



Board Briefings

ITEMS FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD'S MAY 12 MEETING *(conducted remotely via WebEx):*

- **STUDENT PLEDGE LEADERS** — Union Pleasant Elementary students Colin and Owen Hall, sons of board Vice President Cameron Hall, led the Pledge of Allegiance to start the meeting.
- **2020-21 BUDGET** — The board adopted a 2020-21 budget totalling \$75.5 million. The spending plan preserves and optimizes the current academic program, provides fiscal flexibility to adapt to changes ahead and is respectful of taxpayer dollars, said Superintendent Michael Cornell. The budget carries a modest 2.38% tax levy increase, which is within the allowable tax levy limit (tax cap), so it will require simple majority approval by the public for passage. Assistant Superintendent Barbara Sporyz noted that this is the lowest tax levy increase in three years. The budget trims costs in non-instructional areas but maintains the current staffing level. By Executive Order of the Governor, this year's budget vote/board election will be conducted via absentee ballot only. All registered voters in the district will receive an absentee ballot by mail to be returned to the district by mail by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9.
- **CAPITAL PROJECT VOTE POSTPONED** — An anticipated December 2020 public vote on a proposed capital improvement project has been postponed due to the current economic situation created by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, project planning will continue. A \$100,000 capital outlay project is also on hold for the time being.
- **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT** — Mr. Cornell reported that discussions are continuing about how to best honor this year's graduating seniors. The traditional June in-person graduation isn't possible due to health protocols associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Cornell said everyone is disappointed about this situation but he assured that a ceremony of some type would be held at a time when circumstances allow. In another matter, he said that a decision about the last day of instruction will be announced soon, possibly by the end of the week.
- **PERSONNEL** — The board accepted the retirement of Theresa Wierzba, Food Service helper at Union Pleasant Elementary, with 31 years of service.
- **NEXT MEETING** — Budget public hearing on Tuesday, June 2 at 5 p.m. via WebEx video conferencing, followed by regular meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Michael Cornell, Superintendent
May 13, 2020
