

The Scarsdale Inquirer

Founded in 1901

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2011

Edgemont m how to comp with new reg

By DEBBIE ANDERS

The attitude among administrators regarding the state's new mandated annual professional performance review for teachers might best be expressed by the classic ad for Hebrew National hotdogs: "We answer to a higher authority." In this case, that authority is the Edgemont School District. At Tuesday's meeting of the Edgemont Board of Education, assistant principal Devan Ganesananathan presented an overview of what the state would require, how the district will address those requirements, and a time frame in which it will be executed.

In a 71-page report released this month on the website nysed.gov, the APPR stipulates that teachers' performance would be rated on four levels of achievement: highly effective, effective, developing or ineffective. Twenty percent of the assessments would be based on state selected measures, 20 percent on local measures and 60 percent on teacher/principal assessments. It was not clear what was meant by the term 'local'. Ganesananathan said the teacher/principal assessment portion would most likely employ Edgemont's teacher-learning model that has been followed since 2005.

The APPR, which was adopted in the board's resolution on Sept. 13, is not expected to be applicable until the Edgemont Teachers' Association negotiates a new contract, which takes effect July of 2013. Until that time, Ganesananathan and high school English teacher Chris-

tine Cecere will use the model as its guideline. A professional development committee to review how to maintain high standards while complying with the state's new regulations, said, "These regulations are the TLM methods and

For years Edgemont's teacher assessment model has been a professional development model. It was developed by education consultant lotte Danielson. The model focuses on the growth of teachers' professional growth, with specific focus on planning and preparation, instruction, and assessment responsibilities. Teachers had an opportunity to receive formative evaluations through growth plan entailed search projects, peer review, and individual teacher collaboration.

This summer, the district had to comply with the new regulations. This was discussed in a meeting attended by Edgemont's Board of Education.

Superintendent N...

critical of the state's

its reliance on stan-

rather than profess-

the same methodol-

Bush era No Child

initiative, which result-

scores and many sc-

Ca

Nonpartisan gro revises amendm

By LINDA LEAVITT

The Scarsdale Procedure Committee has considered oral and written comments on its proposed amendments to the nonpartisan resolution that governs village elections and adopted a new draft. Residents will vote on the amendments at the Citizens Nominating Committee election Nov. 15. The CNC, comprised of representatives from each of the village's five elementary school neighborhoods, nominates nonpartisan candidates for mayor, village trustee and village justice.

Elections for the Scarsdale Village Board are traditionally uncontested and conducted according to the nonpartisan resolution, originally adopted in 1930, and subsequently amended 39 times. But the goal of the nonpartisan system remains nominating Citizens Party candidates by consensus without regard to political affiliation. Independent candidates have occasionally challenged the establishment, but the Citizens Party usually prevailed.

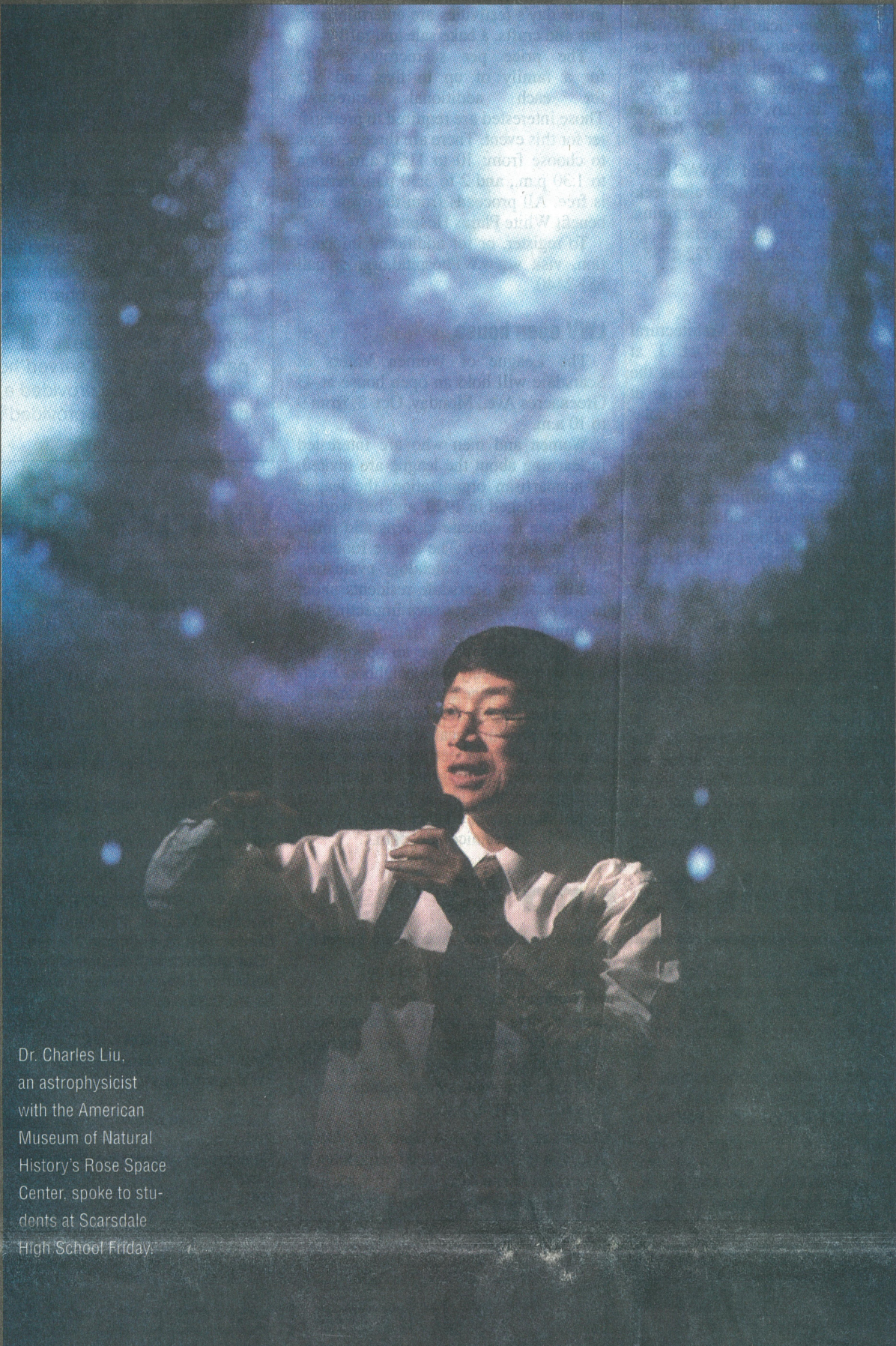
In contrast to the elections for mayor and village trustee, the nominating committee elections are contested by design, though not along national party lines. Each elementary school area is supposed to have a choice of four candidates and

elect two each year.

The deliberations were strictly confidential, politics and political process. The first proposed amendments to the resolution released last week required a majority on all CNC members have always discussed the meeting widely disregarded the election. Both the trustee, which proposed the Nonpartisan Procedure of the Scarsdale Village Board advisory reports on the system, recommending formalizing the process. However, Procedure Committee member Michelle Lichstein said its meeting last week was our work from June. We received feedback received from sources over the summer to table the confidence until next year.

The Inquirer received people calling for nonpartisan the village election process did not say if those

Ca



Dr. Charles Liu, an astrophysicist with the American Museum of Natural History's Rose Space Center, spoke to students at Scarsdale High School Friday.

FAR OUT!

Galaxy Forum launches at Scarsdale High School

Five hundred Scarsdale High School students and staff attended the first-ever Galaxy Forum at the school last Friday. The event was organized by alumnus Steve Durst, class of 1961 and founder of the International Lunar Observatory in Hawaii. Durst arranged for Dr. Charles Liu, astrophysicist on staff at the American Museum of Natural History Hayden Planetarium/Rose Center for Earth and Space, to give a 20-minute talk on the history of the universe, focusing on the discovery by Edwin Hubble 90 years ago of the Milky Way galaxy.

"The Galaxy Forum was created to discuss where we are in this relatively new domain. It wasn't too long ago we didn't know what galaxies were, or that we are part of one. There are 100 billion other galaxies out there," said Durst by phone from Palo Alto, Calif., Wednesday.

"Liu is a great speaker. He gave a Renaissance man presentation, with songs and dances and jokes — sometimes corny ones. And he gave time to the students after 20 minutes for a question-and-answer period. He is on sabbatical from the museum now to write a college textbook," said Durst.

Durst said Dr. Jeffrey Hoffman, SHS class of 1962, MIT professor and five-time shuttle astronaut, could not attend but videotaped a talk that was part of the Galaxy Forum's one-hour event. Teachers and students met in the SHS science department offices after the presentation to talk further with Liu and Durst.

Durst was named a distinguished alumnus of Scarsdale High School in 2010.

—CARRIE GILPIN

Library celebrates its 60th birthday with fun and f

By LINDA LEAVITT

cents; children, if they owed more