



Board Briefings

ITEMS FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD'S TUESDAY, OCT. 10 MEETING:

- **STUDENT PLEDGE LEADERS** — Charlotte Avenue students Jaylen Jones, Level 5, and Elliott Zientek, Level 3, led the Pledge of Allegiance to start the meeting. Jaylen was selected for his determination and dedication to continually growing and achieving. Elliott was chosen for his exemplary work ethic.
- **COMMENDED** — Jennifer Ricey, an aide in the PreK program at Charlotte Avenue, was commended for her quick thinking and decisive action in performing the Heimlich maneuver to assist a student who was choking. Superintendent Michael Cornell said that her heroic actions show how protective Hamburg's employees are toward their students, treating them like their own children.
- **CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE** — Long-range planning is beginning in preparation for the district's next capital improvement project. A tentative timeline leading up to a public vote on the project in 2021 was presented by Steve Perrigo of Turner Construction Co. Turner is the district's construction management firm for the current \$9.875 million capital improvement project approved by voters last year. The next project will be shaped not only by needs identified in the the mandated five-year building condition survey but by the academic program envisioned for the future. The first step in this process will be formation of a capital project committee to begin gathering information from stakeholders.
- **EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT** — Sara Dayton of external auditor Lumsden & McCormick said a "clean" opinion was issued after an examination of district financial statements for July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017. This indicates that the financial statements were fairly presented in accordance with general accounting standards. Additionally, the management letter indicated no "material weaknesses."
- **CELEBRATING STUDENT LEARNING** — Charlotte Avenue Principal Danielle Lango invited the board to view hallway displays celebrating student learning and recognizing good character. The school is committed to the districtwide initiative of making learning *more* visible this year, Mrs. Lango said. This includes putting into action the tools and classroom strategies for improving teaching and learning introduced to the district by Harvey Silver, Ed.D., of Silver Strong & Associates. Mrs. Lango thanked the district for making this investment.
- **STEM RECOGNITION FOR HIGH SCHOOL** — Mr. Cornell noted that Hamburg High School has received recognition for the Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) opportunities afforded to students. WNY STEM Hub designated Hamburg for a Schools on the Move Award at the Engaged Level, the third highest out of four levels. The application for recognition was submitted by teachers Kaci Nowadly and Krissy Lawrence. The district was recognized as an Emerging School System in 2014 by the same organization.
- **EVACUATION/RELOCATION DRILL** — Boston Valley Elementary School's evacuation/relocation drill on Oct. 6 was well-orchestrated and was good training for staff members, reported Barbara Sporyz, Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services & Finance. This was the first time that a school dismissed students directly from a relocation site. Staff members adapted to some unexpected issues, which was beneficial experience for what might occur in a real-life situation, Mrs. Sporyz said.
- **COMPUTER DONATION** — The board accepted the donation of five laptop computers valued at \$1,250 from teacher Rachel Kent for use by English students at the High School with special needs.
- **PERSONNEL** — The board appointed Kaitlin Sylvester as coordinator of curriculum and instruction. Stephen Bykowicz was named as maintenance mechanic crew chief, effective Jan. 15, 2018. He will succeed Kevin Strong, who will retire next February. The board also accepted the retirement of Terrance Mecca, head custodian at the High School, effective Dec. 23, with 22 years of service. Other appointments include: Gregory Bonnes, head custodian, Armor Elementary; Amy Eschberger, teacher aide, Middle School; Heather Frier, Food Service helper, Charlotte Avenue Elementary; Shannon Gilmartin, Food Service helper, Middle School; Michelle Koszelak, teacher aide, Union Pleasant Elementary; Christopher Lawkowski, cleaner, Boston Valley Elementary; Wanda Trumpler, senior account clerk, Administration Building; Lauran Whiting, school monitor cafeteria (part-time), Charlotte Avenue Elementary.
- **PUBLIC COMMENT** — Two parents spoke about the third grade class size at Union Pleasant Elementary School.
- **FUTURE MEETINGS**— Tuesday, Nov. 14 at Union Pleasant Elementary & Tuesday, Dec. 12 at the High School, both at 6:30 p.m.

Michael Cornell, Superintendent
Oct. 11, 2017