



# Board Briefings

## ITEMS FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD'S JAN. 12 MEETING *(conducted remotely via Webex)*

- **RESULTS OF COVID-19 TESTING** — The prevalence of COVID-19 in schools continues to be low, based on results of in-school testing and data from the Erie County Department of Health (ECDH), Superintendent Michael Cornell reported. Since Dec. 14, 603 tests of students and staff have been administered in-house with zero positive results. The infection rate in-district based on active cases of those who learn or work in the schools is .2% when factoring in cases reported by ECDH. Mr. Cornell attributed the low infection rate to safety precautions being followed in the schools and community. In a related issue, it's unclear what role schools will play in vaccinating staff members but preparations are being made so that the district will be ready for that possibility. At this time, the state is not mandating COVID vaccinations for school staff.
- **CAPITAL PROJECT STATUS** — The district is getting back on track with the next capital improvement project, although it may be scaled back from what was originally envisioned. A public vote on the project (Phase 1 of 3) planned for December 2020 was delayed due to the pandemic. However, there are health and safety repairs/upgrades that must be addressed as soon as it is responsible to do so, said Mr. Cornell. Under a revised timeline, a fall 2021 vote is being eyed. Two priorities are the HVAC system at the High School and the Howe Field turf. The 2020 building conditions survey compiled by Gordon W. Jones Associates Architects will be discussed at the board's February meeting. This survey identifies and prioritizes facilities in disrepair or that are past their useful lives and drives long-range planning.
- **BUDGET 2021-22** — The 2021-22 budget process begins in earnest in February when the board has its first budget work session. Mr. Cornell said that although the district will receive federal aid as a result of a COVID relief bill signed in December 2020, it's expected that New York State will reduce its aid to the district by the same amount, resulting in a net zero revenue impact. Although an additional federal relief bill is anticipated later this month, its impact is unclear. School officials are hopeful that the aid picture will be positive but in the meantime will continue measures to ensure efficient and effective operations. The board will also hold budget work sessions in March and April. It's scheduled to tentatively adopt the budget on April 13. The spending plan goes to public vote on May 18.
- **REVISED 2020-21 CALENDAR** — Friday, Jan. 29 will be a regular full day of instruction for Grades 6-12 students (Cohorts B, C & D) instead of a day off under the revised 2020-21 calendar approved by the board. This change was made in order to have students in school as many days as possible.
- **FOUNDATION GRANT ACCEPTED** — The board accepted a \$20,000 grant from the Hamburg Alumni Foundation to buy Chromebooks. This technology grant was the largest allocation of seven projects receiving funding in the Foundation's fall round of grants. The grant awards totaled more than \$23,600.
- **PERSONNEL** — The board accepted the following retirements: Carol Shea, AIS math teacher, Boston Valley Elementary, 40 years of service, effective June 30, 2021; Cheryl Ehlers, registered nurse, Charlotte Avenue Elementary, 27 years of service, effective July 1, 2021; Barbara Kipler, teacher aide, High School, 37 years of service, effective Jan. 9, 2021. Appointed to the staff: Doreen Bailey, clerk typist (part-time), Boston Valley Elementary; Jason Carey, groundsworker.
- **NEXT MEETING** — Tuesday, Feb. 9 (budget work session at 6 p.m./regular meeting at 6:30 p.m.)

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Michael Cornell, Superintendent  
Jan. 13, 2021