



Board Briefings

ITEMS FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD'S OCT. 13 MEETING *(conducted remotely via Webex)*

- **CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE RECOGNITION** — The district was honored with a Champions of Change for Kids award presented virtually by Patrick Longo, Member Relations Manager with the New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA), in recognition for growing and using organic produce in the culinary classroom at the Middle School. The award recognizes innovative programs in school districts across the state. By using the organic grow rack, which was donated to the school earlier this year, students have a "seed to table" experience, learning where food comes from and the importance of nutrition. Superintendent Michael Cornell credited Food Service Director Anne Rich and Tricia Miller of the Farm-to-School team, along with Family & Consumer Science teachers Sheri Gund and Stacey Smith, for spearheading the project.
- **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT** — The district met its four priorities in the September reopening — safety, equity, adaptability, compliance — thanks to the support of the School Board, Superintendent Michael Cornell said, in marking the statewide School Board Recognition Week (Oct. 19-23). He commended the board members for working together and communicating well to provide a high level of governance focused on the needs of students and families. This commitment has helped the district stay true to its vision, mission and core values despite the uncertainties of the pandemic, he said. Mr. Cornell presented statistics that give a picture of this year's unique school reopening: 22,500 face masks purchased for students and staff; 1,800 lanyards for elementary student face masks; 1,488 Chromebooks and 615 iPads deployed since the start of the school year; 1,468 active Google Classrooms; 3,139 students who sign on to Google Meets on a given day; 94 teachers working with the 100% online learners; 95% average daily attendance; 0 cases of school-based COVID-19 transmission. The district is working to get clarification on the Governor's new cluster action initiative, which imposes closings and restrictions in COVID "hot spots" and surrounding communities, identified by ZIP Codes. Under this initiative, schools in a red zone (cluster itself) and orange (warning) zone would be directed to close and pivot to fully remote learning. In the yellow (precautionary) zone, schools would remain open with mandatory weekly testing of 20% of students and staff. This proposed testing could present a problem, Mr. Cornell said, since school districts can't legally require anyone to be tested for COVID.
- **PERSONNEL** — Appointed to the staff were: Elizabeth Kwietniak, PreK teacher (part-time), Charlotte Avenue Elementary; James Lavelle, laborer, Middle School; Tara Mandeville, school nurse, SS. Peter & Paul; Sarah Paquet, cafeteria monitor, Armor Elementary; Eileen Rucker, cafeteria monitor (part-time), Middle School; Erica Ruszczyk, science teacher, High School; Amy Szczerbacki, cafeteria monitor, Charlotte Avenue Elementary. In another matter, the board approved creation of a new computer aide Civil Service position to support the increase in digital devices and online learning.
- **NEXT MEETING** — Tuesday, Nov. 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the High School LMC

Michael Cornell, Superintendent
Oct. 14, 2020