**Recognition**

The Board recognized Dodge Elementary, Heim Elementary, and Heim Middle School, and their respective PTA/PTSA units, for being named 2016-2018 National PTA Schools of Excellence. The three Williamsville schools and their PTA/PTSA units are among 173 across the country to receive the designation for the stated two-year period. Heim Elementary and Heim Middle have earned the award previously, as well as Maple East Elementary and Williamsville North High School.

**Board Acknowledgements** – Member Teresa Anne Leatherbarrow thanked those who attended the Board’s community forum on October 1. She also acknowledged the Williamsville Teachers’ Association for raising $6,881 for breast cancer research from its participation in two recent community events. Member Michael Schmidt thanked Dodge Elementary Principal Charles Smilinich and Superintendent Scott Martzloff for participating in the school’s summer reading celebration. Student readers helped duct tape Mr. Smilinich to the gym wall while Dr. Martzloff was a guest reader at the special assembly.

**Public Expression**

During public expression, a resident promoted the Peaceful Schools Program, a Syracuse-based organization that provides social emotional education and conflict resolution services to schools. A representative from the program also spoke. The speakers asked the school board to help fund the effort to present this program in Williamsville schools. Mill Middle teacher Nora Bender thanked the WTA for its fundraising efforts to combat breast cancer with many teachers participating in the recent Making Strides walk at Canalside and the WTA’s first-ever golf tournament. Co-president of the Heim Elementary PTA, Corinna Paolucci, addressed the importance of lower class sizes and urged the Board to keep it a priority during the budget development process. She also expressed support for the Peaceful Schools Program. Mr. Sam Alba, president of the PTSA Council, thanked Board members for acknowledging the importance of strong parent partnerships. He also invited teachers to attend PTSA Council meetings.

**Items of Business and Discussion**

- **Under the President’s Report,**
  - Board members reported on their recent attendance to regional meetings including the Erie County Association of School Boards Legislative Committee (Mrs. Leatherbarrow); the ECASB School Leaders Dinner (Mrs. Toni Vazquez, Mr. Mark Mecca and Mr. Shawn Lemay); and the NYS School Boards Association’s Board Officers Academy (Mrs. Vazquez and Mr. Mecca). Also, Mr. Lemay, Mrs. Leatherbarrow, and Mrs. Suzanne Van Sice will attend the NYSSBA Annual Convention October 27-29.
  - At the request of the Board, Dr. Marie Balen, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, presented information on student evaluation in relation to Regents exams. According to Dr. Balen, multiple sources of data and information are used to evaluate students and, at the high school level, Regents exam scores are among those factors. She stressed that student evaluation is an ongoing topic of discussion with building principals and faculty. “It is critical that our teachers are involved and are a part of the conversation because they are responsible for student evaluation,” Dr. Balen said. Any Williamsville student who passes a Regents exam has the opportunity to retake an exam to improve their score if they wish to do so. In response to board member questions, Dr. Balen said the Regents exam scores typically represent about 20 percent of the course grade. She also indicated that the current conversation is focused on assuring consistency across curriculum departments in how the Regents exam score is used as a factor in a student’s final grade.
  - Mr. Lemay provided a brief recap on the Board’s community forum held October 1 at Williamsville East. He said the session was ‘very informative’ with a variety of topics discussed. Seven board members and 13 stakeholders attended the three-hour forum. He invited all residents to attend the next community forum on Sat., January 28, 2017 from 9 a.m. to noon at Williamsville South.

- **Under the Superintendent’s Community Update,** Dr. Martzloff acknowledged Mr. Lemay for his role in coordinating the community forums, which allow for more in-depth stakeholders conversations. He also provided information on district-based email addresses as requested by certain Board members and announced special presentations scheduled for upcoming board meetings including a
Overview of 2015-16 Academic Performance: Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, Dr. Marie Balen, provided a comprehensive summary of academic performance last year including standardized test results for grades 3-8, high school Regents results, Advanced Placement participation, and graduation results. Dr. Balen began by reviewing the changes to the 2016 NYS 3-8 ELA/Math assessments, which preclude an ‘apples to apples’ comparison with previous years’ results. On the state assessments, Williamsville students outperformed NYS at every grade level with the majority of district students scoring at Levels 3 and 4 in both ELA and Math. More high school students are taking Advanced Placement courses with 1,063 students across the three high schools taking 2,049 AP exams in 2016, achieving a district mean score of 3.48. With 95 percent of graduates college-bound, the Class of 2016 earned $26.2 million dollars in scholarships. Nearly 68 percent of all graduates received a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation/Honors. Board members asked about data on ENL (English as a New Language) students, additional assessment factors for grades 3-8, AP opportunities, professional development, and academic intervention efforts to support students. Members lauded the district’s focus on student success and praised the culture of collaboration among all educators that underlies the ongoing effort to support every student. Dr. Balen’s presentation is available on the district website, www.williamsville12.org.

In other business, the Board:

→ Adopted four revised policies: #7131 – Education of Homeless Children and Youth; #7220 – Graduation Options/Early Graduation/Accelerated Programs; #7420 – Sports and the Athletic Program; and #7670 – Impartial Due Process Hearings/Selection of Impartial Hearing Officers.

→ Approved the annual audit for the fiscal school year ending July 30, 2016, as presented by independent auditors Drescher & Malecki, LLP. Drescher account manager, Mr. Carl Widmer, said that the district is in stable financial condition and issued an unmodified opinion. Also, Mr. Joseph Klimek, a partner with the EFPR Group, LLP, an independent claims auditor, presented the annual claims audit report and praised the district for having “very strong internal controls”.

→ Adopted the 2017-18 Budget Development Calendar.

→ Approved a usage fee schedule for the new artificial turf fields at Williamsville North. According to Dr. Martzloff, the goal is to minimize fees particularly for those organizations that support Williamsville students. There would be no charge for unorganized local neighborhood use when the fields are not in use.

Under Facilities, Dr. Martzloff reported that water testing for lead is underway across the district and testing results will be communicated in accordance with the law. The Board also authorized the Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Management Services to approve capital project change orders associated with the 2015 capital project up to $10,000.

The Board accepted the resignation for retirement purposes of Barbara Murgia, PT Clerk Typist, District Office, after one year of service, effective November 3, 2016.

The Board accepted the following donations on behalf of the school district: $4,000 from the Forest PTA to Forest Elementary for new classroom rugs; 100 portable sections of event fencing (used), valued at $7,000 from the Buffalo Bills organization to Williamsville North High School; and $500 from the NYSUT Retirees Mini-Grant Program to Sue Merlino, science teacher at Heim Middle School, to purchase a youth torso model with removable organs for her science classroom.

Committee of the Whole – Mr. Schmidt offered suggestions on expanding social media use for communication purposes, possibly using Facebook Live to stream board meetings. He also asked about staffing for school nurses, stressing the importance of having a fulltime nurse on duty at every school during the school day. Mrs. Vazquez proposed changing the Columbus Day holiday to Indigenous People Day on the WCSD school calendar, beginning next year. After some discussion, board members agreed to explore the idea further by first gathering input from stakeholders, particularly students and parents.

This Board of Education meeting will be televised on Time-Warner Cable Channel 20 on Sat., October 22 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, October 23 at 1 p.m. Also, the meeting video is available for viewing anytime at www.williamsville12.org; click on the “Video On Demand” icon on the homepage.

UPCOMING EVENT/MEETING:
Tuesday, November 15, 2016: PTSA Council School Board Recognition Reception, 6:00 p.m., Casey Middle Library
Regular Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m., District Office Boardroom