

# BOARD REPORT

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October 10, 2022

## REGULAR MEETING

### TREASURER'S REPORT

The Board approved the payment of bills totaling \$14,797.47.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Board approved the following purchase order as a Then and Now Certificate:

Purchase Order #	Amount	Vendor	Purpose
23001345	\$17,300.00	Bedford BOE	Pool Rental

A trip for the SHS Speech and Debate Team to travel to the National Extemporaneous Speaking Round Robin Championship in Nashville, TN, January 6-9, 2023, was Board approved.

The Board approved the retirement and rehire of the following individuals for the retire/rehire incentive that is part of the collective bargaining agreement with 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 (November 7, 2022) at the Board of Education offices:

Frank Bonsignore  
Michele Smith

The resignation of Tracy Rives, custodian at Solon Middle School, effective September 13, 2022, was Board approved.

The hiring of 63 individuals as monitors and aides for the 2022-23 school year, and the hiring of Shelby Ernsberger as a contract building substitute for Lewis Elementary School were Board approved.

The Board approved 32 supplemental contracts and four non-district pupil activity supplemental contracts for the 2022-23 school year.

The Board approved Carly Cancasci, Jack Chastain, Antonio DiLallo, Sean Fisher, Kevin Lavin, Vicki Maslo, Rebecca Smith and Denise Stepanik as home instruction tutors for the 2022-23 school year.

A resolution was Board approved as stated below, which permits the Board to reimburse parents whose children attend a private school for which it is impractical to transport their children.

In accordance with the Ohio Revised Code Section 3327.02 providing that Boards of Education consider all factors identified in Ohio Revised Code Section 3327.02, and determine whether or not transportation shall be provided to non-public schools for district resident children, payment in lieu of transportation shall be offered to parents of children at the rate established by the State Board of Education. The factors considered by the Board of Education are (1) The time and distance required to provide the transportation, (2) The number of pupils to be transported, (3) The cost of providing transportation in terms of equipment, maintenance, personnel, and administrative, (4) Whether similar or equivalent service is provided to other pupils eligible for transportation, (5) Whether and to what extent the additional service unavoidably disrupts current transportation schedules, and/or (6) Whether other reimbursable types of transportation are available.

The Board approved modifications to the permanent graduation requirements created by Ohio law for classes 2023 and beyond.

Tuition reimbursements were approved for eight individuals in the amount of \$4,388.50.

The next board meeting will be October 24, 2022, 6 p.m. at the Board of Education.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **POLICY UPDATES**

The following policies and administrative guidelines are being presented for consideration. After review, they will be placed on our next agenda for consideration and approval.

#### **Policy 2220 - Adoption of Courses of Study (Revised)**

This policy has been revised to reflect the provisions of O.R.C. 3313.60, which requires the Board to prescribe the curriculum for the district, including references to courses of study. While districts may choose to work with their affiliate education service center (ESC) in the development of courses of study and related curriculum guides, Ohio law no longer requires such oversight.

This revised policy reflects current Ohio law and should be adopted to maintain accurate policies.

#### **Policy 2280 - Preschool Program (Revised)**

In June of this year, the State Board of Education adopted several important changes to the definitions of two (2) preschool classrooms under the state's governing regulations. This action came about after school districts and other stakeholders voiced strong opposition to a prior version of the regulations that proved very difficult to implement. The regulatory changes modified definitions of a public preschool general education classroom and a preschool integrated classroom in a way that should provide more flexibility for public schools that offer preschool programs by modifying how many students with disabilities may be enrolled in each type of program. These definitions have been added to PO 2280 as well as AG 2280.04 to clarify

types of classes that may be offered by districts operating preschool programs. Additional updates were added to Policy and Administrative Guidelines to align with current regulatory requirements.

These revisions reflect current provisions of Ohio Administrative Code and should be adopted.

Policy 2413 - Career Advising (Revised)

This policy has been revised to reflect the provisions of SB 135, effective July 12, 2022, which added several requirements to K-12 Career Advising. The policy summarizes the district's obligation to provide career advising to an at-risk student after a Student Success Plan has been developed that aligns with the district's career advising plan. The policy also includes additional information that must be provided to students, specifically about how costs of postsecondary education may be offset, as well as information about certain career fields that require industry-recognized credentials, certificates and college degrees. Legal citations have been updated as well.

This revised policy reflects current Ohio law and should be adopted to maintain accurate policies.

Policy 2430 - District-Sponsored Clubs and Activities (Revised) Policy 2431 - Interscholastic Athletics (Revised)

These policies have been revised to include the provision of SB 181. The bill prohibits districts, as well as nonpublic schools and interscholastic conference governing bodies, from adopting any type of rule that limits a student from wearing religious apparel while participating in an extracurricular activity unless the apparel poses a danger to the student or others. And even if there is some safety risk involved, a school district must offer "all reasonable accommodations" to the student participant.

Language has been added to PO 2430 and PO 2431 to include a statement that students may not be prohibited from wearing religious apparel while participating in athletics and school-sponsored activities unless the apparel poses a legitimate danger to the health and safety of participants. The law became effective on May 30, 2022.

These revised policies reflect current Ohio law and should be adopted to maintain accurate policies.

Policy 3120.08 - Employment of Personnel for Co-Curricular/Extra-Curricular Activities (Revised)

This policy has been updated to clarify that a non-teaching staff member who does not have an active teaching license must obtain a pupil activity permit to serve as a paid coach or advisor through a pupil services/supplemental contract regardless of whether the extracurricular program involves athletics, physical activity or health and safety risks. Licensure requirements under R.C. 3319.303 and accompanying regulations are different for individuals who have a valid teaching license. These individuals need only to obtain a Pupil Activity Permit when they oversee athletics, other physical activities, or activities that may present a health or safety risk.

This revised policy reflects current Ohio law and should be adopted to maintain accurate policies.

Policy 5335 - Care of Students with Chronic Health Conditions (Revised) Policy 5336 - Care of Students with Diabetes (Revised)

Last year, the Ohio Legislature passed legislation (HB 231) concerning the procurement of glucagon (a medication used by persons with diabetes). The identified policies/AGs have been revised to reflect recent changes in the area of student health care, including medication management and responding to food allergies, in a school setting.

The suggested revisions are consistent with the current state of the law and should be adopted.

Policy 5460.01 - Diploma Deferral (Revised)

Policy 5460.01 has been modified to recognize that students with a disability who are approved for social graduation and then remain in school to continue to work on their transition-related IEP goals do not need to master/complete those transition-related IEP goals before accepting their diploma and leaving school; in fact, the purpose of transition-related goals are to begin to address issues/topics that the student will be working on well after they exit services. As such, students who have completed their academic requirements may receive their diploma and exit services when the IEP team determines the student has made sufficient progress on the student's transition-related IEP goals, or the student reaches the age of 22, whichever occurs first.

This proposed revision is consistent with the current state of the law and should be adopted.

Policy 7440.03 - Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (Technical Correction/Revised)

Policy and AG 7440.03 have been updated to incorporate changes in federal regulations pertaining to the operation of drones at night or over people. The proposed revision to the policy adds the new federal regulation citation to the policy.

The proposed revisions to the AG are consistent with the current state of the law and should be adopted.

Policy 8210 - School Calendar (Revised)

The School Calendar policy has been updated to include an option for districts to approve a school calendar either annually, or biannually, based on their typical approval process.

A few additions have been made to the administrative guideline, specifically to recognize that seniors and kindergarteners have some additional flexibility to meet minimum hour requirements. Language was added to clarify that make-up time may be building specific if school is unexpectedly closed for whatever reason. Finally, a modification was made to specify that a board must pass a resolution if it plans to reduce hours of operation in a succeeding year.

Revisions to this policy are recommended for adoption.

Policy 8320 - Personnel Files (Revised), Policy 8330 - Student Records (Revised)

Revisions to these policies reflect changes to the Secretary of State's Safe at Home Program implemented by HB 93.

Under the previous version of the law, program participants were not required to provide government entities with a copy of their program authorization card. The current version of the law now requires program participants to provide their program authorization card issued by the Secretary of State as proof of their enrollment in the program.

These revisions are recommended for adoption.

#### Policy 8600 – Transportation (Revised)

This policy underwent major revisions last year due to HB 110, which contained several significant changes for school transportation. Policy 8600 and AG 8600 were updated accordingly.

These revisions provide additional clarification and direction for districts, as ODE guidance has been issued during the past several months, as the 2021-22 school year provided for phase-in of the notification requirements. These provisions are in full force and effect for the 2022-23 school year and moving forward.

Revisions to this policy should be adopted to maintain accurate policies.

#### AG 5460C - Ohio Core Opt-Out (DELETE)

This AG is recommended for deletion, as the Ohio Core is no longer in effect.

#### AG 8800 A - Religious Activities/Ceremonies (DELETE)

This is being deleted due to the recent Supreme Court decision regarding religious activities. It has been recommended that this is removed as these guidelines no longer apply.

### **COMMUNITY INPUT ON STRATEGIC PLANNING ACTION TEAMS**

After three days of conversation and consensus building by the 2022 Solon Schools Strategic Planning Team, the district is seeking community involvement on four Action Teams that will address the district's major strategic objectives identified by the 45-member planning team. The full planning team, which met September 27-29, represents key stakeholders in the district, including board members, administrators, parents, staff members, city and business leaders, as well as community members.

“The consistent success of the Solon Schools is due to the strong and collaborative partnership with all of the stakeholders in our broad school community,” said Solon Schools Superintendent Fred Bolden. “Our district Strategic Planning process is representative of that critical partnership. Strategic Planning is key to the continued excellence of the Solon Schools as it charts the future of the district through clear expression of shared beliefs, a lofty mission and strategic objectives that are implemented with creative vision and a positive return on investment for our students and the community.”

Organizations that do not continually look to improve are destined to fail or become obsolete, Mr. Bolden explained. “We have engaged in Strategic Planning since 1989 and we always include the community at-large in our decision making. We need to constantly challenge ourselves to ensure we are working toward becoming the best school district we can possibly be.

The Strategic Planning process is the way we capture that vision and enables us to think critically and deeply about the world we are operating in to make important, forward-focused decisions about the Solon Schools so that we are truly living our mission of every student every day.”

During the planning session, the team reviewed and refined the district beliefs, which are the shared, core values of our community. Building on the beliefs, the team arrived at consensus on an updated draft mission the members believe exemplifies the loftiest aspirations of the district:

Solon City Schools, a diverse learning community, will ensure all students attain the knowledge and skills to thrive and become empathetic, ethical, contributing citizens in an evolving global society through collaboration and unwavering commitment to empower every student, every day, to achieve personal excellence.

The team strengthened the language in the mission regarding the district’s unwavering commitment to empower every Solon student every day to achieve personal excellence. The planning team noted specifically that this concept encompasses all areas of excellence, including academics, arts, athletics and activities.

The team then analyzed the internal and external factors affecting the district’s ability to meet the mission as well as engaged in a critical-thinking exercise detailing the most significant issues facing the Solon Schools. Using this information, the planning team identified four major strategic objectives the district must focus on to fully meet its mission.

Demonstrating how the district intends to achieve the strategic objectives, the planning team identified four strategies that articulate the results the district is committed to achieving. These strategies addressing finance, facilities, communications and responsive practices evolved from the planning team’s work identifying the most critical issues facing the district.

The team also engaged in rich conversations regarding the district’s parameters, or standard operating procedures that create guardrails for how the district conducts its daily business. The parameters are linked to the mission, beliefs, objectives and strategies.

The next step in the Strategic Planning process occurs over the next two months. Volunteers will work on four Action Teams conducting research and writing solution-oriented 3-to-5-year Action Plans.

Interested volunteers should complete the [Solon City Schools Strategic Planning Action Team Sign Up](#).

The entire Strategic Planning Plan will review and analyze the Action Plans in December for relevancy and positive return on investment. The draft Strategic Plan and accepted Action Plans will then be advanced to the Board of Education for consideration and approval.

As the Strategic Planning process continues this fall, additional information and updates will be communicated to the school community and community at-large.

## **SOLON SCHOOLS STRATEGIC PLAN 2022**

*(Draft - The plan is finalized upon approval by the Board of Education at the completion of the planning process.)*

## **MISSION**

Solon City Schools, a diverse learning community, will ensure all students attain the knowledge and skills to thrive and become empathetic, ethical, contributing citizens in an evolving global society through collaboration and unwavering commitment to empower every student, every day, to achieve personal excellence.

## **BELIEFS**

- We believe every individual has inherent worth and dignity.
- We believe education empowers people.
- We believe lifelong learning is essential in a changing world.
- We believe educated citizens are essential to our global community.
- We believe quality public schools are essential to a democratic society.
- We believe quality public education is worth the investment of time, effort and money.
- We believe our public schools serve the entire community.
- We believe the education and well-being of our students is a partnership of the student, home, school and community.
- We believe diversity is a cornerstone of our community.
- We believe in a culture of acceptance, respect and belonging.
- We believe integrity and empathy are essential values throughout our school community.
- We believe learning thrives in a safe, nurturing and supportive environment.
- We believe social-emotional wellness fosters learning.
- We believe high-quality teachers are essential to high-quality education.
- We believe high-quality school support staff are critical to the education of our students.
- We believe students learn best when they take ownership of their learning.
- We believe all students have the right to reach their potential.
- We believe all students can and will learn.

## **PARAMETERS**

- We will always expect people within the Solon school community to treat everyone with respect and dignity.
- We will not tolerate behavior that demeans the self-worth of any individual.
- We will only establish new programs that align with the strategic plan and with the revenue and staff training necessary to support them.
- We will always make site-based decisions aligned with the district's strategic plan.
- We will always use data to drive district decision making.
- We will annually review each program and facility for relevancy and cost effectiveness.
- We will review facility needs whenever average daily membership (ADM) reaches 80% capacity.
- We will annually review staffing needs.
- We will always hire the best candidate.

- We will always engage in practices to recruit applicants reflective of the diversity in our community.
- We will always strive for 100% of our students passing state-mandated assessments.
- We will always strive to support the social-emotional needs of our school community.
- We will provide relevant and timely communication to the entire community.
- We will always strive to ensure all students are actively engaged in their own learning and demonstrate increasing responsibility toward becoming a self-directed learner who is capable of utilizing skills such as critical-thinking, self-reflection, problem-solving and collaboration.
- We will always maintain an assessment system to monitor the achievement of content standards for grade levels or courses as well as measure growth against those standards.
- We will always prioritize the safety of our school community.

### **OBJECTIVES**

- 100% of our students will demonstrate proficiency in the state assessment system and the percent of students at the advanced and accomplished levels on these tests will increase at each school and grade level annually.
- Each student will meet or exceed their expected academic growth targets as measured by the state’s value-added progress measure.
- 100% of our students will achieve Solon’s grade level or course academic content standards.
- Each student will demonstrate increasing competency in the state social-emotional learning standards.

### **STRATEGIES**

- We will educate our policymakers and stakeholders about the financial challenges facing the Solon Schools community and actively engage them to find solutions that secure funding for the district’s growing financial needs.
- We will improve the quality of our facilities to better support academics, arts, athletics and activities.
- We will strategically communicate with all stakeholders to increase engagement and support.

We will implement responsive practices in all facets of school operations to support and promote the social-emotional wellness and inclusivity of our school community.

### **53 SOLON HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS EARN NATIONAL MERIT RECOGNITION**

Solon High School is celebrating the 53 members of the senior class who have been recognized through the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program.



“We are thrilled for these deserving students to be recognized as National Merit Scholars,” said Solon High School Principal Erin Short. “The consistency in the high numbers of SHS students recognized through the National Merit Scholar program reflects the academic excellence and dedication of students and staff throughout the Solon Schools. We are very proud of their achievements.”

For this year, 23 Solon seniors are National Merit Scholar Semi-Finalists and 27 are Commended Scholars. Additionally, two seniors received the National African-American Recognition Award and two received the National Hispanic Recognition Award.

The 23 Semi-Finalists are: Dev Ahuja, Morgan Blackford, Matt Charney, Wonwoo Choi, Harry Deng, Amy Duan, Aakarsh Garg, Angelene Getz, Eshan Haq, Brian Hong, Erik Li, Zimiao Meng, Alex Mester, Viresh Mittal, Laura Mo, Hannah Olszewski, Helen Otterman, Vanessa Polster, Manikantha Puram, Prahalad Rao, Vikram Sundaram, Yiqing Tang and Aria Wei.

These students earned scores on the PSAT taken in their junior year that were among the highest in the state and qualified them as National Merit Scholar Semi-Finalists. The number of Semi-Finalists varies from state to state, as the number selected is proportional to the percentage of the total number of graduating seniors in each state.

The 23 Semi-Finalists will continue in the competition to become National Merit Scholar Finalists by fulfilling several additional requirements in the coming months. First, they must attain an SAT score that confirms their achievement on the PSAT qualifying test. They must also demonstrate a record of outstanding academic performance throughout high school and be endorsed and recommended by their high school principal. In addition, the students and school officials must complete a detailed scholarship application that includes a student essay and information about their participation and leadership in school and community-based activities.

The 27 Commended Students are: Sean Broderick, Genevieve Burland, Ateeb Butt, Meena Chandrasekharan, Ethan Feldman, Brianna Gordon, Kiera Hale, Anna Ingram, Joshua Kasimov, Caleb Kim, David Levine, Sarah Liao, Jakob Loche, Mahir Mazumder, Rishabh Mehta, Alexander Merkulov, Janaki Nair, Rohan Navaneetha Raj, Kwabena Owusu, Nishaan Patel, Aidan Pitzel, Mehak Sankhla, Phoebe Shi, Aparna Srikanth, Andrew Turk, Ashton Yu and Nicole Zhang.

Abigael Isoe and Kiera Hale earned the National African-American Recognition Award and Olivia Visani and Rebecca Vinseiro earned the National Hispanic Recognition Award.

Congratulations to these students and their families.

### UNITY DAY

Solon is turning orange for Unity Day on Wednesday, October 19.

Started in 2011, Unity Day is the signature event for National Bullying Prevention Month. The goal of Unity Day is promoting kindness, acceptance and inclusion and coming together by taking a colorful and united stand against bullying by wearing orange.

Students and staff in preschool through grade 12 are urged to wear orange that day. Orange is the symbolic color for the day as it signifies safety.

## COMMUNITY TAILGATE EVENT OCTOBER 14

In conjunction with Unity Day, families and residents are invited to the first Comet CommUNITY Tailgate event on October 14 from 5-7 p.m. behind the home stands on the west side of the Solon High School stadium parking lot. This new event is an opportunity for families to get together, meet new people and celebrate the diversity of our school community.

Activities are planned for students and families can have dinner from the eclectic array of food trucks that will be on hand that night. While at the event, families and community members are encouraged to take a photo in front of the new SC Proud to be a Comet banner on the pool pad at the west end of the high school.

We look forward to seeing everyone at this event to celebrate our community and then at the Comets football game beginning at 7 p.m. The Comets will be taking on Euclid and fans are encouraged to wear their Comet blue and white or other SC spirit gear.