YEAR TWO---FIRST QUARTER REPORT
OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2018
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Governance
The members of the current Board have shown a willingness to devote a great deal of time and

D ue to vacant positions within the leadership team and the demanding nature of some of the challenges

facing the District the Acting Superinte ndent has no t been able to get out to the buildings to m eet face

to face with parents and staff as frequently as would be desirable. In fact, this has happened relatively

infrequently during this quarter. While this kind of interaction is important but difficult in any district, it

is particularly important in Hempstead which has se

this quarter.

district which faces significant fiscal challenges but as the OSC report notes the District is currently doing
a solid job of managing them. Given the District’s recent track record I had expected this level of score
on the factors within the District’s control. If the District’s stays on course, next year’s score should be
lower.
Safety/Security
Security continues to be relatively good across all schools with few of the kinds of incidents which were
happening on an almost daily basis at the High School in the fall of 2017.
The supervisor of the security department remains on administrative leave with pay while an
investigation is being conducted. This has placed a strain on the District but operations have been
maintained at a satisfactory level.
Facilities
Phase 1 of the Rhodes Elementary School demolition and construction of a new school was approved by
NYSED in mid-December. Phase 1 involves the demolition of the existing building and some site
preparation. Bids are being solicited and should be awarded in mid-February.
Plans for Phase 2—construction of the new building---will be submitted to NYSED for review around the
end of January.
The Board interviewed the two top companies who responded to the RFP for construction manager for
the Rhodes project. A formal decision should be made shortly.
Two proposals for an Energy Performance Contract were submitted by companies which have done
many of these projects on Long Island. Both are currently under review.

The District has been negotiating for the lease of more space at 100 Main Street for potential use for
offices and/or students. There is nothing conclusive at this point.
Many of the District’s buildings had to be placed on “fire watch” when it was determined that devices in
many buildings were not connecting with emergency services. The problems were corrected except for
one which is currently being addressed as of the writing of this report.
High School
The High School was approved for the AP Capstone Program.
The High School leadership team has divided the students who are on the cusp for graduation this year
in order to maintain a high level of personal contact with each of these students. They are trying to
ensure that these students receive all necessary support so they do not fall off track. This has been done
in the past but not to the same degree. The results of the January Regents should give an indication of
the rate of progress. Improving the graduation rate of current seniors and ensuring that students in
grades 9-11 on track for graduation is the overwhelming priority.

Pre K-Grade 8
Implementation of the IB Primary and Middle Years programs continues to move forward. Two days of
professional development workshops were held for appropriate staff in early December. In my initial
assessment over a year ago I quoted a teacher who spoke of a long history of “consistent inconsistency”.
Implementing IB will take years to implement fully but it will bring consistency and rigor across
classrooms, grade levels and buildings which will directly address the historical issues and lead to a
steady progression of increasingly well-prepared students entering grade 9 at the High School.
While the NYSED Grades 3-8 ELA and math assessments will not be administered for several months and
the results not available until months thereafter the winter administrations of the NWEA and iReady
assessments should give some indication of whether progress continues to be made.
Despite considerable turmoil at the District level and secondary school level last year, the elementary
schools individually and collectively were largely able to maintain a high degree of focus on instructional
improvement. I think there is reason to believe that this is at least part of the reason for the increase in
3’s and 4’s and the decrease in 1’s on the NYS assessments. I would like to note that elementary
principals have been meeting as a PLC (professional learning community) and that there has been
considerable analysis and discussion of data district-wide and at the building level. This level of focus, if
consistently maintained, plus the efforts to implement the IB Primary Years program should pay off in
steady improvement in achievement.
The principal of ABGS Middle School resigned on short notice. He has been replaced by an experienced,
recently retired principal who had worked in Hempstead a number of years ago in another position. The
search for a permanent replacement will begin shortly.
The move to four small learning communities in the Middle School is a work in process with benefits
only partially realized at this point.

In the paragraph above I noted the reduction in the percentage of 1’s and the increase in the percentage
of 3’s and 4’s on State assessments in the District’s elementary schools over the past three years. This