita Manjrekar**

**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)

# IN RECOGNITION OF SERVICE

## TALENT NETS \$14K

As part of its ongoing altruistic efforts and an annual tradition, the high school's student government presented the third annual Talent for the Troops fundraiser which raised more than \$14,000 for the Nassau County Firefighters Operation Wounded Warrior Program and the Fischer House Foundation. The show featured various acts and musical performances and showcased the talents of staff members across the district, including a "Lip Sync Battle" among all schools.



## RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE

The Board of Education celebrated students' and staff members' excellence across all schools at secondary and elementary recognition ceremonies prior to the end of the school year. Each ceremony featured certificate distributions led by Superintendent of Schools Dr. Carl Bonuso, members of the Board of Education, school principals and department supervisors. The festivities opened with musical performances and the awards commemorated staff members' service in the district and students' achievements in academics, the arts and various competitions.



## CELEBRATING STAFF SERVICE

Congratulations to the district's 2017 retirees and staff members who completed 25 years of service to the district. At a special ceremony in June, retirees received commemorative plaques as tokens of appreciation, and in honor of their silver anniversaries, 25-year staff members received silver plate awards. The ceremony celebrated the honorees' hard work and dedication to the district and its students, in addition to their illustrious careers.



## WARM WELCOME AND GRATITUDE

With much appreciation, the district extends its warmest gratitude to Michael Beneventano and Steven Culhane for their dedication and tireless service to the students and families of Hicksville as part of the Board of Education. Congratulations to Beneventano and Culhane, who served on the Board for three and nine years, respectively, and were honored with commemorative plaques for their advocacy efforts in support of public education and their contributions to the Hicksville Public Schools.

At the July reorganization meeting, the district welcomed incoming trustees Christopher Amato and Sunita Manjrekar to the Board.

