

## Rotary Club of Red Hook, New York

Weekly Bulletin

*SERVICE ABOVE SELF*

June 2, 2020

<http://www.redhookrotaryclub.org/>

Marking the 11th week of “stay at home” meetings required by the coronavirus outbreak, Jen Van Voorhis opened the “zoom” meeting at 8am. Thirteen members and two guests were present. Our guests were Paul Finch, Superintendent and Bruce Martin, CFO of the Red Hook Central School District. Jen provided appropriate screen backgrounds for the Pledge of Allegiance and the Four Way Test as we work to recoup many of the trappings of our pre-Covid 19 meetings.



Fred Cartier, photographer, provided the complete group in a single screen shot of the meeting. We are, from top left to bottom right: Jen Van Voorhis, Fred, Bud Weaver, Tim Lynch, Linda Greenblatt, Susan Simon, Bruce Martin, Susan Ezrati, Carl Dowden, Paul Finch, Jonah Triebwasser, Chris Chale, Michael Shafer, Rebecca Kent, and Rob Latimer. NOTE: Congratulations! You all are in the center of the frame!

After a brief review of ongoing club business, including updates on the baskets for seniors and Clynk distributions, and a query about Eagle Scout awards, and acknowledgement that no announcement has been made of Rotary scholarship awards, Linda introduced

our guest speakers: Paul Finch, superintendent and Bruce Martin, Red Hook Central School District, CFO.

Paul Finch started by noting that in 2019, Dutchess County recognized the Red Hook Schools for the highest graduation rate (97%) in the county. He said that one of his proudest achievements was developing a program of matching Jrs to Srs. He also noted that a new guidance counselor was added in the Elementary school program, a track team was added to the athletics program and a new smart device policy (designed to reduce cell phone use on campus) was initiated. The budget for the coming year was developed from November to March (pre-pandemic) and anticipated a small increase in State Aid. It also anticipated two capital projects – a new roof and windows at Mill Rd school and new windows and vents at the high school. This was in addition to the building of the auditorium at the high school.

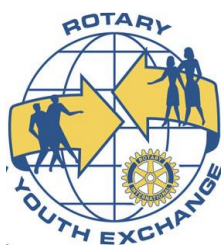
The 2021 budget reflects a shift to a more defensive pattern to limit costs using the April State Aid estimate. Paul and Bruce believe that cuts to that aid will come, Efforts are being undertaken to anticipate state aid cuts and a possible no vote on the budget. Staffing cuts are being considered – where opportunities present themselves, as low kindergarten enrollment may enable a cut of one class of first graders, and the retirement of one German teacher and fewer enrollees may enable a smaller German language section. As of May 15, the state has given no guidance about cuts in aid. The governor is waiting for a response from the Federal government. The proposed budget is 2.12% higher than the previous year; the tax levy is up 2.97%, and still tax cap compliant.

Paul urged Rotary to invite the new superintendent, Janet Warden to a meeting.

The high school graduation ceremony will take place on June 30 at the Hyde Park drive-in theater across from the FDR House and Library. There will be 160 graduates, but the theater only allows 200 cars. The cars will be decorated and hornhonking will be encouraged. Fall plans are still not complete.

Rotarians are reminded that next week, Susan Simon will host Elizabeth Harmon – initiator of the online Festival effort to fill in for Apple Blossom and Hardscrabble days. Jonah will initiate online interviews by Radio Rotary on Saturday. More to come.

Happy Dollars are suspended during the “stay at home” requirements of the Pandemic. Checks may be sent to Rotary Club, PO Box 88, Red Hook, NY 12571



**On June 9, 2020, Elisabeth Harmor will tell us about the remote Red Hook Festival that is being planned (see notes below). Member spotlights on local concerns and issues will replace speakers as appropriate. Let Rob or Jen know if you have a special suggestion for the next meeting.**

**Radio Rotary** Watch for new Zoom interviews on Radio Rotary.

Proposal:  
“Red Hook Together” Online Festival

What:

- An online festival in which Red Hook businesses and organizations will participate by streaming live content such as music, tours, workshops, demonstrations, and games.

Why:

- The purpose of the festival is to combat social isolation and renew our sense of community.
- Although the county is re-opening in phases and small, socially-distanced events may take place later this summer, there will not be any large events and some people still may not feel comfortable leaving their homes.

Goal:

- The goal is to recreate the feeling of a large-scale community festival and offer exclusive, Red Hook experiences. Additionally, we intended to promote our local businesses by giving them a virtual platform through which they can attract virtual tourists from outside of Red Hook.

When:

- A Saturday in August, timing TBD, an all-day festival with live-streamed content
- Events will be rebroadcast to allow people who couldn't attend the first time a chance to see content

How:

- Create a Facebook Page with multiple Facebook events
  - Each page is a themed booth → see PDF for mock up of pagesNOTE: all times and dates on mock-up are arbitrary filler
- Red Hook organizations will host Facebook live events/ or pre-registered Zoom meetings at scheduled times on the themed event page
- To increase access to those in our community who do not use Facebook or have internet access, use local TV station and radio to rebroadcast events
- We will put out a call for proposals for content. Examples of themed booths and content include:
  - Music, “The Stage”:
    - Schedule live streaming performances from different local musicians