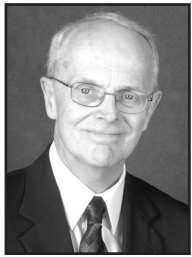


Board member attains NYSSBA Excellence Award

Hamburg School Board member Robbin List was recognized at the board's February meeting for attaining a Board Excel-



R. List

lence Award from the New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA). The award honors him for participating in NYSSBA leadership development opportunities to expand his governance knowledge and skills. It is the second of four achievement levels in NYSSBA's "School Board U" recognition program. Mr. List has served on the Hamburg School Board since December 2014.

Budget public hearing scheduled for May 3

A public hearing on Hamburg Central's proposed 2016-17 budget will be held on Tuesday, May 3 at 6 p.m. in the Administration Building, 5305 Abbott Rd.

Complete budget details will be provided in the May *Focus* and posted on the district website: hamburgschools.org.

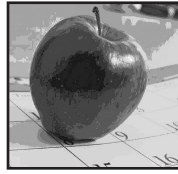
Additionally, School Board budget work sessions continue on Tuesdays, March 15 and April 12 at 6 p.m. at the Administration Building, 5305 Abbott Rd. The budget goes to public vote on Tuesday, May 17.

School Board candidate petitions to be available

Petitions for Hamburg School Board candidates are available as of Tuesday, March 1 from the District Clerk's Office in the Administration Building, 5305 Abbott Rd.

Candidates wishing to run for the School Board must obtain 51 valid signatures on the petition. The petition must be filed with the district clerk by 5 p.m. on Monday, April 18.

District voters on Tuesday, May 17 will elect three candidates to serve on the School Board for three-year terms. The terms of board members Laura Heeter, Richard Schneider and David Yoviene are expiring.



Superintendent's Column

We take pride in our excellence

The Hamburg Central School District takes great pride in our commitment to assuring that every student in our school district has a great learning experience each day through excellence in teaching and in leadership. There are many ways to quantify the impact of the learning experiences our students receive. Commencement (high school) data takes into account the contributions of all district staff throughout the 13-year learning progression, and is one way to measure programmatic impact. According to those measures:

~ Our overall graduate rate is 93%, but it is 100% for students who spend their entire school-aged years in Hamburg

~ Our school district is ranked #11 out of 97 WNY school districts

~ Our high school is ranked #678 in the United States out of nearly 22,000 high schools across the country

~ 24% of the 2015 graduate class took at least one Advanced Placement class in high school.

So, while these data measure high school, every adult who works with our students in school, the families who support their children, and our community, as a whole, played a key role in these achievements, and should be very proud.

We also take pride in the fact that we are the #2 school district out of 432 up-state New York school districts in administrative efficiency, which means that we deliver educational excellence, along with good taxpayer value.



Michael Cornell
Superintendent

While we continue to deliver excellent performance in these areas, we still face significant headwinds caused by the loss of more than \$50 million in state aid that has been withheld for Hamburg Schools since 2008, which has resulted in lost opportunities for our students and higher taxes for taxpayers. We also continue to face an uncertain

regulatory environment, resulting in a lack of clarity on issues related to teacher/principal evaluations and the NYS Assessment program.

But, even as we remain mindful of these challenges, our focus is always on leveraging the incredible advantages we have working in our favor. We have a Board of Education that is 100% committed to assuring that every student has a great learning experience every day, great teachers and staff who applying incredible insight and expertise in helping our young people learn, grow and develop, and a community that supports us in our work.

Pat Riley, championship basketball coach said, "Excellence is the gradual result of always striving to do better." This notion effectively captures the work before us, which is a mosaic of hundreds of "gentle nudges," allowing us to continually enhance the learning experience for each student. Please know how much we appreciate your continuing partnership as we pursue our commitment to excellence on behalf of young people of the Hamburg Schools community.