

Board Recap for Jan. 14, 2021

As we complete the first semester of the school year, I look back to how far we have come since this summer. When we were envisioning how to facilitate maximum learning for every student during a pandemic, there was no crystal ball to forecast where we would be six months later. I continue to be grateful to our staff, for navigating the day to day challenges, and getting us to this mid-way point.

During the board meeting, Director of Data and Continuous Improvement Jeanette Kenney shared that while we experienced a slight decrease in the amount of third graders taking and passing the ELA test, the high school GPA average for first quarter has stayed consistent with last year across students in both the Hybrid Attendance model and Committed Distance Learning. It is your work with our students that continues to maintain the educational excellence Olentangy is known for, despite the challenges we currently face.

With a new year comes new Board leadership. We took a moment to recognize outgoing Board president Mindy Patrick for her work this past year, guiding our district through what I can only hope was the most difficult year to lead a school district. We welcome Julie Wagner Feasel as our new Board President, and Dave King as Vice President, and I look forward to our work together serving Olentangy.

Proud to serve as your Superintendent,

Mark T. Raiff

OLENTANGY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATE

MEETING DATE: JANUARY 14, 2021

The Olentangy Schools Board of Education meeting opened with an organizational meeting to establish 2021 board leadership. Julie Wagner Feasel was sworn in as Board President, and Dave King was sworn in as Vice President. We look forward to their partnership in guiding the district this year.

FALL 2020 OHIO THIRD GRADE ELA TEST UPDATE

Jeanette Kenney, Director of Data and Continuous Improvement, shared that the ELA test was administered to 74% of third graders across the district, and we have seen a slight decrease in students that took and passed this state test. All students that did not pass the exam are receiving additional support services, but will not be retained based on a test score.

All testing is still on schedule through the end of the school year. When analyzing how high schoolers are performing, the average GPA was consistent with this time last year.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Julie Wagner Feasel began her first Board President's Report sharing her passion for fair funding for school districts in Ohio. Olentangy spends less per pupil than the state and comparable district averages, while remaining at the bottom of the list of districts receiving state funding.

Mrs. Wagner-Feasel invited everyone to join this year's ONE Community Conference, which is a six-event virtual series. The first event is the MLK Day of Service on January 18, and details on the organizations and service opportunities can be found on the district website or by clicking [HERE](#).

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Mark Raiff announced that the District is ready to begin the process to name the newest elementary school. He invited the community to send in name suggestions through the end of the month through the [Elementary School 16 Naming Survey](#).

Mr. Raiff will give monthly updates to the Board of Education on the attendance models and the key indicators being monitored. He shared that at his last update in October he chose to maintain Hybrid Attendance because of the projected spike in COVID-19 cases, which we are currently seeing post-winter break. Olentangy Schools currently has more cases per 100k people than both Franklin and Delaware counties. The District is working with the Delaware Public Health District on the vaccine rollout for adult school employees. Mr. Raiff determined that we will remain in the Hybrid Attendance model, and he will provide his next update at the February 11, 2021 board meeting.

Chief Academic Officer Jack Fette shared that the District is not currently planning to open a permanent virtual K-12 school for next year, based on state policy restrictions, budget and sustainability concerns.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Emily Hatfield reported that tax rates for tax year 2020 are now available. Property values in Olentangy continue to grow. Tax valuations in the community went up about 12% overall. HB 920 effects the voted rate by reducing outside millage to collect the same dollar amount of property tax as when passed by the voters. The actual rate of tax collected from tax payors, the effective rate, was reduced, including the millage passed in the 2020 levy campaign. Olentangy is collecting less per \$100,000 of property valuation from residents than projected. Comparative tax rate information will be shared at upcoming board meetings. Additional information regarding Olentangy's current tax rates is available on the Treasurer's webpage on the [Property Tax 101 page](#).