Over the course of the 2012-13 school year, the Shoreham-Wading River Central School District Board of Education and administration held a series of community meetings leading up to the annual budget vote. During these meetings, the Board presented the public with a defined view of the district’s finances and the challenges that it faces moving forward. Like all school districts throughout New York State, Shoreham-Wading River must now contend with a variety of factors that are making it extremely difficult to continue to provide the high level of programs and services the district has traditionally offered. Tax cap legislation, an increase in unfunded mandates and an overall reduction in the percentage of state aid given to the district are just a few of these factors.

The district extends its appreciation to the community for participating in the meetings and for supporting the 2013-14 budget. While it was just two months ago that residents voted on this spending plan, the district is already looking to the future to prepare for 2014-15 and beyond. Looking ahead, the district estimates that it roughly faces a $4.5 million budget gap for the 2014-15 school year. With the “extras” already trimmed, the district faces fundamental problems: how does it continue to preserve the programs and services that comprise a high-quality SWR education in the face of this budget gap, while keeping the cost impact to the community as minimal as possible? With these financial challenges, how will the district continue to improve its facilities – most of which are outdated and in need of repair?

Beginning in the fall, the Board will host a series of public meetings to address these questions and to seek community input on the future of the Shoreham-Wading River Central School District. The Board would like to engage the public in discussions that could potentially alter the ways in which the district has traditionally been run. The district will examine ways to preserve programs and repair its buildings by shifting current resources and minimizing the use of district savings.

One example of what the Board will examine involves moving to the “Princeton Plan” of educational delivery. This means that instead of children attending their elementary school based upon geography, they are assigned to schools by grade. One school, for instance, would house all students in kindergarten, another would house grades 1-3, and the third would be assigned for grades 4-5. This plan not only allows the district to preserve its current programs, but is also more cost-efficient than the current way of operation. Other benefits include greater staff collaboration, integration of children throughout the district before middle school and greater coherence in the curriculum.

A second example of what the Board would like to discuss with the community is the feasibility of a bond to cover the cost of extensive facility repairs needed throughout the district.

These are just two examples of the important topics that the Board will soon address with the community. Community participation is invited and encouraged as the district explores its options for the future. All meeting dates will be posted to the district’s website later this summer.

"The district extends its appreciation to the community for participating in the meetings and for supporting the 2013-14 budget."
Dear Community Members,

First, I would like to thank everyone for a successful 2012-13 school year and congratulate our seniors who recently graduated. I wish you much success in your years ahead. I know that no matter what path you go down, you will bring the same spirit and dedication to your pursuits as you did during your time in Shoreham-Wading River High School.

While it is summertime and now a bit quieter in the school hallways, please know that district administrators and staff are busy preparing for the start of the 2013-14 school year. Our buildings and grounds crew is working tirelessly to prepare the facilities to once again welcome students, and the district continues to make progress on its building projects previously approved by voters. Specifically, the following items will be completed over the summer:

**Districtwide**
- Completion of districtwide wireless network
- Installation of Smart Boards

**High School**
- Partial roof replacement
- Renovation of front entrance courtyard
- Resurfacing of track
- Installation of new classroom computers

At the Top of Their Class

Leading the Class of 2013 are two special students who excelled in a variety of areas during their time at Shoreham-Wading River High School. Cari Gostic, the valedictorian (at left in photo), and Taylor Brant, the salutatorian, learned earlier in the school year that they led the Class of 2013 in academic standings. Principal Daniel Holtzman, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Steven Cohen and members of the faculty gathered in March to bestow the pair with their honors including a plaque, flowers, balloons and an honorary breakfast.

“This is a well-deserved honor,” said Mr. Holtzman. “You’ve worked very hard so relish the moment.”

During her career at Shoreham-Wading River High School, valedictorian Cari Gostic was a member of the Mathletes and Brainstormers clubs, the school’s Quiz Bowl team, the chamber orchestra, the school’s play pit orchestra and the National Honor Society. Cari was also a nominee for the Department of Education National Schools Award, made the principal’s list every quarter and was the recipient of the English and mathematics awards in grades nine through eleven, as well as the physics award in her junior year.

Cari, who received a perfect score of 36 on the ACT exam, will be attending Cornell University in the fall. “I am going to study atmospheric science to become a meteorologist,” she said.

Cari attributes her high school success to hard work, support from her family and the “good role models” her sisters are to her. Michelle Gostic (Class of 2011) and Katelyn Gostic (Class of 2009) were named the high school’s salutatorian and valedictorian, respectively, in years prior. When asked about her hopes and aspirations for the future, she replied, “I just want to be happy and comfortable with what it is that I am doing.”

Salutatorian Taylor Brant has also had a distinguished and admirable four years. An All-Conference varsity tennis player in doubles, Mathlete, Natural Helpers club member and National Honor Society member, Taylor has also lent her abilities to the Women In Science and Engineering (WISE) science program at Stony Brook University since her sophomore year. She was recognized for her writing in the Reflections competition last school year, has received awards for her excellence in English honors in ninth and tenth grade, and also placed in the top 10 in the DECA state competition in advertising.

In the fall, Taylor will be a student at Stony Brook University and would like to major in a biology-related field. She credits her successes to her supportive family and intends on “enjoying whatever comes” during her time at college.

training relevant to their practice. Based on the tremendous success of the first year, the district will continue this initiative for the 2013-14 school year. The initiative will follow the same structure as this past year, during which teachers participated in 19 one-hour workshop sessions throughout the school year. The district is looking to broaden the flexibility for teachers for 2013-14 so that they can not only collaborate across grades and disciplines in their own buildings, but also team up with colleagues in other buildings if they so desire.

If you’ve read the front page of this newsletter, you know that our district has the potential to see a variety of changes in the coming years. I always encourage community participation, but now, more so than ever, it is extremely important for the Board of Education and administration to hear your voices. Please get involved and offer your input as we begin to explore new ways of operating our district.

Finally, I wish the entire community a restful summer and look forward to your involvement in the coming months.

Sincerely,

Dr. Steven Cohen
Superintendent of Schools

The SWR PTA

Together we are a powerful voice for children.

Thank You!

The Shoreham-Wading River Council of PTAs would like to thank everyone who has supported our schools and our parent organizations this past school year – all for the benefit of our school-aged children.

We are ESPECIALLY grateful for the dedication and countless hours that our PTA and PTO presidents and board members (and their spouses), chairpersons, members and volunteers have provided to enrich the lives of the children in our community.

These parents have busy lives, yet they took the time and considered it a priority to give back to the students in our community. In essence they have taken an ownership perspective regarding the fate of our schools and our children – and for that we are extremely grateful!

The PTA mission statement is “The overall purpose of PTA is to make every child’s potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.” Our parent organizations have done exactly that! The volunteer and financial support of the various fundraisers that they have held throughout the school year allowed them to bring our schools programs and activities that benefit the ENTIRE student population.

And without the support of our school administrators, school board trustees, teachers, staff, community partners, guest speakers and presenters, efforts to enrich the lives of our students would have been much more difficult.

Remember, “It takes a village to raise a child.” Engaging parents, families and communities in the education process supports student achievement. If you haven’t yet volunteered, please don’t hesitate to do so. Our parent organization contacts can be found online at www.swrschools.org/our_district/parent_organizations. Together we are a powerful voice for children.

Thank you all for your support this past year! Please join us in the next school year to continue to support our youth! Until then... enjoy your summer with your loved ones.

The 2012/2013 Shoreham-Wading River Council of PTAs Board -- Pat Giacalone, Lisa Wild, and Barbara Steiger

At the Top of Their Class

The SWR PTA
The Class of 2013 took their final steps onto the Shoreham-Wading River High School field on June 22 at the district’s 37th commencement exercises. As a class of achievers, all students walked with their heads held high to enormous applause and praise by parents, family and peers. The ceremony was laced with special performances and speeches by members of the senior class.

To begin the celebration, student government co-presidents Clare Blombert and Alyssa Pearce led the graduates in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the singing of the national anthem by Kerri Beacon. Board of Education Vice President Richard Pluschau then addressed the graduates with words of wisdom, followed by the salutatory address by Taylor Brant. In her speech, Taylor spoke about obstacles and told her fellow graduates, “We must accept that bumps in the road will happen.” She noted, however, that obstacles are what shape us and define who we are.

The ceremony continued with an address by special guest, Congressman Tim Bishop, who had four pieces of advice for the Class of 2013. First, Congressman Bishop told the graduates to question authority, but to be armed with the knowledge to do so. “Learn a little bit about a lot,” he said, “and learn a lot about a little.” Congressman Bishop continued his address by telling students to “get in the game,” noting the importance of getting involved and making a difference in the world. The third point he made to the class was that one individual has the power to influence change. Congressman Bishop spoke about Shoreham-Wading River High School’s Global Awareness Club and how much of a difference its members have made on the world thus far. Finally, the congressman told graduates to “value civility in all that you say and do.”

Following Congressman Bishop’s address, senior class member Eric Lopez sung “You Raise Me Up,” an emotional rendition that showcased his tremendous talent. Valedictorian Cari Gostic then had the opportunity to address her peers, speaking about growing up and learning about the type of person she wanted to be. “The person I want to be is someone who brings happiness to others,” she said. She noted that in her eyes, success isn’t defined by how much money someone makes, but by “those who are thankful for having us in their lives.”

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Steven Cohen followed Congressman Bishop’s address to the Class of 2013. Following the address, diplomas were then presented to the Class of 2013. Members of the class were called to the podium to receive their diplomas, to the cheers of their family and friends. Once officially announced as graduates, these young adults celebrated by tossing their caps into the air.

Congratulations to the Class of 2013 and much success in your years ahead!
and talked about the evolution of technology in today’s society, noting how increasing advances such as Google Glass have made the Internet even more ubiquitous. High<br>\hspace{1em} School Principal Daniel Holtzman also offered his congratulations to the students. ‘As commitment to public service on local and international levels, service as role models in the positive school environment, and success are but a few qualities out of many that make our school the special place it is,’ he said.

The statement of all gathered at the ceremony, diplomas were then presented to the Class of 2013. Members of the class were called to the podium to receive their diplomas, to the cheers of their family and friends. Once announced as graduates, these young adults celebrated by tossing their caps into the air.

Congratulations to the Class of 2013 and much success in your
A Look at the Class of 2013

• 38 students from the Class of 2013 were members of the National Honor Society.

• Three students had weighted grade point averages of over 100 percent - Cari Gostic, Taylor Brant and Elizabeth Stietzle.

• 79 students earned an Advanced Regents Diploma and an additional 31 students earned an Advanced Regents with Honors Diploma.

• 15 students from the Class of 2013 were named Advanced Placement scholars for their high performance on AP exams in May 2012.

• Students from the Class of 2013 were awarded a total of approximately $60,000 in community scholarships and $500,000 in merit-based scholarships. Some of the scholarships awarded to students included the Peconic Bay Medical Center Auxiliary Award, Congressman Tim Bishop’s Congressional Certificate of Merit Award, the Brookhaven National Laboratory Award, Riverhead Youth Court Award and the Suffolk Association of School Business Officials Award.

• Students from the Class of 2013 dedicated countless hours to serving the community through individual or school-led efforts.

College Attendance for the Class of 2013

Adams State University
Adelphi University
Bentley University
Bethany Lutheran College
Central Connecticut State University
College of Saint Rose
College of Wooster
Community College of Beaver County
Cornell University
DeSales University
Dowling College
Fairfield University
Franklin Pierce University
High Point University
Hofstra University
Johnson & Wales University
Kansas State University
Lebanon Valley College
Lehigh University
Lincoln Technical Institute
Long Island University
Marymount Manhattan College
Marywood University
Mercy College
Mercyhurst University
Merrimack College
Molloy College
Mount Saint Mary’s University
Mount Saint Vincent University
New York University
Northeastern University
Ohio State University
Ohio University
Parsons New School for Design
Pennsylvania College of Technology
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rutgers University
Sacred Heart University
School of Visual Arts
Sophia University
Southern New Hampshire University
St. John’s University
St. Joseph’s College
St. Leo University
Stevens Institute of Technology
Suffolk County Community College
SUNY Albany
SUNY Binghamton
SUNY Cortland
SUNY Delhi
SUNY Farmingdale
SUNY Fashion Institute of Technology
SUNY Fredonia
SUNY Geneseo
SUNY Maritime College
SUNY New Paltz
SUNY Oneonta
SUNY Oswego
SUNY Purchase
SUNY Stony Brook
Syracuse University
Towson University
University of Alabama
University of Delaware
University of Maryland-College Park
University of Michigan
University of New Haven
University of St. Andrews
University of Toledo
University of Vermont
Wesley College
Williams College
Exploring Different Paths

As the members of the Class of 2013 crossed the stage at graduation, they transitioned to a new stage in their lives. These 206 young adults are each exploring different paths, pursing their dreams and talents. Below is just a small snapshot of where a few of these distinguished graduates are heading.

Emily Lutz, Pennsylvania College of Technology

For Emily Lutz, a passion for the culinary arts began in the eighth grade when she participated in a summer exploration program through BOCES. For three summers, Emily continued in this program and had the opportunity to take a culinary arts class. She continued to pursue her interest in the culinary arts by enrolling in the BOCES culinary program while in high school. The program enabled her to intern at East Wind, where she still works. While Emily initially thought she would like to become a chef, her experience has led her to pursue hotel and restaurant management. She will enter the Pennsylvania College of Technology in the fall and notes that she is excited about the responsibility of living on her own.

During her time in high school, Emily was a member of the National Technical Honor Society through BOCES and also traveled to Kenya with the school’s contingent. Looking back at her time at Shoreham-Wading River High School, Emily notes that she will miss her family and friends the most.

Kento Allnoch, Sophia University in Tokyo, Japan

Kento Allnoch is headed half a world away later this summer to pursue his studies at Sophia University in Tokyo, Japan. Kento notes that he will not be making the transition alone, however, as his mother is moving there to be closer to extended family. Kento will pursue a degree in international business and economics, explaining that he would eventually like a career that is internationally based and allows him to travel.

Since moving to the Shoreham-Wading River Central School District in the fifth grade, Kento has been active in the school community, playing soccer during his time in high school and also serving as a member of the Natural Helpers club. Looking forward to his move to Japan, Kento said, “It will be a big change. It will be a little crazy coming from a small town and going to a big city. I’m very nervous, but very excited.”

Tim Haggerty, University of New Haven

Class of 2013 member Tim Haggerty will pursue his musical talents at the University of New Haven, where he was accepted through early action. In the third grade, Tim discovered his love for music. Starting with the recorder (like most elementary students), Tim progressed to playing the viola and then the clarinet. His musical talents blossomed as Tim branched out to learn how to play even more instruments, which now include the guitar, drums, bass, piano and ukulele.

At the University of New Haven, Tim would like to pursue a degree that he can use in the business or production side of music. “I will continue to play, but not for my career,” he said. While in high school, Tim involved himself in the school play productions, either acting on stage or as part of the crew. He notes that he will miss his music courses the most but is looking forward to meeting more musicians as he moves on to college. “I look forward to meeting more people who truly have a passion for music like I do,” he said.

The Future of SWRHS is Bright

While the Class of 2013 has graduated, a new group of students will be filling the high school hallways in the fall as members of the Class of 2017. The future looks bright for the high school, as the upcoming class of freshmen have accomplished much during their elementary and middle school years.

One outstanding student entering high school in the fall is Abigail Lutz (pictured below, left with Prodell Middle School Principal Dr. Linda Anthony). During her time in the middle school, Abigail was a member of the National Junior Honor Society, the school’s orchestra and chamber orchestra. Abigail loves to read and is very involved with her church youth group at Shoreham-Wading River Congregational. An excellent scholar; she earned a spot on the school’s Honor Roll every quarter and is very interested in science and English.

Said Dr. Anthony, “Abigail is an all-around good student who has really contributed to the school. A large component of middle school is learning how to negotiate being a good human being. To me, Abby is someone who just instinctively knows that kindness counts and that part of what we do here is help kids to understand what it means to build character. She leaves here a good example to others.”

Abigail is just one example of the many outstanding students leaving Prodell Middle School for the high school this fall. In fact, at the middle school’s annual academic awards ceremony, 163 eighth-graders were honored for a variety of accomplishments. According to students (and cousins) Bailee Bottari and Madison Bottari, “It’s a bittersweet experience because we are excited to go to high school, but sad to leave behind this stage in our lives.”

The district extends its best wishes to the incoming freshmen class and looks forward to their many contributions and accomplishments during their time in high school.