

# BOARD REPORT

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September 24, 2018

## REGULAR MEETING

### TREASURER'S REPORT

The Board approved the payment of bills totaling \$436,020.32. The Board accepted the tax rates for 2019 as determined by the Cuyahoga County Budget Commission and authorize the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor as follows:

|                             |                                      |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| General Fund                | 73.9 mills (increased by 1.60 Mills) |
| General Fund (inside mills) | 5.2 mills                            |
| Bond Retirement             | 0.3 mills (reduced by 1.60 Mills)    |
| Permanent Improvement       | 2.8 mills                            |

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A trip for the varsity boys' baseball team to travel to Louisville, Kentucky, from March 28 through 31, 2019, for the Super Preps 2019 tournament was approved. The Board approved the following individuals as substitutes on an as needed basis for the 2018-19 school year:

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Cheryl Antognoli  | K-12 Education of the Handicapped<br>(Early Ed. Handicapped, SLD, SBH) |
| Alyssa Blitzer    | 4-12 (Career Technical)  |
| Marie Cavotta     | P-12 (French/Spanish)  |
| Sandra Kearns     | K-12 (Ed. of Handicapped - Severe Behavior)                            |
| Alec Rampe        | 7-12 (Integrated Social Studies)                                       |
| Stephanie Roberts | K-12 Intervention Specialist (Mild/Moderate)                           |

Dana Green, Michelle Huffman, Emilie Macek, Connie Skripak, Lauren Kacica and Nicole Witting were approved as home instruction tutors for the 2018-19 school year. The Board approved a revenue sharing agreement between the Solon Board of Education and the City of Solon.

On September 17, 2018, Solon City Council announced an agreement with the Swagelok Manufacturing Company LLC to build its Global Headquarters and Innovation Center in Solon. As part of that agreement and in cooperation with the schools, a

Community Reinvestment Area needs to be created. This area will allow tax abatement to fund the project.

The school district and the city have worked cooperatively for many years on an enterprise zone committee to provide a unified public partnering in these types of decisions. The agreement that the Board is about to consider will provide the schools with approximately \$4,457,450 over the next 15 years from the following:

|                                 |   |             |
|---------------------------------|---|-------------|
| From the city (income tax)      | - | \$3,457,450 |
| From Swagelok (a cash donation) | - | \$1,000,000 |
| Total                           | - | \$4,457,450 |

The total amount abated by the schools is approximately 47%. To be clear, the Board's decision was not about whether the district would accept a reduced amount in real estate taxes or the full amount. Instead, the decision is about how much the Board could abate and what the continued presence of Swagelok means to the community versus it leaving.

We believe that this agreement is in the best interest of the City of Solon and the Solon City Schools.

Tuition reimbursements were approved for three individuals in the amount of \$1,751.50. The next board meeting will be October 8, 2018, 6 p.m. at the Board of Education.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **SCHOOL TO WORK**

Over the past number of years school districts have been asked to concentrate more on the career options available to students that may or may not include college. Erin Short, Ann Trocchio and Rick Nowak discussed Solon's options.

### **COLLEGE BOARD CONFERS AP SCHOLAR HONORS TO 380 SOLON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADUATES FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENT**

The College Board, which administers the national Advanced Placement program, has notified Solon High School that it is presenting 380 awards to Solon students and recent graduates who have earned the designation of AP Scholar in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the college-level AP exams. This is more than 275 students above the number recognized for this achievement a decade ago.

The College Board's AP Program provides students with an opportunity to take challenging courses and to receive possible college credit while still in high school based on their performance on the AP exams. After scoring the exams, the College

Board awards academic honors at various levels of achievement based on the number of year-long courses and exams the students successfully completed.

Overall, Solon's AP Scholar awards this year include:

- 86 National AP Scholars – Average Score 4.54
- 209 AP Scholars with Distinction – Average Score 4.27
- 61 AP Scholars with Honor – Average Score 3.68
- 110 AP Scholars – Average Score 3.41

“These numbers are extraordinary,” said Solon High School Principal Erin Short. “Our students continue to challenge themselves by enrolling in these rigorous AP classes. We are so gratified by these prestigious AP awards because they represent the hard work and dedication of the many students who take AP courses and the staff members who teach them. The number of SHS students recognized each year continues to increase and having such a high percentage of students receiving these honors is a clear reflection of the excellence and breadth of our academic program.”

#### LEVY COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP THANK YOU

Last spring, our community came together under the banner We Are Solon Schools and showed resounding support for the May 8 levy on the ballot.

Levy campaigns are arduous and challenging. But last spring, the exceptional Committee for Solon Schools leadership team and its cadre of volunteers throughout Solon and Glenwillow worked tirelessly to help communicate the key messages of the campaign so the entire community understood a complex ballot issue. From mailing pieces and yard signs to coffees and social media, the messages of the campaign were thoughtfully planned and implemented with precision.

Several members of the leadership team attended the board meeting to be publicly acknowledged for their efforts.

On behalf of everyone in the Solon Schools, thank you all for the role you played in achieving such outstanding results, which are instrumental in maintaining the excellence of the state's #1 performing district.

#### 39 SOLON HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS NAMED NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLAR SEMI-FINALISTS AND COMMENDED SCHOLARS

Solon High School is celebrating the academic achievement of 39 members of this year's senior class who have been named as semi-finalists and commended scholars in the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Competition.

“The class of 2019 is already distinguishing itself with a significant academic legacy,” said Solon High School Principal Erin Short. “Having 24 seniors named as National

Merit Scholarship semi-finalists and 15 named as commended scholars illustrates the high level of achievement not only at our school, but throughout the entire district.”

The 24 SHS students named as National Merit Scholar semi-finalists for 2019 are: Dylan Duecaster, Laila Edelman, Jeremiah Egolf, Julia Fan, David Feng, Neha Gupta, Zilong Huang, Sarah Kalinowski, Lea Kim, Rayna Klugherz, Annette Lee, Jacob Levine, Isaac Lieber, Scott Maurer, Neel Mehta, Samuel Oguntoyinbo, Arushi Sharma, Sandy Shen, Carly Stewart, Brendan Wang, Mark Wang, Adam Zhang, Albert Zhu and Michael Zhu.

The 15 seniors recognized as National Merit commended scholars are: Jaron Ashton, John Cha, Brian Duffy, Grace Gao, Suranjit Ghosh, Nihal Goli, Nicholas Kernan, Amanda Kim, Meredith Kinsell, Thomas Liu, Shivangi Mohta, Abaan Saini, Lilian Shaughnessy, David Tan and Colton Wang.

These 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. 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. Overall, there are 16,000 semi-finalists nationwide, representing the less than 1 percent of high school seniors in the United States.

The 24 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.

### 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 will participate in similar programming.

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](http://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.