

Higgins, McCarthy are Watchung's 'Teachers of the Year'

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WATCHUNG—The Board of Education took the time at its Wednesday, June 14, meeting to honor a pair of spectacular teachers.

Bayberry School art teacher Katie Higgins and Valley View School math teacher Tim McCarthy were each recognized as "Teacher of the Year" at their respective school.

Superintendent Barbara Resko, along with Valley View Principal Mary Nunn and Bayberry Principal Michael Vignola, praised the teachers at the June 14 board meeting, presenting each of them with a gift.

"Earlier this year we put a committee together to decide on the recipient in each building for "Teacher of the Year," said Resko. "Since we put our nomination application online we received over 30 applications and the committee decided, after much deliberation, that the awards this year

would go to Mr. Tim McCarthy and Mrs. Katie Higgins"

The morning after the decision was made, Resko said, the teachers were greeted at school with handshakes and congratulations.

"The kids were all excited," said Resko, who added the teachers were honored with the Somerset County Teachers of the Year at a ceremony at Raritan Valley Community College.

Higgins and McCarthy were given their gifts before the principals each said a few words about their school's recipient.

A number of students in attendance shared their appreciation for McCarthy and Higgins with loud applause and cheers. Nunn then spoke to the great work that McCarthy does every day at Valley View.

"He certainly makes math fun and I would think you'd all agree with me that he has a wonderful sense of humor," said Nunn. "He does a lot of fun things besides

math as well. His bulletin board outside of his classroom always has something very clever, from how to tie knots to how to slice a bagel.

"Mr. McCarthy is just an incredible math teacher, whether he's teaching algebra or geometry... On PowerSchool he does everything, he knows it inside, outside, the list goes on and on. This is well-deserved and is the second time Mr. McCarthy has received this award here at Valley View, so well-deserved and we're happy to have him on our staff."

PowerSchool is the school district's education technology platform.

Vignola said he admired Higgins' work to transform Bayberry into an art gallery of student artwork every year.

"Probably what the nominations said about Mrs. Higgins, I can't really put it any better: Mrs. Higgins, when it comes time for the Spring Art Show, turns Bayberry School into the Bayberry



From left, Bayberry School art teacher Katie Higgins, Superintendent Barbara Resko and Valley View School math teacher Tim McCarthy are pictured at the Wednesday, June 14, Board of Education meeting after the two educators were named the 2017 'Teachers of the Year.'

Museum of Art. I often say that I've learned more about art history from Mrs. Higgins than I have in my entire life. Whenever I'm touring prospective families coming into the district, I bring them to Mrs. Higgins' room. And

whether it's kindergarten right through fourth grade, I'll say 'Okay, who can tell me about the artist?' because she teaches them about the artist first, and the students will all raise their hand because everybody knows.

"I've been so impressed with your work. Mrs. Higgins also volunteers in several after school activities, sports clubs and helps out in the classroom whenever it's needed. She's a treasure to have at Bayberry."