Greetings,

This past week was again filled with some amazing experiences. Just yesterday, as a

continuation of our observance of Black History Month, I got to meet the first African American

Suffolk County Police Commissioner, Rodney Harrison and Fifth District Court Judge Alonzo

Jacobs who both took the time out of their extremely busy schedules to spend some time at

Bellport High School and speak to students. It was an incredible experience; one part

inspirational and another part moving as we continue to bridge the gap between communities of

color and law enforcement. Both men were able to connect and relate to the students and it was

fantastic to see their interactions. In the evening, I had the privilege of attending the middle

school’s Black History Month celebration and was able to meet

former Jets defensive player Bobby Jackson who spoke to our

community. (I am a Jets f̀ cowiowaf̀ !̉ sat at an all White Woolworth’s Counter in Greensbo

Carolina, during a second day of peaceful protests. Many of us

have seen this photo and have heard about how this event was one of the events that sparked

the civil rights movement. He was one of the Greensboro Four. I cannot begin to tell you how

moved I was to have met him considering that I had seen his image so many times throughout

my life. More than that, I had no idea that Mr. McNeil, who works with our middle school

students in the Empire after school program, was his grandson! It was just an amazing day for

our school community and such a big source of Clipper PRIDE.

So let’s go into our winter break feeling good about our school district and our overall learning

community. Despite the quick passage of time, there are so many great things happening and I

continue to be impressed and feel privileged to be serving you all as superintendent.

As I mentioned last week, thank you all for continually working towards fostering an inclusive

and accepting learning environment for all our community members.