

BOARD REPORT

April 11, 2016

REGULAR MEETING

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Board approved the payment of bills totaling \$13,267.10. The Board approved the resolution estimating the amount of active and inactive moneys of the Solon City School District to be awarded for the period from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2021. The Board accepted the tax rates for 2017 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	72.3 mills
General Fund (inside mills)	5.2 mills
Bond Retirement	1.9 mills
Permanent Improvement	2.8 mills

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Board non-renewed 46 limited teacher contracts which were issued for the 2015-16 school year, and directed the Treasurer to serve written notice of the Board action to each individual. Also non-renewed were 116 monitors and aides that were hired for the 2015-16 school year. The Board awarded 39 limited teacher contracts for the 2016-17 school year. Continuing teacher contracts were awarded to 20 individuals effective for the 2016-17 school year provided all conditions set forth in the collective bargaining agreement are met.

Colleen Hartnett and Amanda McCann were approved as home instruction tutors for the 2015-16 school year. Leaves of absence for Bridget Eickmeier, science teacher at Solon High School, and Leigh Ann Leugers, math teacher at Orchard Middle School, were approved for the 2016-17 school year.

The Board approved the resignations of Shannon Begalla, interventionist at Orchard Middle School, and Lauren Hodermarsky, media specialist at Roxbury Elementary, effective August 31, 2016. The retirements of Susan Berkley, math teacher at Solon Middle School, effective September 20, 2016, and Marilyn Vaughan, family and consumer sciences teacher at Solon Middle School, effective July 1, 2016, were approved.

One individual was approved as a substitute on an as needed basis for the 2015-16 school year. The Board approved the retirement of Tom Rhea, bus driver for Solon City Schools, effective March 1, 2016.

The Board awarded a contract to Bay Mechanical, the lowest responsible bidder, in the amount of \$267,193.00 for the Dual School HVAC Upgrades Phase 1.

An out-of-state trip was approved for the SHS/SMS Science Olympiad Teams to travel to Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin, from May 18 to 22, 2016, for the National Science Olympiad Tournament.

Tuition reimbursements were approved for six individuals in the amount of \$3,260.52. The next board meeting will be April 25, 2016, 6 p.m. at the Board of Education.

INFORMATION ITEMS

ROXBURY ELEMENTARY EARNS SOLON'S SEVENTH NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL NOMINATION

The Ohio Department of Education this week nominated Roxbury Elementary School for the prestigious U.S. Department of Education National Blue Ribbon School Award. Roxbury is one of only 14 Ohio public schools ODE nominated for the 2016 award. All seven Solon Schools have now been nominated for the National Blue Ribbon School Award.

ODE nominated Roxbury as an "exemplary high performing school." The nomination is based on high student achievement as rated by the state of Ohio's 2014-15 Ohio School Report Card accountability measures. To qualify as an "exemplary high performing school" under the U.S. Department of Education guidelines, Roxbury student achievement levels on state assessments in both reading and math ranked in the top tier of all Ohio schools.

"We are honored that ODE has nominated Roxbury for the Blue Ribbon School Award this year," said Solon Schools' Superintendent Joseph Regano. "Congratulations to our Roxbury students whose hard work and achievement led to this recognition."

"Our Roxbury team is elated and so proud of all our students," said Principal Carla Rodenbucher. "Our students continually rise to the occasion and meet the increased rigor of classroom learning. As a positive support structure, we have incorporated work on mindset to help them learn from their mistakes, take risks in their learning and persevere. As a staff, too, we have challenged ourselves to keep rising the bar to make Roxbury the best possible learning environment for our students."

Blue Ribbon Schools are "producing outstanding results for all students," according to the U.S. Department of Education. "They have demonstrated consistent excellence, and made progress in closing gaps in student achievement. The National Blue Ribbon School award affirms the hard work of students, educators, families, and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging content.

"Their leaders not only articulate a vision of excellence and hold everyone to high standards, they stay close to the real action of teaching and learning," the U.S. DOE adds. "Mutual respect and trust run deep in their cultures. Faculty are supported by mentoring and professional development and have time to coordinate their work. Data from many sources drive adaptations to support every student. Families and educators work together in trust."

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes U.S. elementary and secondary schools that make significant progress in closing achievement gaps or whose students achieve at superior levels. The program guidelines charge state departments of education with nominating schools that meet federally defined achievement criteria. At least one-third of a state's nominated schools must have student populations in which 40 percent or more of the

families are classified as economically disadvantaged. Other nominated schools, like those in Solon, must meet the superior achievement benchmark. Only 417 schools nationwide may be nominated each year, and each state is limited in how many schools it may nominate based on the number of students in the state.

The Roxbury staff will now complete the next steps in the process by submitting the required application materials to the U.S. Department of Education. The 2016 Blue Ribbon School award winners will be announced in September after federal education officials validate the nominees' student achievement results for the current school year.

DISTRICT'S MUSIC EDUCATION PROGRAM RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION: SOLON NAMED A 2016 BEST COMMUNITY FOR MUSIC

Recognizing the district's outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students, the Solon City Schools today received the prestigious Best Communities for Music Education award for 2016. Solon joins 476 other school districts nationwide in receiving the designation from the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation.

"This award punctuates an amazing week for Solon's music education program," said Ed Kline, Solon's director of bands, citing the performances of more than 400 Solon students in band, orchestra and show choir this week at Universal Studios in Orlando, Florida. "We earned this award due to our district-wide programming that enables all students to learn and perform music. Being designated as a Best Community for Music highlights our deep commitment and passion here in Solon for students in all our schools to reap the benefits of music education."

To qualify for the Best Communities in Music designation, the Solon Schools provided detailed information about commitment to standards, funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction 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 submitted was analyzed statistically and verified via a follow-up audit by the Music Research Institute at the University of Kansas.

The award recognizes the commitment of school administrators, community leaders, teachers and parents who believe in music education and are working to ensure that it is part of a complete education for all children, according to the NAMM Foundation. Additionally, the designation identifies Solon as leading the way with learning opportunities aligned to the new federal Every Student Succeeds Act. Replacing No Child Left Behind, ESSA recommends music and the arts as important core elements of well-rounded education for all children, and highlights the vital role music plays in students' overall success in school, the NAMM Foundation noted in announcing the awards.

"We have long emphasized music and the arts as foundational components of the Solon education program," said Solon Superintendent Joseph Regano. "It is certainly fitting that in the same month our students and staff earn the state of Ohio's top report card for academic achievement, that they also receive this national recognition of superior achievement in music and the arts.

“This is what makes Solon such a special community for students and a truly exemplary environment for learning,” Mr. Regano continued. “We believe that the three A’s – academics, arts and athletics/activities – share emphasis in the district. The high achievement of our students in all of these areas is what draws families who share these values and commitment to excellence to our community.”

CHINESE

The number of students enrolling in Chinese world language classes is dropping. For the 2016-17 school year, only 14 students are currently enrolled in the first half of Chinese 1 in 7th grade.

This enrollment decline in Chinese continues to the high school as well. As students progress through continued Chinese studies, significant attrition in the upper-level courses occurs. By the time students reach Chinese 4 and AP Chinese as juniors and seniors, only about 25 percent of those students who began studying Chinese in 7th grade are still pursuing the language.

With these enrollment numbers, continuing Chinese as an elective world language choice beyond the 2016-17 school year is in question.

ARTHUR ROAD PRESCHOOL - STEP UP TO QUALITY

Step Up to Quality (SUTQ) is a five–star quality rating and improvement system administered by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS). SUTQ recognizes and promotes learning and development programs that meet quality program standards that exceed licensing health and safety regulations. The program standards are based on national research identifying standards which lead to improved outcomes for children. SUTQ’s 5 star rating system ranks preschool programs based on adherence to the following standards:

1. **Learning and Development:** use of a research based curriculum and related assessment processes for enrolled students.
2. **Staff Qualifications and Professional Development:** ensuring required credentials of all staff and monitoring on-going Ohio Approved professional development of all staff including administrator, teachers, and teaching assistants.
3. **Administration and Leadership Practices:** continuous oversight of program and annual continuous improvement planning.
4. **Family and Community Partnerships:** monitoring and rating how well the program engages families and community partners while students are in the program and during transition periods (entering and exiting preschool program).
5. An integral component of SUTQ requires assignment of a “preschool administrator” who will be responsible for the on-site coordination of the SUTQ standards.

SOLON SCHOOLS RECEIVE AUDITOR OF STATE AWARD

Ohio Auditor Dave Yost has awarded Solon Treasurer Tim Pickana and the Solon Schools with the Auditor of State Award. Mr. Pickana and the district received the award for its excellent financial record-keeping as well as receiving a clean audit report.

The Auditor of State Award is presented to local governments and school districts upon completion of a clean financial audit in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. A clean audit means that the district's audit report did not contain any findings for recovery, material citations, material weaknesses, significant deficiencies, Single Audit findings or any questioned costs.

"Clean and accurate record-keeping are the foundation for good government, and taxpayers can take pride in your commitment to accountability," Yost said. "My office looks forward to continuing to work with you to ensure clean, accountable and efficient government for all Ohioans."

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Solon students captured three state championships in academic competitions over the weekend.

First, after a weather-impacted trip down to Columbus Saturday morning, the Academic Challenge team won Ohio's state National Academic Quiz Tournament championship. The team arrived late in Columbus and was forced to forfeit the first round, but stepped in competition ready and swept the next 12 straight rounds and the state title.

Within an hour of hearing the Academic Challenge results, the final results from the state Science Olympiad tournament were announced and the Solon High School and Solon Middle School team both took first place and the state championship. The team will travel to nationals in Wisconsin in May, with the SMS team looking to defend its national crown.

The Science Olympiad news comes amid additional exciting news that two Solon students – Emily Rabinovich and Sydney Bolomey, both sophomores at SHS who competed on last year's SMS national championship team – are traveling to Washington this week to be honored by President Obama as part of the White House Science Fair. The students will be representing Solon, Ohio and national Science Olympiad.

Additionally, one of our SHS chess teams earned a third place finish this month at the 2016 National High School Chess Championships the first week of April in Atlanta. More than 469 teams from 39 states competed. Competing in the under-1900 class, Solon's Ian Golias, Daniel Guo, Jasen Lai, Neel Mehta and John Xiang earned the bronze national trophy. Next week, the team will defend its high school state championship. Team captain Joel Jaffe and the class of 2016 chess team members are back-to-back state champions and have won the state crown three of the past four years. These team members will graduate in May and complete their scholastic chess careers as arguably the best competitive chess class ever in the state of Ohio.

Congratulations to all the students, teachers, advisors and families on these remarkable accomplishments.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF 2016-17 PRINCIPAL ASSIGNMENTS

With the closing of Arthur Road, some of our administrators will be in different positions for the 2016-17 school year. Mrs. Carla Rodenbucher will move from Roxbury Elementary School to assume the principal role of the Solon Preschool, as noted above, for the 2016-17 school year. Mrs. Rodenbucher will have additional district responsibilities that will be delineated in the future.

Mrs. Mariann Moeschberger will then move to Roxbury to assume the role as principal.

After discussion with several of our principals regarding this new role, Mrs. Rodenbucher sought this position. Once that occurred, the move for Mrs. Moeschberger to Roxbury was made.