

Board Recap for Dec. 10, 2020

STUDENT POTENTIAL ANALYSIS

Olentangy continues to proactively monitor the housing development across our community. Cooperative Strategies presented projections on our area's growth and enrollment, reporting that Olentangy Schools will continue to experience housing growth, particularly in the northern area beyond Hyatts/Shanahan Roads, with building and enrollment beginning to stabilize in the south.

COMMITTED DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAM UPDATE

When creating the Committed Distance Learning program, the district chose to allow CDL students the option to return to the physical school building after the first semester. Dr. Jack Fette shared that the district is not accommodating transfers into CDL for the second semester because of staffing limitations and class sizes.

When surveying parents of CDL students, there was an overwhelming sense of satisfaction with this newly created program, the student's sense of belonging, and communication with the teachers and district. A pivotal question in the survey asked parent interest in a permanent virtual school that students could attend post-pandemic.

Dr. Fette discussed that his team continues to monitor the interest in a permanent virtual school, while also analyzing the costs and benefits, and will make a recommendation to the Board in January.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mindy Patrick gave her final report as President, sharing that this was a year of listening to the community. She thanked the administrators, teachers and staff for their collective efforts this year in navigating the pandemic. She thanked the Back to School Committee, the district's association partners, the teachers for providing students with a sense of normalcy and building principals and administrators for maintaining the strong school cultures. She shared her confidence that all departments across the district care deeply for students and one another, and it has been her pleasure to serve as president.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Mark Raiff asked Chief Communications Officer Krista Davis to provide an update on the district's COVID-19 dashboard, which is updated every Monday and Friday with data on active cases (confirmed, probable, suspect) and quarantines across the district. The dashboard provides the most accurate snapshot of the current cases in our district on that date. The dashboard also includes links to the Delaware Public Health District's quarantine release form (the DPHD asks that parents and staff request quarantine release documents through the link and do not call their emergency line), and to the Ohio State CATS (COVID-19 ANALYTICS and TARGETED SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM) data. CATS reports on student absences, student nurse visits, staff absences, case counts, age distribution and more.

Greta Gnagy was welcomed as principal of Elementary School 16. Mrs. Gnagy has been a part of the district for 20 years, and is currently the Assistant Principal at Orange Middle School.

The Board approved to increase Olentangy's substitute teacher rate from \$100/day to \$125/day, which is in line with other school districts in the area.

Mr. Raiff discussed the current Hybrid Attendance Model, and that the district plans to remain in this model throughout the first semester. He is proud that Olentangy has been able to maintain consistency for students, avoiding movement between learning models like other districts. He will address attendance for the second semester at the January 14 Board of Education meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Emily Hatfield addressed the Fair School Funding Plan, as House Bill 305 passed the House, but the Senate will not hold hearings or take Senate Bill 376 to the floor for a vote. This causes the Fair School Funding Plan to be excluded from law.

October financials are in line with projections, although the district has spent the Coronavirus Relief Funds. Mrs. Hatfield thanked community members and groups for the recognized in-kind donations.

To submit a message for Board of Education public participation, use the link on the district website [HERE](#).

FIVE YEAR PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT PLAN PROJECTIONS

Director of Business Management and Facilities Jeff Gordon updated the Board and community on committed projects as a result of the bond passage. During the summer of 2021 the elementary playground will receive necessary updates, security vestibules will be installed, Hyatts Middle School will receive an additional driveway and parking expansion, and broadcast journalism rooms will be added to high schools.

BRANDING AND LICENSING UPDATE

Elementary schools have embraced and implemented their new brands, new middle school brands will be rolled out the week of January 18, and high schools are currently kicking off their brand committee work.

Olentangy will enter into a licensing representation agreement with K12 Licensing to ensure the quality and consistency of the district and the school logos and marks, generate a new revenue stream for the district, and strengthen relationships with vendors.

The largest audience in sports is high school athletics. K12 Licensing will protect district and school brands and marks, promote our brands with retailers, and help maximize this new revenue source. There is no cost to begin a licensing program, and the income will go directly to the district's general fund. Booster clubs and local stores will be exempt from this program.