

SCHOOL BOARD NOTES



October 17, 2017

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RECOGNITION

The Board recognized Dodge Elementary and its PTA PARP (Pick a Reading Partner) program for winning the New York State PTA PARP Award. Dodge was the regional winner of the PARP Award for two consecutive years. Congratulations to all of the Super Dodgers (*Pictured!*)

Also recognized, Maple East Elementary and the ME-PTA for being named a 2017-2019 National PTA School of Excellence. Maple East had won the designation previously and is among only 143 schools and PTAs from across the country to receive the designation for the current two-year period.

Amy Vohwinkel, the district's graphic artist, and **Rita Wolff**, Director of Communications, were recognized for receiving two awards in educational communications from the New York School Public Relations Association. The *2016-17 District Calendar* publication won an Award of Excellence, the highest designation, and the *2017-18 Proposed Budget Summary Book* received an Award of Honor. The NYSPRA awards contest continues to be one of the largest in the nation and is judged by communication professionals from around the country.



Board Acknowledgements: Board President Shawn Lemay noted that October is National Principals' Month, and he thanked all of the district's principals for the great job they do every day on behalf of students. Member Suzanne Van Sice thanked school faculty and staff members for their efforts coordinating the recent school open houses.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

During public expression, four parents voiced concerns about how the district is addressing the special educational needs of their children and requested a private meeting with the Board to address specific issues. Two parents addressed the topic of class rank, with one asking the Board to reconsider its decision to eliminate class rank and another applauding the Board's action, asking why removing class rank wasn't expanded to include all grade levels. A Transit Middle School parent questioned the appropriateness of a sign posted outside the school's library and wants the sign removed or the language on the sign changed.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS AND DISCUSSION

- Under the *President's Report*,
 - President Shawn Lemay provided a brief summary of his attendance to the NYSSBA Convention October 12-14 in Lake Placid.
 - The Board will hold the first of three community forums on **Saturday, November 18** from 9 a.m. to Noon at East High School.
 - The Williamsville Wall of Fame Breakfast is 8 a.m. October 27, 2017 at the Park Country Club. The event is sponsored by the Williamsville Education Foundation, Inc. Twelve distinguished alumni will be inducted representing each of the three high schools.
- Under the **Superintendent's Community Update**, Dr. Martzloff commented on the recent grand openings of the athletic complexes at South and East high schools, thanking the community for their support of the project as well as all those involved in planning the opening events. Describing it as a "great event for a great cause", Dr. Martzloff reported that he recently participated in the "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" golf tournament with many administrators, teachers, and staff. He thanked those who organized the fundraising event, especially Mill Middle Teacher Nora Bender who spearheaded the effort.
- **Overview of 2016-17 Academic Performance:** Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, Dr. Marie Balen, provided a comprehensive summary of academic performance for 2016-17 including standardized test results for grades 3-8, high school Regents results, Advanced Placement participation, and graduation rates. According to her report, the performance level for Williamsville students remains consistently strong and the district remains focused on student-specific outcomes. In her summation, Dr. Balen notes the continued collaboration with teachers and administrators to examine data, identify strengths and areas for refinement based on both qualitative and quantitative data; focused and varied professional development opportunities; and a continued focus on the whole student, preparing each student for life post-high school. Board members thanked her for the thoroughness of the presentation and asked questions about AP scores, recent issues with the Regents Algebra and Chemistry exams, and post-secondary tracking of graduates. Dr. Balen's presentation is available online at www.williamsvillek12.org.

- **Facilities Update** – Mr. Thomas Maturski, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Management Services, provided a brief review of what the district is looking to accomplish in a 2018 Music Improvement and Facility Infrastructure Project. The project focus would be on renovating high school music space, which may include building additions; a more limited renovation of middle school music space; and the replacement of some school roofs (Transit Middle and Maple West Elementary). According to Mr. Maturski, music classroom renovations cost 25% to 50% more than general use classroom renovations and music space additions cost up to 20% more than a general education classroom addition. As with past capital projects, the financing goal would be to maintain a zero or minimal impact on the annual budget using the district’s long-standing level debt service plan and a combination of available reserve funds designated for facility improvements and state aid dollars. Mr. Maturski noted that the calculation for state building aid has changed and will have an impact on this project. “We will be looking very closely to determine the total aid we will receive on this project as we develop the budget,” he said. The project would require voter approval and the current timeline calls for a special proposition vote in December 2018.

Mr. Maturski explained that each high school will assemble a music space input team, including the Principal and two music teachers, to develop a prioritized list of five items they would like to see occur at their school. The district’s project team, including professional consultants, will evaluate the items at each school and create a project scope, including cost estimates. The school teams may be asked to modify their lists to meet necessary cost parameters. “We will look to accomplish as much as we can in the most cost efficient manner possible,” Mr. Maturski said. The goal would be to equalize the amount spent at each school as much as possible.

Board members Mary Bieger and Dr. Kurt Venator asked how the district first determined the need to address the music space. Mr. Maturski explained that the district does capital project work on a regular basis to maintain the community’s investment in its school facilities, noting recent projects to replace school boiler/heating systems, roofs, and the athletic field improvement project. “Our music space is an area that needs renovation, which has resulted in it being the focal point of this new project,” he said. “We always try to do something that is program-important and this project is definitely program-important.” When asked about student involvement on the input teams, Mr. Maturski said it would be a building-level decision. Dr. Venator asked about community input on the project and Dr. Martzloff explained that capital improvements are determined by building use and program needs. However, he referred to the district’s plan to conduct a community survey to help define future priorities, which likely will result in feedback that would be useful for defining future projects. In response to a question from Mr. Lemay, Mr. Maturski noted that should the project gain voter approval, completion would be expected in 2021.

Following the presentation and discussion, the Board authorized professional agreements with Kideney Architects, P.C. and Campus Construction Management Group for architect, engineering, and construction manager services for the project.

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

- Approved the sale of district-owned property at 520 Campbell Boulevard to Ciminelli Muir Woods Associates, LLC for \$220,000.
- Appointed **Judy Diem** as Instructional Specialist for Accountability & Data Reporting/CIO, effective November 27, 2017. Ms. Diem comes to WCSD from Dunkirk City Schools where, most recently, she was Director of Intervention Services/Reading First Coordinator. She previously served as the district’s Director of Technology and Data Coordinator for six years. She replaces Diane Cordz, who is retiring.
- Appointed **John D’Angelo** as Special Education Coordinator, effective December 8, 2017. Mr. D’Angelo previously served as Director of Special Education and PPS at Amherst CSD. He replaces Ms. Beth Foels who recently retired.
- Adopted one new and four revised policies: #3115 – Website Accessibility (new); #7222 – Diploma or Credential Options for Students with Disabilities; #7420 – Student Records – Access and Challenge; #7530 – Child Abuse and Maltreatment; and #7670 – Impartial Due Process Hearings/Selection of Impartial Hearing Officers.
- Approved the annual audit for the fiscal school year ending June 30, 2017, as presented by Mr. Luke Malecki, partner in the firm of Drescher & Malecki, LLP, independent auditors. Also, Mr. Joseph Klimek, a partner with the EFPR Group, LLP, an independent claims auditor, presented the annual claims audit report.
- Adopted the 2018-19 Budget Development Calendar as presented.

- The Board accepted the resignations for retirement purposes: **Patricia Brown**, PT Teacher Aide at Forest Elementary, after 20 years of service, effective October 27, 2017; **Jennifer Moore**, a PT Food Service Helper at South High School, after 11 years of service, effective October 19, 2017; **Cathy Reigle**, a PT Food Service Helper at South High School, after 25 years of service; **Carol Root**, PT Teacher Aide at Dodge Elementary, after 26 years of service, effective December 19, 2017.
- The Board accepted the following donations on behalf of the school district: \$1,500 from the Heim Elementary PTA to Heim Elementary for grades 2 and 3 supplies and activities; and \$500 from Scholastic Books and Author James Patterson to Country Parkway Elementary for kindergarten teacher Danielle Biekert’s classroom library.

This Board of Education meeting will be televised on Spectrum News Channel 20 Saturday, October 21 at 7:30 P.M. and Sunday, October 22 at 1 P.M. Also, the meeting video is available for viewing anytime at www.williamsville12.org and on YouTube @ Williamsville Central School District.

UPCOMING MEETINGS (District Office Boardroom):

Tuesday, November 14, 2017 ♦ 7:00 p.m.