

SCHOOL BOARD NOTES

RECOGNITION

The Board recognized Williamsville East High School Principal, Anthony Scanzuso, who was named the 2018 SAANYS (School Administrators Association of New York State) Region 12 High School Principal of the Year.

During a special recognition segment, the Board acknowledged the Williamsville Unified Basketball Team, which won the 2018 Section VI Championship in its first season of play. Ten players and Coach Dan Greiner were on hand to celebrate the achievement. Since 2013, Special Olympics of New York and the NYS Public High School Athletic Association have offered interscholastic Unified Sports. The unified basketball program started in Section VI three years ago. The teams consist of special and general education students who play together in an interscholastic sports program that focuses on sportsmanship, teamwork, and comradery.

Outgoing member Toni Vazquez was honored for her six years of service and leadership on the Board. In her remarks, Mrs. Vazquez thanked her peers and quoted Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s final speech delivered 50 years ago. She noted that she is the first and only Afro-American elected to the school board and urged the district to expand diversity among the teaching staff. Watch the June 12 meeting video online to hear her remarks.

Board Acknowledgements – Member Kurt Venator congratulated Mr. Scanzuso for receiving the SAANYS award saying that as board liaison to East High School, he has been impressed with Mr. Scanzuso's leadership, vision, and team-building skills. Dr. Venator also commented on the outstanding sixth grade concert at Transit Middle, praising the school district's music and arts programming.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION *(No Speakers)*

ITEMS OF BUSINESS AND DISCUSSION

- The Board approved tenure for 18 certified staff members as follows:

Lori Bellacose, Dodge Elementary
Andrew Bowen, Country Parkway Elementary, Principal
Alexandria Capozzi, Heim Elementary, ESL
Heather Cwudzinski-Thorne, Transit Middle, LOTE
Samantha Farley, Mill Middle, Social Studies
Stephen Guerra, Forest Elementary, ESL
Shannon Jantzi, Casey Middle, ESL
Melissa Johnson, Forest Elementary, Reading
Lisa Kristich, Maple East Elementary, Reading



WCSU Unified Basketball Champs!



East Principal and SAANYS High School Principal of the Year, Anthony Scanzuso.



Outgoing Board Member Toni Vazquez with Maple East Principal Cathy Mihalic.

Several of the newly tenured faculty members spoke, thanking the Superintendent, the Board, and their colleagues for the support along the way. "This is certainly a milestone in your career and is a terrific testament to what outstanding educators all of you have been here in Williamsville," said Dr. Martzloff.

- Under the **President's Report**, members congratulated President Shawn Lemay for receiving two recent honors related to his board service. Earlier this month, the Erie County Association of School Boards presented him with an Achievement Award for his active involvement in the ECASB. He also received the NYSSBA (New York State School Board Association) Board Achievement Award.
 - Mr. Lemay reviewed the Board's new formal self-evaluation tool, provided by NYSSBA. According to Mr. Lemay, the evaluation results will provide context during the 2018-19 goal setting process.
- In his **Superintendent's Community Update**, Dr. Martzloff reported that the district currently is working with the Amherst Police Department and a private security consultant to conduct safety audits at every school. The board will receive results from the audits when completed, along with short and long-term recommendations to enhance school safety. Dr. Martzloff also congratulated the Class of 2018 from East, North and South high schools and urged parents to remind their teens to be safe. He thanked Mrs. Vazquez for her service on the board. "I have been struck by her honesty, her ability and willingness to advocate for students, teachers, and administrators," he said, especially noting her sense of fairness.

Cassandra Maritato, Transit Middle, Teaching Asst.
Mallory McManus, Dodge Elementary, ESL
Ashley Mohnney, Heim Middle, LOTE
Anne Palmiero, Mill Middle, ESL
Danielle Rodgers, Casey Middle, Music
Megan Schapp, East High, Special Education
Joshua Sciandra, Transit Middle, English
April Weitz, Casey Middle, LOTE
Kimberly Wolf, Transit Middle, ESL

- **Survey Results** – Results from two surveys were shared, beginning with the community survey conducted January 3-17, 2018. 866 people participated, providing responses to two open-ended questions, and then rating responses given by others in order to prioritize issues raised. The two questions were: What are the most important things for the district to focus on as we plan for the future? What are some important experiences you would like your child to have a Williamsville CSD to support their continued growth and success? According to survey participants, which included parents, staff, students and community members, priorities should include: support for all learners; class size; student engagement; character development; safety and behavior; experiential learning; future careers; life skills; and course offerings. Dr. Martzloff said the survey results be considered during the goal development process for next year.

Dr. Marie Balen, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, shared the results of a parent survey on Languages Other Than English (LOTE). The survey was conducted March 16-30, 2018, with 1,195 respondents who were asked to rate the importance of the LOTE program; when LOTE instruction should begin; and what languages should be offered. Nearly 89 percent of participants believe LOTE is very important (61.3%) or somewhat important (27.5%), and the majority would like to see LOTE instruction begin in elementary school with most indicating kindergarten as the starting grade. Spanish remains the top foreign language choice, followed by Mandarin Chinese and American Sign Language. The survey results also showed support for online language courses taught by NYS certified teachers; the importance of cultural interaction and communication skills (both spoken and written); early exposure to LOTE; quality instruction and instruction delivery.

In response to questions from Board members, Dr. Balen stressed the importance of looking at the totality of the program including NYS graduation requirements for LOTE and keeping the focus on student need. Next steps will include updating benchmark data from comparable school districts and gathering feedback from additional stakeholders such as students and staff.

- **2018 Music Improvement and Facility Infrastructure Project** – Dr. Martzloff provided an informational overview about a new capital project proposal designed to improve the district’s music facilities and add infrastructure to support Williamsville’s award-winning music program. The project would include major construction and renovation of the music space at each high school plus moderate renovations of the music space at the four middle schools. In addition, targeted facility improvement work would be planned for several schools. The project development has involved both school-based and district input teams, as well as professional partners such as architects, construction management, and an acoustical consultant. Dr. Martzloff presented architectural renderings for each of the high schools, showing new music additions and major renovations to school auditoriums. He also outlined the proposed work at the middle schools. The plan now calls for in-filling pools at Mill and Heim middle schools, however, Dr. Martzloff said more information will be compiled about the current use of the pools, both by students and the community, before a final decision is made. The estimated project cost is \$36,659,930. To finance the project, the district would use its long-standing level debt service plan to take on new debt without affecting the general fund budget. As a result, there would be no tax increase associated with the project. The project also would be eligible for state building aid. The proposed timeline calls for Board authorization in October and a community proposition vote in December. Project completion is expected to take three to four years. Several board members asked for more information related to the possible pool closures at the two middle schools.
- In other business, the Board:
 - Reviewed the 2017-18 year-end reports for both the Board and District goals.
 - Conducted a first reading on four revised policies: #5660-Meal Charging and Prohibition Against Meal Shaming; #7242-Military Recruiters’ Access to Secondary School Students and Information on Students; #7512-Student Physicals; and #7513-Administration of Medication.
 - Approved funding for four-year agreements between the Superintendent of Schools and the Williamsville Supervisors’ and Computer Technicians’ Association, and the Superintendent of Schools and the Williamsville Coordinators’ Association, July 1, 2018-June 30, 2022.
 - Approved year-end reserve funding in accordance with Board policy; approved summer hiring authority for particular District personnel; and re-authorized administrative approval of change orders up to \$35,000 during the summer months.
 - Approved temporary and permanent easement agreements for Maple East Elementary with the Town of Amherst for installation and maintenance of a new sewer line adjacent to Maple Road in front of the school.
 - Approved the District Technology Plan, 2018-2021. In response to Board questions, Dr. Balen explained that the plan represents a broad outlook that uses the template required by the state. She added that changes and updates are expected to be made during the three-year life of the plan.
 - Reviewed the 2017-18 Discipline Report, with Board members asking for more detail to be provided in future reports. The Board also received the Annual Notification of Compliance and Performance Results for Students with Disabilities.
- The Board accepted the resignation for the purpose of retirement from the following staff members: **Ellen Heusner**, PT Teacher Aide, Maple West Elementary, after 17 years of service, effective June 21, 2018; **Judith Mallison**, PT Teacher Aide at Country Parkway Elementary, after 24 years of service, effective June 21, 2018; **Catherine Perusich**, Director of Continuing & Community Education, after 17 years of service, effective August 17, 2018; **Robert Raithe**, Printer, Lawrence Bell Drive, after 32 years of service, effective July 5, 2018; and **Freda Zecher-Tropp**, Senior Clerk Typist, Business Office, after four years of service, effective July 20, 2018.

SECOND PUBLIC EXPRESSION (*No Speakers*) - Citing the low number of speakers since it was implemented, member Susan McClary asked if the second public expression period was intended to be a permanent addition to each meeting. Mr. Lemay suggested that the Board vote on whether or not to keep it.

This Board of Education meeting will be televised on Spectrum News Channel 20 Saturday, June 16 at 7:30 P.M. and Sunday, June 17 at 1 P.M. The meeting video is available for viewing online anytime at www.williamsvillek12.org by clicking *Video on Demand*.

UPCOMING MEETINGS (*District Office Boardroom*): MONDAY, July 2, 2018 • 2018-19 Organizational Meeting • 7:00 P.M.