

SCHOOL BOARD NOTES

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RECOGNITION



Maple East and Country Parkway elementary schools were recognized for being named National PTA Schools of Excellence for 2019-2021. They are among nearly 300 schools nationwide to earn the two-year designation this year. It is the third time the Maple East PTA has received the national award and the first time for Country Parkway. PTA leadership, parent representatives, and the building principals are pictured with Board President Teresa Leatherbarrow and Superintendent Dr. Scott Martzloff. [Two ME students were present for the special recognition!]



PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Two parents addressed the Board about transportation concerns with one mother speaking about a bus stop concern and another questioning the district's policy regarding busing to afterschool programs.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS AND DISCUSSION

- Under the **President's Report**, Board members shared reports on their attendance at recent district, regional and state school board events and meetings. President Teresa Leatherbarrow announced the Board's first Community Forum would be held at 9 a.m. Saturday, November 2 at Williamsville North High School. She also announced the 2019 Wall of Fame Induction Celebration on November 8 and confirmed at least three Board members plan to attend.
 - The NYSSBA (New York State School Board Association) 100th Annual Convention will be held October 24-26 in Rochester, NY. Members Eric Borenstein, Shawn Lemay, Dr. Susan McClary, and Phil Meyer will be attending. Mr. Lemay and Dr. McClary will be presenting a workshop at the convention titled, "School Board: Are You Listening?". Members also briefly discussed the proposed 2019 Bylaw Amendments and Resolutions that are slated to be voted on at the convention.
 - Reviewed and adopted planned activities and progress indicators supporting the 2019-2020 Board goals.
 - Dr. McClary provided a brief report on the Sept. 17 strategic planning meeting, which she and Mr. Borenstein attended. She announced that online surveys would be administered to students, parents, and professional staff later this week and encouraged everyone's participation. Mrs. Leatherbarrow thanked Dr. McClary and Mr. Borenstein for representing the Board on the Strategic Planning Core Team, and Mr. Borenstein acknowledged Dr. Martzloff for his leadership on the district's strategic planning initiative.
- Under the **Superintendent's Community Update**, Dr. Martzloff stressed the importance of gathering feedback from stakeholders to help guide the strategic planning process, saying the first round of surveys would be sent electronically this week. He also said that focus groups would be convened over the next month to get additional input from the school communities. Regarding the start of school, Dr. Martzloff reported a "pretty smooth start" overall and thanked those board members who attended opening day events for faculty and staff.
- Dr. Marie Balen presented the 2019 Summer School Report, first acknowledging the summer school principals for their leadership in overseeing the programs including Jason Swenson, high school; Heidie Buffomante, elementary and middle school; and Chris McDuffie who assisted with the high school program. Dr. Balen commented on the positive atmosphere generated by the summer school staff and the successful outcomes for students who participated in the various programs. In summary, 1,766 students participated in the district's summer school programs, as follows: high school program – 538; ES/MS program – 436; ENL Summer Academy – 162; Summer Music Program – 468; HS Career Exploration Internship Program – 79; Special Education Summer School Programs - 50.

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

- ➔ Reviewed a class size report for the six elementary schools and grades 5 and 6 at the four middle schools, which shows that at the start the school year, all classes are within Board-approved class size guidelines. Dr. Martzloff noted that in late August, additional staff was added at Maple East Elementary (1 second grade teacher) and Maple West Elementary (1 Kindergarten and 1 second grade teacher) due to increased enrollment.
- ➔ Conducted the first reading on the following revised policies: #5140 Administration of the Budget; #5660 Meal Charging and Prohibition Against Meal Shaming; #7260 Designation of Person in Parental Relation; #7511 Immunization of Students; #7512 Students Physicals; and #7522 Concussion Management. The second reading and adoption of these revised policies are scheduled for the October 15, 2019 regular board meeting. Member Phil Meyer asked for clarification on Policy 5660, which had been updated in 2018 in accordance with new state regulations prohibiting meal shaming. Mr. Matuski explained that the proposed update further clarifies procedural issues. Member Kurt Venator inquired about staff training requirements addressed in the concussion management policy; specific information will be provided at a future meeting.
- ➔ Reviewed the 2019-2020 District Goals implementation plans.
- ➔ Appointed the lead evaluators for conducting and completing Annual Professional Performance Reviews (APPR) for teacher and principal evaluation as required by state education law.
- ➔ In response to a request from the State Education Department, clarified the State Environmental Quality Review Assessment (SEQRA) resolution for the 2018 Music Program Project specifically in regard to the work planned at the three high schools. The clarification states that constructing additional space and improving existing space for the music programs at North, East and South high schools would not have a significant adverse environmental impact and that no further SEQRA review would be required.
- ➔ Members reported on their recent participation in various school activities including class orientations and open houses.
- The Board accepted the resignation for retirement purposes of **Daniel Balkin**, Social Studies Teacher at Williamsville South High School, after 26 years of service, effective June 30, 2019; **Rita Wolff**, Director of Communications, after 25 years, one month of service, effective October 30, 2019; **Susan Snyder**, a Laborer at Country Parkway Elementary, after 31 years, nine months of service, effective December 31, 2019; **Colleen Wehner**, part-time Teacher Aide at Mill Middle School, after 12 years, 11 months of service, effective August 31, 2019, and **Deborah Zurawski**, a part-time Teacher Aide at Dodge Elementary, after 17 years, 11 months of service, effective September 2, 2019.
- **Committee of the Whole** – Mr. Meyer asked that the district follow-up with the parent concerns about certain transportation issues brought forth during the first public expression period. Member Mark Mecca spoke about the proposed implementation of an assessment tool to gather public feedback about how effectively school board meetings are conducted. He suggested asking high school students to help create the tool. Members discussed options for developing a feedback form and President Leatherbarrow suggested the Board’s January retreat would be a good time to review assessment tools and create an implementation plan for gathering public feedback. Member Mary Bieger encouraged people to read class size report on BoardDocs.
- **Second Public Expression** – (No Speakers)

This Board of Education meeting will be televised on Spectrum/LCTV Ch. 1302 Saturday, September 21 at 7:00 P.M. and Sunday, September 22 at 1 P.M. The meeting video is available for viewing anytime on the school board’s webpage, BoardDocs, and on YouTube @ Williamsville Central School District.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS (District Office Boardroom):
October 15, 2019 · 7 p.m.**