

# BOARD REPORT

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January 25, 2021

## REGULAR MEETING

### TREASURER'S REPORT

The Board approved the payment of bills totaling \$17,347.89.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Board approved the 2021-2022 school calendar. The administrative retirements of Kirk Miller, Director of Information Services, and Tebra Page, Director of Pupil Services, were approved effective July 31, 2021.

The Board approved the retirement of Pam Hesketh, secretary for Solon High School, effective March 25, 2021. The Board approved the retire and rehire of Ken Metzger 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 of March 15, 2021, at the Board of Education offices.

The Board hired Casey Hogan as head lacrosse coach for the 2021-22 school year. The following individuals were approved as substitutes on an as needed basis for the 2020-21 school year:

Roschelle Ogbuji	General Education
Danna Rivchun	P-3 (Intervention Specialist)
Lorna Titlebaum	General Education
Alison Weingold	General Education

The Board approved a supplemental contract to the following individual:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Gary Lewis	Co-Music Director (6%)	\$ 3,583.29

Tuition reimbursements were approved for eight individuals in the amount of \$6,274.85. The next board meeting will be February 8, 2021, 6 p.m. at the Board of Education.

### INFORMATION ITEMS

#### SOLON PRESCHOOL INFORMATION NIGHT

Solon Preschool is looking for 3-to-5-year-old children to be peer models in the Solon City Schools' inclusion preschool program for the 2021-22 school year.

Families are invited to join the Solon Preschool team for a virtual informational session on January 28 at 5:30 p.m. to learn about the educational experience provided in the Preschool program.

Registration for the program is required at: <https://forms.gle/mPh4xYu2anUzYVZ88>  
All registrants will receive an email with the Zoom link prior to the program.

The preschool peer models benefit from participating in developmentally appropriate preschool programming led by master teachers in the field of early education. At Solon Preschool, 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.

Families can contact Terry Brownlow, principal of Solon Preschool, for more information at (440) 349-6210 or [terrybrownlow@soloboe.org](mailto:terrybrownlow@soloboe.org).

There are limited spaces for children entering kindergarten for 2022-23 school year.

### SOLON KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION INFORMATION 2021

Kindergarten registration for fall 2021 is just around the corner. This year's Kindergarten Information Night will be a virtual program on February 10 at 7 p.m. The program links will be posted on the district website after February 1.

Kindergarten Information Night is a welcome program to all parents of incoming kindergarten students for the fall of 2021. The principals and school counselors from Lewis, Parkside and Roxbury Elementary Schools will provide an overview of the kindergarten program and the registration process. Solon's Kindergarten Registration is a two-step process: Families complete the majority of the information online and then complete the process in-person.

Kindergarten in Solon Schools is at Lewis, Parkside and Roxbury Elementary Schools. Both full- and half-day kindergarten is offered. All three schools have full-day kindergarten, but decisions about which schools would have half-day sections and whether those sections will be in the morning or afternoon cannot be determined until after the kindergarten registration process is complete.

The district's centralized Kindergarten Registration will be Wednesday, March 3, from 8-11:30 a.m., and Thursday, March 4, from 8-11:30 a.m. and 5-8 p.m. in the Arthur Road School cafeteria. Parents or guardians must sign up for time slots for the in-person registration. The appointment sign-up will go live on February 19 following Information Night. In addition, parents or guardians must complete the general online registration forms prior to their assigned time slot on March 3-4. The online registration site will go live after the program as well.

Kindergarten enrollment numbers are a key data point for appropriate planning and staffing next year, so it is critical that families register their students for kindergarten during the March registration dates. Residents are urged to remind friends and neighbors who have students approaching kindergarten age to attend Kindergarten.

Only students registered during the district's centralized registration March 3-4 are guaranteed placement at their home school (families impacted by a COVID-19 diagnosis or quarantine in

their household during the registration days should contact the Board of Education Registration Office at 248-1600 for guidance).

### SOLON STUDENTS WIN AWARDS IN ANNUAL CUYAHOGA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY RACIAL INJUSTICE ESSAY CONTEST

Solon High School students made an inspirational mark on this year's Martin Luther King Jr. Day Stand for Racial Justice High School Essay Contest, earning three of the six awards presented.

Senior Wendy Wu, junior Ava Parikh and sophomore Aparna Srikanth were recognized for their poignant essays on What is Racism and What Should We Do About It? The essay contest is part of the college's Stand for Racial Justice initiative aimed at advancing racial equity and promoting healing.

"The idea is to encourage area students to think deeply and for themselves about one of the most pressing issues of our time," said Matthew Jordan, Tri-C dean of humanities, in announcing the contest.

Wendy won first place in the junior/senior division for her essay about "The Wounds of Racism and How Justice Can Prevail."

Ava received third place in the junior/senior division for her work "Racism is Our Responsibility, Our Nemesis."

Aparna's essay "George Floyd's Death was the Catalyst" earned third place in the sophomore/freshmen division.

"Our students are listening, they are motivated and they are engaged," said Erin Short, SHS principal. "The work we are doing as a school through our PTA Diversity and Inclusion lessons is more important than ever. We have so much to learn from our students if we just listen."

Links to the winning essays by the SHS students are posted on the district web site.

### INTRODUCTION OF NEW DISTRICT SECURITY DIRECTOR

With Jeff Pedicino's planned retirement approaching at the end of this month, we want to take this opportunity to officially introduce Jason Bender, our new Solon Schools director of security, to the community. Jay has been working in tandem with Jeff Pedicino for the past month, so he is already a familiar face in all of our school buildings.

When Jay was appointed in November, we detailed how he is uniquely qualified to lead the district's safety and security program. His connections to the Solon community and the Solon Schools are long-standing. He is a 1985 Solon High School graduate and served with the Solon Police Department for 27 years.

As anticipated, the transition has been smooth. We look forward to Jay building on the strong foundation Jeff has established for us in the Solon Schools.

COVID UPDATE ON CURRENT CONDITIONS AND LOOKING AHEAD