

SCHOOL BOARD NOTES

www.williamsvillek12.org

January 9, 2018

Vol. 37 No. 6

RECOGNITION

The Board recognized Dodge Elementary Art Teacher, **Thom Knab**, who is recipient of two prestigious awards from the [National Art Education Association](#). Mr. Knab is winner of the Eastern Region Elementary Art Educator Award and the National Elementary Art Educator Award. He will receive the awards at the 2018 NAEA National Convention in Seattle, WA on March 22. Dodge Principal Charlie Smilinich also announced that Mr. Knab is president-elect of the NAEA. He will serve two years as president of the national association from 2019-2021. (Pictured, Board President Shawn Lemay, Mr. Smilinich, Mr. Knab, and Superintendent Scott Martzloff).



PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Two individuals addressed the Board during the public expression period. Sam Campanelli, Mill Middle Teacher and member of the WTA Executive Board, read a statement addressing the past discord between the teachers' union and the Superintendent. Mr. Campanelli personally apologized to Dr. Martzloff for the criticisms and accusations lodged against him that proved to be false, citing the 3020a decision. He expressed optimism for building a trusting relationship with Dr. Martzloff and the Board moving forward. He also thanked Dr. Martzloff and the district's negotiations team for working "professionally, respectfully and sincerely" with the WTA to reach the recent contract agreement. A parent shared her observations about high school course offerings and voiced support for the Board's pending decision to add a second public expression period at its regular meetings.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS AND DISCUSSION

- Under the *President's Report*,
 - ✧ The Board voted unanimously to add a second public expression period at its regular meetings on a four-month trial basis, beginning February 13, 2018.
 - ✧ Led by Mr. Lemay, the Board reviewed and discussed the status of its 2017-18 goals.
 - ✧ Mr. Lemay announced the Board's second Community Forum, to be held Wednesday, January 31 from 7-9 p.m. at North High School in the cafeteria.
- Under the ***Superintendent's Community Update***, Dr. Martzloff reported on the community survey now underway, saying he has invited staff, parents, students, and the public to share their views about the district's future priorities. According to Dr. Martzloff, about 800 individuals have taken the survey, which remains open through January 12. He also announced that the district plans to survey parents and students about expanding the elimination of class rank at the high schools and will conduct a survey about LOTE (Languages Other Than English) to help determine if any changes should be made to the foreign language curriculum. Dr. Martzloff shared his recent conversation with student members of the Superintendent's Interhigh Advisory Council, saying the majority of them supported eliminating class rank for current 10th and 11th graders.

Board member Kurt Venator commented on the format of the community survey suggesting a second phase to ensure more "robust data collecting".

- ***2018-2019 Budget Development*** – Dr. Martzloff presented an overview of the 2018-2019 budget development process and the projected expense associated with continuing all current programming and possibly adding support in certain areas. He began by sharing the district's mission and belief statements, which set the parameters for establishing budget priorities. He noted that the current mission was adopted in the mid-1990's as a result of a strategic planning process, adding that it may be time for the district to consider developing a new strategic plan for the future.

Mr. Thomas Maturski, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Management Services, reviewed program continuation items and the estimated cost of program support considerations for the upcoming budget year. As presented, the total estimated cost of program continuation and added supports would be \$193.5 million, which represents a budget-to-budget increase of just under four percent.

Board members asked questions about suggested administrative changes, e.g. adding assistant principals at the elementary level; the possible addition of school counselors to serve elementary and middle schools as well as the addition of a K-12 behavioral specialist;

software upgrades; increased transportation and health insurance costs; and equipment funding. In response, Dr. Martzloff emphasized that this is a first-look at a roll over budget, keeping all programs intact, plus a “wish list” to add support in certain areas. Revenues remain unclear and will be addressed in more detail next month. Dr. Venator shared his views about the importance of aligning budget priorities with district and board goals, stressing the need to fund wellness efforts targeting anti-bullying, character education and drug prevention programs. A discussion ensued about the budget development process and what programs are currently in place to support student wellness. The projected 2018-19 revenue outlook will be shared at the February 13 meeting.

- ***In other business, the Board:***

- ✧ Approved the Biennial Review and Revised Plan for Shared Decision-Making as presented by Helen Drew-Meosky, District SDM chairperson. Board Member Mary Bieger thanked Mrs. Meosky for leading the district’s SDM team and said that all SDM plans are available on the [district website](#).
- ✧ Approved tenure for three certified personnel: **Mary Cwiklinski**, Social Worker at Forest Elementary and North High School; **Danielle May**, Teacher at Maple West Elementary; and **LeighAnn Smith**, Teacher at Mill Middle School. Ms. May, a 2007 Williamsville South alumna, thanked the Board, Dr. Martzloff and Maple West Principal Charles Galluzzo for their support in reaching this career milestone.
- ✧ Approved Medicaid Compliance Program Continuation in accordance with state and federal law.
- The Board accepted the resignations for retirement purposes from the following employees: **Kathy Colletta**, Clerk Typist at Casey Middle, after 28 years of service, effective February 23, 2018; and **Mitzie Serafin**, District Clerk/Records Management Officer, after 24 years of service, effective March 2, 2018.
- **Committee of the Whole:** Mr. Lemay introduced a ‘table share’ concept that has been implemented in other school districts and was featured in an [Orlando Sentinel](#) article published November 17, 2017. The concept places a sharing table in school cafeterias and students may place unwanted food items from the lunch line (not from a lunch prepared at home) on the sharing table for other students to take. The aim is to eliminate food waste and to provide extra nutrition to hungrier students. After some discussion, the Board asked the Superintendent to look into the feasibility of implementing a ‘table share’ program in Williamsville, taking into consideration New York State law, district policy, and feedback from school principals and cafeteria managers.

This Board of Education meeting will be televised on Spectrum News Channel 20 Saturday, January 13 at 7:30 P.M. and Sunday, January 14 at 1 P.M. Also, the meeting video is available for viewing online anytime at www.williamsville12.org by clicking *Video on Demand*.

BOE Community Forum: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 ✧ 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. ✧ North High School

Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday, February 13, 2018 ✧ 7:00 p.m. ✧ District Office Boardroom