

School Board Notes

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Board Recognition

The Board recognized **Dr. William Bohen**, Transit Middle School Assistant Principal, who was named the 2019 State Assistant Principal of the Year by the School Administrators Association of New York State (SAANYS). He will be honored at a May awards ceremony in Albany and is now a candidate for the National Secondary Assistant Principal of the Year award. "I've been truly blessed working here in the Williamsville school district with so many amazing colleagues, parents and students over the past ten years," Dr. Bohen said.

Board Acknowledgements: Mrs. Suzanne Van Sice acknowledged District Clerk Lynn Carey for her work to coordinate and help organize the Erie County Association of School Board (ECASB) Legislative breakfast held at Williamsville East High School on Feb. 9. Mrs. Teresa Leatherbarrow praised the cast and crews for the tremendous musical productions recently staged at Williamsville East and Williamsville South. Mr. Mark Mecca congratulated Transit Middle students and school community for the money they raised for a new school sign.



Public Expression

Three individuals addressed the Board, voicing support for district bus drivers and speaking against a proposed plan to privatize the district's remaining transportation operation.

[NOTE: Currently, the district runs 14 percent of the total transportation operation. Student Transportation of America, a private contractor, already provides most of the district's student transportation services. "We greatly value our bus drivers and the contributions they make to our school district," Superintendent Scott Martzloff said. "We don't want to see anyone lose their job and given the high demand for school bus drivers, we are able to guarantee a job for any driver who wants one. We can even guarantee that they would keep their same bus route." Ten years ago, the district employed about 70 bus drivers; currently, there are 20 district drivers. The work force was reduced through attrition as the district began to shift more of its bus service needs to private contractors due, in large part, because of the difficulty in hiring drivers.]

Items of Business & Discussion

- Under the **President's Report**, the Board
 - ➔ Board members reported on their attendance to recent events, including the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra WNY Music Education Advocacy Night Feb. 4 and several ECASB-sponsored activities. Member Phil Meyer reported on the Feb. 9 Legislative Breakfast held at East High, which drew about 80 participants from several north town school districts. The main topics of discussion with the state legislators in attendance were school funding, state aid for public education, and the property tax cap.
 - ➔ Board President Shawn Lemay invited the public to the Board's next community forum on Saturday, April 6 at Williamsville North High School from 9 a.m. to noon.
 - ➔ The Board adopted the procedures and timeline for the 2019 School Board Election. Petition packets for qualified candidates seeking election to the Williamsville Board of Education are now available through the District Clerk's office. Candidates must obtain at least 65 valid signatures, which represents two percent of last year's total vote count. Packet information and required forms are available on the District website. Petitions are due in the District Office by 5 p.m. on Monday, April 22. A public drawing for ballot positions will take place on April 23 at 5:30 p.m. For more information, please contact the District Clerk's Office at 626-8092. Terms expire for members Mary Bieger, Teresa Anne Leatherbarrow and Suzanne Van Sice. All three plan to seek reelection.

The Erie County Association of School Boards will hold a prospective school board member workshop on Saturday, April 6 at the Erie I BOCES Education Campus, 355 Harlem Rd., West Seneca. Registration begins at 8:15 a.m. and the program runs from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. The workshop is free and open to anyone considering school board service. For more information and to register for the workshop, please call the ECASB at 821-7297.

- **Mr. Jason Smith** was appointed the new principal for Maple West Elementary. Mr. Smith has been principal of Harold O. Brumsted Elementary School in the Holland CSD for the past five years. Previously, he was an elementary school teacher in the Amherst CSD for three years and a special education and elementary teacher for eight years at the Enterprise Charter School in Buffalo. He has both

bachelor and master degrees from SUNY Buffalo State. "I am so excited, I can't wait," Mr. Smith said. "I am honored to be part of your school district and the Maple West community." Mr. Smith starts at Maple West on March 11, 2019.

- Under the **Superintendent's Community Update**, Dr. Martzloff acknowledged all those who helped organize the ECASB legislative breakfast, particularly District Clerk Lynn Carey, Williamsville East Secretary Mrs. Teri Warner, and East Principal Brian Swatland. He also congratulated North and South high schools on their recent musical productions. With the budget development process underway and expected budget challenges, Dr. Martzloff invited the community to participate in the budget conversation leading up to the 2019-2020 budget adoption April 9.
- The Board reviewed the draft 2019-2020 School Calendar, which closely mirrors the Erie I BOCES calendar, with the exception of designated staff development dates. The first day of school for students would be Tuesday, September 3, 2019. Wednesday, October 9 is designated as a Fall Recess Day and coincides with Yom Kippur. The winter recess runs from December 23, 2019 through January 3, 2020 with students returning to class Monday, January 6, 2020. The mid-winter recess is aligned with Presidents' Day, February 17-21, 2020 and the spring recess is scheduled from April 10-17, 2020. The last student day would be June 25, 2020. There are eight emergency closing days built into the calendar for next year. Dr. Martzloff noted the two-week December break, saying the calendar meets all state requirements for student days and complies with all contractual obligations. The Board is expected to adopt the 2019-2020 student calendar at its March 12 meeting.
- The Board voted to extend its contract with Superintendent Martzloff through June 2022. The extension includes a 2.7 percent salary increase, effective January 1, 2019. All other contractual provisions remain the same. "In Dr. Martzloff's tenure as superintendent, the district has had seven successful budget votes; we've had three successful capital projects including the athletic fields and the music project to upgrade and expand the music facilities; we've lowered class sizes; we've returned LOTE programming back into fifth grade; we've enhanced school security measures; and we remain focused on moving forward in building this community," said Board President Shawn Lemay.

Dr. Martzloff thanked Board members for their vote of confidence, and thanked former board members, current and former principals, as well as teachers and staff for their continued support. "I appreciate the support you give to our students and our families every single day," he said.

The 7-2 vote (*Meyer, Venator – No*) came after several board members expressed confidence in Dr. Martzloff's leadership.

- **In other business,**

- ➔ Helen Meosky, chair of the District Shared Decision-Making Team, presented the annual report on SDM compliance for the 2018-2019 school year, describing the shared decision-making efforts and activities underway at all schools as "wonderful expressions of our strength as a school district."
- ➔ An update on Languages Other Than English (LOTE) programming was provided to board members. The information included a summary of survey feedback from parents, teachers, and students; recommendations produced by the LOTE workgroup; research on LOTE programs in benchmark districts; and the addition of Mandarin Chinese as a 2019-20 course offering at the high school level.
- ➔ Authorized the refinancing of debt totaling \$7,199,029, which will result in a total cash flow savings of \$173,544.
- ➔ Approved the provider list for the district's annual Professional Development Plan in accordance with State Education Law.

- The Board accepted the resignations for the purpose of retirement of **Joan Cote**, a food service worker at South High School, after 20.5 years of service, effective June 14, 2019.
- The Board accepted two donations on behalf of Transit Middle School to help fund the installation of a new electronic sign at the entrance of the Transit campus: \$7,900 from Transit's Extra Classroom Activity Fund, and \$5,000 from the Transit PTSA.

Committee of the Whole: Mrs. Bieger suggested that the district create an organized advocacy group to include different stakeholders who would meet with legislators to advocate on behalf of the school district and public education. Board members, as well as Dr. Martzloff, expressed support for the concept.

Second Public Expression

Mr. Charles Smilinich, Dodge Elementary Principal and President of the Williamsville Administrators Association, spoke on behalf of the WAA, congratulating Mr. Bohon on his state award; welcoming Mr. Smith to the WCSD administrative team as the new principal of Maple West; and congratulating Dr. Martzloff on his contract extension. "As a team we have and will continue to make students' dreams come true", he said. Former school board member, Dr. Patricia Losito, thanked current board members for their work and congratulated Dr. Martzloff, thanking him for his continued leadership. A district bus driver, known to students as Mr. Bill, thanked the district "for the best job I've ever had."

2019-2020 BUDGET WORK SESSION & PUBLIC FORUM

Dr. Martzloff and Thomas Maturski, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Management Services, updated the Board and the community on the 2019-2020 budget development process. They reviewed program continuation expenses and program support initiatives included in the draft budget, as well as revenue projections based on state aid amounts provided in the Governor's budget and the state tax cap for WCSD, which stands at 3.18 percent. Currently, 2019-2020 estimated revenues and proposed expenses result in a \$2.3 million budget shortfall for the district. The budget development timeline includes a budget forum on March 12, when the preliminary budget will be presented; a budget work session March 26; and budget adoption April 9. The district's annual budget hearing is May 9 and the budget vote and board election take place May 21. The budget presentation is available to view on WCSD BoardDocs.

Following the presentation, Board members asked about the tax cap; a possible proposition in May to establish a new capital reserve fund for future facility projects; expense items that may provide funding flexibility (i.e., non-mandated expense items); and specific program support items included in the draft budget. There was some discussion about Governor Cuomo's recent comments addressing a serious revenue shortfall for the state and how the state's budget deficit may affect educational aid for schools.

BUDGET WORKSHOP - Public Expression

A regional CSEA representative asked about the amount that the district would save if it were to privatize its remaining transportation operation. Dr. Martzloff declined to release that information saying, "it would be putting the cart before the horse" because negotiations with the CSEA bargaining unit are ongoing. "The information will be available when we come to an agreement with the CSEA," Dr. Martzloff said.

This Board of Education meeting will be televised on Spectrum/LCTV Ch. 1302 Saturday, February 16 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, February 17 at 1 p.m. Also, the meeting video is available for viewing anytime on [BoardDocs](#) and on YouTube @ [Williamsville Central School District](#).

Next Regular Meeting (District Office): Tuesday, March 12, 2019 ❄ 7:00 p.m. ❄ Budget Forum, 8 p.m.