

Board hears recommendations on facilities use, grade reconfiguration to reduce costs

In ongoing efforts to examine the district's programs and services, the Board of Education heard recommendations from two consultants on grade reconfiguration and facilities use at their July 11 meeting.

The consultants - Dr. Paul Seversky and Hunt Engineers, Architects, and Land Surveyors (represented by Jeff Robbins at the board meeting) - used a wide range of district data to determine 13 recommendations.

The recommendations involved various grade configurations and included the savings, if any, for each. One of the 13 recommendations is to keep the grade configuration as it currently stands.

The study began in Fall 2012 and used a wide range of data

gathered by the district. It was commissioned by the Board after several years of financial struggles across the state, resulting in the district's need to reduce positions and use reserve funds to balance the budget.

"Since 2008, we have eliminated approximately 20% of our workforce - which equates to 146 positions - and used millions from reserves," said Superintendent Ralph Marino, Jr..

"In the upcoming school year alone we have appropriated \$6 million from reserves to balance the budget. This is not a long term solution," he said. "We know that we can't tax our way

out of deficits or cut hundreds more positions.

"Therefore, it is necessary that we examine our facility utilization and grade configuration. This is what this study does."

The board will spend a full day in August examining each recommendation. They'll then decide how they want to proceed, and whether that includes forming task forces or focus groups to look at the study.

Learn more about the study and recommendations on the district website at www.horseheadsdistrict.com. Click on the blue "Program/Facility Study" button to the right of the page.

Congratulations, graduates!



The Class of 2013 received their diplomas June 22. Left to right: Cassidy Tingley, Emily Trimber, and Hunter Hoobler.



Our Mission *"Quality Education for All"*

The Mission of the Horseheads Central School Community is to provide a quality education for all within a nurturing environment which promotes excellence, growth, and a sense of civic responsibility.