



# Board Briefings

## ITEMS FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD'S JUNE 8 MEETING *(conducted in-person & remotely via Webex)*

- **STUDENT RECOGNITION** — Superintendent Michael Cornell presented a certificate of appreciation to School Board student representative Tyler Herman in thanks for his participation and input on behalf of his peers this school year. Senior Ellen Forehand was recognized for receiving a highly competitive National Merit Scholarship. She is one of 7,500 recipients from a pool of 16,000 finalists out of an initial 1.5 million entrants.
- **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT** — Superintendent Michael Cornell reported that planning on the scope and details for the first phase of a proposed capital improvement project of approximately \$67.5 million was proceeding. It's anticipated that the school board will act in August on placing the referendum on the ballot for public vote in October. The board's input is also being sought on how the district should allocate federal COVID relief funds. Mr. Cornell said the goal is to use the funds to build intellectual, instructional and leadership wealth. On the topic of mandatory mask wearing inside the schools, Mr. Cornell said although he is sensitive to those with a different perspective, the district is required to follow state mandates. Those districts that fail to comply face the potential loss of state aid, the closing of school to in-person attendance and charges against the Superintendent. He added that the Erie-Niagara School Superintendents Association continues to press the Governor for data to justify the mask use mandate.
- **HTA UNIT CONTRACT OK'D** — A three-year contract with the 20-member HTA unit representing registered professional school nurses, certified occupational therapy assistants, computer aides and micro repair technicians was ratified by the board. Effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024, it provides an increase in all steps on the salary schedules by 2.5% effective July 1, 2021. The increase in off-step salaries in each year of the contract is 2.75%, 2.5% and 2.5%, respectively.
- **2021-22 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE** — The schedule for 2021-22 School Board meetings was set as follows: July 6 at 6 p.m. (reorganization/regular meeting); Aug. 10, Sept. 14, Oct. 12, Nov. 9, Dec. 14, Jan. 11, April 19, June 14 (regular meetings); Feb. 8, March 8, April 5 (budget work sessions/regular meetings); May 10 (budget hearing/regular meeting). Budget work sessions/budget hearing begin at 6 p.m.; regular meetings at 6:30 p.m. The school budget vote/board election will be on May 17.
- **RETIREMENTS** — The board accepted the retirements of Michelle Cannizzaro, teacher aide, Union Pleasant Elementary, with 28 years of service, effective July 1, and Debra Sweeney, teacher aide, Union Pleasant Elementary, 29 years of service, effective June 30.
- **PERSONNEL** — The board named Molly Dehlinger as the new Principal of Union Pleasant Elementary school, effective July 1. She will succeed the retiring Jacqueline Peffer. Mrs. Dehlinger, a former health teacher in the district, is currently the Assistant Principal at Orchard Park Middle School. In another matter, the board promoted Kaitlin Sylvester to Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment. She had been serving as Coordinator of that department since joining the district in October 2017. Appointed to the staff as of Sept. 1 are: Amanda Destro, teacher, Union Pleasant Elementary; Matthew Dolegowski, teacher, Charlotte Avenue Elementary; Danielle Kelly, teacher, Boston Valley Elementary; Jaimie Knight, teacher, Union Pleasant Elementary; Caitlin Kubera, art teacher, Boston Valley/Charlotte Avenue Elementary; Mary Nemecek, teacher, Charlotte Avenue Elementary; Nora Oakley, AIS reading teacher, Union Pleasant Elementary; Michael O'Connor, science teacher, Middle School; LeighAnn Shaffer, AIS reading teacher, Union Pleasant Elementary; Sang Sang Walh, teacher, Union Pleasant Elementary; Laura Wright, teacher, Armor Elementary.
- **PUBLIC COMMENT** — Speakers addressed the state's mask mandate.
- **NEXT MEETING** — Reorganization meeting on Tuesday, July 6 at 6 p.m.

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Michael Cornell, Superintendent  
June 9, 2021