



Board Briefings

ITEMS FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD'S FEB. 8 BUDGET WORK SESSION/MEETING *(conducted remotely)*

- **2022-23 BUDGET** — The first of the 2022-23 budget work sessions kicked off on a positive note with announcement that the district will be in a more favorable financial position than it has been in years due to a significant projected increase in state aid. In the preliminary roll-over budget of \$79.5 million, the gap between estimated revenue and expenditures is \$6,000, much less than in past years at the start of budget development. Assistant Superintendent Barbara Sporyz presented details about estimated revenue, fund balance/reserves, tax levy change in past years, required contribution rates to the employee retirement systems and the tax levy limitation ("tax cap"), which the state has set at 2% for 2022-23 (before exclusions), also better than recent years. A looming concern, however, is the high rate of inflation, noted Superintendent Michael Cornell. The next budget work session will focus on enrollment, staffing recommendations and expenditures. The board will adopt the budget in April; it will go to public vote on Tuesday, May 17.
- **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT** — Superintendent Michael Cornell said he was one of the participants in a meeting with the Governor earlier in the day. Superintendents statewide favor the Feb. 21 expiration date for the school mask mandate, but it's likely to be extended by the Governor, Mr. Cornell said.
- **CAPITAL PROJECT CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT** — Turner Construction was named as construction manager for the district's Discover 2021 capital project. The firm has already provided 2 ½ years of preliminary work on the project and served in similar capacity on the district's 2016 capital project. Mr. Cornell said Turner provides project oversight with expertise and sophistication. The \$68.5 million Discover project will be phased in over five years and bring facilities improvements at each of the schools. It was approved by voters last October.
- **HIGH SCHOOL GYM IMPROVEMENTS** — The bid was awarded for a capital outlay project to remove and upgrade the folding partition in the Hamburg High School gym. Plans are for a new sports divider curtain to be installed. The bid was awarded to Allgaier Construction Corp. at a cost of \$60,800. Replacement of the gym doors will be handled as a separate project within the district's general fund budget.
- **SCHOOL CALENDAR CHANGE** — The board approved a change to the 2021-22 school calendar in regard to Friday, March 11, which had been designated a Superintendent Conference Day. It will remain as a day off for all students. Additionally, it will become a day off for all staff in appreciation for professionalism and dedication during the pandemic.
- **PERSONNEL** — Rose Kowalski, Hamburg High School Interim Assistant Principal, was appointed as Summer School Coordinator to June 30, 2022. This is the second summer she is serving in that role. Angela Waldraff and Sharlane Haywood were appointed as districtwide cleaners.
- **RETIREMENT** — The board accepted the retirement of Tracy Tone, special education teacher at Union Pleasant Elementary, effective July 1, 2022 with 24 years of service.
- **DONATION** — The board accepted a \$200 donation from Chris Willis of Pedal for Public Schools. He fund-raised by riding his bike across the U.S. in 2021, then donated to school districts he passed through.
- **PUBLIC COMMENT** — Speakers addressed the mask mandate and Covid vaccination policies.
- **NEXT MEETING** — Tuesday, March 8 - budget session at 6 p.m./regular meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Michael Cornell, Superintendent
Feb. 14, 2022