

# SCHOOL BOARD NOTES

*At the start of the meeting, the Board of Education observed ten seconds of silence – one second for each victim of the May 18, 2018 school shooting in Santa Fe, TX.*

## RECOGNITION

The Board recognized the district's Music Program for receiving the 2018 Best Community for Music Education Award from the NAMM Foundation (National Association of Music Merchants). According to **Michael Russo**, Instructional Specialist for Fine & Performing Arts, Business and FACS: "Recognition as a Best Community for Music Education is an honor, and a reflection of our community that values excellence," he said. "We have students who want to be the best, families who help them strive for the best, teachers who work tirelessly day in and day out to bring out their best, and an administration and Board of Education who do everything in their power to provide the best."



**Harue Suzuki**, a graduating senior from Williamsville East, performed a piano piece. Harue is the 2018 recipient of the Friends of the Amherst Symphony Orchestra Scholarship and the Williamsville Music Boosters scholarship. She will attend Case Western Reserve University in the fall where she plans to double major in music education and music performance.

**Board Acknowledgements** – Member Suzanne Van Sice congratulated teachers and students who participated in the first annual Casey Kids Crafts & Creation Show held May 15. She also commented on her recent interaction with the district Athletic Directors, calling them "true assets to our district", and congratulated Williamsville's Unified Basketball Team on its inaugural season. Board President Shawn Lemay also acknowledged the Unified Basketball program, describing it as a "tremendously worthwhile experience" for all involved, including spectators. Member Mary Bieger thanked District Clerk Lynn Carey for her work and coordination of the District Budget Vote.

## PUBLIC EXPRESSION (No Speakers)

## ITEMS OF BUSINESS AND DISCUSSION

- Under the **President's Report**, Mr. Lemay thanked the community for supporting the budget, and acknowledged Mrs. Carey's hard work. Mrs. Carey credited the 'team effort' to coordinate and manage a successful vote day, thanking everyone involved. The Board formally accepted the results of the May 15, 2018 District Vote and School Board Election as follows: **Proposition #1** – 2018-19 District Budget: PASSED (Yes – 2,518 No – 638); **School Board Election** – ELECTED: Shawn Lemay (i); Mark Mecca (i); Eric Borenstein.
  - High school graduation speakers are as follows:
    - ❖ Saturday, June 23: 6 p.m., Williamsville South - Mr. Lemay (at South)
    - ❖ Sunday, June 24, UB Center for the Arts: 10 a.m., Williamsville North - Mrs. Bieger; 3:30 p.m., Williamsville East - Mr. Lemay
- In his **Superintendent's Community Update**, Dr. Martzloff thanked the community for its support of the adopted budget, which was approved by an 80 percent margin. He congratulated Mr. Lemay, Mr. Mecca, and Mr. Borenstein on their election, saying he looks forward to working with them in the future. He also thanked Mrs. Carey for doing "a terrific job" on the budget vote and Board election.
- **Annual Wellness Report** – Assistant Superintendent for Exceptional Education and Student Services, Dr. Anna Cieri, led a presentation on the 2017-18 Wellness Report. She was joined by building-level Wellness Team members Nancy Fultz, Social Worker at Heim Elementary; Keith Gordon, Social Worker at Heim Middle; and Cheryl Goldstone, School Counselor at Williamsville South. Dr. Cieri provided an overview of district-wide programming that focuses on asset development, social-emotional learning, mindfulness practices, resiliency, and emotional safety. She also shared information about current and planned staff development initiatives that involve employees at every level, covering such topics as anti-bias education and suicide prevention. Each school representative provided examples of building-level wellness activities and initiatives, all with the shared goal of building positive assets in children and facilitating positive relationships among young people.

Following the presentation, Board members asked specific questions about staff training opportunities and professional development; elementary level programming; increasing awareness around cultural and religious diversity in the schools; and how schools accommodate students who are fasting (e.g. during Ramadan). Board members expressed their continued support for student wellness programming and lauded the unique and broad spectrum of wellness initiatives underway across the schools. Several members asked that the full wellness report be made available to all parents.

- **Letter to Legislators** – At its regular meeting March 13, the Board agreed to send a letter to state and federal lawmakers to address school safety. Mr. Meyer and Mrs. Vazquez volunteered to write the letter; a draft was presented to Board members Tuesday night. Mr. Meyer asked the Board to approve the letter as presented and authorize its immediate mailing. The letter calls for legislators to ban assault rifles and enact common-sense gun legislation. Mr. Mecca expressed concern about its focus being on gun control legislation rather than requesting more government resources for school security measures and mental health staffing. Mrs. Bieger suggested that a separate letter be sent to legislators requesting funding for school security efforts. Following some discussion, the Board voted 7 to 2 to send the letter as written (*No: Mecca, Venator*).

Dr. Martzloff encouraged members to meet face-to-face with legislators and Mr. Lemay suggested that the Board consider forming a Legislative Committee to regularly lobby elected officials on important matters effecting schools.

On a separate legislative matter, Mrs. Leatherbarrow shared a cautionary note about current legislation, now in the NYS Senate, that would decouple state test scores from teacher evaluations.

- In other business, the Board
  - Adopted the revised Code of Conduct.
  - Reviewed the 2017-18 the Energy Conservation Committee and District Nutrition & Fitness Committee reports.
  - Approved the State Environmental Quality Review Assessment (SEQRA) Resolution for the 2018 Music Program Capital Project, which is required by the state before a capital project proposition may be put forth to the community.
  - Approved year-end transfer authority for the Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Management Services to process budget transfers, as needed, to balance and finalize the 2017-18 budget.
  - Authorized the re-funding of the Repair Reserve Fund, not to exceed \$1,200,000 to allow for the continuation of necessary repair work at all school buildings, as well as the bus garage and the Lawrence Bell Drive facility building.
  - Approved a \$7 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. The fund borrowing was authorized by District voters May 19, 2015.
  - Approved the funding for the negotiated agreement between the Superintendent and the Williamsville Administrators Association (WAA), effective July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2022.
- **Business Curriculum Review** – Instructional Specialist for Fine & Performing Arts, Business Education and FACS, Michael Russo, was joined by Business Teachers Marlena Belsito (North), Alexis Langheier (South), and Brian Powalowski (East/South) in providing an overview of the high school Business curriculum. The presentation included a list of courses offered with College & Career Readiness and Personal Finance classes available to all students regardless of what career they pursue. Many of the business courses provide dual-credit opportunities for students who, upon successful completion of the course, earn college credit through a partnership with Erie Community College. The presenters also described the DECA and FBLA, co-curricular programs, which are aligned with the Business curriculum; the Career Exploration Internship Program (CEIP); and CTE (Career & Technical Education) Pathways. Workplace learning opportunities also include a work-study program and a general education experience program, which allows students to earn credit for their part time work experience. Board members expressed support for the program and the extensive opportunities available to Williamsville students.
- The Board accepted the resignation for the purpose of retirement from the following staff members: **Mary Ann Giambra**, senior clerk stenographer at Williamsville South, after 29 years of service, effective July 20, 2018; **Karen Miller**, part time teacher aide at Maple West Elementary, after 32 years of service, effective June 21, 2018; **Patricia Moren**, part time teacher aid at Williamsville South, after 17 years of service, effective June 21, 2018; **Diane Parker**, head bus driver, after 41 years of service, effective July 20, 2018; **Caroline Parry**, Transportation Supervisor, after 29.5 years of service, effective July 31, 2018; **Joy Petko**, cleaner at Williamsville North, after 45 years of service, effective July 31, 2018; and **Ellen Schaub**, part time teacher aide at Casey Middle after 24 years of service, effective June 21, 2018.
- The Board accepted a donation for \$520 from the Rochester Institute of Technology to support the district's Project Lead the Way courses. At its special meeting May 3, the Board accepted a donation for \$50,000 from the Maple West Elementary PTA to be used to upgrade the Maple West playground.
- **Committee of the Whole:** Mrs. Bieger requested more information about how the district determines the distribution of service provider personnel across schools, such as Reading and Math Specialists.

## **SECOND PUBLIC EXPRESSION** (*No Speakers*)

This Board of Education meeting will be televised on Spectrum News Channel 20 Saturday, May 26 at 7:30 P.M. and Sunday, May 27 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, June 12, 2018 ♦ 7 PM