

School Board Notes

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Board Recognition

The Board recognized the outstanding achievements of six very talented high school students who recently earned high honors for their work as young artists and aspiring art curators. From Williamsville East, **Anna Brown and Monique Fairer** were honored for their participation in the elite Albright-Knox Future Curators program, while artwork by East students **Stella Hobart and Nicole Xu** was selected for the 2019 Albright-Knox Future Curators Exhibition. **Yamamh Mohamed**, a sophomore at East, won the Best Waterscape Award at the 2019 Storrs All-High Photo Show held at the Kenan Center in Lockport; and **Anna Brand**, a senior at Williamsville North, was the Second Place Award Winner at the 2019 Western New York Regional High School Exhibit held at the University at Buffalo.

Board Acknowledgements – Member Suzanne Van Sice thanked District Clerk Lynn Carey for her work coordinating the Annual District Vote and School Board Election.



Public Expression *(No Speakers)*

Items of Business & Discussion

- Under the **President's Report**, Mr. Lemay thanked the community for supporting the budget and announced the results of the School Board Election, congratulating Mrs. Leatherbarrow, Mrs. Bieger, and Mrs. Van Sice for winning reelection. He acknowledged Mrs. Carey, who thanked everyone involved for the incredible team effort preparing for, and working, vote day.
 - The Board formally accepted the results of the May 21, 2019 District Vote and School Board Election as follows: Proposition #1 – 2019-2020 District Budget: PASSED (Yes – 1,927/No – 410); Proposition #2 – PASSED (Yes – 1,804/No – 359); School Board Election – ELECTED: Teresa Leatherbarrow (i); Mary Bieger (i); Suzanne Van Sice (i).
 - The following Board members will speak at the 2019 high school graduations:
 - ⇒ Mr. Lemay - Williamsville South (at South) on Saturday, June 29, 6 p.m.
 - ⇒ Mrs. Leatherbarrow - Williamsville North at UB Center for the Arts, Sunday, June 30, 10 a.m.
 - ⇒ Mr. Lemay - Williamsville East at UB Center for the Arts, Sunday, June 30, 3:30 p.m.
- The Board appointed **Rebekah Skinner** as assistant principal at Country Parkway Elementary, and **Katherine Wendling** as assistant principal at Forest Elementary, effective August 27, 2019. Both Ms. Skinner and Ms. Wendling thanked the Board, Dr. Martzloff, their principals – Andrew Bowen, CP and Keith Wing, FE - and the respective school communities for the new opportunity.
- Under the **Superintendent's Community Update**, Dr. Martzloff thanked the community for its support at the ballot May 21 and congratulated the three Board incumbents on their reelection. He also acknowledged District Clerk Lynn Carey on her tremendous job organizing the annual budget vote and leading a great team effort. He thanked the District Leadership Team, in particular Assistant Superintendent Thomas Matuski, for their work on the budget. Dr. Martzloff also commented on the recent PTSA Service to Youth Award celebration, thanking the PTSA Council for a truly wonderful event.
- **Annual Wellness Report** – Assistant Superintendent for Exceptional Education and Student Services Anthony Scanzuso presented a comprehensive summary of the 2018-2019 Wellness Report, detailing a sample of activities and programs offered at each academic level. The report is available on the district website under the Parents & Student>Youth Wellness.
- Board members asked questions about student involvement in school-based and district-level wellness committees, and how cultural diversity education is integrated into the school environment. Mr. Scanzuso provided the Cultural Diversity Resource Booklet as an example of how the district works to educate staff members, and referenced several school-based activities as examples of how the buildings work with students to promote awareness and understanding.
- **Science Curriculum Review** – Instructional Specialist for Science, Engineering & Technology, Thomas Bird, was joined by science teachers from each academic level to provide an overview of the K-12 science curriculum. Mr. Bird outlined the recently adopted state K-12 Science Learning Standards and explained the three-phase implementation timeline. At the elementary level, Laurie Colucci, Grade 4 teacher at Dodge Elementary, demonstrated how her students built robots, which included basic coding as part of the hands-on activity and culminated with a presentation to parents. "They were truly 9-year old, fourth grade engineers," she said. Sue Merlino, Grade 7 science teacher at Heim Middle, gave Board members a brief chemistry lesson on how to make a portable heat source and explained how students, conducting the experiment, analyze data in real time using their Chromebooks. She also shared a recent lesson on micro-plastic pollution and how students worked to raise awareness about this growing environmental problem.

by writing letters to legislators and creating artwork using recycled plastic bags. At the high school level, Julie Boucher, Chemistry and Forensic Science Teacher at North High, described how student-centered learning and project-based curriculum teaches students to analyze and interpret data; plan and carry out investigations; and use critical thinking, collaboration, creativity and communication to reach solutions. She also shared how peer review is used to further engage students in the learning process.

Board members lauded the presentation and asked questions about the district's transition plan for the recently adopted state learning standards; project-based learning; teacher involvement in creating the new standards; and teacher preparation to implement any necessary curriculum changes. Dr. Martzloff thanked Mr. Bird and the teacher-presenters on a highly engaging presentation.

- In other business, the Board:
 - Adopted the revised Code of Conduct;
 - Approved year-end transfer authority for the Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Management Services to process budget transfers, as needed, to balance and finalize the 2018-19 budget;
 - Authorized the re-funding of the Repair Reserve Fund, not to exceed \$1 million to allow for the continuation of necessary repair work at all school buildings to be completed during the summer of 2019.
 - Approved a \$10.5 million pay down on debt associated with a Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) issued to pay for capital project expenses related to the 2015 Facility Improvement Project, Athletic Field Improvement Project, and Athletic Field Enhancement Project;
 - Authorized the sale of the district's unneeded buses and bus parts;
 - Approved a ten-year lease agreement between the district and Student Transportation of America for the bus garage facility located at 505 Mill Street;
 - Authorized athletic field lease agreements for summer 2019 with the following: Williamsville East Boys Soccer Boosters, Amherst Lacrosse Association, East Field Hockey Boosters, Boys High School Soccer Summer Prep Camp, and the Joe Licata Football Camp;
 - Reviewed the 2018-19 the Energy Conservation Committee and required Wellness/Nutrition and Fitness Committee annual reports.
- The Board accepted the resignations for the purpose of retirement from **Paula Bower**, a clerk typist at Williamsville South High School after 30 years and 2 months of service, effective July 21, 2019; **Jo Ann Brunetto**, a teacher Aide at Transit Middle School after 27 years and 9 months of service, effective June 25, 2019; **Susan Hausladen**, a food service helper at Casey Middle School, after 16 years, 10 months of service, effective September 14, 2019; and **Deborah Morley**, a transportation bus driver, after 26 years, 9 months of service, effective June 25, 2019.
- **Committee of the Whole:** Mr. Lemay brought forward an idea originally suggested by Mr. Mecca that the Board consider making a survey available at its regular meetings for audience members, including Participation in Government students, to fill out and submit anonymously. Board members agreed to consult with district leadership and place the suggested evaluation tool on a future agenda for further discussion.

Second Public Expression *(No Speakers)*

This Board of Education meeting will be televised on Spectrum/LCTV Ch. 1302 Saturday, June 1 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, June 2 at 1 p.m. Also, the meeting video is available for viewing anytime on [BoardDocs](#) and on YouTube @ Williamsville Central School District.

Upcoming Meetings (District Office):

Tuesday, June 18, 2019 ♦ 7 p.m.