

Daughters recognizes volunteers at annual luncheon

Daughters of Israel held its annual volunteer recognition luncheon on April 19, recognizing 75 volunteers who dedicate their time to the organization.

South Orange President Sheena Collum addressed the attendees on the importance of volunteerism and her particular affinity for seniors. The attendees also enjoyed a luncheon buffet, games and raffle prizes.



South Orange Village President Sheena Collum, center, speaks with volunteers and staff members from JESPY House and Daughters of Israel.

Photo Courtesy of Renee Glick

Schwarzbaum votes against budget in board minority

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positions as they arise, while six teachers will have the opportunity to interview for available positions within the district. And while nothing is guaranteed, the superintendent indicated that those six teachers should not be worried.

“Based on me knowing these six individuals, I believe that they will be hired in the district,” Rutzky said. “I think they are very, very fine teachers.”

Aside from staff cuts, the budget also featured a reduction in five leased buses, which just means five older buses will not be taken out of the fleet this year. All buses are safe though, Rutzky stressed, and the district will likely resume leasing newer buses as it usually does next year.

The final budget also included many additions. Six staff members will be hired, including a kindergarten teacher, biology teacher, principal and a custodian for the new pre-school; and two science, technology, engineering and math teachers. In addition, seven new classes will be introduced such as a seventh-grade STEM program and a K-5 science program.

Beyond that, the additions spanned several technology upgrades, security enhancements and capital improvement projects. Much professional development will be done too, especially in such areas as English, math, science, curriculum development and technology infusion.

In the end, the board was satisfied enough with the budget to vote for it, with



Photos by Sean Quinn

Business administrator John Calavano, left, and Superintendent of Schools Jeffrey Rutzky discuss the budget at the May 1 Board of Education meeting.

Ron Charles commending the staff, administrators and board members for working hard to balance the children’s needs with the taxpayers’ interests. But Schwarzbaum found the budget far from acceptable, instead criticizing a number of aspects that

resulted in his voting against it.

For one, Schwarzbaum said he simply cannot ask the taxpayers to fund a 4.09-percent increase in an environment of less than 1-percent inflation. He also questioned

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