



Board Briefings

ITEMS FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD'S TUESDAY, FEB. 12 BUDGET WORK SESSION & MEETING:

- **2019-20 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT** — At the School Board's first work session on the 2019-20 budget, Assistant Superintendent Barbara Sporyz reviewed past finances and tax facts, including the history of fund balances and reserves. There was discussion about the "2% tax cap" and its implication on the tax levy. While there will be a rate increase affecting the district's contribution to employee health insurance, a rate decrease is projected for its contribution to the state retirement systems. Mrs. Sporyz estimated total budget revenue at \$72.6 million. Topics for the next budget work session on Feb. 26 will be enrollments, expenditures, and the "gap" between revenue and expenditures.
- **PLEDGE LEADERS** — Armor Elementary students Joseph Barile, Willow Lewis, Kayla Fitzgerald, Addison Kirchberger, Alex Weber and Nathan Knisely led the Pledge of Allegiance to start the meeting. They were selected for this honor for their leadership attitude and school pride.
- **ARMOR VOLUNTEER RECOGNIZED** — Volunteer Joyce Nowadly was recognized for her 12 years of service at Armor Elementary. She assists at the school daily and was praised for her willingness to help wherever and whenever needed.
- **ARMOR'S SCHOOL BUILDING PLAN** — As it marks its 50th anniversary, Armor Elementary is celebrating the past and embracing the future. As such, rich traditions are meeting modern learning, said Principal Leslie Bennett. Based on feedback from a staff survey, the school's educational priorities include growth mindset, having students take ownership of their learning and Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM). Drawing from the district's Strategic Plan, the school is committed to assuring that use of time benefits student learning and promotes teacher collaboration, as well as focusing professional learning to support students in developing as modern learners. Staff learning teams have been established and staff members have set personal learning goals. Mrs. Bennett discussed ways in which modern learning is occurring daily in classrooms and how students are expressing "caring" by collaborating on projects. Third graders Danica Oroszi and Brooke Reese demonstrated a pollination model coded for movement, while second graders Avery Naum, Liliana Shubert and Griffin Terranova, who are among the Armor STEM Buddies, were on hand to talk about blankets that students made for the homeless.
- **FARM TO SCHOOL** — The district's Farm to School initiative has gained momentum since a team attended the three-day Northeast Farm to School Institute retreat last summer, created an action plan and received a \$5,000 grant for this year's projects. The initiative has resulted in more professional learning for the food service staff and an emphasis on using local food products in school meals, said Food Service Director Anne Rich. Taste testings and Harvest of the Month promotions are helping to introduce students to the many healthy food choices available in the school cafeterias, she said. Volunteer Tricia Miller has been a driving force in the activities. Last month, for a second year, the district was recognized with a Partnership Award at the New York State School Nutrition Association conference for its school-community connections.
- **VIDEO ON MODERN LEARNING SPACES** — The third in a series of promotional videos produced in-house to "tell the Hamburg Central story" made its debut. The newest video highlights the modern learning spaces that were created in the recently completed capital project, focusing on the LMCs at the High School and Middle School, and Middle School Family & Consumer Sciences rooms. The video will be shared with the community through social media.
- **HTA CONTRACT** — The board unanimously approved a five-year contract with the district's largest bargaining unit, the 340-member Hamburg Teachers' Association. Superintendent Michael Cornell and Board President Thomas Flynn commended the collaborative spirit that resulted in the agreement. The contract, effective Sept. 1, 2018 through Aug. 31, 2023, provides annual salary increases averaging nearly 2% over the life of the agreement.

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• **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT** — Mr. Cornell announced that he has been accepted into a four-day professional development program for Superintendents in May at Harvard University.

• **PERSONNEL** — The board accepted the following retirements: Carolyn Durni, special education teacher, Middle School, 38 years of service; Maureen Garra, special education teacher, Armor Elementary, 22 years; Rose Naeger, speech teacher, Union Pleasant Elementary, 23 years, all effective June 30, 2019. Also, Charlene McGowan, teacher aide, High School, 18 years, effective June 27, 2019 and Barbara Quinn, cook manager, High School, 31 years, effective April 13, 2019. Appointed to the staff were: James Maloney, Interim Director of Pupil Services; Rosa Kingsley, teacher aide, Union Pleasant Elementary and Lorie Busch, cafeteria monitor (part-time), Union Pleasant Elementary.

• **PUBLIC COMMENT** — Don Flynn spoke about the backup system for lights when a power outage affects a school.

• **FUTURE MEETINGS** — Tuesday, Feb. 26 (budget work session) at 6 p.m. at the Administration Building & Tuesday, March 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the Charlotte Avenue Elementary LMC

Michael Cornell, Superintendent
Feb. 13, 2019