



A Message from the Superintendent

Superintendent Dave Langone to Retire, Brian Bellair Named Successor

As you may have read last month, I will be retiring as the Superintendent of the Whitesboro Central School District on August 31, 2016. It has truly been my pleasure to serve as the Superintendent of Schools for such a great school district and community these past eight years. My time at Whitesboro has resulted in very rewarding experiences due to the outstanding commitment of our Board of Education, staff, students, parents and community. It is my hope that this incredible support for the school district that I have witnessed in the past eight years grows even stronger for my successor.

To ensure the continued success of our District, the Board of Education has selected Brian Bellair, Director of Special Programs and Services, as the next Superintendent of Schools. Brian began his service in Whitesboro as the Marcy Elementary Principal in 2000. He has also been an assistant principal, teacher and teaching assistant in other districts. This well-rounded background makes Mr. Bellair an excellent choice as our next superintendent. If you see Brian, please congratulate him and wish him well as he embarks on this new endeavor.

Get to Know New Superintendent Brian Bellair

At its regular meeting on March 22, the Whitesboro Central School District Board of Education appointed Brian Bellair, the current director of special programs and services at the Whitesboro Central School District, to be Dave Langone's successor. Bellair will assume the role of superintendent on September 1.

Before becoming director of special programs and services in 2005, Bellair, a 25-year veteran in education, began his service in Whitesboro in 2000 as principal of Marcy Elementary School. Bellair previously held positions as CSE chairperson, assistant principal, special education teacher and special education teaching assistant in various schools, including the Adirondack Central School District, Madison-Oneida BOCES and Utica City School District. In 2011, Bellair was selected as the School Administrators Association of New York State's Outstanding Educator of the Year.

"I am excited to continue my career in such an outstanding district," said Bellair. "The board, administration, staff, students, parents and community are committed to excellence and success. Together, we will continue to create opportunities for our students that will prepare them for what lies ahead."

Bellair earned his associate's degree in Accounting from Mohawk Valley Community College (MVCC) in 1989. After graduating from MVCC, he earned his bachelor's degree in Business and Public Management from SUNYIT and then his master's degree in Vocational Technical Education from SUNY Oswego. In 1999, Bellair received his certificate of advanced study from SUNY Cortland in Education Administration. Bellair is completing his Ph.D. in Education Administration and Policy Studies from SUNY Albany, and is expected to graduate in August.

Bellair is an active volunteer in the community and currently serves on the board of directors at the Oneida Lewis Chapter of the Arc and is involved in his neighborhood association. Former involvement includes, foundation board member at the Arc, co-vice president at the New York State Council of Administrators of Special Education, planning committee member for the Whitesboro Relay for Life and a rider in the Ride for Missing Children.

Bellair and his wife, Elizabeth, reside in the Whitesboro Central School District with their three children.

Proposed Budget and Other News

Thanks to the support of our community, the Whitesboro Central School District continues to provide many high quality programs for our students. Please closely review the proposed 2016-17 budget, which is presented in this newsletter. The District has worked very hard to prepare a fiscally responsible budget, while improving our high quality educational program.

The proposed budget calls for a 1.62 percent increase in the tax levy. Almost half of the budget-to-budget increase is related to our ongoing capital projects from 2009 and 2013. Although our legislators and governor significantly increased state aid for next year, this is the first time that public schools have reached 2009-10 funding levels in the past six years. However, Whitesboro, like all school districts, still faces challenges due to inadequate state funding and no guarantee of consistent, predictable, fair, and transparent funding in the future. Hopefully, our state representatives will act soon to address a long-term solution regarding state aid for education.

Also, I am proud to announce that the Whitesboro Central School District has adopted a new mission statement, "To inspire,

cultivate, and empower all learners to maximize their potential." Our mission statement was developed as a result of several meetings involving input from stakeholders throughout the District. The new mission statement will be easier for people to relate to, remember and utilize as the main focus of the District. I have no doubt that the new mission statement will inspire, cultivate and empower our students and staff to even greater heights.

Lastly, Phase B of our Capital Project, approved by voters in 2013, will begin this summer. Work will be occurring in most buildings throughout the District.

On behalf of the Board of Education and the entire Whitesboro Central School District, thank you. Your continued support is imperative in pursuing and accomplishing our mission.

"Inspire-Cultivate-Empower"

Sincerely,

Dave Langone

Superintendent of Schools