

School Board Notes

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Board Recognition

The Board recognized four Williamsville North students who responded quickly and courageously when their afternoon bus driver experienced a medical emergency on February 5. Pictured, below, with Board President Shawn Lemay, North Principal Andre Thomas, and Superintendent Dr. Scott Martzloff are, from left: **Thomas Schwartz, Madelyn Greco, Isabella Custodi, and Jessica Ireland.**

The district's 2019 New York State Girls Hockey Champions were recognized for bringing the state title home to Williamsville. Coach **Rick Hopkins** (Heim Middle) and team captains, **Elisabeth Sidorski** (South) and **Erin Roland** (North) addressed the Board, thanking members – past and present - as well as the district and the Williamsville community for supporting the Girls Varsity Hockey program. WCSD's championship team includes student athletes from East, North, and South high schools; Heim Middle and Mill Middle.



Board Acknowledgements: Members Mary Bieger and Dr. Susan McClary congratulated Williamsville North students and staff on the school musical, *"The Addams Family"* presented March 8-10. Teresa Leatherbarrow commented on the February 28 SEPTSA parent night, which focused on anxiety and depression in children, saying it was very informative and helpful.

Public Expression

SEPTSA President Crystal Kaczmarek-Bogner asked the school board to consider expanding gifted programming for the benefit of all students. A district bus driver and a regional CSEA representative asked the district to reconsider its decision to dissolve its in-house transportation operation. A Williamsville East student advocated for teachers to have more mental health training in order to better address student issues.

Items of Business & Discussion

- Under the **President's Report**, the Board
 - ➔ Approved the annual District vote resolutions and authorized public notices. The Annual Budget Vote and School Board Election will take place on Tuesday, May 21 from 7 a.m. – 9 p.m. at Williamsville North HS, 1595 Hopkins Rd. The ballot will include the 2019-2020 Proposed Budget (Proposition #1); a Capital Reserve Proposition (#2); and the School Board Election (Proposition #3). The Annual Budget Hearing is May 9. Candidate packets are available at the district office, and partial packets are available online at www.williamsvillek12.org. The deadline for petitions and completed candidate packets is April 22, 2019. District Clerk Lynn Carey reported that the three incumbents whose terms are expiring this year, have submitted petitions to run for re-election: Mary Bieger, Teresa Leatherbarrow, and Suzanne VanSice
 - ➔ Nominated three candidates for the Erie I BOCES Board of Education: Mrs. Mary Busse, West Seneca Central School District (I); Mr. Raymond Carr, Lancaster Central School District (I); and Mr. Andrew Loeb, Hamburg Central School District (I). Three seats are open on the Erie 1 Board. The election will be held during a Special Board Meeting April 16 at 7 p.m.
 - ➔ Announced its second community forum at 9 a.m. Saturday, April 6 at Williamsville North High School. Board President Shawn Lemay encouraged all stakeholders to attend.
 - ➔ Discussed conducting a short exit poll at the May 21 district vote and agreed to move forward with the idea, beginning with the formulation of questions to ask voters.

- Under the ***Superintendent's Community Update***, Dr. Martzloff reported on his attendance to various school events, including watching Williamsville South Girls Basketball win its sixth Section VI title on March 3. He also encouraged people to attend the upcoming community forum on April 6.
- The Board adopted the 2019-2020 School Calendar. The first day of school for students is Tuesday, September 3, 2019. Wednesday, October 9 is designated as a Fall Recess Day and coincides with Yom Kippur. The winter recess runs two weeks, 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. The adopted 2019-2020 calendar is available on the district website at www.williamsvillek12.org.
- **In other business**, the Board
 - ➔ Appointed **Mr. Corey Gray** as principal of the high school summer school program, and **Ms. Heidie Buffomante** principal of the elementary/middle school summer program. The high school summer program will be held at Williamsville East July 9-August 12, and the ES/MS summer program will be at Casey Middle School from July 10-August 13.
 - ➔ Reviewed a Scope of Work proposal from PLC Associates, Inc. (Pittsford, NY), a consultant group to facilitate a strategic planning process for the district. According to Dr. Martzloff, the last time the district underwent strategic planning was in the mid-1990's. Board members expressed strong support for the proposed process and for PLC Associates.
- The Board accepted the resignations for the purpose of retirement from the following employees, effective July 1, 2019: **Stephen Bresee**, North High Science Teacher, after 33 years of service; **Joani Cartone**, Heim Elementary Elementary Teacher, after 33 years of service; **Diana Casteel**, Maple East Reading Teacher, after 22 years of service; **Pompea DiSanto**, Mill Middle Social Worker, after 24 years of service; **Susan Grossman**, North High Library Media Specialist, after 18 years of service; **Debra Johnson**, Mill Middle Special Education Teacher, after 29 years of service; **Deborah Kawaler**, Country Parkway Elementary Teacher, after 29 years of service; **Carol Kern**, Maple West Elementary, after 18 years of service; **Gail Littlefield**, Transit Middle LOTE Teacher, after 29 years of service; **Alan Miller**, Maple East Elementary Teacher, after 32 years of service; and **Mary Violanti**, Maple West Elementary Teacher, after 31 years of service. Also, **Carol Kontchegulian**, North High Business Teacher, effective August 8, 2019, after 24 years of service; **Jody Geraci**, Mill Middle Nurse, effective June 30, 2019 after 16 years, 10 months of service; **Marly Herberger**, Dodge Elementary Cook Manager, effective June 28, 2019, after 22 years, 9 months of service; **Carol Martinelli**, Maple East Elementary Cook Manager, effective June 28, 2019, after 29 years, 9 months of service; and **Sandra Zion**, Maple East Elementary COTA, effective June 27, 2019 after 22 years, 9 months of service.
- **Repair Reserve Hearing:** Assistant Superintendent Thomas Matuski reviewed planned summer work to maintain and preserve District facilities. Funds, not to exceed \$1 million, would be drawn from the Repair Reserve Fund, established in 2001, for funding specific repairs to buildings and site improvements that do not recur on an annual basis. Recommended repairs extend the useful life of major school building systems. Following the hearing, the Board unanimously approved the Repair Reserve funding for the work outlined. The list of projects, by building, is available on the Facilities Department webpage, www.williamsvillek12.org/facilities.

Committee of the Whole: Mrs. Leatherbarrow asked if the district had made any changes to its opt-out protocol for the upcoming Grades 3-8 state assessments. According to Dr. Martzloff, there have been no changes and a letter from principals will be sent to parents reviewing current procedures. Mrs. Van Sice commented on Williamsville South's recent decision to move to a single color for its graduation gowns, beginning with the 2020 graduating class, saying she would like to see all three Williamsville high schools move to a single color gown for all graduates. Mrs. Bieger inquired about assessment field-testing; Dr. Martzloff said that Williamsville is one of the only districts in Western New York that does not participate in field-testing at the elementary level.

Second Public Expression

In regards to the color for graduation gowns, Ms. Kaczmarek-Bogner, SEPTSA President and a South High parent, commented that she was surprised that Williamsville schools had not already made the change to a single color for all graduates.

2019-2020 BUDGET WORK SESSION & PUBLIC FORUM

Dr. Martzloff reviewed the 2019-2020 preliminary budget, including program continuation expenses, additional program support expenses, expense reductions, and revenues. The net budget-to-budget increase is 2.29 percent or \$4,369,149. The budget:

- Supports all current instructional and extracurricular programming for students;
- Maintains a strong focus on the physical, mental and emotional well-being of students;
- Introduces Mandarin Chinese as a foreign language option at the high school level;
- Supports the district's expansive Advanced Placement program and university/college partnerships;
- Provides more classroom supply funds to help reduce extra costs for parents;
- Supports the second year of 3-year plan to strengthen administrative support at the elementary level;
- Continues to support a high level of professional development for all teachers and staff members, and
- Keeps tax levy increase below the state tax cap.

Following the presentation, Member Eric Borenstein inquired about the planned expense reductions and encouraged the district to reduce the budget further. Board members also asked about utility expense reductions, state aid, possible cuts to the national lunch program, and the anticipated tax impact of the 2019-2020 budget. Dr. Martzloff noted that the estimated tax rate information will be presented with the proposed budget in April.

Public Expression – Budget Development

A speaker asked the decision process used to decide what expense items would be pared back or eliminated. Dr. Martzloff explained that the focus was on maintaining current programming and, given the revenue restrictions going into next year, certain program enhancements had to be omitted from the budget plan. "If we don't have the revenue to pay for it, we can't do all of those things," he said. In reference to how strategic planning would impact the budget process, Dr. Martzloff said it would help guide budget decisions in the future.

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

Next Meeting (District Office): 2019-2020 Budget Work Session ◆ Tuesday, March 26, 2019 ◆ 7:00 p.m.

**The Board of Education will host a Community Forum
Saturday, April 6 ◆ Williamsville North High School ◆ 9 AM - Noon**