

# Foundation boasts 20 years of funding student success

POINT PLEASANT BEACH PUBLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION

BY AMANDA STONE  
THE COAST STAR

Athletes running the 100-meter dash, football players playing under Friday night lights, students performing in a newly renovated elementary school auditorium and students who are using computer-aided design [CAD] programs all have one thing in common — their activities would not have been made possible without the financial contributions of the Point Pleasant Beach Public Education Foundation.

It all started with an idea by then-Point Pleasant Beach superintendent F. Thomas Crawley, who heard about a new idea being incorporated in other school districts. That idea was to create a foundation to help raise the necessary funding for students, apart from using local taxes. Approximately \$1.5 million and 27 members later, the Point Pleasant Beach Public Education Foundation has grown to be one of the strongest financial foundations for public schools in the area.

Soon after the idea began floating around the community, Point Pleasant Beach resident Edward McGlynn, Esq., became the first presi-

dent of the foundation.

The foundation's board of trustees quickly grew.

"We looked for people who were involved in the community," Mr. McGlynn said.

The foundation's goal was to raise \$100,000 — a feat which took few years to do.

The foundation quickly organized its first fundraiser on Feb. 11, 1993 — the Hall of Fame dinner — which now serves as an annual tradition within the Garnet Gulls' community.

Each year, Point Pleasant Beach alumni who have had great successes in their lives are honored at the dinner.

"You realize how many great people graduated from Beach High School, Mr.

McGlynn said.

When the foundation was financially able to give substantial grants, the funds went to an array of teachers and projects.

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGNS

Now in its 20th year of giving back to the community, the foundation has helped fundraise for various school projects in both the elementary school and high school through capital campaigns.

Most recently, the sports fields located at G. Harold Antrim School underwent massive renovations, costing nearly \$970,000.

What resulted was a brand new baseball field with sod put down in all the outfields, a new retaining wall that serves as a natural three-tiered bleacher, and drainage put in underneath all the fields to minimize runoff.

A new track was also put down, replacing the old, worn one.

Through donations raised by the foundation, football players were assured the chance to play under Friday night lights.

The outdoor lighting system that stood above the football field until just last year had many issues, including the poles rotting from the inside out. With generous contribu-



SUEANNE GOSS THE COAST STAR

Kris Pearce-Wilkes [above, from left], Edward McGlynn, Scott Kuzmic, Superintendent John Ravally, Michael Manzo and Sandy Pasola have each contributed to the continuing success of the Point Pleasant Beach Public Education Foundation. The foundation recently paid for field renovations [below].



tions from the community, the foundation quickly raised the necessary funding to purchase an entirely new lighting system, which was completed last fall.

Through donations, the foundation also helped purchase new equipment for the high school fitness room, costing nearly \$60,000.

The foundation also contributed to the CAD room at the high school, where students are able to further their computer knowledge, at a price tag of \$50,000.

In the elementary school, audiences can now watch students perform plays in the newly-renovated F. Thomas Crawley auditorium, where construction cost \$187,000.

## SUPPORTING TEACHERS THROUGH GRANTS

The foundation has also given hundreds of thousands of dollars to teachers for their classrooms.

Each year, the foundation receives approximately 20 requests from teachers in both schools. Trustee members then vote on which requests to grant.

Michael Manzo, the chief operating officer [COO] of Jersey Mike's Subs and trustee of the foundation, said one of the first grants went to upgrading maps.

"They still had the East Germany, West Germany map," Mr. Manzo said. A Princeton Review English course that all high school students take was also funded by the foundation.

Without funding from the foundation, Mr. Manzo said, students would have to pay out of their own pockets to

take such a course.

Sandy Pasola, a trustee of the foundation, noted the significance of the teacher grants.

Donations through the foundation have "afforded so many extra" tools for students to use that may have otherwise been cut from the budget, Mrs. Pasola said.

## FUNDRAISING

In order to maintain its yearly contributions to the Point Pleasant School District, the foundation hosts four main fundraisers throughout the year.

Coming up on the foundation's schedule is the annual Hall of Fame Dinner, slated for March 30.

This year's honorees include John Pasola, Raymond Ellis, Peter Ryan, Jennifer Hunziker and John Amelchenko.

The foundation also hosts annually golf outing, a 5K run and a cocktail party at Jenkinson's Aquarium.

## TRUSTEES BLEED RED & WHITE

The very people behind the scenes running the foundation know a thing or two about the Point Pleasant School District, as most of them, if not all, walked through the hallways of the elementary and high schools as students.

Mrs. Pasola, who chairs the Hall of Fame Dinner, has been with the foundation since its start in 1992.

Mrs. Pasola, as well as her parents, are all Beach alumni.

"So many people who graduate and can't wait to move away ... come back home because they want

their children to go to this school district," Mrs. Pasola said. "It's a tight-knit community."

Mrs. Pasola continued, "It is so great to see people come back because they want for their children what they had. They call us the 'bubble.'"

Scott Kuzmic, the current president of the foundation, also calls the Point Pleasant Beach School District his alma mater.

"For me, to come back and give back my way gives me a lot of pride," Mr. Kuzmic said. "It's kind of like a circle — everyone keeps giving back."

He continued, "I remember parents and alumni giving back when I was in school and now I think it's our turn to give back. We want to make a difference just like those parents did."

Superintendent John Ravally credits the work of the alumni, community and board members for the foundation's lasting influence.

"I credit their whole vision in developing something that can be sustained," Superintendent Ravally said. "Not too many school districts can sustain a foundation that continues to grow at this level. This foundation has done it for two decades."

## HOW TO CONTRIBUTE

Anyone who is interested in donating or helping with the foundation should contact the Board of Education Office at 732-899-8840, ext. 1101.

For additional information about the school district, visit [www.ptbeach.com](http://www.ptbeach.com).



SUEANNE GOSS THE COAST STAR

The Point Pleasant Beach Public Education Foundation helped raise funds for a new track and lights.

JOHN RAVALLY Superintendent

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SANDY PASOLA Education Foundation Trustee

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