

# SCHOOL BOARD NOTES



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## 2018-19 BUDGET WORK SESSION & PUBLIC FORUM

Superintendent Dr. Scott Martzloff reviewed the 2018-19 Preliminary Budget, which maintains all current level of academic and extracurricular programming for students. The plan also adds instructional support for students with enhanced academic intervention services; an instructional coach for literacy; and supports more professional development for teachers. It increases administrative support at the elementary and high schools, and includes \$1.55 million in salary expense reductions due to retirements. Dr. Martzloff addressed the possibility of the district receiving more state aid than anticipated as lawmakers in Albany work to finalize the state budget for the upcoming year. His recommendation is that any additional funds go towards school safety and security enhancements. He listed some considerations for the Board including adding school resource officers, a K-12 behavioral specialist, additional mental health staff and a director of security.

Following the presentation, Board members discussed the options on how additional state funds should be directed and all agreed that the money should be used to support school safety and student wellness. Dr. Martzloff reviewed the current School Liaison Officer program provided by the Amherst Police Department, saying designated officers check in at every school several times a week. In contrast, a School Resource Officer (SRO) would be a full time position with strictly school-based assignment(s) that the district would fund. He also said that the district currently has paid security at each high school from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. every weekday. Board members asked about the status of specified funding from the state or federal government to enhance school security. Dr. Martzloff explained that elected officials have talked about channeling funds to improve school infrastructure to address safety issues as well as support SROs at all schools but there has been no action to date. He also cautioned about the sustainability of positions created by government grants.

Should the state adopt a budget that includes additional state aid for the school district, specific recommendations on how to direct those funds will be included in the proposed budget presented April 10<sup>th</sup>.

During the public forum segment, one speaker addressed the Board about proposed changes to elementary school administrative staffing. Dr. Martzloff explained the plan to add assistant principals at each school, replacing the part-time assistant administrator structure that is in place now.

### 2018-19 Preliminary Budget Summary:

- \$190,482,210, budget-to-budget increase of 2.34%
- Tax levy increase: 2.24% (slightly below the NYS tax cap)
- Estimated tax rate increase: 2.24%
  - For a home in the Town of Amherst assessed at \$150,000 the tax increase with the STAR subsidy applied would be \$43.43.

The Board is expected to adopt the 2018-19 budget April 10. The Annual Budget Hearing is Thursday, May 3 and the Annual District Vote & School Board Election is Tuesday, May 15. All budget presentations are available online at [www.williamsvillek12.org/budget](http://www.williamsvillek12.org/budget).

This Board of Education meeting will be televised on Spectrum News Channel 20 Saturday, March 31 at 7:30 P.M. and Sunday, April 1 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 10, 2018 ♦ Regular Meeting & Budget Adoption, 7 PM

Tuesday, April 17, 2018 ♦ Special Board Meeting, BOCES Admin Budget and BOCES Board Member Election ♦ 6 PM

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