



Board Briefings

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

• **BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING** — Details of the proposed 2018-19 budget were presented by Assistant Superintendent Barbara Sporyz. The budget totals \$70.12 million, a 3.4% increase from the current year. It stays within the allowable tax levy limit ("tax cap") while preserving all current programs and adding new positions and learning opportunities. It was noted that the total amount of property tax to be levied by this budget is actually lower than in 2015-16. And, the vast majority of the levy increase is attributable to the lag in state aid reimbursement for the 2016 capital project. The budget goes to public vote on Tuesday, May 15 from 7 a.m.-9 p.m. at Hamburg High School.

• **BOARD MEMBER ACHIEVEMENT** — Board member Laura Heeter was recognized for receiving an Excellence Award from the New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA). She attained the second highest out of four levels of achievement for participating in NYSSBA training to expand her knowledge and skills in board governance. Superintendent Michael Cornell said he was grateful for board members who are deeply engaged in their work.

• **MOMENT OF SILENCE** — The board observed a moment of silence in honor of the late Casey Neyman, a School Board member from 2008-11.

• **RECOGNITION FOR MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TEAM** — Members of the district's mental health first training team were commended for educating staff members districtwide in the risk factors, warning signs and appropriate response to mental health situations. Honored were Colleen Kaney, Julie Hoerner, Jennifer Giallella, Nicole Dayka, Jilian Accurso, Heather Cantie, Jennifer Carducci, Wendy Castiglia-Amato and Tina LaMendola. This recognition coincides with Mental Health Awareness Month in May. Ms. Kaney noted that by September, all staff members will have received the mental health training. Its purpose is to decrease the stigma associated with mental health issues and to equip staff members with the knowledge to respond to these situations until help arrives or the situation resolves. The training is being funded by a grant from the Peter and Elizabeth C. Tower Foundation .

• **DIGITAL STORYTELLING** — The first Hamburg Central promotional video premiered, with a focus on the district's success in creating a "Culture of Kindness" through the DASA team and High School student Ambassadors. This topic was chosen because it reflects one of the district's core values: ensuring that Hamburg's schools are kind and welcoming to all. Using a visual medium and the power of social media to "tell Hamburg's story" also aligns with another of the district's priorities: enhancing communication with stakeholders. The video, which is the first in what will be a series, was produced in-house by Patrick Wirth, district technology integration specialist, and Michele Darstein, community relations coordinator. It can be viewed on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=giieojkujtQ>.

• **2018-19 SCHOOL CALENDAR** — Approval was given to the 2018-19 school calendar. It shows the first day of school for students as Wednesday, Sept. 5, preceded by a Superintendent Conference Day for staff on Tuesday, Sept. 4. The last day of classes for elementary students will be Friday, June 21, 2019. The last teacher day will be Wednesday, June 26, 2019. High School graduation is Saturday, June 29, 2019. The approved calendar will be posted on the district website.

• **PERSONNEL** — The board granted tenure to Elaine Nowak, teacher at Armor Elementary School, effective Sept. 1. It also accepted the retirement of Jocelyn Rola, teacher aide at Union Pleasant Elementary School, with 24 years of service, effective June 23.

• **FUTURE MEETINGS** — Tuesday, June 12 & Tuesday, July 10 (reorganization meeting) at 6:30 p.m. at the Administration Building

Michael Cornell, Superintendent
May 9, 2018