

Superintendent's Highlight of the Week May 11, 2018



This week, our Board of Education recognized students for various achievements accomplished during the Spring semester of this school year. One presentation, made by Principal Murray of POBJFK High School, encompassed what I believe to be one of the greatest acts of humanity exhibited by high school students during my tenure. I am honored to highlight two members of our Class of 2018, Sarah Sonmez and Satnadar Kaur, whose actions have inspired so many, myself included, to be better.

On Tuesday, April 17, the Art Honor Society Induction Ceremony took place in our high school's auditorium; Sarah and Satnadar took part in this beautiful ceremony. Immediately afterward, they realized they missed their bus to their away Varsity Lacrosse game, so they decided to drive together in order to join their team. While traveling on the Northern State Parkway, they were brought to a quick standstill. Initially they believed it was due to rush hour traffic, but as they approached a car parked on the road, they realized there was an accident. They were shocked to find a man lying on the ground beside his car, clearly in great distress. Sarah and Satnadar made a choice at that moment, one that defined who they are as young adults.

They parked their car along the shoulder of the parkway to offer assistance to the injured motorist. Sarah, upon learning medical attention had not been sought out by passersby, asked Satnadar to call for immediate assistance. Being that Sarah is a certified lifeguard, she assessed the victim's injuries and determined he was unable to breathe. She cleared his passageways, to the best of her ability, and performed cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) on him until emergency services arrived and took over.



Unfortunately, the injured motorist, a 30-year old man named Sean Sullivan, from Seaford, NY, succumbed to his injuries shortly after being moved into the ambulance. Sarah and Satnadar, in shock by what they just experienced, continued onward to their lacrosse game.



At Monday night's student recognition presentation at our BOE meeting, Mr. Murray surprised students and guests with a special introduction of the Sullivan family. He invited them to attend, in an attempt to connect them with the students who gave their best to save their beloved's life. The Sullivan family embraced the opportunity to personally thank the girls for their efforts to help save their son and brother. Mrs. Sullivan presented each with a token of their appreciation, a beautiful silver Celtic knot (three-cornered shape) charm on a chain, believed to symbolize "Past, Present, Future", "Mother, Father, Child" or "Power, Intellect, Love". Sarah, visibly touched by the warm gesture, immediately put it on and will surely wear it for years to come.

Due to the strength and courage of our two incredible students, a young man was given the gift of comfort as he took his last breath. Knowing that Sean was not alone when he passed provides great comfort to his family and friends, who are just starting their grieving process. On behalf of the POB school community, we extend our sympathy to the Sullivan family over their great loss.

Sarah and Satnadar, you both are truly POB heroes!