



Board Briefings

ITEMS FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD'S JANUARY 9 MEETING

- **BOARD REPORTS** — Mr. Dave Yoviene reported he attended a recent PTSA meeting where some parents pitched starting a special education committee for parents. He also reported the Parent Child Connection’s Souper Bowl and Anxiety Workshop are coming up January 31 at 5 p.m. at Frontier Middle School. They are also hosting an ADHD workshop on January 22 at 6:30pm at Union Pleasant Elementary School.
- **BUDGET PRESENTATION**— Business official Christine Ljungberg gave the board an update on the 2024-25 budget process, including explanations of the five state aid runs released throughout the year. She said our state aid is up 1.94%. Our aid from November shows foundation aid increasing 3.82% and special ed aid increasing 34.75%. She also said budget meetings with departments and buildings are happening this week and she is meeting with BOCES on January 25. Lastly, she shared the next steps include waiting on pending retirements, adjusting staffing according to enrollment, and adding salary updates to the budget.
- **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT** — Superintendent Mr. Michael Cornell shared information regarding the high school auditorium stage. He said the stage had some slight wear and hadn’t been inspected in awhile, so we reached out to an inspection company to take a look. The inspectors came over the winter break and said the stage isn’t safe for use at this time. We had a structural engineer come out to do a similar assessment for a second opinion and the engineer confirmed the information. With the high school play less than a month away, it was determined the Union auditorium at Union Pleasant would be the best place to have the play. Buildings and grounds employees have already removed curtains and lights, and now we are waiting on a company to come out and remove the other unsafe parts. Once these parts are taken down, we will repaint the stage space. Mr. Cornell emphasized we weren't expecting this much repair work.
- **CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE** — Christian Meara from Turner Construction shared the Fisher Athletic Complex sign will be arriving in a few weeks. Around the same time, the Howe Field sign will be taken down to be refurbished and relocated to its new home in the spring. Carlo Zavatti and Mike Noga also gave an update on the upcoming phases, explaining we have approximately \$26,793,784 remaining to complete the project including phases 3 and 4, which includes the pool. They laid out each of the upcoming phases. Phase 2 includes fixing the high school boiler and music and art space renovations at Armor, Boston Valley, and Charlotte Avenue. Phase 3 includes improvements to the high school tennis courts, and phase 4 includes renovating and expanding the middle school pool, updating gyms and locker rooms, and renovations in music, art, and technology spaces, and converting the high school pool to a new gym. They said we can’t begin building the pool until 2028 because that’s when maximum cost allowances for the middle school reset. They presented the board with two options for moving forward. The first option is to hold the full remaining amount (\$26.8 million) for the pool, cut out phase 3, and pause Capital Project work from the end of phase 2 in 2025 until the start of the pool construction in 2028. This amount would not cover full cost of pool and an additional capital project vote would need to occur to allow the district to borrow more money. The second option is to use the majority of the remaining money (\$27 million) to have a robust phase 3, including Union Pleasant renovation work which was removed from the project. We would only borrow \$63 of the \$68 million for phases 1-3 and keep \$5 million for the next capital project. We would then do a new capital project vote for the pool and other work and borrow \$40 million for the project. The board gave Gordon Jones Architecture and Turner Construction the directive to proceed with option 2.
- **CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECT UPDATE** — New ceilings and lighting were installed at Union Pleasant over the winter break. The project will continue over the February break.
- **PUBLIC EXPRESSION** — A few people spoke about the new pool aspect of the Capital Project and others spoke about the movement of the high school play to the Union auditorium and the repair work to be done to the high school stage.
- **APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS** — The board approved all items including a girls basketball field trip to Syracuse.
- **NEXT MEETING** — Tuesday, February 13 at Union Pleasant Elementary School

Michael Cornell, Superintendent
January 23, 2023