



Board Briefings

ITEMS FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD'S TUESDAY, FEB. 13 MEETING:

- **STUDENT PLEDGE LEADERS** — Armor Elementary fourth graders Kate Blackwell, Andrew Giuliana, Vinny Nguyen and Naomi Martinez Perez, with third grader Alex Hromchak, led the Pledge of Allegiance to start the meeting. They are members of an integrated English as a New Language class or a friend of a student in the class. Principal Leslie Bennett said many of this year's school activities have an international theme in exploration of multi-culturism, diversity and unity.
- **NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION** — The board honored three teachers who have achieved National Board Certification: Sheri Green, Middle School French; David Mancuso, High School science; and JoAnn Thomasson, Middle School/High School French. Superintendent Michael Cornell commended them for being leaders of learning in their classroom and for completing a rigorous three-year process that places them at the top of the profession.
- **FOOD SERVICE** — Since joining the district's Food Service Department as director last summer, Anne Rich has taken steps to modernize operations, increase the number of students served, offer healthier food items and bring more local products into the school cafeterias. This includes upgrading the Food Service section of the district website to include interactive menus with nutrition information. Taste testings with the help of parent volunteer Tricia Miller are exposing students to many healthy food options. Last fall's Big Apple Crunch, where nearly 1,900 students and adults at Hamburg's four elementary schools simultaneously ate New York State grown apples, was another opportunity that promoted wellness and local farm produce. Such events as a "try it before you buy it" tasting at the High School and special occasion menu themes are also encouraging increased participation in the school lunch program. Mrs. Rich recently received a Farm to School Partnership Award from the New York School Nutrition Association for building partnerships with parent volunteers and area vendors/farmers to bring more locally-grown food items into the cafeterias.
- **PERSONNEL** — The board accepted the following retirements, effective June 23, 2018: Jeanette Benson, Middle School music teacher, 20 years of service; Evelyn Clark, PreK teacher, 33 years; Susan Kopryanski, Armor Elementary teacher, 14 years; Lynn Wawrzynek, High School science teacher, 16 years; Eloise Zoyhofski, Boston Valley Elementary consultant teacher, 18 years. Approval was given to the appointment of Shannon Gilmartin as a clerk typist (part-time) in the Food Service Office. The board also created a part-time maintenance mechanic position to be filled by Kevin Strong, who retires Feb. 23 as maintenance mechanic crew chief, so that he can conduct weekend building and weather checks, as needed for certain months, until March 31, 2019.
- **PUBLIC COMMENT** — High School students Annika Smith and Bailey Duffy asked that students be allowed to participate in the Lille exchange program next year.
- **FUTURE MEETINGS** — Tuesday, Feb. 27 (budget work session) at 6 p.m. at the Administration Building & Tuesday, March 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the Middle School

Michael Cornell, Superintendent
Feb. 14, 2018