

Chichester School Board Recognizes Chichester Central School National Blue Ribbon Nomination

Submitted By The Chichester School Board
Harold Losey, Chair, Ben Brown, Vice Chair,
Sally Kelly, Member

Chichester Central School was awarded the highest recognition in the nation this past year by being nominated as a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. The Chichester School Board has recognized the individual contributors in our school by providing each of them with a financial stipend. This stipend came from budget surplus and the checks were handed out on May 14th, coincident with Teacher Appreciation Week. The total impact of this stipend was \$34,534.12 (including FICA), with the Principal receiving \$2000, each certified staff member receiving \$1000, and each non-certified staff member receiving \$200. Once again, the Chichester School Board would like to congratulate the school and thank everyone who works and volunteers there for everything they've done to allow this school and, as a result, this town to be recognized as one of the best in the country.

In response to a recent question from a school district member, this stipend was not provided in retaliation for the teacher contract for this new school year being voted down at District Meeting this past March. In fact, it was specifically slated for the staff members that contributed to the award and recognition – waiting for this new school year would result in awarding new staff members that have not yet made their mark on our school. Discussions surrounding this stipend have been ongoing behind the scenes since January. The reason it was discussed and agreed to in non-public is so that it would be a surprise to as many members of the staff as possible and those April 16th minutes are

available on the school website, along with a change and correction to the dollar amounts expended in the June 3rd minutes. This was a one-time stipend and, while it was treated as salary for this past school year, it will not affect this new school year's salary for any of the employees.

It was the school board's unanimous belief that this was a prudent use of the surplus, as we felt strongly that it was important to keep the staff both motivated and appreciated.