



Board Briefings

ITEMS FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD'S TUESDAY, NOV. 14 MEETING:

- **STUDENT PLEDGE LEADERS** — Union Pleasant Elementary students Tess Barber, Zoey Barmosz, Emilie Collins, Benjamin Herbst and Addison Washburn led the Pledge of Allegiance to start the meeting. They were selected for the honor for their patriotism. Each can name all 50 states. Ben, Emilie and Nolan Lawrence (who was unable to attend) can also name all the state capitals. Ben and Nolan can additionally name all the U.S. presidents and recite the preamble to the Constitution.
- **SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION** — Artwork created by students at each of the schools was featured as School Board members were honored for statewide School Board Recognition Week 2017. The contributing artists were: Addison Kirchberger, Armor Elementary; Jhayselle Ice de la Cruz, Boston Valley Elementary; Maeve Daley and Lilianna Mazurkiewicz, Charlotte Avenue Elementary; Caryla Courteau and Ryan Metzger, Union Pleasant Elementary; Miranda Getty, Ryan McClusky and Deontae Smith, Middle School; Steven Ball, Ella Nasca and Cassidy Schunk, High School. Copies of the artwork were presented to each of the seven board members, as well as five central office staff members. Superintendent Michael Cornell thanked board members for their commitment to the learning, growth and development of children and for their insight as partners in leadership.
- **KUDOS FOR YOUTH-AT-RISK COORDINATOR** — Nicole Dayka was commended for her dedication to uniting school and community in support of the well-being of children and young adults. Mrs. Dayka assists struggling families in her role as youth-at-risk coordinator for the school district and Town of Hamburg. She was also recently lauded as the Erie County Legislature's "Citizen of the Month."
- **PTSA UPDATE** — Dana Lamb, Hamburg Central PTSA President, spoke about the workshops, speakers and networking opportunities afforded to her and Vice President Candy Ditekowski at this year's New York State PTA Convention. The convention reinforced the message of being a champion for every child. Mrs. Lamb encouraged everyone in the school community to become involved as a PTSA member and advocate for children.
- **EDUCATIONAL ATHLETICS** — The district's Health, Physical Education and Recreation Office, headed by Director Patrick Cauley, is responsible for a vast program that includes student athletics, K-12 physical education and health education, school nurses and recreational facility use. The Bulldog athletics philosophy emphasizes a growth mindset of education, experience and enjoyment, Mr. Cauley said. Athletics is seen as a vehicle to foster physical, mental, social and emotional growth among participants. Those involved in the program strive to ensure all student athletes compete with class, integrity and sportsmanship. The athletics program oversees 66 teams in 32 sports in partnership with 69 district employed coaches and 15 volunteer assistants. Last school year, 1,539 students participated in interscholastic athletics and all teams met scholar athlete standards. Mr. Cauley praised secretary Pegge Cook for her assistance in coordinating the operation.
- **SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER** — For the first time, the district will have a school resource officer in its buildings under an agreement reached with the Village of Hamburg and its Police Department. This officer will be a liaison for the exchange of information and serve as a resource for all who learn in, work at and visit the schools, said Superintendent Michael Cornell. The officer is expected to be on board in the spring. Mr. Cornell thanked Hamburg Village Mayor Tom Moses, Village Administrator Donald Witkowski and Village Chief of Police Michael Melisz for partnering with the district on this new arrangement.
- **STRATEGIC PLANNING** — Mr. Cornell reported that approximately 50 stakeholders met this month to work on updating the district's Strategic Plan. Much of the committee's discussion centered on creating a vision for the district's future and updating the mission statement. A subcommittee is being formed to focus on that task. It will report back to the full committee in March, as action steps are developed for 2018-19. The updated plan will be presented to the School Board in June.
- **REVISED 2017-18 SCHOOL CALENDAR** — Approval was given to changing the current school year calendar due to recent guidance from the State Education Department regarding requirements for student attendance days. These changes affect several half days and full days of attendance for elementary and Middle School students. The revised calendar is posted on the school district website.

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• **CAPITAL PROJECT BIDS** — Bids totaling \$5.1 million were awarded for reconstruction work for the capital project approved by voters in May 2016. All six schools will receive facility improvements through this project. Work will begin in the near future on second shift and during recess times.

• **DONATION TO MUSIC PROGRAM** — The board accepted a donation to the music program at Union Pleasant Elementary School from Jason and Meghan Ruh.

• **PERSONNEL** — Karen MacGamwell was appointed as Interim Principal at Boston Valley Elementary School. The board accepted the retirement of Robert Best, maintenance mechanic, with 36 years of service. Lisa Battershell was appointed to the newly-created clerk typist (full-time) Civil Service position in the Information Services/Central Registrar's Office.

• **FUTURE MEETINGS**— Tuesday, Dec. 12 at the High School & Tuesday, Jan. 9 at Boston Valley Elementary, both at 6:30 p.m.

Michael Cornell, Superintendent
Nov. 15, 2017