

**Massena Central School Board of Education Update  
June 14, 2019**

**Happy Father's Day!!**



**Dave Alderson**



This week, we were all very saddened by the passing of JH Band Teacher Dave Alderson. For almost 30 years Dave has been part of the Junior High family, teaching young musicians with tremendous grace and patience. Our thoughts and prayers are with Dave's family. Thanks to all who have been reaching out to support his family through this very difficult time. He was a kind soul who will be greatly missed.

## **Board of Education Meeting**

The Board of Education Meeting scheduled for Thursday, June 20, 2019 will begin at 6:30 pm in Room 314 of Massena High School. It is anticipated that the Board will go into executive session at 6:30 pm to discuss such topics as personnel on the agenda prior to the regular meeting.

## **Audit/Finance Committee Meeting**

There will be an Audit/Finance Committee meeting on 6/20 at 6:00 pm in HS Student Affairs. External Auditor Carl Seyfarth will brief the committee prior to engaging in the annual audit. It is expected that he will attend the Board meeting in October to present the final report.

## **Capital Project Update - Ed Bernhauer (IBI Group)**

Since our last Board of Education meeting there has been considerable work completed on the capital project. We have had several meetings of our Project Committee to prioritize the scope of work based largely on health, safety and security. We also had another round of building Focus Group meetings as well as two BOE Facilities Committee meetings during that time frame. A first draft of the project scope was sent to our fiscal advisor to analyze for state aidability and further guide our decision-making. This is particularly important as we must stay within the maximum cost allowances set for each building by the NYSED. Overall, the \$102M original wish list has been pared down to the \$50M range and is now within the cost allowance threshold for both construction and incidental costs. Though there are some questions remaining in certain areas such as site work configuration, we are now ready to provide the Board will some clear recommendations

At the BOE meeting on Thursday, architect Ed Bernhauer of the IBI Group will present our draft project scope to the Board. Rob Gray and Pat Hourihan from our construction manager C&S Companies will also attend the meeting. A copy of the project scope, separated by building, is attached to the BOE agenda for your review.

## **District Guidance Plan - R. Jordan**

In July, 2017 the NYS Board of Regents adopted amendments to Commissioner's Regulations 110.2 (j) for providing school counseling services. The purpose is to develop a more comprehensive approach to school counseling K-12 and enhance opportunities for students to plan for college and careers. These changes are to take effect in the 2019-20 school year. At Massena Central, Guidance Department Chair Bob Jordan formed a committee of various stakeholders to review the changes in regulation and revise the District's Guidance Plan accordingly. The Plan is now ready for BOE review and adoption as required. Bob and his team will attend the BOE meeting on Thursday to discuss the Guidance Plan. A copy of the revised plan and their presentation is attached to the BOE agenda.

Listed below is language from the SED which provides some further details on the regulation changes:

- Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, each school district shall have a comprehensive developmental school counseling/guidance program for all students in grades kindergarten (K) through grade 12. Each school district shall also ensure that all students in grades kindergarten through twelve have access to a certified school counselor(s).
- In grades kindergarten through five, the program shall be designed by a certified school counselor in coordination with teaching staff and any appropriate pupil personnel service providers.
- For students in grades six through twelve, certified school counselors shall provide an annual individual progress review plan, which shall reflect each student's educational progress and career plans. For a student with disability, the plan shall be consistent with the student's individualized education program.
- Each school district shall develop district-wide and building-level comprehensive developmental school counseling/guidance plans which set forth the manner for compliance with this subdivision. Such district and building level plans shall be updated annually, available for review at the district offices and each school building, and made available on the district's website.
- Each school district shall establish a comprehensive developmental school counseling/guidance program advisory council to be comprised of representative stakeholders (such as parents, members of the board of education, school building and/or district leaders, community-based service providers, teachers, certified school counselors and other pupil personnel providers in the district including school social workers and/or school psychologists). The advisory council shall meet no less than twice each year for the purpose of reviewing the comprehensive developmental school counseling/guidance program plan and advising on the implementation of the school counseling/guidance program.

### **Proposals - Athletic Team Reinstatements**

- Cross Country - Dak Zaza; JV Volleyball - Maggie Farrell

As reported in the 5/31 BOE Update, I have had two recent requests to reinstate athletic teams— Cross Country and JV Volleyball. Both fall sports teams had been previously part of the athletic offerings at Massena but were cut for various reasons years ago. If accepted by the Board, we would follow our regular procedure of having the team fund their own program for the first year to gauge success and then be District supported in Year 2 if the interest is strong. This is the same process we followed with Modified Girls Lacrosse. On Thursday, AD Gavin Regan will accompany coaches Dak Zaza and Maggie Farrell to the BOE meeting to present their proposals.

### **Extracurricular Activities Report 2018-19**

Per Board policy, advisors to our paid extracurricular programs are required to submit reports at the beginning and end of the school year. This information is then collated by administration and used to evaluate the effectiveness of the programs. I have attached this administrative report for 2018-19 to the BOE agenda for your review. At the Reorganization Meeting on 7/11, I will bring

forward recommendations for extracurricular advisors for 2019-20. We are fortunate to have many programs both paid and volunteer to meet the interests of our students.

### **School Physician Contract 2019-20**

We are finalizing the School Physician contract with Massena Memorial Hospital to present to the Board on Thursday. There are no significant changes to the contract. We are still working out pricing which I will present once received. Our current contract is \$45,000.

### **MBAA Contract Extension - 1 Year**

The Massena Building Administrator's Association and our negotiation's committee have agreed to a one year contract extension as we await outcomes of our health insurance review. We discussed this agreement at the last BOE meeting but I neglected to place on the agenda for ratification. As a reminder, the MBAA would shift to the Rider 10 Health Insurance and would receive a 3.25% raise in 2019-20.

### **Intermunicipal Agreement - Floor Scrubber**

Board Policy 5250 Sale & Disposal of School District Property allows the District to donate unneeded equipment to a municipality if the District receives a benefit in return. The revised policy was first used in May to donate a mower to the Village of Massena. I have now received a request from Director of Operations Greg Tessier and Athletic Director Gavin Regan to donate an unneeded floor scrubber to the Massena Recreation Commission in exchange for a five year freeze in ice rental rates. To allow for this exchange, both entities would need to pass an Intermunicipal Agreement indicating the exchange of goods or services. The agreement is attached to the BOE agenda for your review and consideration at the 6/20 meeting.

### **Boys and Girls Club Bus Approval - Lake George, NY**

The Massena Boys & Girls Club is organizing an end of the year trip for their youth members who have been actively participating and volunteering at community events throughout the year. BGC Director Zach Monroe has requested the rental of two buses for the trip to Great Escape in Lake George, NY on Saturday, June 15th. It is anticipated that 45 youth members, and 10 adults will be participating. Given the timing of the receipt of the request, we will be asking the Board to approve retroactively at the meeting on 6/20.

### **Donations to the District**

We are delighted to announce that the District has received two donations over the last month. The list of donations for your review and acceptance are attached to the Board agenda and presented below:

- Arconic to Athletic Department - \$500 – equipment purchases
- Day Automation – 600 Stylus Pens worth \$1,800 – Chromebook use

We appreciate the generosity of our community in presenting these donations. They will be of great use for supporting the education and well-being of our students.

## **District Reserves**

There are resolutions on the BOE agenda for 6/20 to allocate funding to two reserves. The first is the \$4 million capital reserve which was approved by the voters in May. We are asking the Board to support placing up to \$2 million in this reserve for use in the upcoming capital project. The second is a Teacher Retirement Reserve, authorized by the state legislature in April. We are requesting the establishment of a TRS reserve for the District and an allocation of up to \$309,874 to be placed in the reserve. Business Manager Nick Brouillette will discuss further at the BOE meeting.

## **Other News**

### **Albany Update**

#### **State Legislature Ends Religious Exemptions for Vaccination**

The following information from NYSED counsel Hinman Straub:

A controversial bill to repeal New York's religious exemption for vaccinations was [narrowly passed in both houses](#) and signed into law by the Governor on Thursday. The bill is not controversial in the traditional sense, as polling shows wide support by all political parties and persuasions in the state, however, there was a vocal contingent that effectively opposed the repeal. The Governor had originally balked at the measure, citing constitutional first amendment concerns, but had since pressed the legislature to pass the bill in the interest of public health.

The bill almost did not make it to the floor in the Assembly as it was nearly defeated in the Health Committee by a tie vote. Ultimately, one member changed his vote to a yes - though clarifying that he would not vote yes on the floor - as he believed the entire body should vote on the measure. The bill passed the full body of the Assembly with 77 votes, one more than necessary. The measure passed the Senate with a slightly wider margin garnering 36 yes votes where 32 are needed for passage. The bill was delivered to the Governor immediately and was signed into law as chapter 35 of the laws of 2019.

#### **Commissioner Elia Announces Summer Reading Resources**

As the school year comes to an end, the State Education Department and the New York State Library urge school administrators and teachers to encourage students and families to participate in summer reading. The [Summer Reading at New York Libraries](#) program is offered for free to children and families at over 1,100 public libraries and branches across the state. In addition to providing access to thousands of books, libraries will also offer creative and educational programs around this year's summer reading slogan – "A Universe of Stories" – to support summer learning and prevent the "summer slide".

Last year, over 2.4 million students participated in the summer reading program, and we hope to grow that number this year. As you know, research shows that when children read and continue learning over the summer, it helps them build literacy skills, prevent summer learning loss, and prepare for a successful school year. Whether it's print books, e-books or audio books, there's something for everyone to read and enjoy at their local library.

For the second year, NYSED is partnering with myON by Renaissance to provide thousands of enhanced digital books to children from birth to 12<sup>th</sup> grade and their families all across the state. Readers can log into myON via one statewide login to access a digital library of more than 6,000 e-books using any web-enabled device. There's an option to download up to 20 books at a time through a free app for reading offline. Resources and tips for parents and educators, including on-demand videos, tip sheets, strategies and more to support meaningful family literacy experiences, are also provided. This [access to free digital children's books](#) is available for New York state students and families through September 30. Students should also visit their school library to learn what e-book resources and summer reading programs are available. There are also summer reading resources available for students with a reading or print disability. Ask your school librarian or public library about free talking or braille books and playback equipment available from the [New York State Library](#) or the [New York Public Library](#).

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Sharon Phillips, Summer Reading Program Manager at [Sharon.Phillips@nysed.gov](mailto:Sharon.Phillips@nysed.gov) or (518) 486-4863.

### **Parent dashboard coming soon**

By Cathy Woodruff, NYSSBA Senior Writer

The State Education Department is about to unveil a prototype for a new digital "dashboard" offering information on individual schools for parents and other members of the public.

The Parent Dashboard is expected to include data on each school's accountability status, average class sizes, enrollment and ethnicity, school climate, state test scores and graduation rates, as well as measures of college, career and civic readiness.

Development of the dashboard is among the commitments New York made in its federal accountability plan under the Every Student Succeeds Act.

A live version of a "working draft" of the dashboard is expected to open to the public this month. SED will encourage parents and other members of the public to check it out and recommend improvements for the final version, which has a target date for official launch in the spring of 2020.

In a presentation to the Regents on Monday, SED staff members Paul Butler-Nalin and Rose LeRoy walked board members through highlights of the data site and offered [a link to a landing page](#) for the project.

In other business at the Regents' June meeting:

- The Regents were alerted to upcoming revisions to regulations on child abuse reporting. Proposed revisions are scheduled to go out for public comment in late June and come back, with any revisions, for a vote by the board as early as September. The regulations stem from a state law passed last year expanding the categories of school employees who are required to report suspected child abuse. The law also expands training requirements to cover BOCES, charter schools and private schools.
- The Regents Research Work Group reviewed a working draft policy statement for promoting diversity, equity and integration in New York.
- The Regents approved the appointments of new members of the department's leadership team. Anita Murphy, currently the district superintendent for Capital Region BOCES, was named senior deputy commissioner for education policy, and Kimberly Young Wilkins was appointed as the new deputy commissioner for P-12 instructional support. Wilkins, a former teacher and administrator in the Albany City School District, has been assistant commissioner for innovation and school reform for nearly two years.
- The Regents honored Associate Commissioner Ira Schwartz, who has been a member of the department staff for 38 years and has led multiple high-level initiatives. Schwartz announced his retirement this month to undergo cancer treatment.

**July  
31<sup>st</sup>**

**4th Annual**

# **Family Fun** *Color Run*

## **Generations Park**

**5 p.m. Registration | 6 p.m. Color run starts**

### **Pre-registration:**

**Thursday, July 11, 2019**

**Ionkwakiohkwaro:ron Tribal Admin Building 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

**Friday, July 12, 2019**

**Ionkwakiohkwaro:ron Tribal Admin Building 12p.m. - 5p.m.**

**Wholistic Health and Wellness office Kanonkwatseriio 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.**



**Please dress accordingly as color  
will be thrown at participants**

### **NO DROP-OFFS**



## High School News & Notes

### ART SHOW

June 7-14 Massena CSD art students had their pieces on display at the ST Lawrence Centre Mall. Judging was included and students received monetary awards provided by SeaComm. Below are examples of some of the high school pieces. The photos were printed on the newly purchased printer for the high school art department.





This picture was created from the drawing of four individual students and later connected together.

### **Picnic Tables for the Courtyard**



John Root and his technology students have once again help to add to the atmosphere of the high school. Classes who achieve the highest percent of students attending are rewarded with lunch in the courtyard. The construction students built picnic tables for this incentive.

**June 2019 High School Exam Schedule**  
**Students must arrive a half hour before the start of the exam**

**Monday, June 17<sup>th</sup> – Last full day of classes at the High School**

**Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup> starting at 8:00AM  
Noon**

**US History Regents  
Spanish II Final**

**Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup> starting at**

**Liv. Env./Biology Regents**

**Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup> starting at 8:00AM  
Noon**

**English III Regents**

**Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup> starting at**

**Algebra Regents  
I/B Pre-Calc Final**

**Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup> starting at 8:00AM  
Noon**

**Global History Regents**

**Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup> starting at**

**Earth Science Regents**

**Friday, June 21<sup>st</sup> starting at 8:00AM  
Noon**

**Geometry Regents**

**Friday, June 21<sup>st</sup> starting at Noon**

**Algebra II Regents  
English I Final**

**Monday, June 24<sup>th</sup> starting at 8:00AM  
Noon**

**English II Final**

**Monday, June 24<sup>th</sup> starting at**

**French III Final  
Spanish III Final**

**Tuesday, June 25<sup>th</sup> starting at 8:00 AM  
Noon**

**Chemistry Regents**

**Tuesday, June 25<sup>th</sup> starting at**

**Physics Regents**

June 17 – Senior Walkthrough in each of the elementary buildings

June 17 – Senior Picnic – Town Beach

June 18-25 – Regents

June 27 – Baccalaureate -7pm - Emmanuel congregational Church – West Orvis Street

June 28 – Graduation Rehearsal – 10 am – Massena Arena

June 29 – Graduation – 1pm – Massena Arena

**District Upcoming Events**

6/18—HS Regents Exams Begin

6/19—JH Awards Night—6:00 pm—JH Gymnasium

6/20—Audit Committee Meeting—6:00 pm—HS Student Affairs; Board of Education Meeting—6:30 pm—Hs Room 314

6/26—Last Day of School; Faculty Assembly—9:00 pm—HS Auditorium

6/27—Baccalaureate—7:00 pm—Emmanuel Congregational Church

6/29—HS Graduation—1:00 pm—Massena Arena