



Board Briefings

ITEMS FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD'S TUESDAY, JAN. 8 MEETING:

- **STUDENT PLEDGE LEADERS** — Union Pleasant Elementary students Abigail Early, Michael Gomolka, Julia McCormick and Matthew Pandolfino led the Pledge of Allegiance to start the meeting.
- **KUDOS TO STAFF MEMBER** — A commendation was presented to Camille McDonnell, a teacher aide at the Middle School, for her quick response in performing the Heimlich maneuver to save a student who was choking on food.
- **UNION PLEASANT'S LEARNING PLAN** — Union Pleasant Elementary Principal Jacqueline Peffer and Assistant Principal Sue Wilson spoke on how the school is carrying out its commitments to two areas of the District Strategic Plan. The efforts focus on assuring that instructional programs promote the modern learning skills of creative and critical thinking, productive collaboration and effective communication, and that use of time benefits student learning and promotes teacher collaboration. Mrs. Peffer said that multi-disciplinary learning teams have been established to foster collaboration between staff members who might not normally interact. Staff members are also focusing on three research-based teaching strategies from "The Core Six" this school year as a resource to bridge the "knowing and doing" gap and to help students become independent learners. A recent activity that engaged students and staff around vocabulary was the school's Wear a Word Day. Mrs. Peffer is also utilizing her new Twitter skills, as is Mrs. Wilson, to share the school's "story." The school is keeping a balance between high-tech and low-tech learning with such activities as the 50-member Marbles Club, overseen by teacher Damon Beiter. While students demonstrated an old-fashioned marbles game at the meeting, Mr. Beiter noted that they're mastering techniques and strategies, while socializing and learning sportsmanship.
- **CAPITAL PROJECTS** — The district will complete additional facilities improvements with the approximate \$1 million remaining from the 2016 capital project. The upcoming work to be done this summer is within the scope of the original project and will be submitted for state approval, said Barbara Sporyz, Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services and Finance. All six schools will benefit from the additional work, which may include such items as replacing fencing, stage curtains and window shades, and repainting. On another front, the district is moving forward with planning for capital project 2020. The board approved having consultant Gordon W. Jones Associates Architects conduct a building conditions survey to identify priority items that might be included in the project. An athletic facilities subcommittee met in December to formulate ideas for inclusion. This information will be shared with the full committee in February. Mrs. Sporyz will meet with financial advisors this month to define the maximum financial scope of the project. Also this month, administrators will meet with consultants to address program needs that will drive the project.
- **BUDGET TIMELINE** — The board approved the 2019-20 budget timeline as follows: tentative budget adoption by the board, Tuesday, April 16; last day for school board candidates to file petitions, Monday, April 22; budget public hearing, Tuesday, May 14; annual budget vote and board election, Tuesday, May 21.
- **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT** — The district is building upon the already excellent leadership in the schools through administrator peer collaborations because good leadership translates into great learning for students, said Superintendent Michael Cornell. Working in groups of three, administrators are using the books "Learning Transformed" and "Lincoln on Leadership" as the basis for much of their discussions.
- **PERSONNEL** — The board accepted the retirement of Beverly Bomberski, senior clerk typist in the High School Counseling Center, effective Jan. 1, 2020, with 24 years of service.
- **PUBLIC COMMENT** — Andrea Nikischer spoke about school day start times for secondary students.
- **FUTURE MEETINGS** — Tuesday, Jan. 29 (budget work session) at 6 p.m. at the Administration Building & Tuesday, Feb. 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the Armor Elementary LMC

Michael Cornell, Superintendent
Jan. 9, 2019