



Board Briefings

ITEMS FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD'S MAY 11 WORK SESSION/BUDGET HEARING/REGULAR MEETING

(conducted in-person & remotely via Webex)

- **CAPITAL PROJECT** — The district and its consultants are continuing to refine the scope, sequencing and financing of a proposed capital improvement project that likely will be presented for public vote later this year. The cost of the first phase of the project is estimated at \$67 million but it continues to be a work in progress. Specific work proposed for each of the district's schools was discussed, as well as the schedule for borrowing and repayment. Financing for the project is being structured to be affordable to the community.
- **2021-22 BUDGET HEARING** — Details of the proposed 2021-22 budget were presented by Assistant Superintendent Barbara Sporyz at a public budget hearing. Totalling \$77.65 million, the spending package is a 2.8% increase from the current year. It calls for raising an additional \$851,806 through the property tax levy, a 2.2% hike. Mrs. Sporyz pointed out that 77.5% of the budget is dedicated to program. She also explained common budget terminology, including tax levy vs. tax rate, assessed value and equalization rates. It was noted that while the tax levy has both increased and decreased over the past several years, the average rate of increase in the average tax bill since 2013-14 has been less than 2%. The public budget vote will be held on Tuesday, May 18 from 7 a.m.-9 p.m. at Hamburg High School.
- **SUMMER LEARNING PRINCIPAL** — Plans for a summer learning program 2021 solidified with the appointment of Rose Kowalski as the program's Principal. Mrs. Kowalski is a teacher at Armor Elementary with administrative leadership experience. The program, to run Mondays-Thursdays, July 12-Aug. 5, will be open by invitation to elementary and secondary students, with transportation provided. It will be structured around the participants' academic and social-emotional needs, and provide creative, innovative experiences.
- **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT** — Superintendent Michael Cornell reported that the district is prepared for the return of Middle School and High School students to full in-person learning as soon as the community COVID infection rate allows, which is tentatively set for Thursday, May 20. Bus routing is being finalized in anticipation of the students' pending return. Mr. Cornell also commended senior Ellen Forehand for being awarded a highly competitive National Merit Scholarship.
- **TENURE GRANTED** — Tenure was granted to the following instructional staff members, effective Sept. 1: Jillian Accurso, school social worker, Middle School; Julia Dake, teacher, Union Pleasant Elementary; Theresa Glowacki, special ed. teacher, Boston Valley Elementary; Kathleen Higgins, English as a Second Language teacher, Boston Valley Elementary/Middle School/High School; Kyle Murphy, teacher, Armor Elementary; Catherine Stevens, Languages Other Than English teacher, High School; Stacey Smith, Family & Consumer Sciences teacher, Middle School; Nicole Stutz, math teacher, Middle School; Andrew Pacifico, teacher, Union Pleasant Elementary. And, effective Sept. 23, 2021: Cassandra Brignone, music teacher, Middle School/High School. Effective Sept. 28: Kaitlin Allen, art teacher, Armor Elementary.
- **RETIREMENTS** — The board accepted the retirements of Jacqueline Peffer, Principal, Union Pleasant Elementary, with 24 years of service; Terri Vogler, teacher, Union Pleasant Elementary, 26 years; Mark Warner, phys. ed. teacher, Middle School, 30 years, all effective July 1. Effective June 26: Cynthia Fitzery, teacher aide, Union Pleasant Elementary, 20 years, and Nancy Manzella, teacher aide, Union Pleasant Elementary, 18 years. Effective July 31: Sharon Zaccarine, cleaner, Union Pleasant Elementary, 29 years.
- **SUMMER WORK WEEK** — The board approved a condensed summer 2021 work week for 12-month employees from July 9 - Aug. 27. During that time, employees will consolidate five work days into four.
- **PUBLIC COMMENT** — Denise Konieczko spoke regarding the mask mandate. Steve Barber spoke regarding COVID vaccinations.
- **NEXT MEETING** — Tuesday, June 8 at 6:30 p.m.

Michael Cornell, Superintendent
May 12, 2021