

## **Letter to the Editor**

We would like to take this opportunity to expand upon the LI Press article from Dec. 9 titled “Mineola Board of Education meets with BYOG investigation underway” to provide an update for our community.

Since concerns about Build Your Own Grade were first raised, district administrators and the Board of Education have investigated every claim thoroughly. When questions emerged, we acted immediately by suspending the program and hiring special counsel to investigate the district’s use of the Digital Learning Management System associated with BYOG. To date, the New York State Education Department has confirmed that the district is compliant with the Parents’ Bill of Rights, all FOIL requests have been fulfilled, and the Nassau County District Attorney’s Office has indicated that it does not suspect any criminal activity. We anticipate presenting the findings of the special counsel’s investigation at our workshop on Thursday, Jan. 8.

Throughout this process, we have remained committed to engaging with families, addressing concerns directly and providing clear information as it becomes available. At the same time, the tenor of recent discourse has created an environment where many parents, staff members and even students feel uneasy speaking publicly. We believe strongly that every member of our community should feel safe, respected and heard during Board meetings and other district forums.

Mineola continues to be a high-performing district, maintaining some of the lowest tax-levy increases in Nassau County, expanding special education programming to meet the needs of a growing student population, modernizing facilities, and attracting and retaining exceptional educators. These accomplishments reflect a district that is focused, responsible and deeply committed to its students. While there will always be room for community engagement and even differing viewpoints, we must not allow the intensity of recent discussions to overshadow this great work.

As we move forward, we will continue to strengthen communication, increase transparency and create more opportunities for meaningful engagement. Public comment is an important part of board meetings, and it works best when it supports constructive dialogue and helps move our district forward. We invite all residents to participate in upcoming parent meetings, office hours and committee work so that every voice can contribute to building a positive path ahead for Mineola’s students and schools.

With Respect,

Mineola Board of Education