



Superintendent's Column

Excellence in education requires adequate state funding

As we begin the transition from winter to spring, there are two things about which we can be sure; spring will take longer than we'd like to get here and budget season will be here before we know it. I wanted to use my space this month to:

- Share some data that will shed light on the efforts that the Hamburg Central School District has made to carry out our mission of educating our students as efficiently as possible
- Tell you about the effort being undertaken by area superintendents to advocate for adequate and sustainable funding for our schools
- Describe the current budget development process and the ways in which you can participate

The mission of the Hamburg Central Schools is to provide more than 3,500 students with a great learning experience every day through excellence in teaching and leadership. We do everything we can to achieve that mission as efficiently as possible. Here is what the data tells us:

- Hamburg Central School District is ranked #10 out of 97 districts in Western New York by *Buffalo Business First* in overall student achievement.
- Hamburg Central School District spends approximately \$16,000 per student while the statewide average for similar districts is approximately \$21,000 per student.
- Hamburg Central School District is ranked #4 out of 97 school districts in Western New York by *Buffalo Business First* in administrative efficiency.
- Hamburg Central School District is ranked #8 out of 97 school districts in Western New York by *Buffalo Business First* in overall cost-effectiveness.

According to the available data, we provide excellence in

education, while also delivering excellent taxpayer value. We've been able to do so in spite of the fact that New York State has withheld more than \$50 million in state aid from the Hamburg Central School District since 2008.

Unfortunately, Gov. Cuomo's current budget proposal shortchanges New York's public schools by more than \$1 billion. In fact, his current proposal doesn't even provide enough funding for school districts to sustain our current programs into next year. A group of my superintendent colleagues, and I, have joined together to fight for adequate, sustainable and predictable state funding for our schools. We have co-authored a letter to our state legislators and the governor, emphasizing the need to fully fund the state's public schools. Our letter can be found on our website. I have met with Assem-

blyman Sean Ryan, State Sen. Patrick Gallivan and State Sen. Chris Jacobs to ask that they join us in our effort to secure the adequate state funding for public education that is so vital to the mission of the Hamburg Central Schools.

As we work to establish our budget for 2017-2018, the input of our stakeholders is important. We have even invited the Budget Ambassadors from previous years to attend our Budget Work Sessions, and we invite anyone from the public to do so, as well. The remaining work sessions are:

- April 4 – Budget Work Session
- April 18 – Regular Meeting & Budget Work Session
- May 9 – Budget Hearing

Please know how blessed all of the employees of the Hamburg Central School District feel to serve this great community. Your children bring the joy to our work, and it is our pleasure to be your partner in helping them learn, grow and develop.



Michael Cornell
Superintendent

Kindergarten registration scheduled for April 17 & May 11

Kindergarten registration for the 2017-18 school year in the Hamburg Central School District is scheduled for Monday, April 17 and Thursday, May 11 at the district Administration Building, 5305 Abbott Rd. Hours will be 8:30 a.m.- 3 p.m. on April 17; 1-3 p.m. on May 11. These hours are for dropping off registration paperwork only – no appointment is necessary and your kindergartener does not have to be present.

Parents unsure of which school their child will attend should call

the Central Registrar's Office at 646-3200, ext. 7217. Parents unable to drop off their child's registration packet on either of these dates will need to schedule an appointment with Central Registration.

Certain forms and documents are required for registration. See the district website at hamburgschools.org for details.

The district offers full-day kindergarten for children who are legal residents on the opening day of school and who are or will be five years old on or before Dec. 1, 2017.