

# BOARD REPORT

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December 13, 2021

## REGULAR MEETING

### TREASURER'S REPORT

The Board approved the payment of bills totaling \$25,396.39. The Board approved the tax budget for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Board approved a contract with the Solon Board of Education and Betsy Street to serve as the Superintendent's Secretary for the period of two years and six months commencing January 3, 2022 and ending June 30, 2024.

Sobha Patro was approved as a candidate for early graduation with the Class of 2022 contingent upon her successful completion in meeting all state and local requirements for graduation. It is unusual, but legal, that a student completes their high school obligation earlier than their class. Sobha Patro is technically/currently a member of the Class of 2023 and has met her requirements. Therefore, she can be graduated.

The Board approved the resignation of Monica Gambino, cafeteria employee at Solon High School, effective December 4, 2021. Melissa Creamer, Karen Davidoff, Cynthia Kyler, and Julie Moeschberger were approved as home instruction tutors for the 2021-22 school year.

The following individuals were approved as substitutes on an as-needed basis for the 2021-22 school year:

Victoria Scott	General Education
Jennifer Toth	General Education

The Board approved supplemental contracts to the following individuals:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Stephanie Bettinger	Piano Accompanist (Spring Play)	\$1,473.99
Cameron Greenlee	Girls' Indoor Track - Assistant Varsity Coach (33%)	1,032.21
Garrett Patty	Wrestling - 7th Grade Coach	4,479.12
Brian Sabol	Girls' Indoor Track - Head Varsity Coach (33%)	1,032.21

A non-district pupil activity permit contract was approved to the following individual:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Jim Wallace	Girls' Indoor Track - Assistant Varsity Coach (33%)	\$1,032.21

A contract was awarded to Mielke Mechanical Inc., the lowest responsible bidder, for the Solon High School Chiller Plant Replacement Project (Water Tower A) in the amount of \$324,650.

A contract was awarded to Mielke Mechanical Inc., the lowest responsible bidder, for the Solon Middle School Gym Cooling & Chiller Plant Replacement Project in the amount of \$1,097,217.

A contract was awarded to Synergy Mechanical Contractors, the lowest responsible bidder, for the Board of Education HVAC Improvements Project in the amount of \$273,700.

Tuition reimbursements were approved for two individuals in the amount of \$1,531.20.

The next board meeting will be January 10, 2022, 6 p.m. at the Board of Education.

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

#### **2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR**

Enclosed is the proposed calendar for the 2022-23 school year. By law, this information item acts as a public hearing prior to the Board acting on the calendar at the January 10 Board meeting.

#### **REGANO EARLY LEARNING CENTER INFORMATION PROGRAM**

The Solon Schools are seeking children ages 3 to 5 living in the district to participate as peer models in the preschool program at Regano Early Learning Center for the 2022-23 school year. The Regano ELC preschool program serves children with special needs as well as peer models.

The preschool peer models benefit from participating in developmentally appropriate preschool programming led by master teachers in the field of early education. At Regano ELC, students are immersed in a diverse learning environment fostering their academic and social-emotional learning and kindergarten readiness. They engage in center-based learning with peers that helps them develop empathy, learn and model school behaviors such as taking turns and participation, and gain confidence in a Solon school routine.

Children must be 3 years of age by June 1, 2022, to participate in next year's program. Regano ELC classes meet Monday-Thursday for 2.5 hours a day.

To find out more about becoming a peer model, join us at the upcoming information program on January 13 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. via Zoom.

## COVID UPDATE

As we communicated to district families Friday night, our schools do not exist in a bubble and are a direct reflection of the community around us. The higher case positive counts we are experiencing mirror the steady rise in COVID-19 in our 44139 zip code, Northeast Ohio and most of the country. Last week, we reported 22 student and four staff member cases of COVID-19.

Our in-school protocols, including the mask requirement for all students and staff, are helping to minimize the number of students who otherwise would need to be excluded from school or activities due to a close contact exposure at school. It is important to remember that students who are exposed to COVID-19 outside of a school setting are not eligible for the school exemptions under the state's Mask to Stay guidelines, which are based on in-school mitigation efforts.

This is our last week of school before the two-week winter break. We have traditionally seen notably higher positive case counts following the holidays and a similar trend after break in January is likely given the community spread around us.

We are still committed to analyzing the ability to change our protocols in January. At the same time, the situation now -- with increased cases and community spread coupled with the uncertainty of the new omicron variant -- is very different from when we first announced our intention to evaluate the continued need for required masks in all our schools.

For now, it is too soon to tell what conditions in our school and greater community will look like mid-January. In the meantime, we will keep our families and community updated through regular communication and our COVID-19 Dashboard.

## THANK YOU TO MARILYN THOMAS

Marilyn Thomas was first sworn in as a member of the Solon Board of Education in 1978. Each time Marilyn was on the ballot running to retain her seat on the Board, the community responded with resounding support on Election Day. In return, she served on the Board with passion and distinction for more than 40 years.

Marilyn has been a tireless champion of the Solon Schools and all students. She is an engaged and energetic Board member, always analyzing all sides of an issue and making final decisions based on what is in the best interest of students.

Marilyn and her husband, Tom, moved to Solon in the 1960s, when district enrollment was just over 2,000 students. Her tenure on the Board coincided with dynamic growth and development in the City of Solon and the Village of Glenwillow, bringing many new families with school-age children to our community. With that growth, Marilyn advocated for parallel expansion of diverse programmatic offerings for Solon students to provide comprehensive academic and extra-curricular opportunities.

In her role as a Board member, Marilyn worked with Superintendent Joseph Regano as an original and strong supporter of the district's Strategic Planning process. She has also continually valued a strong partnership with families and the community at large, notably fostering an excellent working relationship with civic leadership in Solon and Glenwillow. She encouraged joint school-city projects and collaboration whenever possible.

She helped to lead the fight over many years to retain local tax revenues the state legislature sought to repurpose.

Marilyn's work with the Solon Schools began similarly to many district parents as an active PTA and Athletic Boosters member. She served in many volunteer capacities, including president of the Arthur Road PTA and a tutor at Orchard Middle School. She served on the city's Recreation Commission and initiated the Valley Y recreation program in Solon. Marilyn was the founder and co-director of the city's aquatic program for students with special needs and served as a volunteer swim instructor for Solon's preschool and beginner swim program. Marilyn's volunteerism continues today as a regular volunteer cashier for the Solon Council of PTAs' Budget Bin sales.

Her long-standing tenure on the Solon Board of Education earned her a commendation from the Ohio School Boards Association this year for more than 40 years of service to the community and students, more than any other actively serving Board member in our region.

On behalf of the Board of Education and our entire school community, we thank Marilyn for her work and commitment over more than four decades to ensure that Solon students and staff have had the necessary resources and support to sustain the Solon Schools as one of Ohio's best districts.