from the
SUPERINTENDENT

I have to say this has been one of the most interesting and challenging school years of my career.

The school year was progressing nicely and we were experiencing great success in all areas, academics, professional development, athletics, and extra-curricular activities, etc. We were in the process of closing out our capital facilities project and our buildings and grounds have never looked better. Spring sports were just beginning and we looked forward to an exciting season ahead. Then it happened, the Covid-19 virus.

As the safety of our students and staff is always our top priority, on March 15th, we made the decision to move to a remote learning model. The District’s Values and Vision; Learning Excellence, Respectful Relationships, Effective Communication and Continuous Improvement, continue to be our guiding force as we work through our current situation. Virtually overnight, teachers and administrators were required to develop a new learning model, one that included traditional methods and online learning experiences. While it has been a challenge and certainly something we have never experienced before, the process has been quite successful. Each level, elementary, middle and high, has developed a learning plan that is age appropriate and focused on the needs and abilities of our students. Our one-to-one chrome book initiative and utilization of the Google classroom have proven very effective tools and enhanced our students’ learning experience. Teachers, support staff, principals and directors continue to work together to review, evaluate and adjust as necessary. They have done an amazing job of making the very best of an extremely difficult situation.

We recently learned that school closures will continue for the remainder of the current school year. While we are disappointed, I am confident that our students will continue to experience quality instruction and support. As we look forward to September and plan to return to school, we realize that it may not be learning as usual. We are assembling a task force of teachers, administrators, board members and parents to consider what the return may look like and how to properly prepare.
On April 22nd, Parkdale faculty and staff held a “Spring has Sprung” Parade. Though the weather was not particularly springlike, everyone enjoyed seeing all the signage and smiling faces.
A great big THANK YOU to The Teacher’s Desk and their sponsoring partners for allowing EAUFSD to participate in their “Books ’n Bites” program; delivering almost 2,000 brand new Disney books to East Aurora students. We are calling this initiative “EAt and rEAd” and is designed to help encourage the love of reading.

The Teacher’s Desk is a Buffalo, NY based store where 6000 teachers shop annually for free school supplies for students. Each year $6,000,000 in supplies are donated to 150,000 students in 250 schools throughout WNY. With schools and their store closed, #booksnbites was created to bring hope and a smile to students within our community. With their partners, Keybank, Five Star Bank, First Book and Reading with Robin, The Teacher’s Desk has delivered over 75,000 new books to WNY schools providing meals during the pandemic. For more information about their work visit www.theteachersdesk.org.

EAUFSD Technology Department Donation

The East Aurora Union Free School District recently made a donation of 1050 “Ear Guard Mask Extenders” to the Erie County Department of Health. The extenders were made by district Technology Department teachers, Natalie Dutton, Brian Cray and Ryan Wall, utilizing the STEAM Lab 3D printers. “Ear Guard Mask Extenders” attach to the elastic bands of face masks, protecting the backs of mask wearers ears and providing relief from the constant discomfort of rubbing elastic.
To Our FOOD SERVICE DELIVERY

Jessica Lyons & Cheryl Sweet check-in meal delivery personnel.

Teacher Aide, Dina Calucci, received a special thank you when delivering meals.

Diane Zehler, Mike Pundt & Jeff Didion unload meals from refrigeration trucks.

Teachers AnnMarie Evans & Colleen Kaminski volunteer to deliver meals.

Produce included in meal deliveries is purchased from local vendors.

Food Service Staff assembling meal delivery packages.
Meal Delivery Bus Driver, Kristia Heichberger

A total of fifteen buses provide meal deliveries on Tuesdays & Fridays.

Chef Mike Bernard & Food Service Manager Iris Reed

Teacher Aides Niki Krieger & Sarah O’Brien assist with meal deliveries.

FIRST RESPONDERS!
Top Ten Seniors

**Madison Dziulko** *Valedictorian*

The endless amount of opportunities while at East Aurora High School would not have been possible without the support from my friends, family, coaches, and teachers. My dedicated community service, challenging curriculum, involvement in Key Club, Executive Board, National Honor Society, Student Government, Donate Life Club, and National Latin Honor Society, along with my participation in Field Hockey and Softball, have created lasting friendships and memories. With these experiences, I plan to continue expanding my knowledge while attending the Rochester Institute of Technology in the fall of 2020 majoring in Biomedical Engineering.

**Katherine Markello** *Salutatorian*

During my time at EAHS, I had the privilege of immersing myself in numerous AP courses, Student Government, National Honor Society, Key Club, and Executive Board. I’m grateful for the wonderful experiences granted by the music department, including participating in the musicals, as well as band and chorus. I could not be more thankful for the amazing teachers and staff, and my supportive family and friends. Outside of the classroom, I have danced at Walh Performing Arts Studios for 11 years, and am excited to pursue this passion for dance while double majoring in both Dance and Political Science at Nazareth College next fall.

**Karis Ertel**

During my time at East Aurora High School, I was fortunate enough to be provided with opportunities for development and success, including the STEM program, AP courses, and technology classes. I also ran cross country, indoor track, and outdoor track and am very grateful for everything those sports have offered me. I would like to thank my family, my coaches and team, and my teachers for providing me the foundation I will use going forward in studying Computer Science at, and running for, the University of Chicago.

**Parker Polston**

During my time as a student at EAHS I was fortunate to be a part of numerous activities within the school including Student Government, Donate Life Club, National Honors Society, Varsity Soccer, and Stage Crew. Through my involvement I have been rewarded with countless memories and long-lasting friendships. I would like to thank my family, teachers, and coaches for their guidance and support over the years. I am extremely excited to be attending the University of South Carolina this coming fall where I will be majoring in Public Health.

**Cate Vanner**

Throughout my four years of high school, I have been afforded so many incredible opportunities that shaped me as a person. I participated in the International Studies program for my first two years and met some of my favorite teachers and made lifelong friends. I also participated in Science Club, Sustainability Campaign, costume crew, the track team, National Honor Society, and the swim team. My favorite memories include both the Peru and Spain trips and Envirothon. I am elated to be studying Conservation and Resource Studies at the University of California, Berkeley this fall.
Grace Tapani

I am grateful to have been presented with numerous opportunities to thrive at the high school from East Aurora teachers, staff, and coaches. Participating in Donate Life Club, National Honor Society, Student Government, Executive Board, AP classes, and varsity lacrosse and tennis, my four years at East Aurora have been filled with countless memories. I would like to thank my friends, family, and the faculty that have helped me shape who I am today. I plan to attend the University of Alabama in the fall where I will study Environmental Engineering.

William Covington

During my time at East Aurora High School, I have participated in the STEM program, NHS, taken many AP classes, and spent countless hours on the basketball court and baseball field. Without a doubt, these experiences have prepared me for the future, and I am grateful for all of my teachers, coaches, and classmates who have guided me and made these four years so special. In the fall, I plan to attend the University of Notre Dame, where I will study Engineering.

Gates Andrews

My time at EAHS was a circuitous journey of academic and extracurricular activities. From co-founding the Sustainability Campaign and doing away with plastic utensils, to organizing village cleanups with the village board and NHS - all while spawning as many products and projects as I could in the tech lab - I could go on and on asyndetically with everything I threw myself into at EAHS. Above all, I am thankful for my family, teachers, peers, and myself in helping me create a monument more lasting than bronze (monumentum aere perennius) in just a few years. All of my experiences here have prepared me well for my next steps at RIT, where I plan to major in Industrial Design.

Katie Furtney

East Aurora High School has provided me with many memorable experiences I will hold onto throughout my life. The trips to New York City, Hershey Park, Walt Disney World, and Cape Cod were absolutely amazing! Participating in Concert Band brought a smile to my face every day. Joining AFS Club and Science Club were also a highlight of my high school years. Being in the STEM program was a great opportunity I took part in for three years. I am looking forward to attending SUNY Buffalo State to earn a Bachelor’s Degree in Environmental Geography. Thank you EAHS for the last four years!

Lindsay Doyle

I am very grateful for the many opportunities afforded to me by the East Aurora High School. During my time, I was able to participate in multiple AP courses and numerous clubs including, Donate Life, Key Club, Science Club, Knitting Club, and National Honors Society. I appreciate all of the valuable time and hard work my teachers put into my education. Throughout my four years, I have gained memories and friendships that I will never forget. This fall, I am attending Stony Brook University, majoring in Biology and minoring in Spanish.
A Message From the Board of Education
by Marybeth Covert, President

“You may not always have a comfortable life. And you will not always be able to solve all the world’s problems at once. But don’t ever underestimate the impact you can have, because history has shown us that courage can be contagious, and hope can take on a life of its own.”

- Michelle Obama, Former First Lady of the United States

The COVID-19 crisis has quickly impacted each of our daily lives, and as many of you have witnessed first-hand and others must assume, schools have been effected in unprecedented ways. With courage, action and hope, our District and community have responded.

The District is addressing the issues wrought by this pandemic with the safety and security of our students, staff, and community in mind. I am proud of the response that our District has given to date and I hope that moving forward that the students, families, and community continue to count on the District to keep their safety and security at the forefront of our decision making. From Administrators, teachers, civil servants and students, all have approached the issues we face with courage and compassion. Their response gives me hope that we can weather this unprecedented storm together and look forward to a bright future for education in East Aurora.

At the Board of Education level, we have transitioned to live streamed meetings with all Board Members and Administrators appearing remotely. We accept “visitor comments” which are submitted in advance of the meeting and then read and addressed during the normal “visitor comment” section of the Agenda. All of our meetings are saved on YouTube so that you can go back and watch them at your leisure. We have seen an increase in participation with more people listening live to our meetings than we ordinarily had come in person and it appears that several are watching the meeting later as well. For those of you looking for a reader friendly version, the meetings are eventually transcribed and posted to our website. We hope that these three new options will help the East Aurora community gain access to full Board meetings from the safety of their homes.

Much of the focus of our last several meetings has been what it always is this time of year – the budget. And, of course, this year we have discussed the districts transition from an in-school environment to an online instructional model, as well as the implementation of the meal delivery system and child care services for essential workers. As you now know, distance learning, food delivery and child care services will remain in place for the remainder of the academic year due to the Governor’s announcement that schools are to remain closed. Our federal and state governments have mandated that school districts provide these necessary services. And, for the meal delivery and child care services, we are happy that we have been able to provide these services utilizing a combination of contractual services that we were already obligated to pay, and numerous volunteers from our staff and community. Our community coming together to provide these services explains our recent social media hashtag: #oneEA. Thankfully, from a budget perspective, the meal costs are anticipated to be fully reimbursed.

At the instructional level, the Board is proud of the incredible efficiency and effectiveness with which our district was able to implement distance learning at the onset of the pandemic in our community. The district’s decision to put computers in the hands of every student at the start of the 2019-2020 school year proved helpful in implementing the quick and smooth transition to remote learning. Teachers stepped up to provide online instruction, often responding to student needs at all hours while students have continued to remain engaged and on task, putting forth their best efforts in this challenging environment. On behalf of the Board, we thank everyone, students, teachers, administrators, and staff alike, for bravely shifting to this new format.

As the unknown ramifications stemming from the pandemic continue, our budget discussions this spring have been necessarily fraught with uncertainty. As COVID-19 and the need for social distancing measures wreaks havoc on the economy, so too is the pandemic’s impact on school district budgets. We know cuts to state aid are coming; some cuts have come already and more, we are told by the Governor, will come in June and December as the full economic impact can be assessed state wide. The Board of Education remained mindful of that likely reduction in aid as it developed the 2020-2021 budget and we know that we will need to respond accordingly to any mid-year cuts. While these anticipated cuts will undoubtedly impact the educational environment that we have taken care to build in East Aurora, we remain committed to addressing those cuts in a manner that best preserves the quality of education that our students and community deserve. That commitment is equally balanced against the economic impact our decisions will have on our taxpayers, especially as many continue to suffer personal losses during this time. The District has remarkable people working for it, and we know that we can count on a collaborative and courageous approach to solving these economic ramifications.
New York State school districts are allowed to annually initiate a capital outlay project with a total amount not to exceed $100,000. A “capital outlay” project is an efficient, cost effective way to help the District keep its facilities in safe, good working order. The following is planned for a capital outlay if approved by the upcoming budget vote.

Business Office Suite Update
As we conclude the $23.5 Million Capital project, renovations of the Middle School Business Office Suite will be completed and include general construction, HVAC updates and electrical system upgrades; increasing the efficiency of this workspace.

2019-2020 Capital Outlay Project
Last year’s approved budget included a capital outlay project. Two items were planned for and recently completed at the Middle School; replacement of window balances on the third floor and repair/replacement of sidewalks and curbs along the North Grove entrance. Both of these items improved the security of our campus and the safety of our students.

It is undoubtedly sad that school cannot continue as usual and it might not look the same for some time. We all miss stepping into the school halls and auditoriums to see friends and family, and to witness the traditional spring performances in drama, sports, music, etc. As a parent of a graduating senior, I know that celebrating milestones is important to both students and families. Thanks to the initiative of our Administrators, PTOs, parents, students and staff, we are honoring student accomplishments in new ways. As we maneuver through new social distancing directives, the District hopes to honor all of our students milestone achievements and celebrate student successes in creative and unique ways. We truly appreciate the innovative ideas coming from our students, families and the community on how to make those celebrations appropriate, meaningful, and memorable. Equally, we thank you for your patience as we implement events in socially new ways with the hope that one day we will return to some of our honored traditions.

Our East Aurora school district has met the challenges wrought by this pandemic with unique collaboration and compassion. As school life continues to change, the Board of Education hopes that our community will continue to come together as we push forward during this uncertain time. Each of us can have an impact and as long as we are courageous, hope will abound.

**Capital Outlay Projects**

**New York State school districts are allowed to annually initiate a capital outlay project with a total amount not to exceed $100,000. A “capital outlay” project is an efficient, cost effective way to help the District keep its facilities in safe, good working order. The following is planned for a capital outlay if approved by the upcoming budget vote.**

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### 2020-2021 Components of Proposed Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2019-2020 Appropriations</th>
<th>2020-2021 Appropriations</th>
<th>Increase</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries</td>
<td>15,643,807</td>
<td>16,289,256</td>
<td>645,449</td>
<td>4.13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fringe Benefits</td>
<td>6,258,618</td>
<td>6,235,011</td>
<td>(23,607)</td>
<td>-0.38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
<td>96,000</td>
<td>151,000</td>
<td>55,000</td>
<td>57.29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
<td>622,630</td>
<td>588,930</td>
<td>(33,700)</td>
<td>-5.41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contractual</td>
<td>2,368,784</td>
<td>2,266,952</td>
<td>(101,832)</td>
<td>-4.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Text Book/Software/Library/Tuition</td>
<td>639,073</td>
<td>639,073</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOCES</td>
<td>4,796,050</td>
<td>5,452,247</td>
<td>656,197</td>
<td>13.68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>1,953,084</td>
<td>2,027,055</td>
<td>73,971</td>
<td>3.79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sub Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>32,378,046</strong></td>
<td><strong>33,649,524</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,271,478</strong></td>
<td><strong>3.93%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt Service/Interfund Transfer</td>
<td>3,953,808</td>
<td>4,522,203</td>
<td>568,395</td>
<td>14.38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>36,331,854</strong></td>
<td><strong>38,171,727</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,839,873</strong></td>
<td><strong>5.06%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Proposed Revenues 2020-2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2019-2020</th>
<th>2020-2021</th>
<th>$ Change</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tax Levy</td>
<td>$22,550,127</td>
<td>$23,731,351</td>
<td>$1,181,224</td>
<td>5.24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales Tax</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
<td>2,065,356</td>
<td>65,356</td>
<td>3.27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Aid/Medicaid</td>
<td>10,310,754</td>
<td>10,872,215</td>
<td>561,461</td>
<td>5.45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appropriated Fund Balance</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>361,977</td>
<td>$361,977</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appropriated Reserves/Interfund</td>
<td>868,148</td>
<td>418,148</td>
<td>($450,000)</td>
<td>-51.83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Sources</td>
<td>602,825</td>
<td>722,680</td>
<td>$119,855</td>
<td>19.88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>36,331,854</strong></td>
<td><strong>38,171,727</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,839,873</strong></td>
<td><strong>5.06%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Per Pupil Expenditure Comparison

- **East Aurora**
- **Similar District Group**
- **All NYS Districts**
## School District Budget Notice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overall Budget Proposal</th>
<th>Budget Proposed for the 2019-20 School Year</th>
<th>Budget Proposed for the 2020-21 School Year</th>
<th>Contingency Budget for the 2020-21 School Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions</td>
<td>$36,331,854</td>
<td>$38,171,727</td>
<td>$37,027,587</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase/Decrease for the 2020-21 School Year</td>
<td></td>
<td>$1,839,873</td>
<td>$665,928</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget</td>
<td></td>
<td>5.06%</td>
<td>1.91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in the Consumer Price Index</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1.81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount</td>
<td>$22,550,127</td>
<td>$23,694,267</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)</td>
<td>$22,550,127</td>
<td>$23,694,267</td>
<td>$22,550,127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. Total Permissible Exclusions</td>
<td>$846,151</td>
<td>$1,371,219</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions</td>
<td>$21,703,976</td>
<td>$22,323,048</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)</td>
<td>$21,703,976</td>
<td>$22,323,048</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Component</td>
<td>$3,626,115</td>
<td>$3,371,413</td>
<td>$3,371,413</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Component</td>
<td>$25,343,622</td>
<td>$27,731,852</td>
<td>$26,687,712</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Component</td>
<td>$7,362,119</td>
<td>$7,068,462</td>
<td>$6,968,462</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2020-21 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Layoff of Staff Members</th>
<th>15.0 FTE’s Faculty and Support Staff</th>
<th>Increase Reliance on Appropriated Fund Balance</th>
<th>Reduction in Co-Curricular and Athletic Programs</th>
<th>Reduce Certain Salary Increases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: emscmgts@nysed.gov

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2020-21 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹

$450.65

And notice is also given that the vote on the Annual School Budget for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending on June 30, 2021 and the Election of Members of the Board of Education will take place remotely on Tuesday, June 9, 2020. Pursuant to Executive Order 202.26, qualified voters shall only be permitted to vote via absentee ballot. Absentee ballots will be mailed to all known qualified voters with a postage paid return envelope. If you are a qualified voter and do not receive an absentee ballot, please contact Sue Kramer at 687-2302 or via email skramer@eak12.org to request one. Completed absentee ballots must be received in the District Clerk’s Office by 5:00 p.m. on June 9, 2020

¹. The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.
SCHOLARSHIPS

U of R Bausch & Lomb Honorary Science Award
RECIPIENT
Brennan Weppner
Kasia Kalinski
Nolan Rogers
Annika Spencer
Kiera Kavcic
Charles Wangelin
Lucas Hurney & Miranda Bartkowiak
John West
Izzy Larson
Addie Tirone
Jack Meyer
Elliot Nagy & Laya Davis
Steven Giallanza & Theresa Murphy
Caroline Ruffner
Miranda Bartkowiak & Emma Thompson
Madeline Wasner

scholarships
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT
U of R George Eastman Young Leaders Award
Brennan Weppner
Kasia Kalinski
Nolan Rogers
Annika Spencer
Kiera Kavcic
Charles Wangelin
Lucas Hurney & Miranda Bartkowiak
John West
Izzy Larson
Addie Tirone
Jack Meyer
Elliot Nagy & Laya Davis
Steven Giallanza & Theresa Murphy
Caroline Ruffner
Miranda Bartkowiak & Emma Thompson
Madeline Wasner

U of R Xerox Award for Innovation & Information Tech
U of R Frederick Douglass & Susan B. Anthony Award
Wellesley Book Award
Harvard Book Award
Saint Michael’s College Book Award
New York State Attorney General’s Triple C Award
Clarkson University Leadership Award
Clarkson University Achievement Award
RPI Medal Award
RIT Computing Medal Award
RIT Creativity & Innovation Award
George Washington Book Award
Wells College Award
State Controller Achievement Award

AWARDS

AWARD
EAHS STEM Award
English Awards
Global Leadership:
AP Program:
Outstanding Contributions:

RECIPIENT
Colden Ball, Will Covington, Karis Ertel, Nolan Rogers
Cate Vanner, Gabby Reynolds, Dan Mikula
Mattelein Evans, Katherine Markello, Grace Tapani
Connor Boss, Ryan Maloney, Mari Aures

Fine Arts Award
Foreign Language Awards
Multi Language:
Spanish:
Latin:

RECIPIENT
Sebastian Newell & Jessica Steinwachs
Gates Andrews
Lindsay Doyle
Madison Dziulko
Dom Zittel & Olivia Alessi
Leanna Ingelfinger
Madison Dziulko & Matthew Izzo
Cate Vanner & Alyssa Deveso
James Hasselbeck
Sean Flaherty
Madison Dziulko
Richard LaRoeuch
The Genesis “Moment”
by Richard Clements

The genesis “moment” was a simple question; when can we buy a portable computer, suitable for students to bring to and from school each day, that would cost less than $300? That question was asked in 2008.

The answer to the question, as it turned out, was far less important than the implications it carried. Clearly, a one-to-one deployment of low-cost computers to roughly 1,800 students was the goal. But, how would that add value? How would they communicate? How would information be shared? How would we administer 1,800 new “users” and computers? How to make this safe, secure, fast, flexible and durable? We needed a “plan”.

The mission statement became “instruction that transcends the time of day and location of the student”. The guiding principle became “no gaps”. Every student, regardless of grade level, must have access to appropriately sophisticated technology. That technology should allow students to collaborate with one another and with their teachers. It should provide access to vast swaths of information to supplement learning. It should be safe and simple. Most importantly, it should be usable both in school and at home.

To make this idea work, we’d needed a few things before we started buying computers. First, we planned our infrastructure; a wireless network on campus and a central repository to register and manage our users and provide locations for them to securely store and safely share their work.

In the summer of 2009, we rebuilt the network at all three buildings. Then, we added wireless networking to the high school. By late 2009, we’d become one of the first school districts in the region to set up Google Apps for Education domain for all of our students and teachers. As we entered the 2010 fiscal year, we felt like we’d created the perfect “plan” for one-to-one student computers…

And then came the Gap Elimination Adjustment.
And then, the Property Tax Cap.
And then, the Combined Wealth Ratio.

All of which conspired to make us the most fiscally-stressed district in the state. While laying-off significant percentages of staff and faculty simply to survive, one-to-one computing was out of the question. So much for our “plan” …

Courageous decision-making and invaluable support from the community brightened our prospects. By 2017, when we dared to again consider the idea of one-to-one, we realized that two important things had occurred during the years in which we’d been “sidelined” by our finances; the quality of the technology had improved dramatically while the price of that technology had fallen significantly. We were indeed well within the era of the sub-$300 portable computer. Our “plan” was BACK!!

By the summer of 2019, we finally realized the vision that had been put forth so many years ago - education that can transcend the time of day and the students’ location. Beginning last September, all students had a Chromebook computer assigned directly to them. The “plan” had finally been accomplished.

And, just in the nick of time.

Today, the vision that began with a simple question nearly 12 years ago, is playing a pivotal role as the world grapples with the challenge of COVID-19. The transcendence that we’d planned has now become a keystone of our instruction as we’ve been forced, due to our circumstances, to move away from the physical confines of our campus. Nowhere along this winding road did we “plan” for a total remote learning scenario.

An old saying states that “life is what happens to us while we are busy making other plans”. In recounting this tale, I’m even more humbled by the simple, elegant truth of that saying.

Note: We would like to congratulate Rich on his impending retirement in July 2020. Rich joined the district’s Technology Department in 2002, rising to the position of Director of Information Technology in 2011. Over the past eighteen years his wealth of knowledge has proven invaluable to the district. His vision, foresight and guidance well positioned the district to respond to the ever changing technological needs of our students and staff and, most recently, to successfully navigate the additional challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Rich’s innovative, thoughtful leadership will certainly be missed as we extend our best wishes to him on his retirement.
At the end of each school year, a few exceptional pieces of student artwork are selected for induction into the Superintendent’s Art Collection. Each work is framed, labeled and becomes part of the Districts permanent exhibit. The 2020 inductees are: Emma Spielman (Grade 3), Jordan Hayes (Grade 6), Elspeth Green (Grade 9) and Amanda Kell (Grade 10). Following are the individual pieces selected and a brief description of the assigned criteria for each. Congratulations to all of this year’s inductees!

**Emma Spielman**  
Grade 3  
Emma’s artwork was based on a lesson about contemporary artist Jim Dine. Dine was heavily influenced by the Pop-Art movement, drawing inspiration from everyday objects such as spoons, famous photos, soup cans, etc. One of his most popular series of paintings and sculptures are his heart shapes. Dine’s hearts usually contain an appealing interplay of light and shadows, as well as texture.  
Emma began by creating two symmetrical heart shapes. Different combinations of oil pastel were used for the base color. After that, she used a technique called Sgraffito, where a thin layer of paint is applied and then textures/designs are scratched into the wet paint. Emma’s exquisite application of this technique is visible in this amazing work of art and shows what a very talented young artist she is.

**Jordon Hayes**  
Grade 6  
Students were given the task of writing an original Haiku and illustrating it in watercolors. The class examined silhouette image samples and discussed how these images can create an interesting composition. It was up to the artist to decide whether to start with their visual image or begin with writing their poem. A talented writer and artist, Jordan used her own artistic style and creativity to complete her project.

**Elspeth Green**  
Grade 9  
Elspeth’s artwork was chosen from a project where students were challenged to create a drawing that was comprised exclusively with words. Any line that appears in the drawing is also part of a letter or the text is so small that it appears to be a line. Elspeth created a detailed rendering that exceeded the expectations of the assignment.

**Amanda Kell**  
Grade 10  
Amanda’s work is an exploration of the theme “Time”. This was a weekly challenge in which the students chose the subject, utilized the “rule of thirds” compositional theory, and manually set their cameras for a slow shutter speed to achieve a motion blur. Amanda’s artwork is a wonderful solution that captures motion, composition and light in a highly creative way.
In addition to our learning plan, we are responsible for providing food service to children up to 18 years of age throughout the district and child care for first responders. Our Food Service Director, along with food service staff, teacher aides and bus drivers prepare and deliver nearly 25,000 meals each week to families districtwide. We are so proud of their dedicated service. We have also set up a system to assist first responders in obtaining day care for their children.

It is important we continue to stay focused on the numerous successes achieved throughout the district both prior to and following the onset of Covid-19. These accomplishments occurred despite the numerous and significant challenges faced by the District.

Once again, we were recognized for academic achievement at the local level as well as by national organizations. NYS Education Department honored EAUFSD for outstanding academic performance. US News and World Report ranked East Aurora School District in the top 5% of schools nationally for our proficiency in preparing students for college and careers. I am so very proud of our students, parents, teachers, support staff, administrators and Board members for their positive outlook and commitment to maintain educational excellence at all the levels. Throughout this issue you will find an array of photos attesting to the accomplishments, strength, dedication, compassion and resilience of our school and community.

The District is proud to present a 2020-21 budget that stays within the tax cap limit. Due to the current circumstances, all voting will occur this year via absentee ballot. A ballot and instructions will be mailed to each eligible voter throughout the District. Please review the material very carefully. The absentee ballot must be returned to the District by 5:00 PM on Tuesday, June 9th.

The last few months have presented many challenges. Our collective efforts have ensured our continued success. It’s all of us, students, teachers, support staff, administrators, Board of Education members, parents and community organizations working together to get the job done. I am grateful for the opportunity to lead such an amazing organization and thank you for your continued support. We will get through this and in the end, be stronger and more resilient.

The EAPTO sends best wishes for the health and wellness of all families during this challenging time. Our three building PTO’s are working together with district administration to provide breakfast for Food Service Delivery personnel on Tuesdays and Fridays. We have also sponsored some engaging, fun, remote activities for district families and will continue doing so for the remainder of the school year.

Although this is not the school year any of our students imagined it would be, the EAPTO is working together with school administration to ensure there will be plenty of recognitions, memories and smiles for all students transitioning from one building to another and most especially for the 153 seniors graduating in June.

Preliminary plans for a Senior Celebration are in the works and sure to provide a memorable occasion for the 2020 Senior Class as they wrap-up their final weeks at East Aurora High School. The Senior Class Banners hung on Main Street in recognition of all 153 graduating seniors is a public show of support in celebrating their accomplishments and success. In another expression of support, the PTO will present each senior with a memorable gift in early June. Delivery/pick-up of these gifts is being coordinated with the school administration. Finally, and with much excitement, the PTO has earmarked a check for $2,020.00 to be presented to one lucky senior, drawn at random, during the graduation ceremony.

For more information, follow your school’s PTO Facebook page and watch your email inbox for additional details.
MISSION STATEMENT
The East Aurora School District will provide environments, experiences, materials and professional talents to help each student prepare to live in society as a contributing, self fulfilling and caring citizen. The school will endeavor to develop, in each student, a lifelong desire for knowledge and the skills to acquire it. The school will promote learning in the context of common sense, hope for a better future and a deep respect for humanity.

DISTRICT OFFICES
716.687.2300  |  www.eastauroraschools.org

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
bruss@eak12.org

#oneEA