



# Board Briefings

## ITEMS FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD'S MARCH 9 MEETING *(conducted in-person & remotely via Webex)*

- **2021-22 BUDGET** — Current and projected student enrollment for 2021-22 was one of the topics as the board held its second budget workshop. Based on the district's maximum class size guidelines and next year's projected enrollments by grade level, Assistant Superintendent Colleen Kaney said that Armor, Boston Valley and Union Pleasant Elementary would have the same total number of sections as this year; Charlotte Avenue would gain one section. It's estimated that the Middle School enrollment will decrease by nine students; High School, decrease by 15. Ms. Kaney emphasized that this is a snapshot in time and that enrollment will be continually monitored before decisions are made. Moving onto finances, Assistant Superintendent Barbara Sporyz reported that the rollover expenditure budget shows a 3.58% increase for next year, based on the four key areas of general government support, instruction, transportation and benefits. While this expenditure increase is not a bad starting point, there isn't enough revenue to offset it, she explained, resulting in a \$2.6 million gap. There are still many unknowns that will affect next year's budget, including federal aid for schools. Also yet to be factored in are potential savings from a retirement incentive offered to members of the Hamburg Teachers' Association and contract employees not represented by a union.
- **CAPITAL PROJECT** — While all the schools would receive upgrades, Hamburg Middle School would see the most extensive work under the capital project that might be put to public vote this fall. The proposed scope of work districtwide, which was presented by Mike Noga of Gordon W. Jones Associates Architects, has an initial estimate of \$67 million. This would be one of the district's larger capital projects and it carries a significant benefit for programming, said Superintendent Michael Cornell. Work would be completed in phases to fast-track certain priority components. Security, technology, energy efficiency, health, safety and accessibility items would be addressed at all six schools. A building addition at the Middle School to house a new pool and locker rooms, and replacement of the artificial turf at Howe Field are among the proposed improvements. Upgrades to auditoriums, music, art and technology classrooms are also planned. The long-range plan calls for another capital project vote in 2026, this one estimated at \$32 million. Board approval of the 2021 project will be sought in June, with public presentations later in the summer and fall prior to a community vote in October.
- **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT** — Superintendent Michael Cornell said many in the community are wondering when schools will return to five-day a week in-person learning. The district will remain in the hybrid learning model until the state changes guidance regarding social distancing, he said.
- **DONATION ACCEPTED** —The board accepted the donation of a kitchen playset for the Pre-K Program from community member Laurie Rubach.
- **RETIREMENT INCENTIVE** — The board approved offering a retirement incentive to eligible members of the Hamburg Teachers' Association and contract employees not represented by a union. It offers options pertaining to health insurance and employer contributions to 105(h) medical reimbursement and 403(b) retirement savings accounts.
- **MAINTENANCE CONTRACT OK'D** — A three-year contract with Service Employees International Union Local 200 United, which represents about 45 school district maintenance workers, was ratified by the board. Effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023, it provides a 2.5% salary increase in each year of the contract, for those steps receiving an increase.
- **PERSONNEL** — The creation of two Civil Service cleaner positions was approved. Appointed to the staff were: Shane Becker, laborer, Union Pleasant Elementary; Jessica Buchanan, certified occupational therapy assistant, Boston Valley/Charlotte Avenue/Union Pleasant Elementary; Nicole Coolican, art teacher (part-time), Middle School; Doreen Mazuchowski, cafeteria monitor, Charlotte Avenue; Kevin Preischel, groundsworker, districtwide.
- **NEXT MEETING** — Tuesday, April 13 (budget work session at 6 p.m./regular meeting at 6:30 p.m.)

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Michael Cornell, Superintendent  
March 11, 2021