

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Dear Parents and Residents:

As we prepare for the winter and the colder weather associated with this season, the Patchogue-Medford Board of Education has reaffirmed its commitment to reduce the district's use of energy by formal reinstatement of conservation measures first taken in 1973. At the October business meeting of the Board of Education, the following efforts were endorsed in order to reduce the district's costs and to establish conservation habits in pupils.

All pupils will be affected by lowered temperature settings in all schools. Classrooms will be heated to a maximum of 65 degrees F during the school day and will be automatically lowered to 55 degrees F immediately following pupil dismissal.

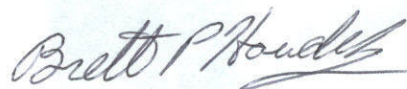
Support for these programs by parents and pupils is expected. Parents should help youngsters plan for the school day by a careful check of their children's clothing. Knowing that the schools will be maintained at 65 degrees F, parents should encourage the wearing of sweaters and jackets. The wearing of several layers of clothing is recommended rather than one heavy garment.

The heating and lighting of eleven school buildings involves thousands of gallons of fuel oil and thousands of kilowatts of electricity. Through the years, each homeowner has noticed an increase in monthly household expenses to meet the rate increases for these utilities. The effect of the same increases to a consumer the size of the school district is truly overwhelming. In the past, the school board has directed that thermostats in all school buildings be lowered and that night settings take effect at an early hour. Without the school district energy conservation program, expenditures for these items would have increased even more significantly.

Other steps taken by the Board of Education affect only certain groups of pupils and citizens. These initiatives include rescheduling the continuing education program so that classes begin earlier in the school year and extend into the spring. Continuing education classes will generally be held when no heating is necessary and will be shut down during the coldest months. Closing all district buildings during the December recess is another program that conserves fuel. All thermostats throughout the district have been calibrated for improved efficiency. A few years ago, the district completed a federally-sponsored construction program that was devoted to energy-saving roof construction and to the installation of more efficient oil burner systems in all of the district's schools. With the cooperation of community groups, school building use has been coordinated.

The Patchogue-Medford School District continues to serve as an example in energy conservation to save costs and to educate our students for tomorrow's living.

Sincerely,



Brett Houdek, President
Board of Education