

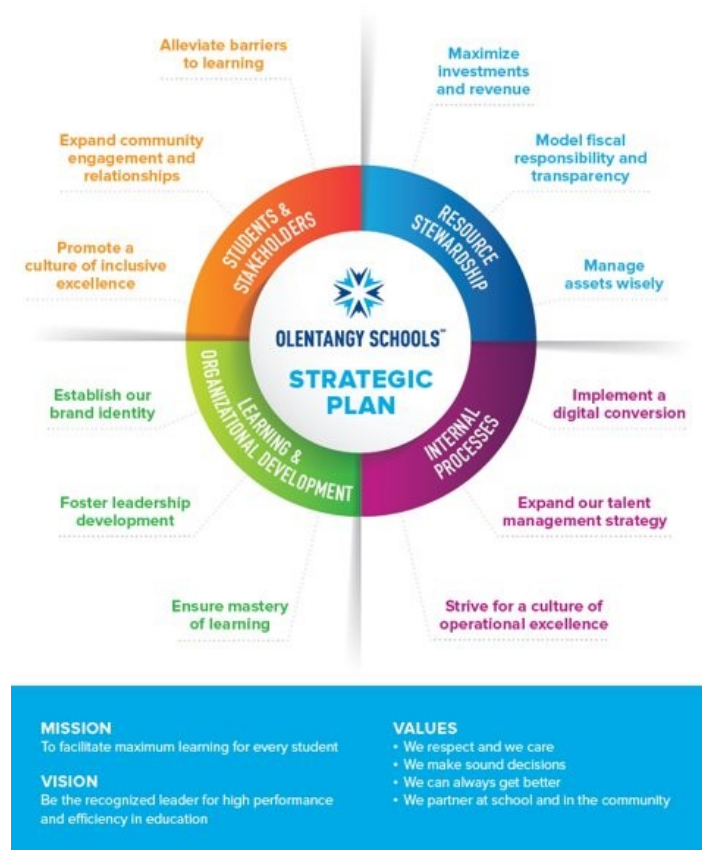
OLENTANGY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATE

MEETING DATE: AUGUST 12, 2021

HEALTH AND PREVENTION GUIDANCE FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

The final installment of the District Leadership Team's update to the board on the District's Strategic Plan focused on Resource Stewardship. Treasurer Emily Hatfield led the presentation and started by reviewing key influencers that dictate how the District conducts business, what the District is permitted to do with public funds, and its fiscal opportunities. They also make sure the District meets regulatory requirements and is transparent with information and priorities.



To maximize investments and revenue, Olentangy Schools continues to provide professional development and training to its staff, strategize its debt capacity, and participate in tax incentive financing projects. Moving forward, Mrs. Hatfield reported that the District will strategize debt consolidation and/or refunding of bonds to take advantage of lower interest rates. Her team plans to strategize millage rate needs for future levy campaigns, and is partnering with the communications team in creating a revenue stream by trademarking district marks.

Mrs. Hatfield shared how the District has managed assets wisely by enhancing a culture of fiscal responsibility at the district and school levels. The Treasury department has demonstrated wise cashflow management, investing idle funds while also having enough cash on hand for operational needs. Mrs. Hatfield discussed how the District has lowered the cost of employee benefits, specifically health insurance costs, and developed procurement guidelines for federal programs. Looking ahead, the District will be implementing fiscal software (eFinancePLUS) to provide for accounting requirements and more effective electronic workflows, will continue staff training opportunities, and facilitate requests for proposals for banking and healthcare service providers.

Modeling fiscal responsibility and transparency is the cornerstone of the Olentangy Department of the Treasurer. They have enhanced the district website to include more financial information for the public, partnered with the finance and audit committee, and advocated for legislation for the district. The District continues to receive numerous accolades for fiscal reporting, Ohio Auditor State distinctions, and transparency in records requests. This school year, Mrs. Hatfield shared plans to provide on-demand training for support groups and staff, further legislative advocacy for the Fair School Funding plan, and add graphics and statistics to enhance the Treasurer's page of the district website. The next finance and audit committee meeting will be held on October 18, 2021.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Board President Julie Wagner Feasel addressed the community, expressing her deep care and compassion for the students and staff in the district. The Board of Education and district leadership all want everyone to be healthy and safe. She emphasized that [Olentangy's Health and Prevention Guidance](#) follows the direction given by the Ohio Department of Health, Delaware Public Health District, the Centers of Disease Control and the American Academy of Pediatrics – **Olentangy Schools strongly recommends individuals wear a face mask, regardless of vaccination status**, and the school district will also encourage everyone eligible to get a vaccine to help stop the spread of Covid-19.

She reminded everyone that the plans presented by Superintendent Raiff could change, and encouraged everyone to read a [letter](#) from the DPHD Health Commissioner that was issued on August 12 regarding mask mandates. Mrs. Wagner Feasel stated that neither the administration or board is making decisions for one side or another, but following the guidance of the DPHD.

Mrs. Wagner Feasel concluded by imploring everyone to be civil and respect other's wishes. Everyone can be united in the desire to support our students to be successful.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Riaff invited the community to attend the Grand Opening of Shale Meadows Elementary School, which will be held at the new school this Sunday, August 15, 2021. The event program will begin at 1:00pm, followed by tours and family-friendly activities.

In addition to Shale Meadows Elementary School, the spring 2020 bond included many improvements completed this summer. All Olentangy school buildings now have security vestibules at the main entrance, which make the learning environments safer for our students and staff. Elementary playgrounds are ready for school to start, with ADA compliant structures that are handicap accessible with soft play surfaces. Last, Hyatts Middle School will now have a separate bus lane to alleviate traffic congestion around the school.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Emily Hatfield updated the board that the Ohio Department of Education is providing webinars and meeting with Treasurers across the state to explain the changes in state funding and what to expect. She also explained that the state is not supporting the finance software used by Olentangy Schools, so the Treasury department has been transitioning to eFinancePLUS. This conversion allows the district to digitally connect human resources, the payroll system, and the PowerSchool student database. The team is currently running two fiscal software systems, but the forecasting tool updates will be completed later this month and will provide greater efficiency for the district.

Olentangy Schools received \$1.3 million in pandemic relief funds and \$240,00 in ESSER I funds. The district did not receive ESSER II or ESSER III funds. Pandemic-related costs totaled \$3.4 million in expenditures and have been paid through the general fund.

The Olentangy Schools Board of Education has returned to the regular meeting format. The next meeting will be on Thursday, August 26 at 6:30pm, at the Olentangy Administrative Office, 7840 Graphics Way, Lewis Center, Ohio 43035. All meetings are recorded and posted to the [Board Meeting Records page](#) on the district website.