



# Board Briefings

## ITEMS FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD'S TUESDAY, NOV. 12 MEETING:

- **STUDENT PLEDGE LEADER** — Hamburg High School senior Olivia Novack led the Pledge of Allegiance to start the meeting. She is the board's student representative and President of Student Government.
- **EDUCATING HEALTHY MODERN LEARNERS** — The district cares for students' health and wellness in a mosaic of ways, as highlighted in a presentation. Patrick Cauley, Director of Health, Physical Education & Recreation, commended school nurses for tending to students' health needs on a daily basis. Their duties include administering medications, attending to medical issues, health screenings, tracking compliance with required physicals and immunizations, and assisting with staff training. The district's school nurses are: Jane Frappa, Armor; Dawn Liberti, Boston Valley; Cheryl Ehlers, Charlotte Avenue; Erin Agle, Union Pleasant; Susan Kruszynski, Middle School; Lynn Lyford, High School; Andrea Gordhamer, SS. Peter & Paul. Assistant Superintendent Colleen Kaney said that one of the new aspects in the district's efforts to "Create a Culture of Kindness" is use of restorative circles for all grade levels. Through these circles, students talk, listen and learn from their peers, creating a sense of community. The Middle School and High School Student Ambassadors continue their work with elementary students to promote kindness, tolerance and conflict resolution. The focus on mental health recently included a visit by peace activist Ken Nwadike Jr., known as the "Free Hugs Guy," who brought a message of making a positive impact in school and community. The district's Farm to School (F2S) initiative also plays a part in students' wellness by educating them about healthy foods and their origins. The recent Jr. Chef Challenge, spearheaded by Anne Rich, Director of Food & Nutrition Services, and Tricia Miller, F2S Coordinator, connected eighth graders with local restaurant chefs over the summer, then culminated in a cook-off at the Middle School using New York-sourced food products. Team Grange Community Kitchen was congratulated for its win. A new district promotional video on F2S made its debut, showing the many activities occurring to connect community, classroom and cafeteria.
- **SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION** — Marking NYS School Board Recognition Week, Superintendent Michael Cornell expressed appreciation to Hamburg's board members for their support and the role they play in educating children. Each board member received a copy of a favorite artwork created by a Hamburg student that they selected at the District Art Show. Some of the works will also be displayed at the Administration Building. Art teachers Michelle Cyrek, Kaitlin Allen, Roseline Dufresne and April Hand-Smith were on hand with students for the presentation.
- **TECH LEARNING AT THE HIGH SCHOOL** — The High School Technology Department has changed with the times, adding six classes in three years and doubling the size of the department. As a result of classes they took at the High School, there are a number of students who have altered their career track and are pursuing computer science in college, said Assistant Principal Michael Tylock. Continuing to be progressive, the department will offer new courses in architecture and interior design, animation, game design, computer hardware and robotics within the next two years, he said. Teachers Kaci Nowadly and Richelle Cyrek Walters were joined by students in demonstrating projects. Mrs. Walters also spoke about classroom "look fors" that are evidence of the department's commitments in the High School learning plan: communicating with students, using questioning and discussion techniques, and engaging students in learning.
- **DONATION ACCEPTED** — The board accepted a \$2,500 donation from the JESKAF Family Foundation, to be used toward paying the school meal debt of families in need.
- **PERSONNEL** — The board accepted the retirements of John Brady, art teacher, High School, with 30 years of service, effective July 1, 2020 and John Hochadel, senior custodian, High School, 29 years of service, effective Dec. 28, 2019. The following appointments were approved: Alexander Cheney, cleaner (part-time), Boston Valley Elementary; Courtney Black, cleaner (part-time), Union Pleasant Elementary; William Laidlaw, laborer, Middle School; Patrick O'Connell, senior custodian, Union Pleasant Elementary.
- **NEXT MEETING** — Tuesday, Dec. 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the Charlotte Avenue Elementary LMC

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Michael Cornell, Superintendent  
Nov. 13, 2019