

Jamestown students to exhibit at national showcase in New Orleans

By Michaela Kennedy

The Jamestown School Committee unanimously agreed to allow a team of Lawn Avenue students to attend a conference in New Orleans at the School Committee meeting on May 15.

Teacher Maureen McGuirl and four of her eighth grade students were selected to represent Rhode Island at the Project Citizen National Showcase in New Orleans, July 22 to 25. The school committee asked McGuirl to discuss Project Citizen, a federally-funded education program that teaches students about government and public policy. McGuirl said the students will present a portfolio of work in a public hearing showcase, in conjunction with the National Conference of State Legislatures Annual Meeting. The trip is paid for by the Center for Civic Education.

In other business, committee chairwoman Cathy Kaiser and Superintendent Marcia Lukon reported that collaboration with the Narragansett School Department might be possible. Together with Town Administrator Bruce Keiser and Town Council President Julio DiGiando, they met Narragansett Town Manager Jeff Cearine, Superintendent Kathy Sipala and School Committee Chairwoman Ann Masterson on April 23. The

group brainstormed on possible collaborative efforts, including a review of special education programming in both districts in order to identify opportunities to serve students or eliminate duplication of services.

In the superintendent's report, Lukon thanked Melrose Avenue school nurse Renie Sullivan for her outstanding work in initiating and organizing wellness activities and programs for Jamestown teachers and staff. Because of Sullivan's efforts, the Jamestown School Department has been recognized by the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce, which selected Jamestown to receive the Achievement Worksite Health Award.

In her report, Lukon said she received a request from a student to attend Narragansett High School in order to participate in that school's agri-science program. The committee is scheduled to vote on the request at the June 5 meeting.

In the principal's report, Kathy Almanzor noted that the school panel received copies of the Melrose School Accountability of Learning and Teaching report. The Lawn SALT report has not yet been released by the Rhode Island Department of Education, but is expected by June's workshop meeting, according to Almanzor.

In a discussion about the upcoming budget, the committee agreed to explore avenues of funding the capital budget with less reliance on the unreserved fund. The committee also agreed to send an invitation to the Town Council to join committee members for a work retreat in August.

In a wellness committee report, liaison Julia Held said that, rather than adding tobacco use to the substance abuse policy, a separate policy for tobacco was considered. Also in the wellness report, school committee member Julie Kallfelz suggested the panel members meet with the Town Council on June 9 to review Rolling Agenda's final plans for infrastructure improvements in and near the school grounds.

In a legislative report, Kaiser said that she submitted written testimony opposing House Bill 7957, a funding formula under which Jamestown and eight other school districts would receive no state aid.

Early in the meeting, the school board heard a reading of the Jamestown Town Council Proclamation Commemorating Teacher Appreciation Week. The proclamation urged the community to "pay tribute to our teachers," from May 4 to 10.



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Art is alive at school

The opening of the annual Arts Alive student art show will be Thursday, June 5, at the Melrose Avenue School, with a reception from 7 to 8 p.m. The show will run Thursday and Friday, June 5 and 6 in the Melrose school multi-purpose room.

Photo by Andrea von Hohenleiten

War memorials topic of film and talk

The Friends of the Jamestown Library will present an evening with filmmaker and island resident, Patti Cassidy, who will show her film "Frozen Glory: the Secret Life of War Memorials," on Thursday, May 22, at 7 p.m. at the library.

Cassidy explores the creation of Jamestown's East Ferry Veteran's Memorial in detail, through conversations with its architect, Jamestown resident Betty Hubbard. This short documentary details why many memorials look as they do, from the foundryman's art, to the architect's intent, to the historian's interpretation of the spirit of the times surrounding each conflict.

From the Civil War to the present, people have

tried to capture the lessons they've learned from bloody conflict in stone and bronze. From the ubiquitous arches of the Civil War to the tragic pieces of WWI to the grim geometry of the Vietnam memorials, each war's memorials are different. This project hopes to move the viewer to see these silent sentinels with a new appreciation of the art.

Patti Cassidy is a filmmaker who specializes in public sculpture. She has lived and worked in Tucson and Boston and is now living in Jamestown, where she was intrigued by the East Ferry memorial from the moment she saw it. The talk is free and open to the public.

FOR THE RECORD

The photograph of the Jamestown Fire Department on pages 12 and 13 of last week's Press was

taken by Ken Caswell. Credit for the photo was mistakenly attributed to Ken Gladding.



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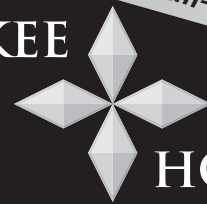
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