



# Board Briefings

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

• **HAMBURG IDA** — Sean Doyle, Executive Director of the Hamburg Industrial Development Agency (HIDA), spoke on the agency's mission of promoting planned business growth to enhance the tax base. This is accomplished through financial incentives for new facility construction and existing business expansion. The agency has rebranded into the Hamburg Development Companies, which has three components: the HIDA, the Hamburg New York Land Development Corp. and the Loan Fund, each of which has a role in supporting economic development. In order to be eligible for financial incentives, companies must meet certain criteria and prove economic need, Mr. Doyle said, and they are monitored for performance through the tax abatement period to ensure they maintain their labor commitment. Within the Hamburg Central School District, there are 22 active projects receiving payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILOT) tax abatement. This represents \$4.8 million in new taxable value, currently netting \$192,781 in added school tax revenue for the district. Mr. Doyle said the agency is focusing on cultivating economic development from within the Town of Hamburg, such as local start-up businesses, rather than courting outside companies.

• **STATEMENT REGARDING PROPOSED ASPHALT PLANT** — Superintendent Michael Cornell read a statement regarding the district's stance on a proposed asphalt plant at the site of the former Great Lakes Concrete on Camp Road. The project is before the Hamburg Town Planning Board for approval. School district leaders have been following the issue, have had discussion with the Hamburg Town Supervisor and Village of Hamburg Mayor, and consulted with environmental experts to becoming more educated about the potential health and safety challenges that could result from the plant. The district has athletic fields within 1,200 feet of the proposed project and school buildings within 2,300 feet. Mr. Cornell noted that he and the School Board have no formal role in the decision making on this project and no authority over who operates businesses in the district. Further, taking a public position on the proposal would be well outside the traditional purview of the school district, he said. He added, however, that the district is grateful for the Planning Board's careful deliberations and supports its efforts to require robust environmental analysis from the applicant.

• **BOARD & SUPERINTENDENT PERFORMANCE GOALS** — As its performance goal for this school year, the School Board will take an active role as the district develops plans for a capital improvement project to go to public vote no later than the end of 2020. This includes engaging in public discussion during School Board meetings, participating in committee meetings and holding a public hearing in preparation for the community vote. As one of his goals, Mr. Cornell will ensure that the board is prepared to propose the public referendum. As his second goal, the Superintendent will continue to oversee implementation of the six commitments concerning educational opportunities in the district's Strategic Plan. Reports on progress toward these commitments will be given at board meetings in December and May.

• **PERSONNEL** — Appointed to the staff were: Amanda Destro, special education teacher, Union Pleasant Elementary; Christina Gervase, remedial reading teacher, Armor Elementary; Leah Janus, teacher aide, Union Pleasant Elementary; Brooke Heider, cafeteria monitor (part-time), Charlotte Avenue Elementary; Sarajane Kiera, teacher aide, Union Pleasant Elementary; Cristen Leary, teacher aide, Union Pleasant Elementary; Melissa Lestenkof, teacher aide, High School; Lynn Lyford, school nurse, High School; Constance McConnell, cafeteria monitor (part-time), Union Pleasant Elementary; Eric Moscato, teacher aide, High School; Destiny Puchalski, teacher, Armor Elementary; Kelly Reading, teacher, Armor Elementary; Danielle Schaefer, art teacher (part-time), Charlotte Avenue Elementary; Bonnie Sullivan, teacher aide, Union Pleasant Elementary; Susan Walterich, LMC teacher (part-time), Boston Valley Elementary, effective Sept. 20.

• **NEXT MEETING** — Tuesday, Oct. 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the Boston Valley Elementary School LMC

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Michael Cornell, Superintendent  
Sept. 11, 2019