

BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATE
JUNE 25, 2021



OLENTANGY SCHOOLSSM
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OLENTANGY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATE

MEETING DATE: JUNE 24, 2021

SAFETY AND SECURITY UPDATE

Joseph Souzzi, the district's Director of Safety, Security and Preparedness, updated the board on the security vestibules that are currently being constructed at the entrance of all schools that do not already have them. He walked through how visitors will enter schools through the security vestibules to ensure safety for staff and students. These vestibules were part of the Spring 2020 bond package, and construction is on track for completion by the start of the 2021-2022 school year.

The district received the Ohio Attorney General's school safety grant for the third consecutive year, which provides new building safety and trainings for principals.

Mr. Souzzi acknowledged the work of the School Resource Officers, which continue to be an asset in our schools as guest lecturers, informal counselors and mentors, and law enforcement officers. This past year, they provided classroom presentations on bullying, alcohol and drug awareness, peer pressure, and a variety of different safety trainings.

The district has instituted new school safety common language using the Standard Response Protocol, and will communicate this emergency action plan to schools, parents and community members.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE ON INTERNAL PROCESSES

Mr. Raiff reviewed the objective of the district’s Strategic Plan, and introduced Chief Operations Officer Todd Meyer to present on the strategic priority Internal Processes and the associated goals.



In striving for a culture of operational excellence, Mr. Meyer shared that the process begins with selecting the best people to bring into the organization, and then articulating the district’s vision and mission throughout the employee experience. As Superintendent, Mr.

Raiff continually meets with employee groups and associations to connect with all employees, as everyone's role is equally important in facilitating maximum learning for every student. The district has established 70 key performance indicators across departments to show how the district is doing, collect trend data, compare across national industry standards, and demonstrate areas for improvement. The district has enhanced timely and effective communication through the use of more dynamic mass notification systems. In addition, this year Olentangy maintained collaborative and positive relationships with employee groups and associations, created a K-12 professional development plan, and established a Board of Education annual agenda calendar. One of the district's values is to always get better, and Mr. Meyer emphasized how his team seeks ways to be more efficient without sacrificing on the district's mission. One focus for the upcoming school year will be to improve two-way communication between Olentangy Schools and its stakeholders.

The Olentangy Schools brand is very strong in the state of Ohio, which leads to a large, high quality talent pool for open positions. Part of the district's talent management strategy, beyond hiring the right people, is fostering pride in educational excellence, retaining employees, and creating succession plans to develop top talent through leadership opportunities and experiences. This year, the human resources team streamlined their internal process of hiring, onboarding, induction and evaluation into a digital employee management system. Moving forward, they will continue to analyze employee benefit packages to remain fiscally responsible while offering competitive wages, and continue to offer professional development, succession plans, and journey maps for employees.

Implementing a digital conversion means improving efficiency, effectiveness, and relevance through technological advancements. The district has digitized the parent experience, developed online curriculum resources, and implemented a digital and advanced district work order program. In the upcoming months, departments will be able to integrate their work in a cross-functional PowerSchool suite. Mr. Meyer shared that they will continue to enhance the district's network infrastructure to meet current demands, install interactive displays in classrooms, and work towards launching a bus transportation parent app.

OLENTANGY EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The Olentangy Education Foundation (OEF) is an independent non-profit organization that has been supporting Olentangy Schools since 1990 by funding enhanced educational

experiences for students. The organization's primary focus is providing classroom grants for innovative programs and learning opportunities that are beyond school budgets.

OEF Executive Director Rachel Haugk reported that in 2020, OEF funded over \$60,000 in 24 separate grants to Olentangy classrooms, which were able to impact every Olentangy school building and approximately \$11,000 students. These grants provided materials for a variety of programs, including books, garden materials, art supplies, microscopes, math manipulatives and classroom technology.

OEF hosts two large fundraising events each year – *Zoolentangy* will be at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium on August 13, and the annual golf outing will take place in October.

For more information on OEF grants and fundraising, visit olentangyeducationfoundation.org

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Board President Julie Wagner Feasel highlighted the important work of the district's Facilities Committee and Finance and Audit Committee, which are both comprised of district volunteers that are experts in applicable fields. The upcoming July 8 Board of Education meeting at Berlin High School will recognize student accomplishments from this spring and recipients of the district's Community Service Awards.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Raiff highlighted some key happenings that take place at schools throughout the summer. Construction to update elementary playgrounds, install security vestibules, and transform classrooms into broadcast journalism studios at Olentangy High School, Berlin High School and Liberty High School are all projects as a result of the Spring 2020 levy. Mr. Raiff shared photos of students enjoying the youth athletic camps offered at high schools, kindergarteners being welcomed into their future schools for kindergarten screenings, and students learning in Summer Intervention Academy and Extended School Year Services, which prevent regression during the summer through small group and individualized learning with Olentangy specialists.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Emily Hatfield reported that a decision on the state's Fair School Funding plan is currently in the hands of a conference committee, which is reviewing both the House and Senate's school funding models. Mrs. Hatfield reported on the benefits of the Fair School Funding Plan that could benefit Olentangy, which includes updates to the metrics used to calculate the "wealth" of a district, introducing new data in making funding decisions, funding students where they are and discontinuing the practice of ranking districts against one another to calculate funding. A final decision must be passed by June 30.

The books are closing on fiscal year 21 on Monday, June 28, and all final adjustments for budgets are taking place. The Treasurer's action items included the recommendation to transfer \$1.5 million from the general fund to Olentangy's food service department. At the June 10 Board of Education meeting, Bethany Lenko provided an update on how the government waivers to fund of free meals for students have evolved, and that the food service department's revenue stream was negatively impacted in the hybrid schedule last school year. The transfer amount is less than previous estimates, and the food service department will repay the general fund over the next six years.
