

BOARD REPORT

September 28, 2015

REGULAR MEETING

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Board approved the payment of bills totaling \$16,420.29. A Then and Now Certificate was approved for Aurora City Schools for football.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Board approved the formation of a Math Counts program at Orchard. Melissa Hughes was approved as a home instruction tutor.

Four individuals were approved as substitutes on an as needed basis for the 2015-16 school year.

Tuition reimbursements were approved for five individuals in the amount of \$2,036.40. The next board meeting will be October 12, 2015, 7 p.m. at the Board of Education.

INFORMATION ITEMS

POLICIES

As is the practice of the Solon Board of Education, the items listed below are offered to the public with explanation without action. Any action that may happen would not be before the next regularly scheduled board meeting.

1130/3113/4113 – Conflict of Interest (Revised)

These policies have been revised to include language from the recently issued Federal regulations (EDGAR). Specific language regarding financial interest in a contract, gratuities and gifts has been added.

1630.01/3430.01/4430.01 – FMLA Leave (Revised)

These policies and AGs have been revised to incorporate the U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) final regulations issued in February 2015. The new regulations provide further clarification regarding leave for pregnancy or the birth of a child. The new regulation also provides a definition of spouse that covers all persons lawfully entered into marriages provided the marriages were lawful in the location they occurred at the time they were entered into – this is known as the "place of celebration" rule.

2260.02 – Single Gender Classes and Activities (New)

In December 2014, the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) issued guidance addressing single-sex classes and activities, including extracurricular programs and field trips. These detailed regulations delineate the protocols a district must follow in offering such programs, such as:

1. Documenting objectives and justifications;
2. Requiring voluntary participation; and
3. Conducting periodic self-evaluations.

2461 – Recording of District Meetings Involving Students and/or Parents (Revised)

In order to create a consistent rule regarding parents recording meetings with school district personnel, this policy has been revised to include rules about recording 504 team meetings and other district meetings (such as parent-teacher conferences). It has been further revised to include a prohibition against covert recordings, such as by placing a recording device on a student or in a book bag.

5517.02 – Sexual Violence (New)

The Office for Civil Rights directs federal funding recipients to take very specific steps in investigating and responding to sexual violence allegations. Although OCR’s regulations appear to focus on postsecondary learning institutions, they apply to public school districts as well.

7510 – Use of District Premises (Revised)

Ohio Revised Code Sections 3313.75 through 3313.78 were amended by House Bill 290 to replace all references to “schoolhouses, facilities and school grounds” with the term “school premises.” The new term is defined to include “all indoor and outdoor structures, facilities, and land owned, rented, or leased by a school or school district.”

The following terms were included:

1. “General Public” – which refers to members of the community, and included both students (during nonschool hours) and employees of a school district (when not working in the scope of their employment);
2. “Nonschool Hours” – which refers to: a) any time prior to and after regular classroom instruction on a day that school is in session; b) any day that school is not in session, including weekends, holidays and vacation breaks;
3. “Recreational Meetings and Entertainments” – which refers to all indoor and outdoor games or physical activities, either organized or unorganized, that are undertaken for exercise, relaxation, diversion, sport or pleasure.

8420 – Emergency Situations at Schools (Revised)

With respect to “drills or rapid dismissals,” the law now requires principals to conduct these drills at least six times rather than the nine that were previously required, provided the school has smoke detectors or a sprinkler system. If, however, the school does not, the principal must conduct nine fire drills or rapid dismissals.

8452 – Automated External Defibrillators (AED) (Revised)

First, the new law explicitly states that anyone may use an AED, regardless of whether the person has received or completed training. Training is recommended but not required.

Second, the new law states that the owner of an AED must “encourage” expected users to complete AED and CPR training.

Finally, HB 247 removed the requirement that the owner of an AED consult with a physician regarding AED training, maintenance and testing.

8500 – Food Services (Revised)

This policy was revised to include language regarding meal substitution as required by Federal regulation. Language regarding operational requirements of the United States Department of Agriculture has been added and references to the District’s Conflict of Interest policies are included as required in the recently issued Federal regulations.

9211 – District Support Organizations (Revised)

The changes to this policy suggests to further clarify the role support organizations play in a District, and also expand upon the Board of Education’s expectations for how these organizations operate. The changes also state more clearly the Board of Education’s recourse should an organization not comply with the Board’s established rules, as well as state and federal law.

SOLON HIGH SCHOOL VISIT DAY FOR SOLON AND GLENWILLOW EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS NOW ATTENDING PRIVATE SCHOOLS SET FOR OCTOBER 7

Solon High School is rolling out the welcome mat on Wednesday, October 7, 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 considering enrolling at SHS as ninth graders for the 2016-17 school year.

The agenda for the October 7 program runs from 8 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. The session begins promptly at 8 a.m.

Prospective students and their parents will meet with SHS administrators and guidance counselors for an overview of the school’s academic and extracurricular offerings. Prospective students will spend two academic periods shadowing a current SHS freshman. 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.

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 Ann Trocchio, SHS guidance counselor, at (440) 349-7407.

SOLON RELEASES SECOND ANNUAL QUALITY PROFILE

Joining 60 other districts statewide, the Solon Schools released our second annual Quality Profile, a comprehensive community-oriented companion report to the State of Ohio School Report Cards. The Quality Profile details additional accountability indicators that more completely define a high-quality public education.

The Solon's Quality Profile demonstrates the depth and breadth of the excellent educational program provided in all seven schools and reflects the values and goals outlined in the district's mission and Strategic Plan. Specifically, the Quality Profile outlines results in the following categories: Academics; Arts, Athletics & Activities; Student Leadership & Engagement; Fiscal Stewardship; Parent & Community Involvement; and Student Services.

"Our most recent Ohio School Report Card ranks Solon #3 in the state and #1 in Northeast Ohio for student achievement and we are gratified to see the achievement of our students at such high levels," said Solon Superintendent Joseph Regano. "However, providing the best possible educational program extends beyond the accountability measures graded by the state. Families move to our community for the wide range of opportunities their children are able to pursue through the Solon Schools."

The district is committed to ensuring academic success as well as inspiring students to follow their passions and achieve personal excellence outside the classroom and in the community.

"Our mission calls for all stakeholders in the Solon Schools to ensure students attain the knowledge and skills to succeed and become contributing, ethical citizens in a global society," Mr. Regano explained. "The Quality Profile illustrates how our students are meeting that bar with the help and encouragement of our staff, parents and the community."

Released by districts throughout Ohio, the Quality Profiles are supported by the Alliance for High Quality Education, an education consortium that works to improve educational opportunities for students and to advocate for member districts on educational policy and school funding in Columbus.

ADDITIONAL 2016 NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLAR PROGRAM HONORS

Solon High School has more good news to share regarding honors for seniors from the National Merit Scholar Program. Twenty-four members of the class of 2016 have now also been recognized for their academic promise and earned National Merit Commended Scholar status. Commended students scored in the top 5 percent of the more than 1.5 million students nationwide who took the PSAT last spring.

The 2016 SHS Commended Scholars are Jacob Adelstein, Shreyans Bafna, Tara Bhargava, Matthew Carlisle, Alark Choudhary, Aaron Dobres, Kevin Du, Joshua Eston, Jarrett Freeman, Aaron Friedman, Akshay Jain, Erika Kahn, Josephine MacDougall, Maya Martinko, Melanie Myeroff, Jason Ong, Christina Poduska, Jerry Ren, Andrew Rosen, Celia Schwartz, Amala Uli, Ryan Xie, Jeffrey Yang and Elizabeth Ye.

With these additional honors, a total of 47 SHS seniors have been recognized in the National Merit Scholar program for 2016. This is again among the highest of any high school in Ohio, regardless of private or public school status.