

BOARD REPORT

September 23, 2019

REGULAR MEETING

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Board approved the payment of bills totaling \$212,968.43.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The following individual was approved as a substitute on an as needed basis for the 2019-20 school year:

Alyssa Macko P-3

The Board issued a limited teaching contract to the following individual for the 2019-20 school year:

ORCHARD
Jody Radcliffe

The retirement of Larry Evans, grade 5 teacher at Orchard Middle School, effective January 17, 2020, was approved.

Mrs. Glavin moved to appoint Fred Bolden as the Board's designee for all student disciplinary issues. The Board approved the motion.

Tuition reimbursements were approved for five individuals in the amount of \$3,550.30. The next board meeting will be October 14, 2019, 6 p.m. at the Board of Education.

INFORMATION ITEMS

38 SOLON HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS NAMED NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLAR SEMI-FINALISTS AND COMMENDED SCHOLARS FOR 2020

Solon High School is marking the academic accomplishment of 38 members of this year's senior class who have been named as semi-finalists and commended scholars in the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Competition.

"The members of this year's senior class are already distinguishing themselves in many ways," said Solon High School Principal Erin Short. "We are proud of the accomplishments of these 38 students. Having 19 seniors on the semi-finalist list and another 19 named as commended scholars ranks Solon High School as one of the top schools in the state for National Merit recognition regardless of private, public or parochial school status."

The 19 SHS students named as National Merit Scholar semi-finalists for 2020: Kush Addepalli, Anthony Ahn, Alexandra Epelbaum, Shourjya Ghosh, Alex Huang, Ruth Johnson, Silas Johnson, Gina Kong, Hayden Mesnick, Shadhvika Nandhakumar, Ethan Pitzel, Julia Polster, Wenzhao Qui, Catherine Wang, Stephanie Wang, Yifan Wang, Yiting Yang, Kevin Zhou and Rachel Zhou.

The 19 seniors recognized as 2020 National Merit commended scholars are: Anna Bleich, Charles Constanzo, Sandy Deng, Urvee Deo, Luke Hansen, Andrew Lebowitz, Mabel Lee, Derek Li, Jang-Ai Lin, Venkata Sai Hars Malasani, Michael Malyshev, Daniel Neese, Ervin Qalliaj, Chinmaya Sahoo, Nicholas Thomas, Amanda Weiskind, Megan Wiser, Maggie Yang and Mehmet Yilmaz.

“These students represent a valuable national resource; recognizing their accomplishments, as well as the key role their schools play in their academic development, is vital to the advancement of educational excellence in our nation,” according to the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

The 38 SHS students earned scores on the PSAT taken in their junior year that were among the highest in the state and qualified them as a National Merit Scholar semi-finalist and commended scholars. The number of students recognized varies from state to state, as the number selected is proportional to the percentage of the total number of graduating seniors in each state. Overall, the semi-finalists represent the top 1 percent of high school seniors in the United States. The commended scholars earned among the highest 50,000 PSAT scores in the nation.

The 19 Solon semi-finalists will continue in the competition to become National Merit Scholar finalists by fulfilling several additional requirements in the coming months that underscore their skills, accomplishments and potential for success in rigorous college environments. 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.

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 a 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.

SOLON EARNS STATE’S #1 ACHIEVEMENT GRADE FOR 2019

The Solon Schools are celebrating the academic success of Solon students today as the district earned the state of Ohio’s top achievement report card grade for the fifth consecutive year.

The achievement of Solon students continues to rise every year. This year’s Performance Index (a measure of student achievement over time) is 112.6, the highest statewide.

Overall, the district received A's in the measured Components Grades – Achievement, Progress, Gap Closing, Graduation Rate, Improving At-Risk K-3 Readers and Prepared for Success – that make up the final district grade. Solon received a Final Grade of A.

The ongoing excellence of the district's academic program is a result of the commitment of the entire Solon Schools' community to meeting the needs of all students. At the heart of the district's sustained success is Solon's culture of continuous quality improvement, collaboration and shared responsibility as outlined in the district's mission and strategic plan. This is why district and building administrators and teachers are already digging into the results for all students and identifying areas for improvement that will result in real learning gains.

The Ohio School Report Card results released today reflect the hard work and perseverance of Solon students, staff and families. Ohio's Learning Standards and the School Report Card measures continue to raise expectations for students. Solon's educational program is focused on helping students meet that increased rigor. Every day in Solon classrooms, students participate in engaged and active learning that fosters creativity, collaboration, communication, critical thinking and problem solving. These skills are key for students' development as independent, analytical thinkers and for success in college and the workforce.

SOLON HIGH SCHOOL VISIT DAY FOR EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS AT PRIVATE AND PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS IS OCTOBER 10

Solon High School is rolling out the welcome mat on Thursday, October 10, 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 – who are currently enrolled in eighth grade at a private or parochial school and are considering enrolling at SHS as ninth graders for the 2020-21 school year.

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

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

Registration is required for Visit Day to ensure that the students selected for shadowing best mirror prospective students' academic and extra-curricular interests. This is the only shadowing opportunity Solon High School is able to offer during the year. If students are unable to attend, prospective parents are still encouraged to attend the introduction to Solon High School at 8 a.m.

To register, please contact Kathleen Kinney, SHS guidance counselor, at (440) 349-7307 or kathleenkinney@solonboe.org, by October 2.

START WITH HELLO WEEK

This week, schools nationwide, including our middle schools here in Solon, are taking steps to reduce the threat of school violence through improving school culture. Start with Hello Week is a

national promotion 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 at Solon Middle School and Orchard Middle School will be participating in theme days and activities throughout the week aimed at promoting a more unified and inclusive school environment. Throughout the year, other Solon students at the high school and the elementary buildings will participate in similar programming, including Red Ribbon Week and Unity Day in October.

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.

Students, parents and community members may use the Safe School Helpline to report threats of violence, suicide or self harm, weapons, bullying and illegal activity that could harm children or adults in our schools. By using the Safe School Helpline, students, parents and community members are able to leave a message or speak with a crisis counselor for immediate needs. The helpline is administered by an independent, outside company and reports and communications are confidential and anonymous.

Safe School Helpline is easy to access – especially with the free Safe School Helpline app available through Apple Store and Google Play. Through the app, reports can be made by texting, making an online 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 screen shots, photos and videos if necessary.

To start a report for Solon:

TEXT: Text 66746 and type TIPS as the message

ONLINE: 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 person making the report elects to share his or her identity. 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.

Students and family members are urged to contact building principals, counselors or other trusted adults at the school at any time to share concerns without using the Helpline.