

Olentangy Schools Board of Education Meeting

September 24, 2020

We are on the Road Again – Olentangy Transportation Update

Olentangy's Director of Transportation Lori Carter-Evans began her presentation by reviewing the improved safety measures that have been implemented for this school year:

- Both drivers and riders must do a self-assessment before entering the bus.
- Everyone on the bus must wear a face mask.
- Hands are sanitized when entering and exiting the bus.
- Students are assigned seats.
- Buses are sprayed and disinfected after each school route, and high-touch areas are disinfected.

Transportation is improving safety measures, with professional development that inspects vehicles and practices safety measures, and introducing a digital training library with instructional videos for drivers, and education for new Olentangy parents and young bus riders.

This year, transportation asked parents to register students for bus riding. This has allowed Olentangy transportation to be more efficient with routes and drivers, knowing which students are riding the bus, and how many students will be parking at the high schools.

2020-2021 Staffing Update

In Chief Operations Officer Todd Meyer's annual staffing report, he shared that while Olentangy is a large school district, his team works to create a close community.

Olentangy Schools continues to uphold the reputation of being a fantastic place to work, receiving Columbus CEO Magazine's "Top Place to Work" honor for the third time in recent years. Other highlights from this year include maintaining excellent relations with our valued associations, increasing diversity recruitment results year over year, and continuing to hire top talent in all positions.

Olentangy has felt the impact of COVID-19, with over 300 staff members moving positions to provide teachers for the Committed Distance Learning program. We anticipate a shortage in substitute teachers, as the number of available substitutes has decreased by 30% from last year.

State Report Card

Jeannette Kenney, Director of Data and Continuous Improvement, presented on Olentangy's results on Ohio's State Report Card. While Olentangy traditionally earns an A on this metric, no grades were given a result of cancelled state testing.

There are three measures Olentangy is able report on. First, in working with improving at-risk students in grades K-3, 100% of 3rd graders were promoted to 4th grade last year, and it will be the same for the 2020-2021 school year. AimswebPlus diagnostics are being used to identify students who are not on track in their reading, so appropriate intervention can be made. Second, our average graduation rate across high schools increased to 98.3%, and our prepared for success measure increased to 86.3%, which is 1% higher than last year.

State testing is moving forward as planned for the 2020-2021 school year.

Board President's Report

Board of Education President, Mindy Patrick, testified before the Senate Education Committee in support of the dyslexia screening law House Bill 436. Senator Brenner suggested that this screening may fit in the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment. The Senator also introduced a senate bill to make K-5 literacy curriculum phonics-based, which our district has already implemented, demonstrating Olentangy's best practices in literacy.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Mark Raiff began by congratulation Tyler Run Elementary School for receiving the tremendous honor of being named as a National Blue Ribbon School for 2020.

A refresher on the COVID-19 notification process was emailed to the Olentangy community yesterday, and the COVID-19 data dashboard has been updated with a case breakdown by school. A district dashboard is encouraged by the state, and Olentangy is providing more information than required to inform the community. It is updated each Friday with current active cases, and not cumulative cases as media reports.

Staff, parents and students can provide feedback on the school year so far through the [Olentangy Schools Thought Exchange](#) that was sent earlier this week. People are invited to rate/star thoughts as much as they would like, and it is open through September 30. Olentangy will compile results and share at the next board meeting. The purpose of this Thought Exchange is to evaluate what is working, and areas that may need more support.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Emily Hatfield shared the importance of House Bill 606 and House Bill 164, Section 19. House Bill 606 protects the districts against lawsuits that could result from the contraction of COVID-19. House Bill 16, Section 19, restores the \$2 million state funding that was originally removed in budget cuts.

She also thanked parents and volunteers for their continued support, even while volunteers are not able to be in the buildings. The district received donations from Liberty High School and Orange High School athletic boosters for additional athletic position. The finance and audit committee will meet on October 12th, and will allow public participation through email and utilize the chat feature on Microsoft Teams for questions.