

# OLENTANGY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION RECAP

MEETING DATE: APRIL 8, 2021

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## BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Board President Julie Wagner Feasel continues her efforts to improve the district's state and federal funding by working to repair the distribution of pandemic relief and the school funding formula.

The second round of CARES Act and American Rescue Plan funds are currently being distributed based on the number of disadvantaged students in a school district. While Olentangy has compounding pandemic expenses, we don't have enough disadvantaged students, based on their definition, to qualify for this round of funding. Mrs. Wagner Feasel has asked decision makers to address this discrepancy and is awaiting a resolution.

House Bill 1, which proposes a new school funding formula that would significantly increase Olentangy's state funding, is anticipated to pass in the House but may stall in the Senate.

Mrs. Wagner Feasel explained that the school board's role is to address issues that impact the entire Olentangy community, and allow experienced Olentangy staff to carry out daily decisions. Her main objective is to pass legislation that will benefit everyone across the Olentangy school district.

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## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Mark Raiff shared that the ONE Community Conference's first District Service plunge was on March 27, with about 210 Olentangy families supporting 10 service partners in a variety of family-friendly activities in Delaware and Franklin counties.

As a recap, Olentangy's current graduations plans, with the goal of recognizing and celebrating the exemplary class of 2021, are:

- Friday, May 21: Senior Sunset Salute
- Saturday, May 22: Commencement Walk for Berlin High School and Liberty High School with radio coverage and livestream.
- Sunday, May 23: Commencement Walk for Olentangy High School and Orange High School with radio coverage and livestream.
- Virtual graduation ceremonies will be shared on the day of the commencement walks for each high school with speeches and each graduate's name announced.

Mr. Raiff met with parents that are advocating for graduation ceremonies in the high school stadiums instead of the commencement walks. The leadership team is analyzing the seating capacities based on revised health orders and social distancing guidelines, with pods of guests distanced 6 feet apart in the stands. Stadium graduations are possible, but contingency plans for inclement weather would have to be developed.

Mr. Raiff and multiple members of district leadership are in contact with the Delaware Public Health District multiple times a week, including many standing calls, to review plans for graduation, spring

events, vaccines and other pandemic related items that impact school operations. Mr. Raiff also participates in weekly Superintendent meetings with the Delaware Public Health District, Franklin County Public Health and Columbus Public Health.

A survey will be sent to parents to determine interest in a COVID-19 vaccination clinic for students age 16 – 18 years old. More information will be communicated once the county can provide the amount of Pfizer vaccines needed to immunize the approximately 3,500 eligible Olentangy students.

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## TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Emily Hatfield has been working with the finance and audit committee and subcommittees to ensure the information in the Five-Year Forecast is accurate, transparent and digestible. The first reading of the forecast will be at the April 22 board meeting.

Mrs. Hatfield reported that the current bond went to market with a competitive bid, and received a 2.047 average interest rate from CitiGroup Global Markets, Inc. This will also allow the district to begin the construction bid process for Middle School 6.

In a follow up to Mrs. Wagner Feasel's discussion on House Bill 1, Mrs. Hatfield continues to encourage our community to reach out to representatives and advocate for fair school funding for Olentangy.

The Board of Education meeting is available on the district website [Board of Education meeting livestream](#).