



Board Briefings

ITEMS FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD'S JUNE 14 MEETING *(conducted in-person & remotely via Webex)*

- **RECOGNITION** — Congratulations were extended to Candy Ditekowski, who has been active with Hamburg Central PTSA for 16 years, for receiving a New York State PTA Honorary Life Membership Award. She was commended for her tireless advocacy on behalf of children, families and schools at the local, regional and state level. Senior Ella Melcher was also thanked for her participation and input on behalf of her peers this school year as the School Board's student representative. Community Relations Coordinator Michele Darstein, who is retiring, was recognized for her work during 24 years with the district.
- **DISCOVER 2021 CAPITAL PROJECT** — Carlo Zavatti of Turner Construction Co. and Mike Noga of Gordon W. Jones Associates Architects gave an update on the status of the district's \$68.5 million Discover 2021 capital project, approved by voters last fall. This summer, plans will be submitted to the State Education Department for approval, with the first phase of construction expected to begin next spring. That phase, to last about a year, will include replacement of the Howe Field turf field, updating the track, new varsity baseball/softball fields and new bus loop/paving at the Middle School. Assistant Superintendent Barbara Sporyz noted that the majority of the project cost would be funded by state building aid, the district's capital reserve and a donation from the Hamburg Alumni Foundation.
- **SCIENCE OF READING** — The district will pilot three ELA programs in some Grades K-5 classrooms next school year, based on the science of reading. The pilot will involve about 40 teachers at all grade levels and every elementary school. As explained by Kaitlin Sylvester, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, the science of reading refers to research on how children learn to read, weaving together language comprehension and word recognition to become skilled readers. The goal is to make a recommendation on adoption of the best program next March.
- **DISTRICT SAFETY PLAN 2022-23** — School District Training Officer Patrick Fitzgerald reviewed specifics of the District Safety Plan in regard to emergency drills, relocation/evacuation plans, safety strategies and staff training, as well as new components. New elements include law enforcement agencies “dropping in” to the schools on an unscheduled basis to increase familiarity with the buildings, build relationships with students and add visible presence. A School Resource Officer will also return to the High School in September.
- **DISTRICT CODE OF CONDUCT 2022-23** — The annual review of the district's Code of Conduct was presented by Brent Jordan, Director of Technology/Chief Information Officer. The code applies to all who are on school property or at school functions. The main change for 2022-23 is clarification of language pertaining to the student dress code
- **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT** — Superintendent Michael Cornell said about 60 building-based and district-level staff members participated in Crisis Team Training over the past several months to increase preparedness in the event of a sudden, traumatic or suicide death. High School social worker Tina LaMendola and Charlotte Avenue psychologist Michelle Chaffee led the sessions. On another topic, Mr. Cornell said the district is pleased with the caliber of its recent new hires, many of whom were appointed that evening.
- **PERSONNEL** — John Crangle was appointed as High School Principal, and Rose Kowalski, Assistant Principal, effective July 1, 2022. Both have been serving in those interim capacities for the past six months. Jillian Meister was named at the new Middle School Assistant Principal, effective July 1, 2022, and Catherine Shick, as the district's Public Information Officer, effective July 5, 2022. Appointed to the staff as of Sept. 1, 2022: Morgan Connolly, speech language pathologist, districtwide; Marisa Connors, art teacher, High School; Katelyn Coons, special education teacher, Boston Valley Elementary; Nicole Galvez, special education teacher, Union Pleasant Elementary; Sarah Koning, special education teacher, Union Pleasant Elementary; Elizabeth Kwietniak, Union Pleasant Elementary; special education teacher; Elaina Maciuba, kindergarten teacher, Union Pleasant Elementary; Amy Reukauf, special education teacher, SS. Peter & Paul; Jake Storey, math teacher, Middle School; Kelly Toporczyk, kindergarten teacher; Armor Elementary. Joining the staff as senior clerk typists are Susan Bunch, Boston Valley Elementary, and Gabrielle Miklos, Armor Elementary (effective June 21, 2022).

(Continued on next page)

• **RETIREMENT** — The board accepted the retirement of Nancy DiDomizio, teacher aide at Union Pleasant Elementary, effective July 1, 2022, with 21 years of service.

• **PTSA DONATION** — The board accepted the donation of a graduation stage skirt from the Hamburg Central PTSA.

• **BUDGET VOTE/ELECTION RESULTS** — Official results from the May budget vote show the spending plan passing 2,833-1,010. Re-elected to three-year terms on the School Board, effective July 1, 2022, were: Richard Schneider, 2,938; David Yoviene, 2,982; Laura Heeter, 2,914.

• **2022-23 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE** — The schedule for 2022-23 School Board meetings was set as follows: July 12 at 6 p.m. (reorganization/regular meeting); Aug. 9, Sept. 13, Oct. 11, Nov. 8, Dec. 13, Jan. 10, April 18, June 13 (regular meetings); Feb. 7, March 14, April 11 (budget work sessions/regular meetings); May 9 (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 16.

• **PUBLIC COMMENT** — A speaker commented on the outcome of the School Board election and student-related issues.

• **NEXT MEETING** — Tuesday, July 12 at 6 p.m. (reorganization meeting)

Michael Cornell, Superintendent
June 15, 2022