



Board Briefings

ITEMS FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD'S TUESDAY, JAN. 14 MEETING:

• **STUDENT PLEDGE LEADERS** — Armor Elementary students Wyatt Borzelleri, Mihret Creech and Grayson Brand led the Pledge of Allegiance to start the meeting. Wyatt was selected for the honor for his efforts to be the best learner he can be; Mihret, for showing compassion and leadership in support of a classmate; Grayson, for courage.

• **GROWING TOGETHER AT ARMOR** — The ways in which Armor Elementary School's building learning plan have come to life were the focus of a presentation by Principal Leslie Bennett and students. Using the theme "Growing Together — This is Armor!," the school is focusing professional learning on increasing the capacity of adults to help students think critically and creatively, communicate effectively and collaborate productively. There is an emphasis on students taking ownership for their learning, setting their own goals and tracking progress. There are many opportunities for them to support, consult, reflect and problem-solve together. Mrs. Bennett provided examples of schoolwide activities as evidence of this commitment in action. Student effort is also highly valued. Third grader Liliana Shubert said a growth mindset is encouraged in her classroom and she was proud to be the first student of the year added to the "Work Wins" Hall of Fame in recognition of high effort. Additionally, Armor is committed to addressing the mental and emotional health of students and staff, Mrs. Bennett said, so that all feel a sense of belonging. This includes being caring toward others. Fifth grader Charley Fisher said an example of this was when students compiled "go bags" with essentials for families of patients at the Ronald McDonald House and Oishei Children's Hospital. This project was coordinated by computer aide Gayle Woelfel and school nurse Jane Frappa.

• **CAPITAL PROJECT 2020** — In the next two months, the scope and cost of Capital Project 2020 will be refined as the district prepares to present the proposition for voter approval later this year. Representatives of Turner Construction Co. and Gordon W. Jones Associates Architects, who are facilitating the process, updated the School Board on the information gathering, prioritizing and reporting back to stakeholders that has occurred in recent months as the project advances. The project is taking into consideration potential physical improvements requested by the individual schools and the Athletics/Recreation Subcommittee; items identified in the Building Condition Survey and mandated code compliance; health and safety needs; and program priorities in the District Strategic Plan. Two items that clearly will need to be addressed are the two school pools and the antiquated HVAC system at the High School, said Tim Mertzluft of Gordon W. Jones. The consultants noted that items identified during the current process that don't make the final cut will be kept on the table for future projects.

• **BUDGET TIMELINE** — The 2020-21 budget timeline was approved as follows: tentative budget adoption by the board, Tuesday, April 7; last day for board candidates to file petitions, Monday, April 20; budget public hearing, Tuesday, May 12; annual budget vote and board election, Tuesday, May 19. Budget work sessions are scheduled for Tuesdays, Feb. 11, March 10 and April 7.

• **PERSONNEL** — The board accepted the following retirements, effective July 1, 2020: Nancy Dennis, teacher, Charlotte Avenue Elementary, 20 years of service; Linda Gegenfurtner, speech teacher, Union Pleasant Elementary, 30 years of service; Debbie Tuberdyke, special education teacher, Middle School, 35 years of service. Also, Karen Ann O'Brien, teacher aide, High School, 29 years of service, effective March 1, 2020. Appointed to the staff: Tracey Hagler, teacher aide (temp), Union Pleasant Elementary and David Coffee, teacher aide with special management, Union Pleasant Elementary. A certificate of appreciation was presented to Wendy Heslink, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Secretary to the School Board, in thanks for her service and professionalism. Ms. Heslink has accepted a position with the Cassadaga Valley Central School District.

• **NEXT MEETING** — Tuesday, Feb. 11 in the Axis Room at Union Pleasant Elementary: budget work session at 6 p.m., meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Michael Cornell, Superintendent
Jan. 15, 2020