

Huntington High School's 151st Commencement

Joseph Straub's Introduction of Superintendent James W. Polansky

Over the years here at Huntington High School, I've done a lot, to say the least, and, I've met a wide array of people. I would just like to share some of the things I've done and people I've met with you. I remember freshman year homecoming I found myself hanging with some of the upperclassmen marching band members. It was eleven o'clock at night after the dance and all I can remember thinking is, "wow, how the heck are they still talking about marching band." They were boasting about the program to me and how meaningful it was to be a part of Huntington's marching band. They had passion.

I remember a bus ride home from an away lacrosse game in 10th grade. It was on that bus ride that I learned what the true definition of diversity was. I was sitting next to some of the preppiest lacrosse kids I know. On the other side of the bus, there were kids speaking in slang saying words I didn't even understand. Ta-roy, stood up and called me out. I stood up and the next thing I know he calls me Sandra Bullock. Still, to this day, I have no idea why that is one of my nicknames.

Now, I don't know about you, but the thought of staying up from 6 p.m. until midnight arguing over the color difference between Kelly Green and Forest Green and which one would look better on the top of our Pineapple; sounds like a great time. Spending homecoming float night with Lizzy, Alana, Brielle, Kristina, Sarah, Samantha, Jill, Katherine,

Danielle, Erin and AJ made me realize how much drive some people can have. We always seemed to put differences behind us and build the best float ever. Two years in a row, might I add.

And one of the most lasting memories I have here at Huntington High School is Relay For Life. At one o'clock in the morning, the chief operating officer of the American Cancer Society New York-New Jersey region visited our relay. She was extremely impressed and noted that “she had never seen a Relay so alive and spirited so late in the night.”

Now, I'm sure you are all wondering how the heck any of this relates to me introducing Superintendent Polansky. So, I'll try now to clear some of it up for you.

A graduate of SUNY at Albany, Mr. Polansky earned a Master of Business Administration degree at Hofstra University and an advanced graduate certificate in educational administration at SUNY at Stony Brook. He is well-known for his energy and enthusiasm and has already enjoyed two decades of success as a teacher and administrator in Long Island schools.

But over the past year, I have grown to see Mr. Polansky in a different light. There is no doubt that he has energy and enthusiasm and deserves all of those degrees he has hanging on his wall. But, there is more to him. Within Mr. Polansky, in my opinion, is the same passion as the band students, the same diversity as the lacrosse team, the same drive as student government members and the same spirit as the student body. Mr. Polansky is Mr. Huntington.

In his brief tenure, Mr. Polansky has already made great improvements to our school district. Through his passion, diversity, drive and spirit; “Mr. Huntington will continue to make great improvements to our community.

I’m blessed to stand before you, as a self proclaimed Capt’n, to introduce to you, our new superintendent, Mr. James Polansky.