

BOARD REPORT

April 20, 2020

REGULAR MEETING

TREASURER'S REPORT

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Board non-renewed monitors and aides that were hired for the 2019-20 school year.

A resolution was approved in response to the Ohio Department Health's Director Stay at Home Order. The Board approved the retirement of Carmela Fatica, cafeteria employee at Solon High School, effective July 1, 2020.

A leave of absence was approved for Virginia McClure, 3rd grade teacher at Parkside Elementary School, for the 2020-21 school year. The Board non-renewed a limited teacher contract for Tika Krueger, which was issued for the 2019-20 school year, and directed the Treasurer to serve written notice of the Board action.

A tuition reimbursement was approved for one individual in the amount of \$323.

The next board meeting will be May 11, 2020, 6 p.m. streaming live on YouTube.

INFORMATION ITEMS

SOLON CITY SCHOOLS NAMED 2020 BEST COMMUNITY FOR MUSIC EDUCATION

Noting that music and the arts continue to nurture and connect communities during these challenging times, the NAMM Foundation today honored the Solon City Schools with a 2020 Best Communities for Music Education Award for its outstanding commitment to music education. Solon joins just 754 other school districts nationwide in receiving the designation from the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation.

"The award celebrates districts and schools that are working hard to assure that music education is part of a well-rounded education available to all students," said Mary Luehrson, executive director of the NAMM Foundation, in a video message to award recipients. "We hope this award at this time lifts teachers, parents, school administrators, community leaders and most of all students and supports the commitment we all share to advance music education for students everywhere."

For Solon, the award reflects the depth of both school-based and community-wide music programming and performance opportunities for students. "The strong commitment to the arts within the district's educational program is a source of pride for our entire community," said Fred Bolden, Superintendent Pro Tempore of the Solon Schools. "Congratulations to our students, staff and families, as well as the Solon and Glenwillow communities. For our students:

Keep playing and making music at home. We have seen amazing examples of your music already during your at-home digital classes. We can't wait until we can hear your voices and instruments again in our school buildings."

To qualify for the Best Communities in Music designation, the Solon Schools provided comprehensive information about commitment to standards, funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, music instructional time, facilities, support for the music program and community music-making programs. The NAMM Foundation's reviewers assessed the quality of the district's music faculty and budgetary commitment to music education, among other factors, and the data reviewed by the Music Research Institute at the University of Kansas.

The award also recognizes the district's leadership in providing learning opportunities as outlined in the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which recommends music and the arts as important elements of a well-rounded education for all students.

"Research into music education continues to demonstrate educational, cognitive and social skill benefits for children who make music," according to the NAMM Foundation. "Everyday listening skills are stronger in musically trained children than in those without music training. Significantly, listening skills are closely tied to the ability to perceive speech in a noisy background, pay attention and keep sounds in memory. The social benefits include conflict resolution, teamwork skills and how to give and receive constructive criticism."

SOLON STUDENTS CONTINUE REMOTE LEARNING

As we start our fourth full week of remote learning, we are seeing our students engaged in meaningful learning. With little warning or preparation time, our staff transformed their classrooms from the brick and mortar school buildings to digital platforms. Their professionalism in putting the needs of students first has been exemplary.

Individually and in collaboration with their grade-level or content teams, teachers are creating innovative learning opportunities for students. Teachers are conducting science labs, leading class discussions and helping students deepen their understanding of the day's learning targets – all using digital tools. They are videotaping themselves reading books for elementary literacy lessons and factoring quadratic equations for a high school math lessons, as well as leading mindfulness activities and providing recorded feedback on student music compositions.

Nothing can completely replicate the in-person interaction between students and teachers and students with their classmates. And we look forward to the day when our students are back in their classrooms. But as the Governor has made clear, school for the foreseeable future will look different. So, for now, everyone is adapting and building capacity within this new learning paradigm.

We know families and students are experiencing serious hardships and flexibility remains critical. Our students are not only dealing with the inability to connect in person with their friends, they are also dealing with major disappointments caused by the many cancellations of school events, programs and trips. To focus on the whole student in the face of these challenges, we are also working to provide families and students with social-emotional support and recommendations for adjusting.

The community's long-term investment in our district technology plans helped position us well to transition to remote learning. We are grateful for that support and the continued partnership

with our families. We know this is not easy, but we are doing everything possible to smooth the journey.

ANNUAL REPORTING OF NUTRITION STANDARDS

Ohio law requires each school district Board of Education and chartered non-public school board or governing authority to adopt and enforce nutrition standards governing the types of food and beverages available for sale on school premises and report that compliance annually to the Ohio Department of Education.

This includes the “Certification of Standards Governing Types of Foods and Beverages Sold on School Premises” for 2019-20.

The Solon City School District is compliant with regulations for all snack food sold by adhering to the USDA Smart Snack regulations at school and Ohio's food and beverage standards sold as outlined in SB 210 (whichever is stricter).