

Hamburg Central SCHOOL DISTRICT



THE FOCUS BUDGET NEWSLETTER

May 2022

Hamburg Connects returns this summer

Summer's right around the corner when it comes to planning the learning and social opportunities that'll be offered to Hamburg's students. Hamburg Connects, last year's successful summer learning program that served nearly 450 PreK-12 students, is returning.

Responding to the academic and mental health challenges of the pandemic, the program will again nurture the joy of learning through fun, engaging activities and time spent with peers and teachers. It will be coordinated for a second year by Rose Kowalski, currently the Interim Assistant High School Principal.

It will be open to students by invitation only and run Monday-Thursday for four weeks beginning July 11. Transportation will be provided and the elementary portion will be housed at Union Pleasant Elementary.

Much will be the same as last year, Mrs. Kowalski said.

"Students, parents and staff loved the structure and focus of the program," she said. "Students connected with peers and adults, met new people, engaged in hands-on activities, socialized, spent time outside, worked together and overall had fun."

There will be an effort to reach more High School students by providing choice of the week they will attend, based on their interests.

Want to know more? Contact Mrs. Kowalski at rkowalski@hcsdk12.org.



'Game on' in new gaga ball pit at Boston Valley Elementary

A new gaga ball pit is in play at Boston Valley Elementary School after being built in April by 19 volunteer staff members, Boy Scouts of Troop #1910 and the families of both. It was made possible through grants/donations from the Hamburg Alumni Foundation, PTSA and Lowe's of Hamburg. Gaga ball is a fast-paced game that's described as a kinder version of dodgeball, played in an octagon "pit".

District K-12 Art Show



Wednesday, June 8
from 4-7 p.m.
Hamburg High School
4111 Legion Dr.

In addition to the art exhibit, there will be activities for children. Food trucks will also be on-site.

Flag football: New game in town

There's a new game in town as Hamburg is one of 12 school districts in Section VI athletics piloting girls' varsity flag football this spring.

"It's another educational athletics opportunity for our young ladies to be involved in," noted Patrick Cauley, the district's Director of Health, Physical Education & Recreation.

Twenty-one girls, along with two managers, signed on as the team kicked off its season in April. For this initial season, the roster was open to High School girls in Grades 9-12, however interest has also been expressed by

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Superintendent's Message

Budget reflects community's priorities

As we shift into spring, and look forward to typical end-of-year events like graduations and proms, our attention also naturally moves to preparing for the 2022-23 school year. Among the things at the top of the list for next year is the budget. I am grateful for the partnership of the Board of Education in our budget work, as in all of our work. Ensuring that our community's priorities are reflected in the budget only happens because of the unwavering leadership of our Board of Education, which for the past seven years has been 100% focused on the learning and growth of every child.

This year, as always, we approach the budget with the mindset that we must be respectful of the taxpayers' money. This approach requires that we plan with three key objectives in mind. First, we want to have a budget that preserves the great programs that we currently have in place. Second, it is important that we pass a budget that gives us the greatest amount of flexibility to adapt to the changes that occur throughout any fiscal year. Third, we need to pass a budget that is balanced.

The 2022-23 budget:

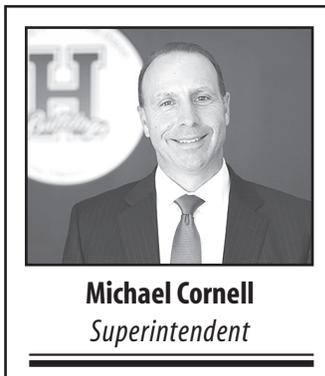
- Totals \$79,975,500
- Maintains all current programs and positions
- Requires a levy increase of 2.31%, which falls within the allowable levy limit (tax cap)

While this year's budget includes approximately \$900,000 in additional Foundation Aid, it is important to note that we are still underfunded in Foundation Aid by nearly \$1 million. With the help of State Sen. Sean Ryan, as well as Assembly Member Jon Rivera, we anticipate having full Foundation Aid funding in 2023-24 for the first time since 2006-07.

Because our school community has come through COVID-19 united as partners in the learning and growth of our children, the district has been able to remain laser focused on the academic and social-emotional needs of your children.

- The Hamburg Central School District is one of only a

small number of districts ranked in the Top 10 of *Buffalo Business First* in Overall Academic Achievement AND Overall Efficiency AND Administrative Efficiency.



- We continue to be careful stewards of the mental and emotional health of every child. We are the only school district in Western New York to train every adult in Youth Mental Health First Aid. In fact, we've done it twice since 2018. This training gives every adult the ability to identify the signs and symptoms of mental and emotional distress so that we can connect children and families to the resources that can help.

- We have a wide array of clubs, sports, music ensembles, staged performance opportunities, student government, etc. for students

to participate in the life of their school beyond the classroom from Kindergarten through the Senior Year.

The core of the Hamburg Central School District's commitment to educating your child to become a "modern thinker who creates, cares, solves and discovers" (HCS Vision Statement) is formed by purposefully designed instruction, which requires:

- Student Agency – Every day, students make meaningful choices about their learning. As a result, they collaborate, create, act and publish in authentic ways.
- Self-efficacy – Students gain confidence as they experience a mixture of success and failure as opportunities to learn with the support of our amazing teachers, administrators and other school-based professionals.
- An emphasis on strong relationships – Students have productive, enduring and engaging relationships with their peers and the adults at school.

The Hamburg Central School District has been one of the highest performing school districts in the region for nearly a decade, and we've done that while also emphasizing the social, mental and emotional well-being of each child in our care. You can count on us to continue in our commitment to ensuring that our community's children find joy, value and connection every day at school.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the school budget vote on Tuesday, May 17.

On the ballot

PROPOSITION #1 - BUDGET

Shall the Board of Education of the Hamburg Central School District be authorized to expend the sums set forth in the proposed 2022-23 budget in the total amount of \$79,975,500 and levy the necessary tax?

PROPOSITION #2 - ELECT THREE SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Kelly Hunter

Richard G. Schneider

David Yoviene

Tammy DeLong

Jacqueline Best

Laura Heeter



BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- Preserves all current programs & staff positions
- Supports summer program to address students' learning needs & social/emotional well-being
- Provides for continuation of School Resource Officer (SRO) in partnership with Village of Hamburg Police Department
- Adds 2 special ed. teachers, 1 speech pathologist & 1 technology integrator/TOSA
- Funds \$100,000 Capital Outlay Project for ceiling tile replacement & lighting improvements at High School
- Within the allowable tax levy limit (tax cap)
- Budget total: \$79,975,500
- Budget-to-budget increase: 2.99%



Expenditures *How the money is spent*

	2022-23 Proposed Budget	2021-22 Adopted Budget	Change
Instructional Program	\$62,198,940	\$60,179,347	\$ 2,019,593
Capital	\$11,545,618	\$11,299,459	\$ 246,159
Administration	\$ 6,230,942	\$ 6,171,444	\$ 59,498
TOTAL	\$79,975,500	\$77,650,250	\$ 2,325,250



Revenue *Where the money comes from*

	2022-23 Proposed Budget	2021-22 Adopted Budget	Change
Property Tax Levy	\$40,318,881	\$39,405,787	\$ 913,094
State Aid	\$29,964,958	\$28,569,832	\$ 1,395,126
Reserves	\$ 954,000	\$ 954,000	\$ 0
County Sales Tax	\$ 3,975,000	\$ 3,975,000	\$ 0
Fund Balance	\$ 3,704,061	\$ 3,633,031	\$ 71,030
Other	\$ 1,058,600	\$ 1,112,600	\$ (54,000)
TOTAL	\$79,975,500	\$77,650,250	\$ 2,325,250

School tax rates will be established in August after the individual town assessors provide final assessment rolls and equalization rates to the district. Over the past several years, the tax levy has both increased and decreased, however the average tax levy increase over the past five years is 2%.

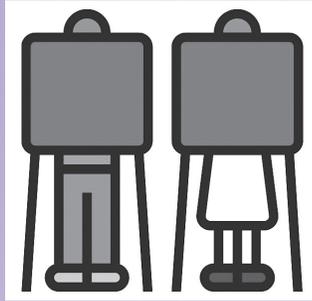


What is the tax levy?

The tax levy is the amount of the budget funded by local school taxes. The proposed 2022-23 budget carries a 2.3% increase in the tax levy, which is within the allowable levy limit (tax cap).

BUDGET VOTE & SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

Tuesday, May 17
7 a.m.-9 p.m.
Hamburg High School, 4111 Legion Dr.



Qualifications to vote

To vote, you must be:

- At least 18 years of age
- A U.S. citizen
- A legal resident of the district for 30 days prior to May 17, 2022

To vote, you:

- Do not have to own property
- Do not have to be a parent or have children in school

Preregistration is not required to vote. Those who are voting for the first time with Hamburg Central will be asked to attest to their eligibility. A driver's license or other government issued picture identification will be required.

Absentee ballot timeline

Absentee ballot applications for the May Budget Vote/School Board Election are available at the District Administration Building, 5305 Abbott Rd. Or, request an application by calling 646-3200, ext. 7220.

The completed application must be returned to the district on or before Tuesday, May 10 if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter. Or, the completed application must be received by the district no later than 4 p.m. on Monday, May 16 if the ballot will be handed personally to the voter.

Those who prefer not to vote in-person due to COVID concerns are eligible to request an absentee ballot.

Absentee ballots are due in the District Office by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 17.

Detailed budget information available on district website

Hamburg Central's line-by-line proposed 2022-23 budget and other budget details are available for the public to view on the district website:

hamburgschools.org



Voting

Tuesday, May 17

7 a.m.-9 p.m.

Hamburg High School, 4111 Legion Dr.

Program Component

The program component includes accounts for instruction and educational support services for district students. Transportation, instructional computers, supplies and textbooks, special education services, and salaries and benefits for instructional personnel are also reported in this category.

	2022-23 Proposed Budget	2021-22 Adopted Budget	Change
Educational Services	\$ 42,408,518	\$ 40,835,730	\$ 1,572,788
Benefits	\$ 13,914,775	\$ 13,666,091	\$ 248,684
Transportation	\$ 5,585,647	\$ 5,387,526	\$ 198,121
Inter-Fund Transfer	\$ 190,000	\$ 190,000	\$ 0
Legal	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 0
TOTAL	\$ 62,198,940	\$ 60,179,347	\$ 2,019,593

Administrative Component

The administrative component provides for overall general support and management activities, including the School Board, Superintendent's Office and Offices of Curriculum/Instruction, Human Resources and Business. Also included are expenses for legal services, liability and property insurance, and salaries/benefits for administrative staff.

	2022-23 Proposed Budget	2021-22 Adopted Budget	Change
School Board	\$ 43,015	\$ 41,015	\$ 2,000
Administrative Services	\$ 1,263,234	\$ 1,211,610	\$ 51,624
Human Resources	\$ 277,338	\$ 273,730	\$ 3,608
Special Items	\$ 1,049,242	\$ 1,042,742	\$ 6,500
Administration Improvement	\$ 2,148,281	\$ 2,127,412	\$ 20,869
Benefits	\$ 1,449,832	\$ 1,474,935	\$ (25,103)
TOTAL	\$ 6,230,942	\$ 6,171,444	\$ 59,498

Capital Component

The capital component of the budget covers maintenance and upkeep of the district's facilities and property including electric, gas, water, sewer and telephone services. It also includes principal and interest payments on capital projects, salaries and benefits for maintenance and custodial staff.

	2022-23 Proposed Budget	2021-22 Adopted Budget	Change
Debt Service	\$ 5,365,013	\$ 5,376,138	\$ (11,125)
Benefits	\$ 1,425,452	\$ 1,492,683	\$ (67,231)
Central Services	\$ 4,729,403	\$ 4,404,888	\$ 324,515
Special Items	\$ 25,750	\$ 25,750	\$ 0
TOTAL	\$ 11,545,618	\$ 11,299,459	\$ 246,159



From left: Elizabeth Barrett, Luke Robbins, Max Vogel and Noah Pulvino

Model village at Armor Elementary connects learning to community

A replica of the Village of Hamburg mapped out by students in Armor Elementary School's Tinker Tank connected learning to community. About 45 third graders in James Mason and Jon Pawlowski's classes laid out the 3D model, complete with streets and an estimated 60 local landmarks. They worked from photos to build models of village businesses, schools, notable buildings and familiar sites, explained Gayle Woelfel, Tinker Tank computer aide.

The students collaborated using math, social studies, ELA and technology to solve challenges involved with this project. Tasks included map reading, calculating the distance traveled as they navigated through the village, figuring out their spending at some of the businesses, determining the number of students in each grade level at a school and writing step-by-step travel directions. They learned such things as addresses are even numbers on one side of the street; odd on the other. Other grade levels piggybacked on the project as Sphero robot balls were introduced and programmed by students to maneuver routes through the village. And, in order to complete the real-life community connection, students were encouraged to visit the actual buildings in-person.

Armor student leads the way in Kids Heart Challenge

Jamie Fintak, a second grader in Michael Sparcino's class at Armor Elementary, led the way as the top fund-raiser in the Kids Heart Challenge for the American Heart Association by collecting \$425. This was Armor's 13th year participating in the challenge, with \$6,750 raised. To date, the school has brought in more than \$50,000 for the Heart Association. The challenge keeps kids moving with fitness activities, helps them learn about heart health and raises money for other children facing heart-health issues.



J. Fintak

Student artist receives award

Hamburg High School senior Carly Glashauser has received Silver Key Awards for senior portfolio and painting in the WNY Scholastic Art Awards adjudicated by Alfred University's School of Art and Design. She is among 56 Silver Key recipients. The competition received more than 400 entries from 230 high school-age students living in the 13 counties of Western New York. Awards were presented at three levels: Gold Key, Silver Key and honorable mention.

Additionally, both Carly and senior Courtney Schaeffer were cited with honorable mentions for their art portfolios.

Health science momentum for High School students

Sophomores and juniors from Hamburg High School's Health Science Academy, including Jill McDonnell, *left in photo*, and Anna Maloney, participated in workshops/presentations from various medical disciplines at the SUNY Buffalo South Campus in March. These included nursing, public health, biomedical sciences, bio technology, nutrition, DNA extraction and laparoscopic surgery simulation.



Students in Hamburg High School's Health Science Medical Terminology and Ethics class, including Matigan Fitzgerald, *seated*, and Abby Eisenmann, recently participated in "Stop the Bleed," which teaches how to recognize and control life-threatening bleeding. Beth Moses from ECMC provided the training.

All winter teams attain Scholar-Athlete status

All 10 Hamburg Central Winter 2022 varsity interscholastic athletic teams attained Scholar-Athlete standing, in recognition of team members' academic performance during the sports season. This is the sixth consecutive season that Hamburg has achieved

the distinction from the New York State Public High School Athletic Association.

At the end of each sports season, the association honors

those teams/individuals that excel in the classroom, balancing schoolwork and athletics. To receive Scholar-Athlete recognition, a team's average grade point average (GPA) for 75% of the roster must be greater than or equal to 90.

Hamburg's winter teams were: boys basketball, boys bowling, boys ice hockey, boys indoor track/field, boys swimming/diving, competitive cheerleading, girls basketball, girls bowling, girls indoor track/field and wrestling.



Family Reading Night works its magic

The district's fifth Family Reading Night in March at Hamburg Middle School drew a sizeable turnout, with an estimated 900 in attendance. Having a theme of "Reading is Magic," it included a live owls presentation by Hawk Creek, book swap, entertainment and activities. Support from PTSA, Hamburg Public Library, local businesses and volunteers combined to provide a memorable experience.

ConnectLife Club delves into donor process

Hamburg High School's ConnectLife Club visited the blood lab and eye bank at ConnectLife in



March. Students learned about the importance of organ and tissue donation by seeing donated bone, corneas, sclera and kidneys on a kidney pump (pictured). Staff members also explained the process of donation and potential career opportunities. Also pictured, Jacob Andrew, a sophomore, examines a donated cornea.



Finance students advance career/college readiness

Sophomores in Hamburg High School's Academy of Finance experienced a state-of-the-art campus while learning to "Be Future Ready" when they attended the WNY Regional NAF Multi-School Career & College Readiness Conference at Canisius College in March. The workshops they participated in included such topics as LinkedIn, social media, financial markets, emotional intelligence, resume essentials and personal branding.





“SANDWICH ARMY” DEPLOYED — Hamburg High School and Middle School were the first schools in Western New York to team up with Food-Web for a sandwich-making event that provided about 500 bagged lunches to St. Luke’s Mission of Mercy in March. Student volunteers from both schools made sandwiches and packed lunch bags. High School Student Government organized the “Sandwich Army” in partnership with Food-Web, a non-profit organization that facilitates delivery of food from donors to those who need it the most.



WORLD LANGUAGE MONTH — There was an activity every day in March in celebration of cultural diversity when World Language Month was marked at Hamburg High School. This included foreign exchange students and bilingual students giving presentations after school about their country and culture, a scavenger hunt, trivia, Mardi Gras decorating, movie, Ides of March commemoration (*pictured*), St. Patrick’s Day, virtual activities and cultural potluck party. The World Language Department also inducted 89 students into the Société Honoraire de Français, the National Junior Classical League Honor Society and the Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica.

Juniors in Troop #1910 achieve Eagle Scout rank

Zachary Rozler, *left in photo*, and Luke Marshall, juniors at Hamburg High School and Boy Scouts of Troop #1910, were recognized in February for earning the rank of Eagle Scout. They are only the third and fourth Scouts from the troop to earn Eagle rank.



The boys joined the troop shortly after it was formed and have had a significant impact on its growth and development. Through Scouting, both have also put many hours into service projects, helping to improve their communities.

Senior jump starts career in criminal justice at BOCES

George Rodis, a senior at Hamburg High School, is getting a head start in his future career field of criminal justice. He’s enrolled in the Criminal Justice



G. Rodis

program at Erie 1 BOCES Potter Career and Technical Center, where he’s learning about legal and ethical responsibilities, the legal process, legal terms and more. BOCES offers career and technical programs during the regular school day to high school students in Erie County. George was selected

by BOCES as Hamburg’s Student Spotlight for the year.

He said he’s had an interest in law enforcement since an early age. After he graduates, he plans to pursue a bachelor’s degree at SUNY Fredonia while serving in the National Guard.

BBQ on May 17 to benefit food drive

The Hamburg Teachers’ Association will sponsor a Chicken BBQ by Master’s BBQ on Tuesday, May 17 to benefit Hamburg’s Thanksgiving Food Drive. The BBQ will be from 3-6 p.m. at Hamburg High School, 4111 Legion Dr. Tickets are \$14 that day. Presale tickets for \$12 are also available by contacting jspringborn@hcdk12.org.



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Hamburg, N.Y. 14075

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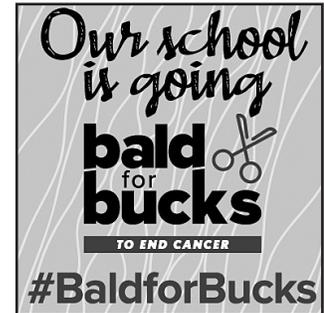
Bridge will bring nature trail full circle at Boston Valley

Another improvement to the nature trail at Boston Valley Elementary School is coming this spring/summer, when a second bridge over a creek will be added, making the pathway come full circle. The new, sturdier, pressure treated lumber span will also accommodate lawn tractors and other equipment for maintaining the trail, said Jeff Rozler, head custodian at Boston Valley. The current walk bridge will remain.

Mr. Rozler will lead a volunteer crew in the bridge construction after the initial foundations are set with the help of the district's Buildings & Grounds staff. He also has begun extending the trail so that it will form a continuous loop once the bridge is added, rather than having the current abrupt end.

The trail is used as one of the school's outdoor educational areas for Grades K-5 and is open to the community. It was originally dedicated 28 years ago as a Scout project and, until last summer, had become heavily overgrown. As a member of Scout Troop #1910, Hamburg High School student Zachary Rozler, now a junior, coordinated the work crew that re-established the trail by carving out a serene, safe, 1,200-foot long, six-foot wide path through the wooded setting.

The cost of the new bridge will be covered through a district contribution and donation from Lowe's of Hamburg for materials.



Bald for Bucks is returning to Hamburg High School. The event, hosted by Student Government, will take place outdoors on Friday, May 13 starting at 2:30 p.m., with head shaving and hair braiding. Walk-ins are welcome with a \$25 donation and permission slip for those under age 18. Food trucks will also be on-site.

This event raises funds for cancer research and patient-care programs at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Flag football *(Continued from page one)*

Middle Schoolers for the future. The team was scheduled to play five games through May, with possible post-season play the first week in June.

Flag football is described as high energy competition that features minimal contact compared to regular interscholastic football. Rather than tackling other players to get the ball, opponents pull off one the flags hanging from a player's belt. There are seven players at a time on the field from each team, rather than 11.

Team coach Jack Wellington said that flexibility with practices was key for this pilot season so that girls already playing another spring sport could participate. With this being a new offering, everyone was enthusiastic and learning as they go, he added. He called flag football a "confidence boost" for the girls participating.

"Football isn't just a sport for them to watch anymore," Mr. Wellington said. "They are players. They own part of the game now."

Through the NYS Public High School Athletic Association, the Buffalo Bills donated \$3,000 to Hamburg for uniforms and equipment.

CANDIDATE PROFILES

Voters will elect three School Board members from a field of six candidates on Tuesday, May 17. The board members elected will serve three-year terms commencing July 1. The candidates provided the information that follows.

Kelly Hunter



Address: 18 Huntington Ct., Hamburg

Family: Children, Willow (14), Meadow (12) & Red (7). Next year I will have a child in elementary, middle and high school.

Occupation: Former public school teacher (10 years); current owner of Revolution Personal Coaching and Athletes Unleashed, Inc.

Community involvement:

- Hamburg Class of 1996
- PTSA member and yearbook creator
- Member at Life Church Buffalo and Serve Day volunteer
- Corporate fundraising for local charities – 7 years
- Parent participant in School Board meetings – 2021-22

Reasons for seeking a board seat: “As a teacher, the premise that parents are a child’s first and most important teacher was paramount to my teaching philosophy. I knew that in order for a child to be successful, I must have an understanding of the family’s needs, desires, culture and values. As a board member, I will give parents a seat at the table so that every child is seen, heard, valued and successful. My mission is two-fold: build empowering communication between the Board, teachers and families, and ensure responsible spending on quality education; keep a tight leash on the capital improvement project budget.”

Richard G. Schneider, MBA



Address: 3496 Lakeview Rd., Hamburg

Family: Married 30 years to wife, Beth; daughters, Jessica (28), Heidi (26) & Erica (24), all graduates of Hamburg Central School District

Occupation: Business owner of Crane Home Care, Inc. and ATC Healthcare Staffing

Community involvement:

- Hamburg School Board member since 2015
- Founder – Hamburg Fine Arts Foundation
- Hamburg Oktoberfest – Officer/Treasurer
- Medaille College – Past Alumni Association President
- SS. Peter and Paul Church – Past Parish Council President

Reasons for seeking a board seat: “In 2015, I decided to run for a seat on the Hamburg Board of Education to help provide a stable, professional presence and return the focus to children. Since that time, our unified board has done exactly that! We want to continue moving our district forward every day by continuing to support our ‘culture of kindness,’ while providing our children with modern education opportunities and maintaining the fiscal integrity of our district. It has been my honor and privilege to serve our community in this way and I humbly ask for your support as I seek re-election for another term.”

David Yoviene



Address: 95 Alexander Way, Orchard Park

Family: Married 37 years to wife, Karen – we both graduated from Hamburg; 3 children attended Hamburg K-12; 3 grandchildren not yet of school age

Occupation: 43 years as business owner related to the building trades

Community involvement:

- Nine years on the Hamburg School Board
- Nine-year member of Erie County Association of School Boards (ECASB) Legislative Committee
- Nine-year member Parent Child Connection Committee
- Member of Hamburg Counseling Plan Advisory Council
- Twenty-year member of Hamburg Transportation Committee
- School Board representative for Hamburg PTSA
- Received ECASB Laura Burns Advocacy for Children Award
- Received NYS PTA Advocate in Action Award
- Received ECASB Shining Star Award and Rising Star Awards 3 times each
- Member of ECASB Medallion Club

Reasons for seeking a board seat: “I am seeking re-election to continue my efforts advocating for students. Student achievement is my principal focus — the primary mission of all school boards. Decisions should be based on what is best for students, NOT on party affiliation or political ideology. We are focused on the big picture, thinking long-term. We have a plan for the class of 2034, our current Pre-K students. It has been a pleasure to serve our community and advocate for students for the last nine years. I wish to continue this work, together with my fellow board members and our outstanding administration, in our constant efforts toward academic advancement for ALL students.”

Tammy DeLong



Address: 3775 Mill Rd., Hamburg

Family: Sons, Michael Anthony Jr. (11) & Matthew Anthony (9), both students at Union Pleasant Elementary

Occupation: Real Estate Professional with an office in the Village of Hamburg; prior experience as Erie County Sheriff's Deputy

Community involvement:

- Team manager of Hamburg Hawks Hockey Association Squirt Mix Team
- PTSA member volunteer/event coordinator from 2017- present
- Volunteered at Buffalo Habitat for Humanity and the Buffalo United Way
- Revive Wesleyan Church MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) hospitality family activities coordinator

Reasons for seeking a board seat: "To focus on the educational needs of the children, collaborating as a team. My extensive work in Erie County wraparound programs, experience sitting on cultural sensitivity boards and education, coupled with involvement with families and teachers in our community, will help me represent the whole of Hamburg, not just a single constituency. I am a dedicated hard worker who strives to live the value of integrity. Empowering teachers who will teach how to think, not what to think, will ensure that the students get the best education. To represent the community fiscally and care for the community as a whole."

Jacqueline (Jackie) Best



Address: 4859 Meadow Ln., Hamburg

Family: Married since 2015 to husband, Ben (Hamburg High School Class of 2000); children, Mason (14), Aubrey (5) & Benny (4); seven nieces & nephews, all in Hamburg Central School District

Occupation: General Manager & Director of Business Development at Renewal Claim Solutions of Upstate NY & Greater New England (Fire & Water Restoration)

Community involvement:

- Hamburg High School Class of 2003
- Attended last 12 months of Hamburg School Board meetings
- Co-organizer of "Operation Shoe Drop" at Hamburg High School
- Insurance Club of Buffalo Board Member 2012-15, Vice President 2015
- Buffalo Chapter Member of "Climb out of the Darkness," raising awareness & funds for perinatal mood & anxiety disorders

Reasons for seeking a board seat: "As a parent, I want a School Board that is responsive to parents, listens to concerns & conducts itself in an open & honest way. That is not what I have experienced these last 12 months. In May 2021, I attended my first School Board meeting to urge the board to take action to allow mask choice in our schools. I spoke every month not just about forced masking, but student mental health. I have never heard back from any current board member about my concerns, which I think is unacceptable. If parents can't advocate for their own children, who will?"

Laura Heeter



Address: 66 Highland Ave., Hamburg

Family: Husband, Shawn, Director of Manufacturing, Curbell Medical; children, Emily - 2012 graduate/Air Force - active duty, Samuel - 2014 graduate/High School math teacher, Caroline - 2017 graduate/Social Worker at New Directions/ Air Force Reservist, Seth - 2019 graduate/ Associate Degree in Social Sciences/Junior Varsity soccer coach, Lynae - 2021 graduate, Anna - 11th grade

Occupation: Restorative Justice Coordinator at Randolph Academy

Community involvement:

- Parent Child Connection
- Counseling Committee
- Strategic Action Plan Committee
- Restorative Justice Outreach
- Erie County Association of School Boards member
- New York State School Boards Association presenter

Reasons for seeking a board seat: "I am extremely passionate about education and that's what drives me to seek another term on the Hamburg School Board. It's my goal to ensure that ALL students receive opportunities that are unique to their academic and social emotional needs. As a parent and educator, I understand the integral part schools play in a community and want to continue moving in a positive direction. We strive to honor every learner and to ensure that our schools are safe, kind and welcoming. It would be humbling to once again serve on a School Board where students' interests are first and foremost, and the reputation of the district is impeccable."

**BUDGET VOTE
& SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION**

Tuesday, May 17
7 a.m.-9 p.m.
Hamburg High School, 4111 Legion Dr.