

District's new treasurer versed in municipal finance

Bringing experience in municipal finance, Kathleen Selby has joined the Hamburg Central School District as treasurer. Most recently, Mrs. Selby served for nearly 15 years as budget director and bookkeeper for the Town of Boston. She also has private sector experience as a tax specialist, tax accountant and general ledger/accounts payable accountant, as well as volunteer service as a treasurer with community organizations.



K. Selby

Mrs. Selby holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from Canisius College.

She succeeds Diane Haight, who retired after five years with the district but is continuing in a consultant capacity during the transition. At the November School Board meeting, Mrs. Haight was presented with a certificate thanking her for serving the district with integrity and professionalism.

Mrs. Selby's appointment was effective Dec. 1. She joins the team in the Business Office at the Administration Building, under the direction of Barbara Sporyz, Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services & Finance.

Register online for spring athletics

The Hamburg Central School District is now offering the convenience of online registration for student athletic participation through a program called Family ID. Family ID is a secure registration platform that provides an easy, user friendly way to register for school athletic programs, and helps the district to be more administratively efficient and environmentally responsible.

The program was put into effect this past winter and more than 500 families successfully registered their children into the athletic program. For the spring athletic season, the link on the district website will be active for sign-up from Wednesday, Feb. 1 to Friday, March 10. This link will be located on the homepage of the athletics section of the website as of Feb. 1.

Please note that if you registered your child for a winter sport, you will have to sign up again for the spring season. Questions? Please call Pat Cauley at 646-3344.



Superintendent's Column

Strategic planning fans the fire of learning

It has been said that "education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire." Because of the unique and dynamic needs of each of the children whom we serve, helping each of them keep that "fire" of learning lit from PreK through graduation, and giving them the tools to sustain it well into their lives as adults, requires great care, planning and coordination. For that reason, a primary focus for the school district this year has been on our long-term strategic planning process so that all of our efforts on behalf of our students are thoughtful and aligned according to a strategic plan that truly reflects who we are and what we do as a school district.

On Oct. 26th, our District Strategic Planning Committee, which comprises 53 teachers, support staff, administrators and community members, engaged in a full day of facilitated activities designed to begin the process of updating the Hamburg Central School District Strategic Plan for 2017-2018. While it might seem strange to start revising the plan for next year already, best practice in long-term planning suggests that starting early and spacing out meetings is the surest way to establish a planning cycle that positively, and incrementally, impacts teaching and learning.

Our day together as a school community was enjoyable and productive. The focus of the day was entirely on assuring that our

stakeholders had multiple opportunities to share their impressions and aspirations about how, what and why students learn in our schools. Members of the committee offered detailed feedback on the 2016-2017 Strategic Plan, while also engaged in an initial analysis of graduation data for the last three school years. Among the outcomes from the day were:

- A deeper appreciation from all participants for the great work that each does on behalf of students each day
- An enhanced understanding of the ways in which the next iteration of our Strategic Plan can better describe and align our initiatives

• An acknowledgement that there are many opportunities for us to support the growth and development of our students differently in the future

- A sense of excitement and optimism for the future of our school district and for what we can accomplish together

The very nature of sustaining a love for learning in the hearts and minds of nearly 3,600 students requires that our entire organization be deliberate and committed to that pursuit. Our ongoing strategic planning process is a central element to coordinating those efforts. We are so fortunate for the support and insight that our colleagues are willing to contribute to our District Strategic Planning Committee and we look forward to our second meeting on March 15, 2017.



Michael Cornell
Superintendent