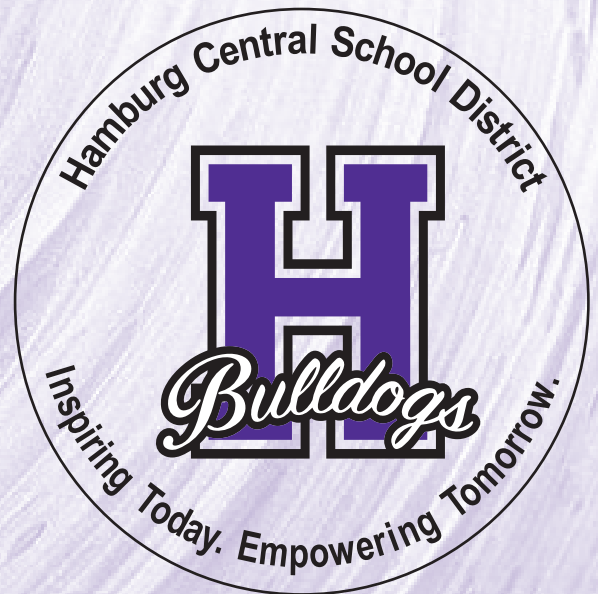
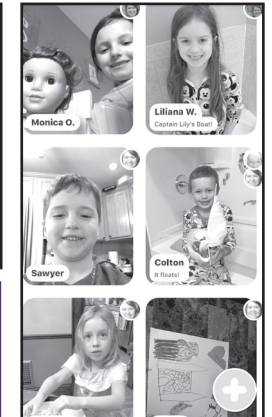


# Hamburg Central SCHOOL DISTRICT

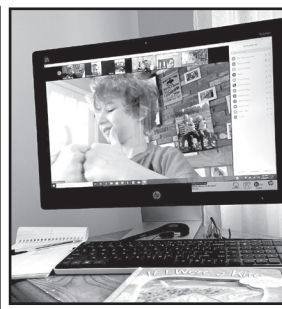
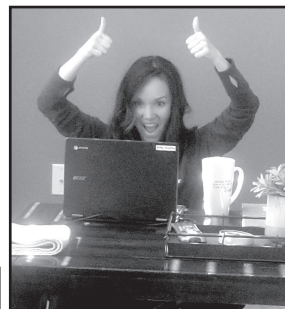


THE FOCUS BUDGET NEWSLETTER

May 2020



## Together while apart



# Budget Message

## Budget supports quality schools

I hope this edition of *the Focus* finds you well. Before I address the substance of the 2020-21 school budget, it is important to summarize the changes in process for this year. Gov. Andrew Cuomo, by Executive Order, declared that this year's budget vote be conducted exclusively by absentee ballot. In order to assure that your ballot arrives in the Business Office by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9th, 2020:

- Look for your absentee ballot packet in the mail during the last week of May.
- Fill it out and sign it.
- Put your ballot in the mail using the postage paid envelope as soon as possible.

One of the best books I have read recently is titled "The Culture Code," by Daniel Coyle. At the very beginning of the book, he reminds the reader that the word "culture" comes from the Latin word, *cultus*, which means to care. This current health crisis has brought with it much anxiety and distress. The culture of our Hamburg Bulldog community, which is inherently caring, will allow us to remain resilient in the face of all of the challenges that this pandemic has brought to our community.

The Board of Education and I want everyone to know how much we appreciate the efforts of our students, families and all our staff members to assure children are learning and receiving the necessary emotional support, even though schools are closed. Our people have always been the strength of the Hamburg Schools, and your support and resilience is what sustains us during these difficult days.

While the 2020-21 budget looks challenging, we always begin with the mindset that we must be respectful of the taxpayer's money. Within that mindset, we also plan with three key objectives in mind. First, we want to have a budget that preserves the great programs that we currently have in place. Second, it is important that we pass a budget that gives us the greatest amount of flexibility to adapt to the changes that we know will come throughout the fiscal year. Third, we need to pass a budget that is balanced. While our ability to accomplish all three objectives is largely dependent on a Federal Relief Bill, we have contingency plans that could allow us to do so if we get less funding from the federal government than we expect.

Preserving and optimizing our current educational program is a critically important priority. By any measure, the Hamburg Central School District is among the very best school districts in New York State.

- Hamburg High School has the highest graduation rate in Western New York.
- The Hamburg Schools are ranked #10 out of all school districts in Western New York, ranked #36 out of 431 upstate school districts, and our students perform better on NYS Regents Exams than the students in all but six school districts in the region.
- Our Middle School and elementary schools also rank among the very best in all of Western New York.

We take the business of being respectful of the taxpayer's money very seriously.

- In 2019, the Hamburg Central School District was ranked #2 out of all 96 districts in Western New York in *Buffalo Business First's* rankings of Administrative Efficiency.

- We have negotiated contracts with nearly every bargaining unit that honored the value of our great team members and were also affordable for the school district.

- 2020-21 is the first year that we will operate a fully self-funded health insurance plan, a move that we made in full cooperation with our bargaining units.

- We have replaced 20,000 lights with energy efficient LED lighting and are participating in an energy benchmarking program sponsored by NYSERTA at no cost to the district.

According to the data, and based on all that we continue to do to become even more efficient, there is no school district that offers a better taxpayer value, in terms of student achievement and financial performance, than the Hamburg Central School District.

Despite the headwinds we face, we remain optimistic that the 2020-21 budget will allow us to continue the progress we've made over the last several years. Next year's budget:

- Maintains all current programs at a total budget cost of \$75,515,500

- Requires a levy increase of 2.38% (last year's increase was 2.87%), which falls within the allowable levy limit (tax cap)

- Trims costs in almost every non-instructional area in an effort to put forward the most fiscally responsible budget possible

There is a Chinese proverb which says that society should "not confine your children to your own learning, since they were born in a different time." The core of the Hamburg Central School District's commitment to educating your child to become a "modern thinker who creates, cares, solves and discovers" (HCS D Vision Statement) is formed by purposefully designed instruction, which includes:

- Student Agency – students making meaningful choices about their learning. As a result they are collaborating, creating, making and publishing in authentic ways.

- Self-efficacy – students experience failure as an opportunity to learn through more information, time and resources

- An emphasis on strong relationships – students have productive, enduring and engaging relationships with their peers and teachers

A school district's budget reflects the priorities and values of the community and allows students to have the experiences they need at school to thrive in a world increasingly characterized by volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity. Thank you for your continued partnership and support. In order to assure that your voice is heard, please make sure that you put your ballot in the mail to assure that it arrives in the Business Office by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9th, 2020.

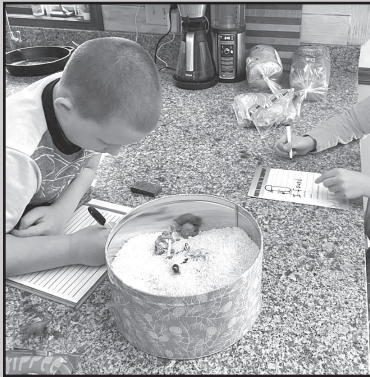
*Michael Cornell*

Superintendent of Schools

# School budget 2020-21: Voting by mail only



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Gov. Andrew Cuomo issued an Executive Order requiring school districts to conduct the 2020 budget vote/School Board election by absentee ballot only. All voters registered with the Erie County Board of Elections within the Hamburg Central School District will be mailed an absentee ballot. The ballot is to be returned by mail and must be received by the school district by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9.



## BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- Preserves & optimizes the current academic program
- Provides flexibility to adapt to changes ahead
- Falls within the allowable tax levy limit (tax cap)
- Trims costs in non-instructional areas
- Budget total: \$75,515,500
- Budget-to-budget increase: 3.4%

*Detailed budget information available on district website*

Hamburg Central's line-by-line proposed 2020-21 budget and other budget details are available for the public to view on the district website: [hamburgschools.org](http://hamburgschools.org).

## Expenditures

*How the money is spent*

|                       | 2020-21<br>Proposed Budget | 2019-20<br>Adopted Budget | Change             |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Instructional Program | \$58,674,592               | \$56,350,682              | \$2,323,910        |
| Capital               | \$11,166,658               | \$11,041,003              | \$ 125,655         |
| Administration        | \$ 5,674,250               | \$ 5,625,181              | \$ 49,069          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>          | <b>\$75,515,500</b>        | <b>\$73,016,866</b>       | <b>\$2,498,634</b> |

## Estimated Revenue

*Where the money comes from*

|                   | 2020-21<br>Proposed Budget | 2019-20<br>Adopted Budget | Change             |
|-------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Property Tax Levy | \$38,664,615               | \$37,765,344              | \$ 899,271         |
| State Aid         | \$27,303,285               | \$27,555,075              | \$ (251,790)       |
| Reserves          | \$ 1,075,000               | \$ 250,000                | \$ 825,000         |
| County Sales Tax  | \$ 3,775,000               | \$ 3,775,000              | \$ 0               |
| Fund Balance      | \$ 3,250,000               | \$ 2,500,000              | \$ 750,000         |
| Other             | \$ 1,447,600               | \$ 1,171,447              | \$ 276,153         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>      | <b>\$75,515,500</b>        | <b>\$73,016,866</b>       | <b>\$2,498,634</b> |

School tax rates will be established in August after the individual town assessors provide final assessment rolls and equalization rates to the district. Over the past several years, the tax levy has both increased and decreased, however the average rate of increase in the average tax bill since 2013-2014 has been less than 2%.



## Understanding the tax levy

**T**he tax levy is the amount of the budget funded by local school taxes. The proposed 2020-21 budget carries a 2.38% increase in the tax levy, which is within the allowable levy limit (tax cap).



## Program Component

The program component includes accounts for instruction and educational support services for district students. Transportation, instructional computers, supplies and textbooks, special education services, and salaries and benefits for instructional personnel are also reported in this category.

|                                     | 2020-21<br>Proposed Budget | 2019-20<br>Adopted Budget | Change              |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Educational Services                | \$ 40,342,418              | \$38,712,575              | \$ 1,629,843        |
| Benefits                            | \$ 12,967,354              | \$12,332,143              | \$ 635,211          |
| Transportation                      | \$ 5,264,820               | \$ 5,170,964              | \$ 93,856           |
| Inter-Fund Transfer/<br>Special Aid | \$ 0                       | \$ 85,000                 | \$ (85,000)         |
| Legal                               | \$ 100,000                 | \$ 50,000                 | \$ 50,000           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                        | <b>\$ 58,674,592</b>       | <b>\$56,350,682</b>       | <b>\$ 2,323,910</b> |

## Administrative Component

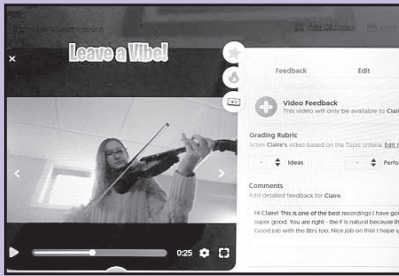
The administrative component provides for overall general support and management activities, including the School Board, Superintendent's Office and Offices of Curriculum/Instruction, Human Resources and Business. Also included are expenses for legal services, liability and property insurance, and salaries/benefits for administrative staff.

|   | 2020-21<br>Proposed Budget | 2019-20<br>Adopted Budget | Change           |
|---|----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| School Board  | \$ 40,975                  | \$ 41,725                 | \$ (750)         |
| Administrative Services                                   | \$ 972,472                 | \$ 942,842                | \$ 29,630        |
| Human Resources,<br>Public Info, Legal                    | \$ 266,032                 | \$ 322,711                | \$ (56,679)      |
| Special Items - BOCES,<br>Insurance, Assessments,<br>Dues | \$ 600,969                 | \$ 591,224                | \$ 9,745         |
| Administration/<br>Improvement                            | \$ 2,388,803               | \$ 2,359,650              | \$ 29,153        |
| Benefits  | \$ 1,404,999               | \$ 1,367,029              | \$ 37,970        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>\$ 5,674,250</b>        | <b>\$ 5,625,181</b>       | <b>\$ 49,069</b> |

## Capital Component

The capital component of the budget covers maintenance and upkeep of the district's facilities and property including electric, gas, water, sewer and telephone services. It also includes principal and interest payments on capital projects, salaries and benefits for maintenance and custodial staff.

|   | 2020-21<br>Proposed Budget | 2019-20<br>Adopted Budget | Change            |
|---|----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Debt Service                              | \$ 5,393,338               | \$ 5,431,626              | \$ (38,288)       |
| Benefits                                  | \$ 1,377,870               | \$ 1,326,686              | \$ 51,184         |
| Central Services                          | \$ 4,369,700               | \$ 4,256,941              | \$ 112,759        |
| Special Items -<br>Refund of Taxes/Claims | \$ 25,750                  | \$ 25,750                 | \$ 0              |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                              | <b>\$ 11,166,658</b>       | <b>\$ 11,041,003</b>      | <b>\$ 125,655</b> |



## Middle School music teacher, students stay in tune via videos

How are music teachers staying in tune with their students during the school closure?

Hamburg Middle School Orchestra students have been submitting weekly assignments on Flipgrid, a video discussion platform. Students submit a video of themselves playing an assignment, then music teacher Sharon Meholick watches the videos and provides feedback to help them improve. Her students have been working on scales, excerpts from their lesson book and fun pieces, such as pop tunes and movie themes. In addition, Mrs. Meholick can send a video back to the students demonstrating how to play a note/ rhythm, or showing the correct posture and position on their instrument.

On Google Classroom, a web-based platform, students have been requesting songs they wanted to learn how to play, including movie themes, fiddle tunes and pop music.

"This has been a lot of fun for the students to have a choice in what they want to learn," said Mrs. Meholick. "As a teacher, I am happy to see my students continue to play their instruments at home and enjoying music — whatever kind of music that might be."

She also noted that playing an instrument is a great outlet during this time at home because it can improve mood, be calming and keep students focused on something positive.

"We are never done learning our instrument because there is always more music to learn!"



*Educating modern thinkers who create, care, solve and discover.*

## School meals are lifeline during pandemic closure



After performing health screenings, Armor Elementary school nurse Jane Frappa helped pack meals.

There have been many things for families to worry about during the COVID-19 upheaval. For Hamburg Central school families, having food for their children hasn't been one of those worries due to the efforts of the district's Child Nutrition Services team.

In response to the pandemic, schools throughout the region closed as of March 16th but were required to continue to provide learning opportunities to students, as well as meals.

Just two days later, Hamburg Central's meal distribution was up and running. Under a plan developed by Assistant Superintendent Barbara Sporyz and Child Nutrition Services Director Anne Rich, a team of 25 Nutrition Services staff members began providing "to go" meals to children 18 and under who live in the district. Since this began in mid-March, 65,000 meals have been provided to children, averaging now about 13,000 meals per week. Service has been expanded to three days, Monday-Wednesday-Friday, to accommodate the

demand. Each day, children receive two breakfasts and two lunches; in total receiving six days of meals for every child meeting the age/residency guidelines. There is no cost to families and no income eligibility limitations to receive meals.

With business closures and job loss, the availability of free meals has been a lifeline during this public health crisis. The district has an online meal request form on its website ([hamburgschools.org](http://hamburgschools.org)) for families to enroll in the service.

"Every week, we're getting more families signing up," Mrs. Rich said. "It's expensive to feed kids who are at home eating three times a day. This allows families to receive free meals and to use their finances in other ways where they need."

"I'm just glad we can help," she added.

The meals themselves contain a protein, grain/whole grain, fruit, vegetable and milk, along with a snack. Food allergies are accommodated.

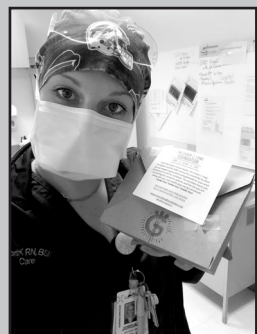
Food preparation takes place Monday thru Friday at Hamburg High School, with drive-up distribution on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 4:30-6 p.m. On pick up days, a school principal and staff volunteers load meals into waiting vehicles. Home delivery is provided to any family unable to pick up meals due to illness or lack of transportation. Assisting with the home deliveries are Nicole Dayka, the district's Youth-at-Risk Coordinator, and Tricia Miller, Farm-to-School Coordinator.

With concerns about COVID-19 ever present, care has been taken to limit exposure for all involved in preparing, distributing or receiving food. Food Service staff work in two teams, alternating work weeks and each day on-site. School nurses take temperatures and screen everyone working or volunteering, and all wear protective masks and gloves.

Mrs. Rich emphasized that many people have come together to provide for the well-being of the district's children during a challenging time. Food distribution will continue into June and possibly beyond.

"It really is an effort of the whole school district and community. We wouldn't be able to do it without everybody's help. Special thanks go our dedicated Food Service staff who work hard to get these meals prepared for our children."

Her message to families: "We're here to serve our Hamburg families always, but very happy we can be especially helpful during this crisis."



Hamburg High School's **Health Science Academy** students partnered with the Conor J. Long Foundation to honor medical professionals working on the frontline during the COVID-19 crisis. More than 150 meals were prepared by The Grange Community Kitchen in Hamburg and delivered to personnel in the ICU and Respiratory departments at Buffalo General Hospital.

The donation was made in honor of Lois Walck, mother of health teacher Doreen Morris. Mrs. Walck was cared for at the hospital. The gesture was a way for students to express thanks to the healthcare workers for being brave role models and an inspiration of what they hope they can become.



From left: Food Service helpers Tammy Heeter (Middle School), Anne Ongley (Boston Valley) and Michelle Clancy (Union Pleasant) packed breakfast bags.



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# Teletherapy delivers online for students with special needs

Hamburg's students with special needs are continuing to receive the services they need during the school shutdown through teletherapy. Teletherapy is the online delivery of speech, occupational, physical and mental health therapy using live video conferencing.

Teletherapy sessions are very similar to traditional therapy with one major exception: Instead of sitting in the same room, students and therapists interact via live video conferencing. Hamburg is using Google Meet for these sessions. During therapy sessions, the student and therapist can see, hear and interact with one another. Learning environments can also be synchronized by using "screen share." The participants view and look at the same online screen to read stories, play games and access videos and songs for teaching purposes.



**A student goes on a "bear hunt" via teletherapy with speech-language pathologist Beth Walters.**

at-home obstacle course focused on midline crossing, motor planning, direction following, etc.," she said. "Another video demonstrates a different method of shoe tying. Shoe tying is one of the toughest skills for a child to learn that comes with a great sense of accomplishment."

Beth Walters, speech-language pathologist at Boston Valley Elementary/High School, uses the teletherapy to engage students in activities to enrich literacy, listening and speaking. Make Something Monday and Too Much Fun Tuesday are some of the weekly themes.

"We have engaged in retelling stories by using our imagination with materials at home to make characters and props," she said.

Parent involvement at home has been a very key component to the success of this new way of learning, she noted. Parents have materials ready and are always nearby to keep their child actively involved. This direct connection to families is proving beneficial.

"It is great to hold the session, but then also to provide strategies and carryover ideas directly to the family," said Beth Sheehy, High School/Middle School speech teacher.

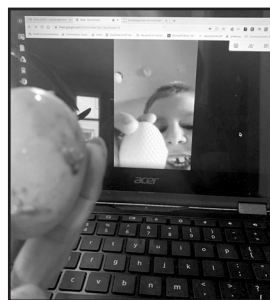
Related services personnel have spent many hours learning and sharing the new tools of this teletherapy world.

"Although my 'speech room' looks a little different these days and I miss the in-person interactions very much, teletherapy has allowed me to connect with my students and explore new platforms while continuing to address their speech and language goals," said Katie Sullivan, speech therapist at Charlotte Avenue Elementary. "It brings some normalcy to my week and I look forward to seeing their faces!"

"My students love using Google Meet, since they can interact with other students they know while working on speech and language skills," said Linda Gegenfurtner, speech-language pathologist at Union Pleasant Elementary.

Heather Beck, occupational therapist at Armor Elementary, created online videos to help students develop their skills.

"One video I made demonstrates how to create an



**A student engaged in teletherapy.**

**MOVIE NIGHT FOR ARMOR** — Movie Night from the comfort of home but remotely side-by-side with peers was one of the ways Armor Elementary teacher Amanda Kenney helped students connect with her and each other in April during the school closure. The night featured the Disney Pixar movie "Onward," with the class interacting online before, during and after. Mrs. Kenney asked students to share photos of their movie-watching via Google Slides. And, to sweeten the activity, she first mailed candy and popcorn to every student's home. *Pictured:* students Dom and Joe Barile



## ***Middle School & the art of distance learning***

What started as daily classroom routine while Hamburg Middle School art students were in school has carried over into distance learning from home during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Art teacher Marisa Connors said that while school was open, her students were regularly using Google Classroom, an internet platform for digital collaboration and paperless sharing. She used it to post assignments and activities.

She started the third quarter with new students. These classes began learning about digital media art. They were shown drawing and painting apps that could be used on their Chromebook. For the transition to remote learning, she developed ways to stay connected with students, despite the fact that they could not meet face-to-face. She created video tutorials for them to use as a guide for creating artwork. Some of the videos were to say hello and express how much she misses them. Students had the liberty of pausing and continuing at their own pace.

"I found that the videos are the best thing I can do for them while we are apart," Mrs. Connors said.

Additionally, the Art Department recently launched an Instagram page, where students participate in creative challenges and enjoy seeing their artwork posted.



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### Juniors participate at Virtual Town Hall

Hamburg High School Junior Achievement 11th graders Claire Lewis and Tyler Herman participated in a recent national JA and CNBC partnership, “Tomorrows Are More Important Than Ever: A Virtual Town Hall for America’s Teens.” This interactive event gave teens direct access to some of the country’s most knowledgeable economists, entrepreneurs, psychologists and counselors to ask them how to best adapt to the new normal created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Hamburg is 2020 Best High School in U.S.

Hamburg High School is a 2020 Best High School in U.S. News and World Report’s recently-released annual ranking. Hamburg placed #959 nationally out of nearly 17,800 public high schools, #89 out of 1,217 New York State high schools and #4 in the Buffalo metro area.

Schools were compared on state assessments, graduation rates and college-level exams.

### Academy of Finance achieves distinction

Hamburg High School’s Academy of Finance (AOF) has reached the Distinguished Level for the first time in an annual assessment conducted by NAF, a national network of education, business and community leaders. Hamburg is one of 135 academies to earn the distinction, NAF’s highest level of achievement. It recognizes academies that deliver high quality educational experiences to high school students. Hamburg will be honored at the NAF Next conference in July in Orlando.

Hamburg students begin their AOF coursework as sophomores. The experience includes curriculum and instruction focusing on financial literacy, workforce preparation, career and college readiness. In conjunction with business partners, the Academy also provides students with work-based learning and internships.

### Students excel on National Latin Exam

Hamburg High School students excelled on the National Latin Exam held in March. The 2020 awardees are:

**Latin I:** Macey Blum, Silver Maxima Cum Laude

**Latin II:** Sydney Smith, Gold Summa Cum Laude; David Conklin, Gold Summa Cum Laude; Bradley Tobin, Magna Cum Laude; Luke Kirchberger, Magna Cum Laude; Lillia Schaefer, Magna Cum Laude; Stella Pelkey, Cum Laude

**Latin III:** Chika Simon, Gold Summa Cum Laude; Jaden Troiano, Gold Summa Cum Laude; Jenna Jablonski, Silver Maxima Cum Laude; Leah Iwanitzki, Silver Maxima Cum Laude; Leah Jarzynski, Magna Cum Laude; Delaney O’Brien, Magna Cum Laude; Jenna Crowley, Cum Laude

**Latin IV (Poetry):** Katherine Hennessy, Silver Maxima Cum Laude; Anthony Zogaib, Silver Maxima Cum Laude; Michael Carter, Magna Cum Laude; Madeline Della Vella, Cum Laude; Claire Danyluk, Cum Laude

## Students inducted into National Tech Honor Society

Twelve seniors from Hamburg High School have been inducted into the Erie 1 BOCES chapter of the National Technical Honor Society. They were among 157 inductees from 27 Western New York high schools.

To qualify for acceptance, a student must be nominated by his/her teacher, have a 90% or higher average in their career and technical education course, and maintain an overall grade point average of 85. They must also show skill development and leadership, along with responsibility and good character.



### **Hamburg Potter Career & Technical Center students**

*Front row, from left:* Briyanna Longboat, Criminal Justice; Derek Bowen, Web Tech & Game Programming; Sebastian Terranova, Web Tech & Game Programming; Arthur Green, Building Trades. *Back:* Ethan Schwinn, Criminal Justice; Owen Brewster, Auto Technician Training; Jacob Cordone, Auto Technician Training; Austin Bakowski, Criminal Justice.



### **Hamburg Harkness Career & Technical Center students**

*From left:* Evan Przybylak, Collision Repair; Madison Henneberg, Cyber Security & Networking; Natalie Pitillo, Fashion Design Technology.

**Hamburg Legal Academy student**  
Colum Mecca (not pictured)



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Published by the Board of Education  
Thomas F. Flynn III, Board President  
Michael Cornell, Superintendent  
Michele Darstein, Editor

Armor Elementary ..... 646-3350  
Boston Valley Elementary..... 646-3240  
Charlotte Avenue Elementary ..... 646-3370  
Union Pleasant Elementary..... 646-3280  
Hamburg Middle School..... 646-3250  
Hamburg High School ..... 646-3300  
General Information..... 646-3200

The Focus Volume 51, Issue 5

[www.hamburgschools.org](http://www.hamburgschools.org)

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## CANDIDATE PROFILES

Qualified voters of the district will elect two School Board members by absentee ballot in the annual school election on Tuesday, June 9. Current board members Thomas Flynn III and Cameron Hall are running unopposed for re-election to three-year terms.

### Thomas Flynn III

**Address:** 6842 Liebler Rd., Boston

**Family:** Married 23 years to Linda; son Sean, a seventh grader and National Honor Society member at Hamburg Middle School

**Occupation:** Financial analyst for KeyBank

**Community Involvement:** Member of the Hamburg School Board for the past nine years, currently serving as president, past vice president; served as treasurer for the Erie County Association of School Boards and received its Rising Star and Shining Star awards; advisor board member and mentor for Hamburg Academy of Finance;



served on the Churchill Child Center Board of Directors

**Reasons for seeking a board seat:** "I feel that a school district is a cornerstone for a community and believe that Hamburg's cornerstone is strong and a source of community pride. I have truly enjoyed my time on the board and feel that as a management team, we have made a positive difference for our schools and community. We have a group of board members, administration, instructional and support staff who all strive and achieve one goal — the success of our children. I look forward to being able to continue to work with all these outstanding people to continue to help support their efforts."

#### BUDGET VOTE 2020 BY MAIL ONLY

In order to guarantee that your voice is heard, please make sure to put your ballot in the mail to assure that it arrives in Hamburg Central's Business Office by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9.

### Cameron Hall

**Address:** 6815 Castle Ridge, Hamburg

**Family:** Wife, Amy; children – Colin (9) in 3rd Grade and Owen (8) in 2nd Grade at Union Pleasant Elementary School

**Occupation:** Vice president of Products at ValueCentric, a software, data management and analytics company based in Orchard Park

**Community Involvement:** Vice president of the Hamburg School Board since 2015; Hamburg Industrial Development Agency and Hamburg Land Development Corp. board member; Hamburg Academy of Finance, board member; member of Hamburg District Technology Committee, Policy Committee and Building Visitation Committee; volunteer wish granter for Make-a-Wish



**Reasons for seeking a board seat:** "This past year has challenged our previous paradigms for work, school and almost everything else. Despite the interruption, I'm proud to see the policies and procedures we've put in place enable Hamburg to continue to 'educate modern thinkers who create, care, solve and discover.' Going forward, I aim to help HCSD support our building leadership and dedicated teaching staff, invest in purposeful technology and infrastructure while maintaining policies that provide the students of Hamburg with opportunities to succeed and grow, regardless of the obstacles before them. I am immensely proud of the district's accomplishments over the last six years and I would be honored for the opportunity to continue to serve my community, the taxpayers and students of Hamburg for another term."