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# Board Briefings

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## ITEMS FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD'S TUESDAY, DEC. 11 MEETING:

- **STUDENT PLEDGE LEADERS** — Hamburg Middle School eighth graders Macey Blum, Parker "Elton" Endress, Natalie Evans and Matigan Fitzgerald led the Pledge of Allegiance to start the meeting.
- **MIDDLE SCHOOL LEARNING PLAN** — Middle School Principal Jennifer Barker showed a video and spoke on how staff members are "learning together" this school year through collaboration and professional development, the building's priorities based on the District Strategic Plan. The school has established learning teams to bring together colleagues who might not normally interact, engaged in learning walks to see and share instructional practices from other classrooms and sponsored team building activities. The rollout of Chromebooks continues, with grades 7 & 8 teachers to receive devices and instruction prior to the distribution to students. On the Dec. 14th half-day, staff members will participate in an area of professional learning of interest to them.
- **DISTRICTWIDE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING** — The district is delivering high quality professional learning experiences to staff members this school year by giving them a voice in what they learn, using internal expertise, encouraging inquiry and risk-taking, making mandated training relevant and modeling modern learning. These were the key points from Assistant Superintendent Colleen Kaney as a lead-in to a presentation showing how the commitment to professional learning from the District Strategic Plan is being implemented. Kaitlin Sylvester, Coordinator of Curriculum & Instruction, reported that about 450 employees participated in professional development on-site on the October Superintendent Conference Day. There were 40 morning learning sessions with 30 facilitators, followed by afternoon collaborative work. Learning facilitator Beth Bittar expanded on her role of working with teachers to better meet the instructional needs of special education students. Middle School math teacher Andrea Tretter and special education teacher Rhonda Mills said the new instructional strategies they have learned and put into practice in the classroom are having a dramatic impact on students, who have become more reflective, engaged and collaborative.
- **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT** — Superintendent Michael Cornell commended the training on restorative justice held last week in separate sessions for school personnel and then nearly 60 High School and Middle School DASA student Ambassadors. The student session was in preparation for the Ambassador visits to elementary schools in the spring to promote the district's "Culture of Kindness."
- **PERSONNEL** — The board accepted the retirement of Marilyn Rozler, senior clerk typist at Armor Elementary School, effective Dec. 31, with 19 years of service. The following appointments were approved: Lisa Crowe, senior clerk typist, Pupil Services, Administration Building, effective Dec. 26; Nancy Herdic, senior clerk typist, Armor Elementary; Nikki McCrohan, cafeteria monitor (part-time), Middle School.
- **PUBLIC COMMENT** — Andrea Nikischer spoke about school day start times for secondary students.
- **FUTURE MEETINGS** — Tuesday, Jan. 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the Union Pleasant Elementary Adult Learning Center & Tuesday, Jan. 29 (budget work session) at 6 p.m. at the Administration Building

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Michael Cornell, Superintendent  
Dec. 12, 2018

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