

Chabe introduced as Amherst's new superintendent at meeting

by PATRICK J. NAGY
Reporter

Laura K. Chabe was officially introduced as the Amherst Central School District's new superintendent at a special Board of Education meeting on March 13.

Chabe, who has been Westfield Academy and Central Schools' superintendent for the past four years, will start her new position upon the retirement of current Amherst Superintendent Dennis Ford in June. Chabe's contract, which was ratified at the meeting, runs from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2010.

"I can't really express how thrilled I am to have been appointed superintendent," said Chabe. "It is truly an honor and privilege."

Chabe cites Amherst's educa-

tional program, supportive community and School Board, and higher enrollment as reasons to leave Westfield.

"This district has such a strong tradition of excellence," said Chabe. "It became apparent to me through the interview process how committed not only the board was but also the community and students to make sure needs are being met. You can't really ask much more out of a district."

The appointment of Chabe follows a five-month search by the board to find a successor to Ford, who has been the district's superintendent for the last 11 years.

Board President William T. Blanford said the district received input from various stakeholders inside and outside the district through a series of focus groups to decide what character-

istics would fit the new superintendent.

The selection process was conducted by Vincent Coppola of the Western New York Educational Service Council at the University at Buffalo on a confidential basis to ensure participation from numerous qualified candidates.

"We're deeply grateful for the community and everyone involved in the process for their input," said Blanford. "The board and the community have high expectations, and we feel confident we've selected the right person in leading the district to continued success."

Blanford said one of the reasons why the board chose Chabe was her ability to communicate with people.

Chabe said her primary goals are to learn as much as she can about the school district. She also wants to meet with Ford and other administrators before she begins to get a feel for the district's issues.

She said Ford is going to be a tough act to follow, but she feels it will be an easy transition because he's done such a great job.

Chabe, a 1982 graduate of Fredonia State College, has more than 20 years of experience in education. Prior to her current position as Westfield superintendent, she served four years as an elementary school principal at Westfield, four years in administration and eight years as a special education teacher in the Fredonia Central School District, and three years as a special education teacher in the Liberty Central School District.

She earned a certificate in administration from Fredonia State College and a master's degree in special education from the University at Albany. She is currently pursuing her doctorate in educational leadership and policy at the University at Buffalo.

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CREATIVITY — Transit Middle School students (from left to right) Julia Bibko, Alyssa Cartwright, Marissa Panzarella, Paige Russell and Valentina Bibko performed a skit during Destination Imagination, a competition held March 10 at Erie Community College's South Campus.

Photo by Joe Eberle

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East Jazz Ensemble selected as finalist for NYC competition

The Williamsville East High School Jazz Ensemble is among 15 finalist bands from across the country selected to compete in the 12th annual Essentially Ellington High School Jazz Band Competition & Festival to be held at the Lincoln Center in New York City, May 4-6.

Twenty student band members from East will travel to New York City to perform selected works of Duke Ellington. Judges will include jazz sensation and Artistic Director of Jazz at Lincoln Center, Wynton Marsalis.

Members of the East Jazz Ensemble participating in the Essentially Ellington competition are: Seniors: Pooja Bakhai, Emily Cogsdill, Eric Mahl, Mike Metzger, Andrea Pacella, Arjun Pravin, James Ryan, Dan White and Ioannis Mountziaris. Also, juniors: Justin Bartkowski, Alexas Esposito, Nicole Favale, Dom Missana, Dave Rundell, Dan Ziemann and sophomores: Neha Bakhai, Griff Kazmierczak, Jerome Luo and Luke Wachob. Freshman Max Lustig is also an ensemble member.

Stephen Shewan is the director of East's Jazz Ensemble.

The ensemble has been seeking grants to help the students attend the trip because the district does not have funding available.

"Businesses and private organizations have responded with donations so there will be as little financial obligation to kids as possible," Shewan said. "The community has been very generous."

Any group or individual interested in sponsoring the Jazz Ensemble can call Shewan at 626-8425 or e-mail sshewan@williamsvillek12.org.

Donations can be sent to: Attention Steven Shewan, East High School, 151 Paradise Road, East Amherst.

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St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute honor roll announced

St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute has named the following Amherst residents to the honor roll for the second quarter of the 2006-07 school year:

Nasca, Robert Neiss, Philip Occhino, Robert Schreck, Andrew Wrzosek

First Honors Grade Nine

Oliver Beardsley, Jacob Biniszkiwicz, Kevin Brick, Michael Duggan, Jr., Thomas Evangelista, Joseph Fahey, James Harb, Richard Hilliker, Brian Killeen, JohnPatrick McCleary, Matthew O'Leary, Mark Peer, Jacob Roberts, Philip Schneider, Michael Schreck, Matthew Scotto, Joseph Shelley, Peter White, Andrew Zenger

Second Honors Grade Nine

Tyler Beresford, Alexander Brennan, Joseph DiLeo, Daniel Goergen, Michael Grano, Michael Green, Nathaniel Hillman, Stephen Juhasz, Nicholas Lobuzzetta, Michael Mangano, Charles Mulé, Bradley Nasca, Richard Pagliaroli, John Paslaqua, Augustus "Gus" Petko, Mark Pinski, Eric Pitman, Patrick Schaefer, David Schneggenburger, Steven Scribner, Michael Sheridan, William White III

Grade 10

Garrett Chambers, Matthew DiStasio, Kevin Gramza, Nicholas Jacob, Conor Kennedy, Joseph Killeen, Brendan Toughy

Grade 10

Kevin Cheney, Jordan Cinquino, Theodore Clauss, Colin Gordon, Alexander Gust, Frank Handler, Nicholas Krajacic, Michael Magoffin, Ryan Maher, Kevin Schwab, Brian Sciandra, Christopher Wright

Grade 11

John Battaglia, Charles Camp, William Evangelista, James Farrell, Michael Jonas, Brendan Schaefer, Andrew Seier, Drew Shields, Garrett Weinholtz

Grade 11

Peter Banks, Paul Bartlett, Jonathan Bond, Salvatore Calandra, Matthew Chirumbolo, Matthew Ehmann, Joseph Elhage, Kevin Goodwin, Christian Jaskolka, Nicholas Karl, Eric Kieffer, James Long, Benjamin Macaluso, John Paul MacPherson, Matthew Masterson, Michael Mazzarella, Daniel Pagliaroli, Cole Schneider, Michael Vizzi, Scott Wozer, Eric Zapalowski, Peter Zona

Grade 12

Michael Brignone, David Eddy, Richard Gilbert, Matthew Johnson, Matthew Lesh, Brendan Motz, Ryan Mura, David

Grade 12

Sean Balkin, Eric Benzino, Brandon D'Arcy, Nicholas Derrico, Michael DiStasio, John Fabiano, Ronald Femia, Nicholas Giambra, Phillip Glamuzina, Peter Goergen, Mark Gramza II, Erik Hartrich, Michael Hatton, Vincent Jacob, Evan Klingensmith, Adam Leberer, Angelo Lomeo, Andrew Russo, Matthew Scherer, Paul Sibick, Benjamin Splett, Brian Webb, David Wolff, Andrew Zapfel

School News

Elizabeth Fitch of Williamsville met with Rep. Thomas M. Reynolds, R-Amherst, in his Capitol Hill office in Washington, D.C., on March 13 through the People to People program, a student leader organization aimed at developing the leaders of tomorrow. Fitch is a student at the Nichols School.