



Board Briefings

ITEMS FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD'S TUESDAY, OCT. 8 MEETING:

- **STUDENT PLEDGE LEADERS** — Boston Valley Elementary first graders Quinn Braunscheidel, Donovan Britton and Nathan Gerwitz led the Pledge of Allegiance to start the meeting. They were selected for the honor for being exemplary learners.
- **LEARNING BY DOING AT BOSTON VALLEY** — Board members participated in a modern learning STEM activity with Boston Valley first and fourth graders that provided a hands-on experience aligned with the district's vision, mission and core values. Guided by teachers Dara McFadden and Beth Knodel, they used craft sticks, cardboard, paper rolls and clothespins to construct fences sturdy enough to hold pumpkins on top. The students previously prepared for the activity by reading the book "Five Little Pumpkins." Superintendent Michael Cornell noted that this "learning by doing" was an example of shaping modern thinkers who create, care, solve and discover.
- **EXTERNAL AUDIT** — Seth Hennard of Lumsden & McCormick, the district's external auditor, said that a "clean" opinion was rendered, the best possible outcome, after a review of district financial statements from July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019. This indicates that financial statements were fairly presented and materially accurate in accordance with general accounting standards. Additionally, the auditor's management letter indicated no material weaknesses in the district's internal controls and compliance.
- **HTAA CONTRACT** — The board unanimously approved a three-year contract with the Hamburg Teachers Aide Association, effective Sept. 1, 2019-Aug. 31, 2022. It grants wage increases of 3.59% for 2019-20; 3.77% for 2020-21; 5.42% for 2021-22. The bargaining unit has approximately 101 members.
- **EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE** — The district approved an agreement with Premier Consulting Associates, effective Jan. 1, 2020, as it moves forward with plans to transition out of the NY44 Health Benefits Plan Trust in favor of a different way of buying employee health insurance.
- **PERSONNEL** — Tara Norton and Cassidy Goodemote were appointed as teacher aides at the High School. Geoffrey Burke was appointed as front door school monitor, second shift, at the High School.
- **NEXT MEETING** — Tuesday, Nov. 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the Hamburg High School LMC

Michael Cornell, Superintendent
Oct. 11, 2019
