

Massena Central School Board of Education Update April 27, 2018

The Board of Education Meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 3, 2018 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. There will be an **Audit Committee** meeting at 6:00 pm in Student Affairs to meet the new internal auditor.

There will be a **Public Hearing** on the 2018-19 school budget at 7:00 pm. Members of the community are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

Public Hearing on the 2018-19 School Budget

Attached to the Board agenda is the presentation on the 2018-19 budget which we will show at the public hearing on Thursday. We have also sent the budget newsletter to print, which will be distributed to all households in the district after the public hearing. Below are some key facts about the proposed budget:

- The 2018-19 proposed school budget is \$54,442,854 of which \$14,542,306 will be covered by the local taxpayer. This is an overall budget increase of \$1,801,356 or 3.4%.
- The largest budget increase is employee health insurance benefits at \$743,645 or 6.6%. The District has budgeted \$12.3 million in health insurance costs for 2018-19.
- The total state aid awarded to the District is \$34,114,969, an increase of \$1,274,973 or 3.88%.
- Within this total amount, the District will receive \$22,698,811 in Foundation Aid for 2018-19, an increase of \$1,030,446 or 4.76%.
- Community Schools aid will remain the same at \$227,985.
- The tax levy will increase slightly at 0.99% or \$142,558. This is below the allowable tax cap of 3.01%. The estimated tax increase for a Massena homeowner with a \$50,000 assessed home value and Basic Star Exemption is \$3.66. For a \$100,000 home the estimated increase is \$12.79.
- The recommended designated fund balance is \$2,268,679 or \$115,091 less than the 2017-18 budget. Lowering the designated fund balance increases the District's long term financial stability.
- The administration is recommending additions/restorations in the budget to improve our services in 2018-19. These proposed additions are listed in the presentation.
- The Massena community will vote on the budget and one Board of Education candidate on Tuesday, May 15th from 12:00 pm -8:00 pm at the Community Center on Beach Street.

Massena CSD Class of 2018 Valedictorian & Salutatorian

At the Board meeting on Thursday, the Valedictorian & Salutatorian for the Class of 2018 will be presented to the Board of Education. . We want to congratulate these individuals and their

families for an impressive record of achievement. They should be very proud of this exceptional accomplishment. Attached to the BOE agenda is a copy of their

Meagan Morgan—Valedictorian
Al'lainya Dumas—Salutatorian

International Baccalaureate Evaluation 2017

In October, a team from the International Baccalaureate conducted a routine evaluation of our IB program at Massena High School. They spent two days in the District visiting classrooms and talking with groups of students, staff, administration and Board of Education members. They focused on such criteria as the philosophy/mission/vision of our school, the demographics of the study body, promotion of the IB philosophy, how the school promotes responsible action within the school community and how the school provides access to the program. They also examined our leadership of the program including attention to our IB Program policies, professional development requirements, collaboration time, facilities, counseling and CAS (the service part of the program).

The International Baccalaureate has now released their evaluation which in part validates the work of the District and also provides areas for improvement. At the Board meeting on Thursday, IB Coordinator Jan Normile will present their findings to the BOE. Her presentation is attached to the BOE agenda.

March 29th Staff Development Day

A regional Staff Development Day was held on Friday, March 29th. Our staff were able attend many workshops off campus or trainings here in Massena. Here are some of the highlights:

Understanding Parenting with Love and Leadership by John Rosemond

- Location: Snell Theater at SUNY Potsdam
- Attendees--Elementary and Junior high teacher aides and assistants, elementary teachers, nurses, school psychologists, OT and PT
- Key topics: contemporary parent/child dynamics; effective classroom behavioral management; and defusing parent resistance and defensiveness

Learning Summit - Educational Technology

- Location: Potsdam Central School
- Attendees--Elementary and Junior high teacher aides and assistants, elementary teachers, nurses, school psychologists, OT and PT
- Key topics: Google Suite tools; coding, Robotics; other education technology.

Note: Our JH LOTE Teacher Cathy Donahue provided three instructional sessions at the Learning Summit.

Building New Foundations in Middle School - Jack Berckemeyer

- Location: Canton Central School
- Attendees--Elementary and Junior high teacher aides and assistants, Junior High teachers, nurses, school psychologists, OT and PT
- Key topics: teaching strategies that motivate adolescents; collaborative team approaches; and teacher to teacher networking.

Paper Tigers-CASDA

- Location: Massena High School
- Attendees—High School teachers, teacher aides and assistants, counselors, school psychologists, and nurses.
- Key topics: Adverse Childhood Experiences Study (ACES); trauma informed community, and healthy development of youth.

I want to thank the St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES, Director of Curriculum Stephanie Allen, Technology Director Mike Allen and the rest of our administration for their work in preparing these training opportunities for our staff. At the Board meeting on Thursday, I will brief the Board on the outcomes of this year's Staff Development Day.

NYS English Language Arts Assessments Grades 3-8

The Grade 3-8 NYS English Language Arts exams were held on April 10-12, 2018. Students in Grade 6 took the exams via computer on 4/10-11 and the rest of the grades had the traditional written administration on 4/11-12. This was the first year that exams have been reduced from three to two days. Our students worked hard to complete them with many spending considerable time to perfect their responses beyond the norm.

The exams will now be vendor scored through the Mohawk Regional Information Center (MORIC) so our teachers do not need to spend time out of the classroom. Staff had the opportunity to fill out a survey to provide SED with feedback about the exams. Later in the spring we will get the results of the exams and will report them to the Board. We appreciate the diligent work our teachers in preparing students for these assessments and with the administration for providing the conditions for effective implementation. Due to the efforts of all, including our parents, the opt out rate for students dropped from 17% in 2016 to 5% in 2017 to 1.3% this year.

My Brother's Keeper Grant - Stephanie Allen

Recently, the District received notification that the NYS Education Department had approved our grant application for the My Brother's Keeper Native American Program in the amount of \$47,632. This is great news for the District and our Native American students.

Background

In 2014, President Obama established the My Brother's Keeper (MBK) Task Force at the federal level. The Task Force was an interagency effort focused on closing and eliminating the opportunity gaps faced by boys and young men of color so that all young people have the chance to reach their full potential.

With the adoption of the 2016–2017 New York State Budget, New York became the first state to accept the President's challenge and enacted the My Brother's Keeper initiative into law. The budget included a \$20 million investment in support of the initiative to improve outcomes for boys and young men of color.

At the national level, MBK is focused on ensuring that all children:

1. Enter school ready to learn;
2. Read at grade level by third grade;
3. Graduate from high school ready for college and career;
4. Complete postsecondary education or training;
5. Successfully enter the workforce; and
6. Grow up in safe communities and get a second chance if they make a mistake.

In addition to supporting the six milestones set at the national level, New York's MBK initiative is also committed to:

1. Ensuring equitable access to high quality schools and programs;
2. Expanding prevention, early warning, and intervention services;
3. Using differentiated approaches based on need and culture;
4. Responding to structural and institutional racism;
5. Making comprehensive and coordinated support services widely available; and
6. Engaging families and communities in a trusted and respectful way.

Goals of Massena MBK Grant

The MCSD, in collaboration with the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe (SRMT), seeks to establish a cultural program that will increase academic attainment and close achievement gaps among Mohawk boys and young men, to build their career and college readiness. This program will include:

- Creating a system of instructional supports that increase grade K-12 MBKNAP student's academic achievement and ensure equitable access to high-quality schools and program including opportunities outside the typical school day and year;
- Monitoring progress of grade K-12 MBKNAP students' academic participation and achievement in instruction and instructional support;
- Providing a Cultural Coordinator for implementing the components of the MBKNAP and to organize the activities for the students' gauged toward the grant.
- Convening quarterly meetings to coordinate program activities of the MBKNAP with the SRMT, the Massena Central School District, and the MBKNAP students.

At the BOE meeting on Thursday, Director of Curriculum Stephanie Allen will provide more details about the goals and activities associated with the grant. Congratulations to Stephanie and Counseling Assistant Jodele Hammock for preparing the application and successfully obtaining the grant funding.

Native American Tuition Contract 2018-2023

We have reached an Agreement with the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe on the Title VI Native American Contract which expired on June 30, 2017. Though most of the contract is largely pro forma, Appendix D contains many of the services and procedures the District provides to our Native American students. It is this section which we reached agreement on with the Tribe before submitting a draft to the SED. I have attached the draft agreement to the Board agenda and will discuss further at the meeting. The contract will be on the agenda for Board action.

Major components of contract

- District provides annual written evaluation of programs and services by 10/1
- Work with Tribe to create list of NA students living on territory and their assigned number—needed for state aid
- Affirmative Action report indicating efforts to recruit NA employees
- DASA—teaching respect, tolerance and dignity
- Integrating Mohawk culture in the schools
- Cultural sensitivity awareness—provide Mohawk language and/or culture as an elective course
- Provide certified elementary teacher to support Native students at-risk of not meeting ELA standards
- Dispute resolution process
- Meet twice annually with Tribe to enhance communication

Town of Louisville Bus Request - Summer 2018

The Town of Louisville has provided their annual request for summer busing for their recreation program. This request to lease two buses in the summer of 2018 has been placed on the Board agenda for review and approval.

Trip - Madison 6th Grade Trip to Albany, NY - 5/23/18

The Madison Elementary School has been preparing for a Grade 6 to Albany at the end of May. This includes several fundraising efforts by staff and parents to support the trip.

BOE Policy 8461 Overnight Trips requires the administration to inform the BOE of student trips which will require overnight accommodations. Accordingly, Madison Elementary School Principal Danielle Chapman will be presenting information about the Grade 6 trip at the BOE meeting. Attached to the BOE agenda is the submitted field trip request form and itinerary for your review.

Other News

Massena CSD In The News

Wednesday, April 25, 2018

“Massena High School National Honor Society holds coin drive” – Courier-Observer

Photograph of MCS Seniors who helped to raise \$458 to benefit St. Vincent DePaul.

Link:

<http://www.mpcourier.com/dco/massena-high-school-national-honor-society-holds-coin-drive-20180425>

Thursday, April 26, 2018

“Local winners named in Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest” – Bob Beckstead, Courier Observer

The VFW Auxiliary-sponsored art contest, featuring three Massena Central High School students who received honors in the contest, is reported.

Link:

<http://www.mpcourier.com/dco/local-winners-named-in-young-american-creative-patriotic-art-contest-20180426>

New APPR Legislation

Below is a press release from Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie about pending legislation which will change the evaluation system of teachers and principals. We expect more information in the coming weeks about whether it will pass the Senate and its implications for schools.

New legislation will eliminate the mandate on the use of state assessments, allowing school districts to adopt evaluation systems best suited to their community's needs. Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie and Education Committee Chair Catherine Nolan today announced the Assembly will introduce legislation ([A.10475](#)) to improve New York State's teacher evaluation system, including eliminating the mandate of state created or administered tests from being used to determine a teacher or principal's evaluation.

The proposed changes are an outgrowth of ongoing discussions for the past several weeks between the Assembly Majority Conference, the Governor and educators. The legislation would allow school districts and teachers to negotiate an effective and fair evaluation system to meet the diverse needs of students and communities throughout the state.

"It has become increasingly clear that standardized tests do not fully account for the diversity of our student populations," said Speaker Heastie. "The Assembly Majority has heard the concerns of New York's educators and parents and we know that teachers'

performance and that of New York's students may not be truly reflected in test scores. Students learn in a variety of ways and this bill reflects that reality. The bill makes common-sense reforms that will help children grow and improve our educational system."

"The role of an educator is as complex as the students they teach. There is no one-size-fits-all approach to evaluating teacher performance or academic achievement," said Assemblymember Nolan. "This legislation will allow school districts to promote professional growth while meeting the needs of students."

The legislation would remove the mandate that state created or administered assessments be used to evaluate a teacher's or principal's performance. The Commissioner of Education would be required to promulgate regulations providing alternative assessments for districts that choose not to use state assessments. The bill would also eliminate the use of the state-provided growth model in a teacher or principal's evaluation. All teachers would be required to have a student learning objective (SLO) consistent with a goal-setting process determined or developed by the Commissioner.

The legislation would also eliminate the use of certain rules to determine a teacher or principal's overall rating, and make permanent provisions that prohibit ELA or math state assessments recorded in grades three through eight from being included on a student's permanent record.

District Upcoming Events

4/30—All Elementary Band—6:15 pm—Nightengale Cafeteria

5/3—Audit Committee Meeting—6:00 pm—HS Student Affairs; BOE Meeting—6:30 pm—HS Room 314

5/7-11—Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week

5/8—MFT Contract Negotiations—6:00 pm—CAB; H.S. Mixed Choir/Orchestra Spring Concert—7:00 pm—HS Auditorium

5/10—Madison Elementary Spring Concert—7:00 pm—Madison Gym

5/12—Junior Class Prom—8:00 pm—HS Cafeteria