



# News & Notes

following the Board of Education Meeting of May 28, 2024

## Eagles Manufacturing: Polishing Business Skills While Making Products & Profits

Eagles Manufacturing is a student-run business at the High School that started with no money. To rectify that, the students developed a business plan and quickly raised \$1012 from a bake sale, Business Teacher Abigail Widger and Art Teacher Kaitlin Millen told the Board of Education on Tuesday night. And these students were just getting started. They went on to develop a website (with plans to add e-commerce next year) and establish a social media presence. Then, when Hamburg-based Route 75 Imprints donated nearly \$10,000 in tools, materials, and equipment for screenprinting, they really took off.

With the efforts of students with various skills from various departments (technology, business, art, accounting, design), the group designed and produced 132 custom t-shirts for the Academy of Business and Finance Disney trip. Next, they created designs and produced senior class merchandise (with a financial strategy to assure profits to also benefit the Senior Prom).

They next debuted their first designs for a consumer products category at the spring Maker Faire, and went on to create and produce more than 225 branded items for the Eagles Landing summer camp team and drawstring bags for campers.

Integrated with these initiatives were team building exercises (including a River Works ropes course), a tour and networking with Alden CSD's Bulldog Manufacturing, and participation in the first-ever SUNY Fredonia Shark Tank Competition, in which high school entrepreneurial business programs competed to earn prizes for best new ventures.

The Eagles Manufacturing students also are working on initiatives outside the schools, including plaques for the Town of Evans, and designs for Connors Hot Dogs 80th anniversary. Along the way, Eagles Manufacturing students get help with resume writing, professional headshots, professional communication, interview and customer service skills, networking skills, and event planning.

The intent is to provide students with a plethora of transferable skills when they leave the course. Meanwhile, after expenses, they will be leaving some \$3,000 in the Eagles Manufacturing account to kick off next year's program. Job well done, Eagles!



**Photos: 1)** Student-designed logo, **2)** participants London Nickolai and Travis Bernhard, **3)** Touring Alden's Bulldog Manufacturing, **4)** Teachers Abigail Widger and Kaitlin Millen, and student Cameron Witryk, present at Tuesday night's Board of Education meeting.



## May 28, 2024 Personnel Actions

### The Board of Education approved the ...

**Revised probationary appointment of ...**  
**Laura Wheeler,**  
School Psychologist, beginning 3/18/24 and ending 3/17/27.

**Tenure appointments of ...**  
**Elisa Genco,** Elementary Education, effective 8/30/24.

**Evan Koehler,** Physical Education, effective 8/31/24.

**Kelly Reigle,** School Psychologist, effective 8/31/24.

**Priscilla Steinert,** Elementary Education, effective 8/30/24.

**Julie Wilkins,** Speech Therapist, effective 8/26/24.

**Resignations of ...**  
**Tracy Garrison,** Clerk Typist and Bus Driver, effective 4/30/24.

**Arlene DeJoy-Meckes,** Board of Education Member, effective 5/22/2024.

**Resignation for the purpose of retirement of ...**  
**Bradly LoGalbo,** Custodian, effective 9/13/2024.

# AJS Library Gets WNY Library Resources Grant



A.J. Schmidt Elementary School’s library has several new books on the way.

That’s because the school has received the \$500 2024 Diversity in Collections Development Grant Award from the WNY Library Resources Council High School to College Committee.

Each year, the WNYLRC High School to College Committee awards \$500 grants to local school libraries to address the diverse needs of students, the importance of representation in library collections, and budget restrictions.

"The AJS community is so excited to receive these funds," said School Library Media Specialist Tracy Wing. "We thank the WNYLRC High School to College Committee for their generosity and commitment to students. These books will help bolster Native American representation in our school's library collection. The book order is in, and we can't wait to receive our new books!"

*Pictured are, from left: Christina Hilburger and Melissa Laidman, from the WNYLRC High School to College Committee; Mrs. Wing, and Principal Julie Schwab. Not pictured: Committee member Heidi Ziemer.*



## Shea’s All-Star Cast Award Goes to Lauren Smith

Congratulations to senior Lauren Smith, who received a Shea’s High School Musical Theater All-Star Cast Award for her performance in Lake Shore’s production of *All Shook Up*. An All-Star designation is given to one student from each of the 20 semi-finalist schools.

In addition to her academic courses, the talented Lauren also is in Mixed Chorus, Music Theory, and Advanced Piano classes, and in Symphonic Band. Lauren also has served as the 2023-24 student representative on the Board of Education.

Lake Shore’s “All Shook Up” also revived nominations for Outstanding Music Direction and Outstanding Collective Vocal Performance.

## Transportation Supervisor Perry Oddi Receives SAANYS Award

Lake Shore CSD Transportation Supervisor Perry Oddi received a Leadership Award as “Supervisor of the Year” at the recent School Administrators Association of New York State (SAANYS) Region 12 Awards Dinner.



Mr. Oddi was nominated in recognition of his successful push to obtain a Federal grant for a fleet of 20 zero-emissions school buses, with a projected annual savings of \$15,000 per bus. He started with Lake Shore in 2011, where he currently manages a fleet of 54 buses and is in charge of the pick up and drop off of more than 2200 students per day. Over time, he has expanded his role to include routing and busing for both the North Collins Central Schools and the Seneca Nation of Indians through a shared services model. A school transportation veteran of 28 years, Mr. Oddi was a bus driver before becoming Transportation Supervisor at Holland Central, then Gowanda Central, and now Lake Shore Central.

Regarding the bus grant, Mr. Oddi notes that it represents a “very, very long road in the making.” “The most important thing is that we now have a growing fleet of ZERO emission vehicles – not low emission, but ZERO emission – available for our school-community,” he says. “By eliminating diesel exhaust emissions, we reduce air pollution and ground level ozone, as well as air quality-related illnesses and asthma. By decreasing our carbon footprint, we’re helping to preserve the health and safety of our students and staff.”