



News & Notes

following the Board of Education Meeting of April 16, 2024



Board Oks Budget, Vehicle, & Land Transfer Propositions To Go Before Voters on May 21

Proposition 1:

The Board of Education on Tuesday night approved a \$66,028,196 budget proposal for school year 2024-25 to go before voters on May 21.

The proposed budget, a 2.39% increase over the current budget, anticipates a 2.7% property tax increase, which across all towns in the school district (based on current year taxable assessed values and equalization rates), averages out to an estimated \$53 a year on a \$100,000 home. This is before STAR savings.

Also on the ballot will be Proposition 2:

A proposition requesting authorization to purchase:

- **One (1) new school bus** (The bus will be a 30-passenger electric bus estimated to cost \$149,553 after grant proceeds.)

- **Two (2) mobility vehicles** (The 9-passenger gasoline mobility vehicles are estimated to cost \$77,500 each.)

- **One (1) pick-up truck with plow.** (The pick-up truck, with snow plow and lift gate, is estimated to cost \$75,000.)

The total estimated cost is \$379,553 for all vehicles. As in the past, the District estimates that the savings on fuel and repairs on the new vehicles, along with the Transportation Aid generated, will offset the cost of the vehicles. Thus, the new vehicles will not generate an increase in property taxes.

Proposition 3:

A proposition to authorize the District to contribute to the construction of the paved Lake Erie Multi-Use Trail ("Trail") and new drainage infrastructure through the transfer and donation of a strip of land along District property at 9455 Lake Shore Road, measuring approximately 15 feet wide and the length of the road frontage of approximately 581 feet. The parcel would be donated to the Town of Evans. Future maintenance of the Trail and drainage would be the obligation of the Town of Evans and/or the County of Erie.



2 School Board Seats Also on May 21st Ballot: Meet the Candidates on May 7th

Also on May 21, voters will cast their ballots on the election of two qualified District residents to the office of Member of the Board of Education. The two candidates who receive the highest number of votes at the Annual Meeting will fill the expired terms of two incumbents. These are three-year terms, commencing on July 1, 2024 and continuing through June 30, 2027.

A night to "Meet the Candidates" for the Lake Shore Central School District Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, May 7th at 6 p.m. in the High School Media Center, 959 Beach Road, Angola.

April 16th, 2024 Personnel Actions

In other matters, the Board:

The Board of Education approved the ...

Probationary appointment of ...

Eveline Butlak, Laborer, effective 3/25/24.

Resignation of ...

Jacinta Garcia, Teaching Assistant, effective 6/21/2024.

Revised resignation for the purpose of retirement of ...

Barbara Blaszczyk, Special Education Teacher, effective 4/9/2024.

- Heard an update on the Compeer program, from Chris Batty, Compeer School-Based Program Mentoring Specialist.
- Heard a presentation on the Lake Erie Multi-Use Trail from Town of Angola Supervisor Ray Ashton and William Smith.
- Adopted the 2024-25 Property Tax Report Card

Enhancing Literacy: A Journey Through Lake Shore’s Writing Curriculum

In a presentation to the Board of Education on Tuesday night, Michele Amoia-Hornberger, the District’s Core Writing Curriculum Leader, shed light on the remarkable strides made by the "LS Writes Committee" over the past two years. Their tireless efforts, coupled with the unwavering dedication of teachers and the invaluable support of Melissa Bergler, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, have transformed Lake Shore's writing curriculum into a beacon of excellence.

Michele articulated the core focus of the committee's work, revolving around the three foundational pillars of writing: quick writes, short responses, and writing mini-lessons. These pillars form the backbone of the meticulously crafted "Writing Curriculum Guidelines," providing teachers with a comprehensive framework to guide their instruction. Central to the curriculum's design is its seamless alignment with its Reading Thematic Sets and the New York State Next Generation Standards.

Michele emphasized the acquisition of the newly acquired Writing Mini-Lesson Books, which have been instrumental in delivering targeted instruction across all grade levels, from Kindergarten to Grade 5.

Recognizing the need for centralized access to Lake Shore's writing curriculum resources, Michele spearheaded the creation of a dedicated Google Classroom for teachers. This digital platform not only hosts the writing curriculum but also integrates Social Studies materials, with plans underway to incorporate Reading Interventions.

The significance of visual aids in writing instruction was underscored through the incorporation of anchor charts in classrooms. Serving as tangible reminders of effective writing practices, these charts empower students to navigate the writing process with confidence and clarity.

Under Michele’s leadership, the revitalization of Step Up To Writing, a structured approach to organizing writing, has further fortified Lake Shore's writing pedagogy.



Michele Amoia-Hornberger speaks on the strides made in Lake Shore’s writing curriculum.

- Photo by Melissa Bergler

Looking ahead, Michele outlined a vision for continued growth, emphasizing the synergy between the Science of Reading and Writing. She underscored the pivotal role of robust vocabulary instruction and advocated for enriching "teacher talk" to elevate students' linguistic proficiency. Simple yet impactful changes, such as substituting commonplace words with more sophisticated alternatives, are poised to catalyze a paradigm shift in literacy levels across Lake Shore CSD.

The culminating highlight of the presentation was the recent Literacy Week at Waugh, themed "WRITING." The festivities, including a school-wide book fair, "White Out Day" to embrace the inevitability of mistakes, and a spirited Vocabulary Parade, showcased the vibrant spirit of literacy permeating throughout the district all with the support of Andrea Cwynar, building principal.

As Lake Shore continues to forge ahead on its journey toward literacy excellence, the future promises a proliferation of budding authors within its elementary buildings. With a steadfast commitment to nurturing the written word, Lake Shore stands poised to script a narrative of literary achievement for generations to come.

- Contributed by Michele Amoia-Hornberger

Two BOE Members to Receive Awards ...



Board of Education Vice President Michael Franey will be presented with the Lorie E. Sabo Advocacy Award at the Erie County Association of Schools Boards Annual Dinner. The award honors an ECASB member who is active in advocating for public education, and comes with a scholarship to help offset costs of advocacy trips to Albany and Washington, DC. The award was established in 2012 after the untimely passing of long-time Orchard Park and Erie 2 CC BOCES Board member Lorie E. Sabo, who was an ardent advocate for public education at the local, state, and national level. Mr. Franey is a Lake Shore graduate who has served as legislative team alternate for ECASB for six years.



Board of Education member Kathleen Chiavetta will be presented with a 2024 Award of Excellence in Board of Education Leadership at the WNY Educational Service Council 18th Annual Awards of Excellence Banquet. A fierce advocate for public education, Ms. Chiavetta represents Lake Shore as co-chair of the Erie County Association of School Boards Legislative Team. She has been the Legislative Team’s Delegate for eight years, meeting with elected representatives at home, in Albany, and in Washington, D.C., to advocate for full and fair funding of public education, student social-emotional and mental health support, and equitable access to the Internet and technology, particularly in underserved communities, such as Seneca Nation territories. She is a graduate of Lake Shore’s Class of ‘94, and UB’s Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership.