



Board Briefings

ITEMS FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD'S TUESDAY, DEC. 10 MEETING:

- **STUDENT PLEDGE LEADERS** — Charlotte Avenue Elementary students Bridgette Becker, Dylan Eustace, Farrah O'Conner and Sam Watkins led the Pledge of Allegiance to start the meeting. They were selected for the honor for displaying leadership, kindness and thoughtfulness.
- **AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM AT CHARLOTTE AVENUE** — Three second grade teachers at Charlotte Avenue Elementary brought lessons on agriculture into their classrooms as a result of professional learning they participated in sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension in October at an area farm. Teachers Kristin Della Penta, Nancy Dennis and Pam Lazarus talked about the hands-on activities and resources they became aware of and how they incorporated this into their students' learning, as well as shared it with the STEM Club. This collaboration among colleagues ties into the school's Learning Plan in that it's leading students to develop deeper skills in the area of STEM/STEAM. A video the teachers presented showed one such multi-faceted lesson on discovering Christmas trees. They also hope to raise students' awareness of the how food makes its way from farm to table and spark their interest in agricultural careers.
- **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT** — Superintendent Michael Cornell thanked Assemblyman Sean Ryan for his generosity and support due to the district's receipt of an additional \$50,000 in state "bullet aid." He also talked about Assemblyman Pat Burke's visit to two of the schools. At Armor Elementary, he toured the Library Media Center and Computer Lab, and Mr. Cornell discussed possibilities for renovations to meet the needs of modern learners. At the Middle School, he viewed the recently renovated Maker Space and LMC as examples of what's been accomplished. On another topic, Mr. Cornell noted that a Hamburg Teachers' Association team participated in the Polar Plunge at Woodlawn Beach last weekend, raising \$2,300 for WNY Special Olympics.
- **PERSONNEL** — The board accepted the following retirements: Kimberly DeGal, teacher, Middle School, 33 years of service, effective July 1, 2020; Janet Gahr, cook manager, Union Pleasant Elementary, 25 years, effective Dec. 21, 2019; Deborah Romano, senior clerk typist, High School, 21 years, effective Jan. 1, 2021. Appointed to the staff were: Amy Forrest, computer aide, Boston Valley Elementary, effective Jan. 1, 2020; Jennifer Moore, senior clerk typist, Pupil Services-Administration Building, effective Dec. 18, 2019; Renee Zogaib, clerk typist (part-time), Union Pleasant Elementary.
- **NEXT MEETING** — Tuesday, Jan. 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the Armor Elementary LMC

Michael Cornell, Superintendent
Dec. 11, 2019
