

# BOARD REPORT

---

September 11, 2023

## REGULAR MEETING

### TREASURER'S REPORT

The Board approved the payment of bills totaling \$129,745.76.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Board approved to hire the following individuals as teachers for the 2023-24 school year:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Ryan Gopp	Master's Step a(0) 0.5 Teacher - Math Solon High School	\$24,118.81
Beth Marlow	Master's +30 Step f(5) 0.5 Teacher - Preschool Itinerant Regano Early Learning Center	\$30,586.59

The Board approved 110 supplemental contracts and 9 non-district pupil activity permit contracts.

Corinne Valaitis was Board approved as a contract building substitute for Parkside Elementary School.

The following resignation was Board approved: Brianna Rucci, educational aide at Orchard Middle School, effective August 25, 2023.

The Board approved hiring 7 individuals as substitutes on an as-needed basis, as well as Ankitha Potharaju as a monitor for the 2023-24 school year.

The retirement and rehire of the following individual, was Board approved, for the retire/rehire incentive that is part of the collective bargaining agreement between the Solon Board of Education and Ohio Association of Public-School Employees complying with Ohio Revised Code 3307.353, which

requires the notification of a hearing to be conducted at the regularly scheduled board meeting of November 6, 2023, at the Board of Education offices: Grace Radgowski

Nathan Elliott and Erika Hays were Board approved as home instruction tutors for the remainder of the 2023-24 school year.

The Board authorized the purchase and installation of 3M Ultra 800 Clear Security Film for interior/exterior windows through participation in a contract of the Cooperative Council of Governments in an amount not to exceed \$166,098.90.

Tuition reimbursements were approved for 16 individuals in the amount of \$17,048.28.

The next board meeting will be October 9, 2023, 6 p.m. at the Board of Education.

### **INFORMATION ITEM**

#### **SOLON SCHOOLS PUBLISH POPULAR ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT**

In an effort to share more information about the district's finances with the community, the Solon Schools publish an annual Popular Annual Financial Report. This report makes our district's finances easier to understand and communicates our financial situation in an open and accountable manner.

Community members can read the Popular Annual Financial Report on the district web site under Finance.

#### **START WITH HELLO WEEK & SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING**

During the week of September 18, schools nationwide, including here in Solon, are taking steps to reduce the threat of school violence by improving school culture. Start with Hello Week is a national event through Sandy Hook Promise, a not-for-profit organization that helps schools implement programs that support solutions for safer and healthier schools.

The Start with Hello program "enables students to make a difference with their peers in a simple, fun and impactful way by encouraging them to take small but powerful actions to promote connectedness and inclusion, and to identify and help others who are showing signs of social isolation," according to Sandy Hook Promise.

Students throughout the Solon Schools are participating in theme days and educational activities, aimed at promoting a more unified and inclusive school environment. More information will be shared directly by the participating schools.

Providing a safe and secure learning environment for students is a priority in our schools every day. The district's emergency operations plan includes many safety and security measures. One tool we provide to students, parents and the community at large to support our safety and security efforts is the Safe School Helpline.

For all students and family members: If you see something, say something. The preferred method of contact is to go directly to a building principal, counselor or other trusted adult at the school at any time to share concerns, especially if a student is in crisis.

However, the Safe School Helpline is always available to report threats of violence, suicide or self-harm, weapons, bullying and other activities that could harm children or adults in our schools. The helpline is administered by an independent, outside service and reports and communications are confidential and anonymous.

Safe School Helpline is easy to access – especially with the free Safe School Helpline app (available for download in the Apple Store or Google Play). Through the app, reports can be made by texting, making an online web report or calling. Texts, calls and online submissions can also always be made directly without using the Safe School Helpline app. Texting is the easiest way to make a report and share screenshots, photos and videos if necessary.

To start a report for Solon:

TEXT: Text 614-426-0240 and type TIPS as the message

ONLINE: [www.safeschoolhelpline.com](http://www.safeschoolhelpline.com)

CALL: 800-418-6423, ext. 359

All messages are relayed immediately to the appropriate district staff for investigation and follow-up. All information remains anonymous, unless the individual making the report elects to share their identity in the initial report or upon follow-up from district staff for more information. Individuals making reports are asked to be sure to respond to inquiries from the district for more information to facilitate a full investigation. The key is that safety concerns are reported as soon as possible. Anyone reporting a concern through the helpline receives a case number that can be used later to confirm the report was received and investigated.

### SOLON HIGH SCHOOL VISIT DAY

Solon High School is rolling out the welcome mat on Monday, October 2, to prospective students currently attending private or parochial schools. The annual Solon High School Visit Day is for Solon and Glenwillow residents – both students and their parents/ guardians – who are currently enrolled in 8th grade at a private school and considering enrolling at SHS as 9th graders for the 2024-25 school year.

The agenda for the October 2 program runs from 8 a.m. until 10:35 a.m. at Solon High School, 33600 Inwood Road. Students and parents/guardians should enter through the front entrance doors of Solon High School, where they will check in for the program. The session begins promptly at 8 a.m.

Prospective students and their parents/guardians will meet with an SHS administrator and a school counselor for an overview of the school's academic and extracurricular offerings from 8 to 8:30 a.m. Students will spend two academic periods shadowing a current SHS 9th grader. During that time parents/guardians will have the option of participating in a building tour or leaving and returning at 10:35 a.m. to pick up their 8<sup>th</sup> grade student in front of the high school.

Registration is required for Visit Day. This is the only shadowing opportunity Solon High School is able to offer during the year. If students are unable to attend, prospective parents/guardians are still encouraged to attend the introduction to Solon High School at 8 a.m.

Current Solon Middle School 8th graders will participate in scheduling and orientation programs at the beginning of second semester to begin their transition and acclimation to the SHS Comet community.

To register for the October 2 program, please complete the SHS Visit Day Registration Form by September 27, 2023.

### COLLEGE BOARD CONFERS 412 AP SCHOLAR HONORS TO SOLON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADUATES FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENT

The College Board, which administers the national Advanced Placement program, has notified Solon High School that it is presenting 412 awards to Solon students and recent graduates who have earned the designation of AP Scholar in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the college-level AP exams.

The College Board's AP Program provides students with an opportunity to take challenging courses and receive possible college credit while still in high school based on their AP exam results. After scoring the exams, the College Board awards academic honors at various levels of achievement based on the number of year-long courses and exams the students successfully completed.

Overall, Solon's AP Scholar awards this year include:

- ◆ **29** AP Capstone Diploma - granted to students who earn scores of 3 or higher in the AP Seminar and AP Research course and on 4 additional AP exams of their choice.
- ◆ **192** AP Scholars with Distinction - receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all the AP exams they take and earn scores of 3 or higher on five or more of the exams.
- ◆ **74** AP Scholars with Honor - receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all the AP exams they take and earn scores of 3 or higher on four or more of the exams.
- ◆ **114** AP Scholars - score 3 or higher on three or more AP exams.
- ◆ **3** AP Seminar and Research Certificate - granted to students who earn scores of 3 or higher in both AP Seminar and AP Research.

"We are so proud of our students' efforts – these numbers are amazing," said Solon Superintendent Fred Bolden. "Solon students continue to challenge themselves by enrolling in these college-level AP classes. This exceptional achievement demonstrates the academic rigor of the district's AP program and the motivation and capability of students to take on college-level coursework. These results are important for the district as they reflect the effectiveness of AP curriculum and instruction and prepare a large proportion of graduates for success in college academics."

Last spring, 782 Solon students took 1,782 AP exams. Overall, for 2023, 589 students earned scores of 5, 535 earned a 4 and 441 earned a 3.

### SOLON HIGH SCHOOL NAMED A U.S. NEWS 2023-24 BEST HIGH SCHOOL

Solon High School again this year is ranked among the top high schools in the nation, according to the annual U.S. News & World Report Best High Schools ranking. SHS topped the list for high schools in Northeast Ohio and is ranked #6 in Ohio and #227 in the nation.

The U.S. News Best High Schools rankings include data for more than 25,000 U.S. public high schools, with 18,000 schools earning rankings based on six factors related to performance on state assessments and how well their students are prepared for college. “The top-ranked schools have a high rate of students who scored above expectations in math, science and reading state assessments, passed an array of college-level exams, and graduated in four years,” according to U.S. News. Specifically, the rankings consider College Readiness, College Curriculum Breadth, State Assessment Proficiency, State Assessment Performance, Underserved Student Performance and Graduation Rate.

High national rankings are certainly a source of pride for everyone in the district. Our district mission focuses on meeting the needs of every student every day and empowering all students to achieve personal excellence. The metrics used in school ratings such as the US News Best High Schools reflect that student-centered focus. All of our schools fare equally well in the other US News rating categories.

Our community and schools are among the most diverse in the area and the breadth of that diversity enriches our entire school community. Diversity among our district families is broad, spanning race, ethnicity, religion, cultural background, socioeconomics, among others. Even with such wide diversity, our community is unified in its support for high-quality education, and most families move to Solon and Glenwillow for the schools. There are high expectations for the Solon Schools to meet the varied academic, extracurricular and social-emotional needs of all students to support them now and fully prepare them for the future.

The outside independent endorsement of quality and accountability captured by ratings and the State of Ohio school report cards are significant in capturing the rigor of our academic program, but they do not tell the entire story of how we serve students and meet their needs. Our district places significant and equal emphasis on the three pillars of academics, arts/activities and athletics. We believe it is critical to focus on the whole child and provide opportunities that enable students to thrive in a supportive school environment and become involved in activities they are interested in and are passionate about pursuing.