

# SCHOOL BOARD NOTES

[www.williamsvillek12.org](http://www.williamsvillek12.org)

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## RECOGNITION

The Board recognized two students who represented the Town of Amherst Youth & Recreation Department at the New York State Albany Youth Leadership Forum held in Albany Feb. 5-6. Special guest Kathy Mobarek-Miller, Projects Coordinator for the Town of Amherst Youth Board, introduced **Vanshika Tomar**, a senior at Williamsville South, and **Sumitra Pandit**, an eighth grader at Casey Middle School. [Pictured, Mr. Lemay, Vanshika, Sumitra, and Dr. Martzloff.]



**Board Acknowledgements** – Mrs. Suzanne Van Sice commended Casey Middle Principal Peter Dobmeier and the Casey staff and faculty for their “rock star performances” in a recent video campaign called [“Teachers Beat Cancer”](#).

## PUBLIC EXPRESSION (No Speakers)

## BOARD ADOPTS 2018-19 BUDGET

The Board voted unanimously to adopt the 2018-19 Proposed Budget for \$190,815,689 and approved the 2018-19 Property Tax Report Card as required by state law. Superintendent Scott Martzloff detailed the proposed plan, which represents a budget-to-budget increase of 2.51 percent. The tax levy increase is 2.24 percent, which is slightly below the district’s allowable New York State tax cap. The tax rate is also estimated to increase 2.24 percent. The owner of an Amherst home assessed at \$150,000 with the Basic STAR exemption would see a tax increase of \$43.42 under the proposed budget.

The 2018-19 budget maintains the current level of academic and extracurricular programming for students. It also adds one instructional coaching position; increases academic intervention services to address student need; strengthens administrative support at the elementary and high school levels; enhances services for students with special needs; and increases professional development opportunities for teachers. The district eliminated a \$1.55 million budget shortfall through salary savings from teacher retirements and cost efficiencies.

The adopted New York State budget included an additional \$333,479 in state aid to Williamsville Schools, which will be directed entirely to enhance school safety and security measures. According to Dr. Martzloff, the district plans to conduct a security audit, hire a K-12 Behavioral Specialist, and make some physical security upgrades such as exterior doors and windows.

Board members voiced strong support for the budget and the district’s plans for added safety measures. Mrs. Teresa Leatherbarrow said it would be important for the behavioral specialist to have experience “working in the trenches”. Commenting on the district’s efforts to enhance school safety, Mr. Mecca suggested that the Board lobby state lawmakers about dedicated funding allocations to all school districts to offset the cost of school safety measures. The Board agreed to address the topic in a letter to state officials.

All budget presentations are available on the district website, [www.williamsvillek12.org/budget\\_development](http://www.williamsvillek12.org/budget_development).

## ITEMS OF BUSINESS AND DISCUSSION

- Under the **President’s Report**, District Clerk Lynn Carey reported that five individuals have submitted valid petitions to run for the school board to date. They are (in order of petition submission): Mr. Shawn Lemay (i); Mr. Eric Borenstein; Mrs. Toni Vazquez (i); Dr. Robert Campo; and Mr. Mark Mecca (i).

The deadline for submitting the required documents to run for the school board is 5 p.m. April 16. A random drawing to determine ballot positions for the school board candidates will be held at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 17 in the district office boardroom, followed by a special meeting to vote on the Erie 1 BOCES Annual Budget & Board Election.

- The Board will hold a Community Forum Saturday, April 28 from 9 a.m. – noon in the Williamsville South High School cafeteria.
- Mrs. Bieger shared information from a conference she attended recently on New York State’s next generation learning standards. According to Mrs. Bieger, the new standards are “quite promising” and are expected to be rolled out in 2021. She also shared her concerns about the testing metrics to evaluate grade-level efficiency.

- In his **Superintendent's Community Update**, Dr. Martzloff announced that the district will pilot food sharing tables at three schools (Dodge, Forest, and Maple East elementary schools) with the intent to expand the program to other schools if successful. He also thanked Dr. Anna Cieri for arranging a screening of *ScreenAgers*, a film about teenagers growing up in the digital age, on April 25 at Casey Middle School. Dr. Martzloff encouraged parents and students, middle school age and up, to attend. Finally, he thanked Mr. Thomas Matuski, the leadership team, principals and all staff and community members who provided input and helped develop the 2018-19 budget.
- **Status of District Technology** – Assistant Superintendents Thomas Matuski, Dr. Anna Cieri, and Dr. Marie Balen were joined by Technology Integrator Team Leader, Lee Ferenc, in presenting a detailed review the district's technology vision. The presenters addressed all facets of technology implementation and integration including goals, school and community connections, professional development, equipment and infrastructure, responsibility and readiness. Mr. Ferenc provided an overview of technology integration by academic level, including the 1:1 mobile device middle school program and the new mobile device loan program at the high schools. Dr. Balen addressed STEM experiences and exploratory opportunities for K-12 students, and professional development for teachers. Dr. Cieri reviewed current school community connects including WITS, the district website, eAlerts, and social media. She announced that the district would be adding a pre-recorded phone messaging system for emergency parent communications. Dr. Cieri briefly addressed WCAG 2.0 (Web Content Accessibility Guidelines) and the district's ongoing efforts to meet mandated accessibility standards. Mr. Matuski wrapped up the presentation by reviewing the district's financial investment in software and hardware. He also referenced the district's Smart School project with plans to improve wireless connectivity in all schools.

Following the presentation, Board members asked about the use of Chromebooks at the high school level; the teaching of digital citizenship and online safety; monitoring of student use of devices for academic purposes versus personal use; protecting students' personal information and filtering software; and improving Wi-Fi access in the schools.

The Technology Presentation is available on the district website, [www.williamsvillek12.org](http://www.williamsvillek12.org), under the Technology Services heading.

- In other business, the Board
  - Conducted a first reading on revised policy #7313 – Suspension of Students; a second reading and adoption is scheduled at the special meeting May 3.
  - Reviewed recommended revisions to the District's Code of Conduct. There were no speakers during a public hearing on the revised document, which will be available for public review and comment until May 22, 2018.
  - Received the 2017-18 Internal Audit Report as presented by Ms. Kathy Barrett of Freed Maxick.
  - Awarded bids for the Smart School's capital project. New York State voters passed the Smart Schools Bond Act (SSBA) in 2014. Williamsville CSD developed the required Smart Schools Investment Plan, which the state approved last August. The district's SSBA allotment of \$3,474,731 will be used to update the district's wireless access system, increasing the number of access points district-wide from 680 to 1,064. This involves extensive new wiring and fiber installation in all school and district buildings, and new network switches. The district's [SSBA Investment Plan](#) is available online under the Technology Services heading.
- The Board accepted the resignation for the purpose of retirement of the following staff members: **Gary Collichio**, Williamsville North HS Principal, after 14 years of service, effective August 2, 2018; **Teresa Beaton-Corrigan**, a teacher at Forest Elementary School, after 24 years of service, effective July 1, 2018; and **Charlene Sardo**, PT Teacher Aide at Williamsville South HS, after 22 years of service, effective June 22, 2018.
- The Board accepted the following donations on behalf of the school district: \$22,530.16 from "Project Dodge", established last year as a fundraising initiative by the Dodge Elementary Playground Committee, and \$5,000 from the Dodge PTA, both for the school's playground project; and a Kay String Bass Model C1 valued at \$1,800 from Mr. Paul Holmwood to Williamsville East HS.
- **Committee of the Whole:** Mrs. Bieger and Mr. Mecca suggested adding a student musical presentation at the start of each Board meeting. Mr. Lemay shared a correspondence from a South High student who thanked the Board and the district for the ongoing efforts to support and enhance school safety.

**SECOND PUBLIC EXPRESSION:** Ms. Helaine Sanders asked the Board to support her candidacy for the Erie 1 BOCES Board of Education.

This Board of Education meeting will be televised on Spectrum News Channel 20 Saturday, April 14 at 7:30 P.M. and Sunday, April 15 at 1 P.M.  
The meeting video is available for viewing online anytime at [www.williamsvillek12.org](http://www.williamsvillek12.org) by clicking *Video on Demand*.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS** (held in District Office Boardroom unless indicated):

Tuesday, April 17, 2018 ♦ Special Board Meeting, BOCES Admin Budget and BOCES Board Member Election ♦ 6 PM  
 Thursday, May 3, 2018 ♦ Annual Budget Hearing at 6 PM ♦ School Board Candidates' Forum at 7 PM

**Saturday, April 28, 2018 ♦ Community Forum**  
**Williamsville South High School Cafeteria**  
**9 AM - Noon**