

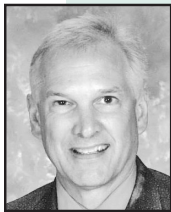
YOUR SCHOOLS

2020

Aurora City School District

From the Superintendent

By PAT R. CICCANTELLI
Superintendent of Schools



As we head through February it seems remarkable that we will soon finish the 3rd quarter of the school year and be looking forward to spring. It has been a calm winter and it makes

me thankful to not have to battle the elements and to have those early morning decisions of whether to have a “snow day!”

Our students continue to shine both inside and outside of the classroom. Each year they amaze us with their academic, co-curricular and service-related achievements. This outstanding accomplishment is the direct result of the utilization of educational best practices, a collaborative learning culture where “Kids Come First,” and the support and guidance from great families.

This fall we completed a new Strategic Vision for our district. A steering committee consisting of 40 stakeholders who represented the many groups within our district and greater community, worked for several months developing the vision. They were supported with data from a community and staff survey, as well as feedback from three focus group meetings. The Board of Education approved the new document and we have started the process of training our staff for the implementation of the vision. We continue to earn accolades from various organizations for our student achievement. This past fall the Ohio

See Superintendent p. 3



ACSD RENEWAL LEVY ON MARCH 2020 BALLOT ~ No Additional Taxes If Passed

The Aurora City School District’s Board of Education has placed a 5.61 mill operating renewal levy on the Portage County March 17, 2020 ballot. Ohio law allows school districts to ask voters to renew a limited levy when it expires. The levy must be for the same purpose and is renewed at the effective millage rate.

This 5.61 operating levy was first approved by City of Aurora voters in 1990. It was renewed in 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010 and last renewed in 2015. Since this is a renewal levy, there is **NO INCREASE IN TAXES** for citizens if the levy is approved.

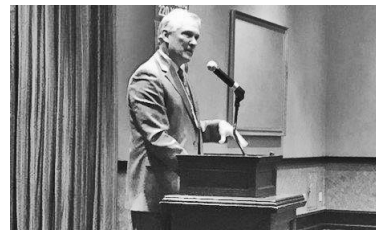
This levy finances the Aurora City School District’s general operating fund. The

income from this fund, by Ohio law, can only be used for daily operating expenses, including curriculum, utility and transportation costs. This levy annually generates \$3,518,341 of the district’s General Fund Operating Revenue. The cost of the 5.61 mills for an owner of a \$100,000 home is approximately \$172 per year.

The Aurora City School District’s Treasurer, William Volosin, explained, “The 5.61 mill renewal levy will cause no increase in taxes, as it is a renewal levy. The renewal levy brings \$3.5 million in general fund revenue to the district or roughly 10% of

Renewal Levy p. 8

SUPERINTENDENT PAT CICCANTELLI ANNOUNCES RESIGNATION



Guest Speaker Ciccantelli at State of the City 2019

Aurora City School District Superintendent, Pat Ciccantelli, has announced that he will be resigning from the position he has held since 2015 for the purpose of retirement. The Aurora Board of Education voted to accept his resignation at the January 27, 2020 Board meeting. Ciccantelli will be moving to

Bluffton, South Carolina with his wife Lynn and youngest son Brian. His two other children, Daniel and Jennifer, along with two granddaughters, also currently reside in South Carolina.

Gerald Kohanski, President of the Board of Education said, “Pat Ciccantelli has been a great asset to the Aurora Schools over the past twelve years. His extensive background in business and education enabled him to significantly elevate the performance of the high school, greatly enhance the position of Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, and become one of the premier Superintendents in Northeast Ohio. Pat is

Resignation p. 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the Superintendent.....1
ACSD Renewal Levy on Ballot1
Superintendent Ciccantelli Resigns.....1
ACSD Earns ODE Overall “A” Award2
Aurora BOE New Member Acomb2
Veterans Day Breakfast3

Who’s Who & What’s New4
Elec Simon Visits AHS 4
Miller School 2019 PBIS Award.....4
Class Acts5
AHS Newsweek Top Stem School 20195
Sport Report.....6

Board Notes6
Aurora Schools’ Giving Spreads7
School Safety Update7
Princess Prom Captivates7
Halloween Haunts8



AURORA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT EARNS ODE OVERALL A AWARD 2019

The Aurora City School District (ACSD) was recognized on December 9, 2019 by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) and was awarded the State Overall A Award. This is the second year the ACSD has earned the State's Overall A award. The State Board of Education recognizes schools and districts with the Overall A Award if they receive A's on all Ohio School Report Card measures. A total of 27 school districts in Ohio were recipients of the Overall A Award for 2019. For a complete listing of all Overall A award recipients, please visit the ODE website.

"The students, teachers, administrators and staff honored today are shining examples to peers and colleagues around Ohio," said State Board of Education President Laura Kohler. "We are so proud of these award recipients and the effort they put in to learning, leading and growing every day. We are both encouraged and challenged by the example of excellence they are setting."

AURORA BOE APPROVES MIKE ACOMB AS BOARD MEMBER



New Aurora BOE member Mike Acomb and his family (left to right): Emersyn, Mike, Brynlee, Gavin, Lyndsay and Reid

The Aurora Board of Education (BOE) has voted to approve their selection to fill the Board member seat vacated by previous Aurora Schools Board member Zena Elliott who chose not to run for reelection. Her term expired on December 31, 2019.

Aurora City School District BOE President, Gerald Kohanski, explained, "The Aurora Board of Education approved Michael Acomb to fill the vacant seat on the board from a very competitive field of eight well-qualified candidates. This was a very unusual situation in that no one ran for the seat in November that was vacated when Zena Elliott chose not to run for reelection. The Board's decision was thoroughly deliberated, and although it was difficult to choose from among so many excellent community members, we are confident that Mr. Acomb will be a strong addition to our team. He is an experienced educator and very involved community member who has children in the Aurora schools."

Acomb is currently the principal at Lewis Elementary School in Solon, Ohio. He has been employed with the Solon City School District since 1997 where he began his career as a 3rd grade teacher and moved on to Curriculum/Technology Resources. He was then named the Assistant Middle School Principal of Orchard Middle School and accepted the position of principal there in 2005. Acomb has been the principal of Lewis Elementary School since 2012.

His educational background includes a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education from John Carroll University and a Masters of Education in Special Education from Kent State University earned in 2000. Acomb also has an educational emphasis on K-12 Leadership.

Acomb said of his new Aurora Board of Education position, "I am very excited about this opportunity to get involved with the school system. My family and I choose to live in Aurora because of the combination of it being such a wonderful community and having excellent schools. I am hopeful that my service on the board will only help to improve both. I thank the other board members for allowing me this wonderful opportunity to join them, and I am looking forward to getting started soon!"

Acomb is a resident of Aurora and has lived in the community for seven years. He is married to his wife, Lyndsay, and their four children, Emersyn, Reid, Gavin, and Brynlee, all of whom attend the Aurora Schools.

Resignation – Continued from p. 1

a very bright and logical thinker who knows how to lead a high achieving school district. The Aurora Schools' results certainly reflect the quality of his leadership. I have had an excellent, collegial relationship with him as Board President and I know the other Board members value him highly. We certainly wish him well in his retirement and are happy

that he will be reunited with his family and grandchildren in South Carolina."

Ciccantelli, said, "I have been blessed to have 14 years of experience in one of the finest school districts in the country. It was truly a difficult decision to leave this district. We have a strong administrative team and a

Resignation p. 3



YOUR SCHOOLS

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Editor: Stacey DeAnna

Your Schools is a publication of the Aurora City School District. Its purpose is to keep residents of Aurora informed of current events and progress in the Aurora City Schools and to foster pride and a continuous communication link between the schools and the community.

Your Schools has been awarded the "Mark of Excellence" and "Best of the Best" Awards by the Ohio Chapter of the National School Public Relations Association for service as a school district newsletter. *Your Schools* is a quarterly publication, mailed to all residents of Aurora. For information, comments, or story ideas, e-mail Editor Stacey DeAnna at: yourschools@aurora-schools.org.

Resignation – Continued from p. 2

tremendous staff. We have grown and developed through the leadership of a compassionate board of education and a supportive community. I will miss all of the great people here, but I have very fond memories of a great experience during my time here in Aurora.”

Ciccantelli told the Board, “Because of our financial stability, academic success and commitment to the quality education programming and services, now is the best stepping-off point for my 14-year career at Aurora. We have built up a tremendous trajectory, demonstrated high performance and a multitude of awards and recognitions through the years and I am confident that this will continue and keep improving long into the future.”

He added, “It has been a pleasure and extremely gratifying to work as the Aurora Superintendent. I am honored to have worked alongside each and every one of you, as well as our amazingly talented and caring staff.”



The Aurora High School Service (AHS) Learning Class planned and held their annual Veterans Day Breakfast on Friday, November 8, 2019 in the high school commons. AHS teachers Melissa Foster and Mike Rubin provided leadership to the students. Guest speakers included Representative Diane Grendell and her husband, Judge Tim Grendell, and Aurora Board of Education President, Gerald Kohanski. AHS Choir Instructor Sarah Dixon had her choir students perform for the attendees, which featured a solo by Alana Noel. The AHS Innovative Design class, taught by Andrew Sams and Dmitri Kourennyi, also created, designed and manufactured letter openers as gifts for the veterans.

*Superintendent – Continued from p. 1*

Department of Education bestowed their highest honor on our district designating it as an “A” rated district. This is the second year in a row we have earned this honor. Only 27 of the 611 public districts in Ohio earned this distinction this year, and only 18 districts have earned it for the past two years. We also received the Momentum Award from ODE signifying our students earned straight “A”’s on all value added, or progress measures. We were one of only a handful of districts in the state to earn both of these prestigious awards.

January was national Board of Education Recognition Month. I want to thank the Board of Education for their commitment and dedication to the students and staff of our district. Our board members are: President- Jerry Kohanski, Vice President- Pam Mehallis, and board members, Miriam Conner, Steve Sabulsky, and Mike Acomb. We celebrated the board at the January meeting. Miller and Craddock Elementary students made cards, students from Leighton Elementary produced a video, and we served our board members delicious “Aurora” cookies. Congratulations to our newest Board member, Mike Acomb. He was selected by the board to replace Zena Elliot, who did not run at the conclusion of her term. We appreciate everything they do for our students and staff!

We have a renewal levy on the ballot in March. It is a 5.61 mill operating levy

and since it is a renewal there will not be an increase in taxes for the residents. This levy was initially passed as a five-year renewable levy in 1990 and was last on the ballot in 2015. It must go before the voters every five years. This levy generates about \$3.5 million and it is vital to our continued academic success. We have had another successful season outside of the classroom as well. Our students have earned many awards the past few months. The wrestling team won their fifth consecutive Suburban League Championship and are currently ranked 2nd in the state. Our individual wrestlers will be competing to earn berths to the state meet later this month. Our girls’ basketball team won another Suburban League title. It took them 90 years to earn the first one, but this is their fourth consecutive championship! They are the number three seeded team in their district tournament heading into OHSAA tournament play. Our boys’ and girls’ swimming and diving teams also won the Suburban League title this winter! It is the first conference championship in school history for these two programs! Also, our students continue to excel in the arts. We have students who have earned the highest rankings in music and visual arts in their respective competitions. Congratulations to our Art Department as our students have continued to achieve at the highest levels. This year three AHS students earned a Gold Medal for their Portfolio at the Northeast

Central Ohio Scholastic Art Competition. Congratulations to Wyatt Lupton, Audrey Davis, and Lauren Slates on this fantastic achievement. Also, this month nearly forty students were inducted into the National Honor Society at Aurora High School. We continue to add layers to our safety programs. This month you will see the addition of a second School Resource Officer. We have partnered with the City of Aurora to add Jim Clague to our team. He is a veteran officer who lives in our community and has children in the district. He will team with Michelle Ice to provide greater security for our students and staff. We will also be announcing an exciting addition for bus safety and communication. We are adding a system that will give us the capability of tracking our buses. This will allow us some additional safety features and our parents will have the opportunity to access the exact location of their child’s bus. This will permit them to avoid long wait times at the bus stop and to alleviate their worries in the event the bus is slightly late for a drop off. Our school system is truly great because of the supportive parents and greater community that we serve. We are proud of the many accomplishments of our students and we look forward to a great spring and the final academic quarter of this school year.

Go Greenmen!

Pat Ciccantelli
Superintendent

Who's Who & What's New

The **AHS Interact Club** and advisors **Melissa Foster** and **Mary Pat Pavicic** hosted an "INTERACTION" on Saturday, November 2, 2019. Fourteen high schools, over 200 students, and Rotarians attended the event as a part of **WORLD INTERACT WEEK** that is celebrated every year during the week of November 5th to commemorate the founding of the first Interact Club in 1962. The day featured a variety of activities and guest speaker **DEAN ROFF** from **HOMELESS HOOKUP CLE**.



OSBA Business
Honor Roll

Congratulations to Record Courier Sports Reporter **FRANK ACETO** who was nominated by the ACSB and was named to the **OHIO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION BUSINESS HONOR ROLL**.



AHS music students in grades 9-12 participated in the **OMEA Solo and Ensemble Adjudicated Event** on January 25, 2020 in Akron. High school students from district VI (Summit, Portage and Medina counties) participated in this prestigious event. For a complete listing of AHS award winners, please go to the district website's News stories.



Congratulations to Craddock School Artsonia finalist **C. Kennedy**.

Melissa Foster and the **Interact Club** students have joined members of the Rotary Club of Aurora to work on a

service project to help build a **Habitat for Humanity** house in Atwater, Ohio. Rotary members were very appreciative of the help and remarked at how much they enjoyed working side-by-side with the students.

Students from **AHS Interact Club**, **Service Learning Class** and the **Drug Free Club** volunteered at the **Lakeside Men's Shelter** in Cleveland on their Martin Luther King Jr. day off on February 20, 2020. They served lunch and participated in the shelter's MLK Day poetry workshop.



Poetry reading at Lakeside Men's Shelter



Scholastic
Art & Writing
Awards

Congratulations to instructors **Sean Berrodin** and **Brian Caponi** and their students as the Aurora High School Art Department had yet another outstanding showing at the 2020 **Northeast Central Ohio Scholastic Art and Writing Awards**. Berrodin and Caponi would both like to congratulate all students who entered and the students who were recognized in this year's show. For a complete listing of AHS award winners, please go to the district website's News stories.

ELEC SIMON VISITS AHS

After an attention grabbing session of clapping to start off the Aurora High School and Harmon all-school assemblies, Elec Simon, then proceeded to share his motivational anti-bullying message with the students on Tuesday, January 21, 2020. Simon, a percussionist and former 10-year member of the off-Broadway show STOMP, now travels to schools throughout the area spreading his word of inclusion in honor of his childhood best friend who committed suicide at the age of 16 as a result of being bullied. Simon also divides his time as a soloist/drummer for the Cleveland Cavaliers Qstix drum line.

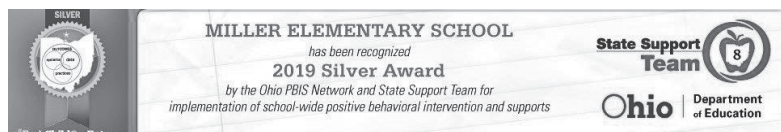
AHS Principal, Paul Milcetic, said, "Elec Simon shared a powerful universal message of love, acceptance, and belief while engaging our students and staff in an active talk/performance."



MILLER SCHOOL EARNS 2019 PBIS SILVER AWARD

Miller Elementary School has been recognized as a 2019 Silver Award recipient by the Ohio PBIS Network and State Support Team. The Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is, "an amendment to the Individual with Disabilities Education Act which described methods to identify and support desired behaviors in the school setting." Basically, "PBIS seeks to reduce

or eliminate poor behavior school-wide through the encouragement of positive behaviors." With PBIS, schools teach students about behavior, just as they would teach other subjects like reading or math with the focus being on prevention, not punishment. Miller School was recognized as one of 230 schools in Ohio to earn either a Gold, Silver or Bronze level of achievement.



CLASS ACTS

Our **AHS GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT** held a **COCOA AND COLLEGE APPS** program, along with a **COLLEGE PLANNING NIGHT**, aimed at engaging families in the college application process. There was a 17% increase in completed applications this year when compared to the previous two years.



The Leighton School teaching team of **CHARTIER/NAGY/SAMELKO** and their **STUDENTS** participated in **“SOCKTOBER.”** A Youtube video from Kid President inspired them to collect socks for the **MILLER COMMUNITY HOUSE**, which provides emergency shelter and supportive services to men, women, and children experiencing a housing crisis. Miller House staff had previously visited and spoke to students about the need for socks and slippers. They tasked the students with a goal of collecting 100 pairs and the team donated a total of 338 pairs.

The Leighton School **FIFTH GRADE YOUNG ASTRONAUT TEAM** competed at the Wolstein Center on

November 9, 2019. The team consisted of **COOPER ERTLE, MIKAELA KILROY, TANNER KINZIE, MADELINE MILLET, AIDAN SAMELKO,** and **KENDALL WARE** who earned second place ribbons in both the Spudnaut and Spacecraft Safety challenges while competing against 8th grade teams. Instructors **KERI STOYLE** and **COLLEEN SAMELKO** were there providing support.



Leighton 5th Grade Astronaut Team members (left to right): **Aidan Samelko** and **Mikaela Kilroy**



Leighton 5th Grade Astronaut Team members (left to right): **Tanner Kinzie** and **Cooper Ertle**



The **AHS SERVICE LEARNING CLASS** and teacher **MELISSA FOSTER** once again held their annual **RAKE-N-RUN** event. Thank you to everyone who made a difference in the life of a local senior citizen.



AHS CHOIR DIRECTOR SARAH DIXON had the **AHS CHOIR** perform the National Anthem at the **CLEVELAND CAVALIERS** basketball game on Tuesday, January 28, 2020.



Homeless Shanty Experience at AHS

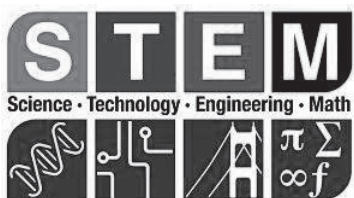
Approximately 30 **SERVICE LEARNING CLASS** students participated in the annual homeless shanty simulation event on October 24, 2019 at the AHS Veterans Stadium. They also collected over \$300 to be donated to the Homeless Hook up CLE. The purpose of the sleep out is to extend empathy, accept discomfort, brave controversy, cultivate curiosity, and engage effectively. **BRIAN BROOKHART, ANDREW SAMS** and **BILLY CAMPBELL** also joined the students for the evening.



NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK

was February 3-7, 2020. The district really appreciates our school counselors, **TAMI MAZZELLA, CYNTHIA CURRY, LISA GEALY, KRISTIN FECKO, CHRIS MILEY, APRIL NENADAL** and **KALEE OBERLIN** for all of the support they provide our students and staff with.

AHS RECOGNIZED AS TOP STEM SCHOOL 2019 BY NEWSWEEK



Aurora High School has been named in a special STEM edition of Newsweek that was released on November 8th, National STEM Day. The top 5,000 STEM high schools were honored for, “excellence in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.” AHS was recognized as being one of the top STEM schools being ranked at #4 in the Region (2nd for public

schools), 15th in the State and #381 in the Nation.

Aurora High School Principal, Dr. Paul Milcetic, stated, “It is extremely encouraging to see that Aurora High School was included in Newsweek’s Top STEM Schools in the nation and that we were ranked highly in the region and state as well. As with all programs, we strive to create the best learning opportunities for our students. In this instance, our Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math offerings provided by our excellent staff have led to this recognition. It goes without saying that STEM is more crucial than ever as we navigate the 21st

Century, and we believe we are preparing our students for this world. We have continued to add new classes in these areas from AP Computer Science A to AP Physics C and AP Physics II to Innovative Design and Progressive Manufacturing, while also supporting extra-curricular opportunities, such as Robotics and Science Olympiad. As always, our students have responded and continue to push themselves and our school to new heights. So, congratulations are in order for our students, staff, and community for another award highlighting excellence!” The Top 500 STEM High Schools will also be listed in Newsweek magazine.

SPORT REPORT

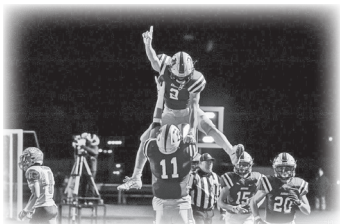
Congratulations to **MATT SINGLETON** who finished in the **TOP 10** at the **OHSAA STATE CROSS COUNTRY DIVISION I MEET**. Out of the 549 male athletes that ran, Matt had the 12th fastest time and finished 3rd in Division 2 and 1st in Division 3.

The **AHS HOCKEY TEAM** held an **AHS YOUTH HOCKEY & UNDERCLASSMEN HOCKEY RECOGNITION DAY** on December 7, 2019 at Aurora home rink, **THE POND**. The youth players from 3 years old to 8th grade were introduced individually during an intermission.



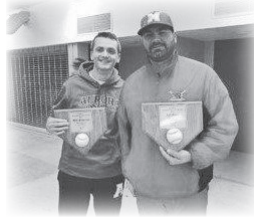
The **AURORA GREENMEN FOOTBALL TEAM** had a spectacular undefeated 10-0 season, the first perfect regular season in 21 years (1998). The season culminated in an **OHSAA DIVISION III STATE SEMIFINAL PLAYOFF GAME** appearance at Nordonia High School's Boliantz Stadium on Friday, November 29, 2019 against the Mansfield Senior Tygers. The double overtime game ended in a 27-21 loss.

The **AURORA FOOTBALL TEAM** had a great **DECADE** with a 97-24 record, 6 league championships, 9 state playoff berths, 3 Regional Championships and 3 State Final Four Berths. Way to go!



Thank you to **BOYS' SOCCER COACH JASON BIBZA** who has coached the Greenmen team for the past four years. He will not be returning as head coach of the team. The boys' soccer team reached the Kent Division II district title game. Bibza also took his teams to a Division I district final in 2016 and to a Division II state semifinal in 2017.

GREENMEN BASEBALL HEAD COACH MICHAEL BRANCAZIO was announced as the 2019 **GREATER CLEVELAND BASEBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION COACH OF THE YEAR**. Congratulations!



Brancazio (left) holds his GBCBA Coach of the Year award

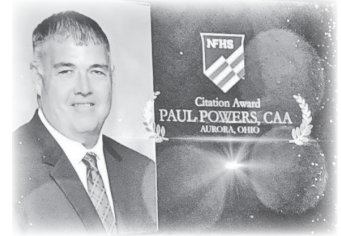
Congratulations to the **BOYS' AND GIRLS' SWIMMING and DIVING TEAMS** who earned the **SUBURBAN LEAGUE CONFERENCE TITLE** for the first time in AHS history. Greenmen divers **KYLIE PALIAN** and **VICTORIA BLECHSCHMID** advanced to Division I district competition after qualifying at sectionals. Way to go!



Congratulations to **NCAA SPORTS SIGNING DAY** athletes: **ETHAN ANDERSON** - Wrestling - (U.S. Naval Academy), **ALEESE ANGELO** - Softball - (Millersville University), **WILL CARPENTER**, Baseball - (Penn State), **DAVID CUMBERLEDGE** - Wrestling - (Ohio University). These students signed their letters of intent in the AHS library with administrators, coaches, staff, family and guests in attendance on November 13, 2019.



The **WRESTLING TEAM** won their **FIFTH CONSECUTIVE SUBURBAN LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP** and, at press time, were ranked **2nd IN THE STATE**. The team won the dual regional meet and advanced to the state meet in February.



AURORA SCHOOLS' ATHLETIC DIRECTOR PAUL POWERS received his **NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION'S 2019 CITATION AWARD** at a ceremony on December 16, 2019 in Maryland.



Congratulations to the **GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM** who won another **SUBURBAN LEAGUE TITLE**. It's their fourth consecutive one!

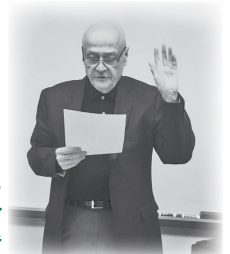
Notes BOARD NOTES

A big **"THANK YOU"** goes to our hard working Aurora Board of Education members, President, Gerald Kohanski; Vice President, Pam Mehallis; Miriam Conner, Stephen Sabulsky and Mike Acomb. Our Board of Education members spend many hours of their valuable time providing support and leadership for our District. Their dedication is instrumental to the success of our District.

Organizational Meeting ~ January 6, 2020

The Aurora Board of Education yearly organizational meeting took place on January 6, 2020 in the Board office. Congratulations to Gerald Kohanski who took the oath after being elected as President. Pam Mehallis was elected Vice President of the Board.

Gerald Kohanski takes his oath as Aurora BOE President



AURORA SCHOOLS' GIVING SPREADS

The Aurora for Others charity fundraiser, an annual AHS holiday event sponsored by the National Honor Society, has now spread throughout the district. The Aurora Schools' elementary school buildings were invited to join in the fundraiser this past holiday season. Monies were collected, capping off with a high school rally on December 13th, and divided among several different charities including, Homeless Hookup CLE, My Sister's Keeper - Cleveland, Providence House and Empower Sports. A total of over \$9,000 was raised. Thank you to all who gave their time and/or money to make this fundraiser such a success.



The AHS Student Council also presented a gift of \$3,000 and donated 1,714 pounds of food the Aurora Volunteers of America Food Pantry. Volunteers

of America Director of Development, Becky Carlino, sent a letter stating, "The student council at Aurora High School just filled someone's empty plate with hope and generosity. People throughout the community of Aurora are grateful for the help and they are grateful for the Aurora City Schools." "With Aurora City Schools' gift of \$3,00 and the collection of 1,714 pounds of food, today, more people will begin to feel hope, instead of hunger. That's right your gift isn't just food, it's hope, kindness and love," Carlino said. She added, "This is amazing! Thank you for this outstanding gift of hope and help for the food pantry."



Over 1,400 coats were collected during the Harmon School 2019 Coats for Kids annual collection drive.



SRO Added to the District

The City of Aurora has added a second School Resource Officer (SRO) to the Aurora City School District. The Aurora City Council approved the hiring of Jim Clague, a veteran police officer with a background of more than 30 years of experience in law enforcement. Clague will begin working in the school district in March 2020.

Aurora Police Chief, Brian Byard, said, "Jim has extensive experience working with youth along with a resume that supports a wide array of qualities needed to be successful in a school environment. Jim and wife Laura reside in Aurora and have young children who attend the Aurora City Schools; therefore, his family has a long term vested interest in the school district. Jim's desire to make a difference in the lives of children, his strong work ethic, and his personal philosophy to lead by example make him an ideal candidate for this position."

Aurora Schools' Superintendent, Pat Ciccantelli, stated, "We continue to add layers to our existing security program and are very happy to announce that we will be adding an SRO to the district."

Raptor System Visitor Management System

The District has announced it will be using the Raptor Visitor Management in all of the school buildings to strengthen the program of campus safety for students and faculty. Usage will begin on February 18, 2020. The system allows staff to know who is in the building at all times and screens visitors and volunteers.

Upon entering a building, visitors will be asked to present and ID to scan or manually enter the person's name into the system. The Raptor system will check to ensure that registered sexual offenders are not entering our school campuses without our knowledge. The Raptor system checks the visitor's name and date of birth for comparison with a national database of registered sex offenders and is the only official database checked by the Raptor system. No other data from the ID is gathered or recorded and the information is not shared with any outside agency. A visitor badge is then granted. Superintendent, Ciccantelli, said, "The safety of our students is our highest priority and the Raptor Visitor Management System allows us to quickly identify those that may present a danger to our students. Thank you in advance for your understanding and your support in enhancing the school safety protocols in our district."

PRINCESS PROM CAPTIVATES

Princesses throughout the land in grades pre-K - 5 were accompanied to the Princess Prom by their prince (or guest) for an evening of enchantment on February 1, 2020. This year's theme was Under the Sea. National Honor Society held the sixth annual ball at AHS in conjunction with sponsors, Integrity Insurance, Elevation Dance Studio and the Aurora Parks and Recreation Department. The Bibbidi Bobbidi Boutique was also available during the day so that the princesses could get ready for the ball.



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ECRWSS
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HALLOWEEN HAUNTS



Renewal Levy - Continued from p. 1

our operating budget so it is critical for this levy to be renewed and continued to maintain the current programs and operations of the district.”

Gerald Kohanski, president of the Aurora Board of Education, said, “The Board of Education is hopeful that Aurora voters will continue to recognize the excellent results produced by the schools and the outstanding instruction being received by our students. This renewal will allow us to continue our high level of achievement and progress without increasing taxes which are among the lowest tax rates of Northeast Ohio’s highest performing school districts.”

Aurora Schools’ Superintendent, Pat Ciccantelli added, “The renewal of this levy will allow us to continue to provide an excellent education for our students. The financial support that our community has provided us is used to create outstanding academic opportunities, as well as our successful co-curricular offerings in athletics and the fine arts.”