

# BOARD REPORT

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September 14, 2015

## REGULAR MEETING

### TREASURER'S REPORT

The Board approved the payment of bills totaling \$738,675.72. A Then and Now Certificate was approved for property maintenance from Ready Field Solutions, Inc.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Board approved the following out-of-state trips:

- Model United Nations students to travel to Washington, D.C. from March 31 through April 3, 2016, for the Washington Area Model United Nations Conference.
- Science Olympiad Team to travel to Massachusetts for the MIT Invitational from January 21 through 24, 2016.

A rate of \$13.33 an hour for substitute hall monitors and instructional aides was approved. 29 individuals were approved as substitutes on an as needed basis for the 2015-16 school year.

Maura Grillo, Rachel Vidd, Lindsey Hegenauer, Kelly Fishman and Sue Bergen were approved as home instruction tutors for the 2015-16 school year. The Board approved supplemental contracts to the following individuals:

| <u>Name</u>     | <u>Activity</u>                                | <u>Amount</u>     |
|-----------------|--|-------------------|
| Louise Maniglia | Saturday School – SMS                          | \$ 25.00 per hour |
| Mark Mauldin    | Jazz Band – SMS                                | 2,155.40          |
| Mark Mauldin    | Music in Motion Musical Arrangements (reduced) | 0.00              |
| Christine Woods | SHS Mentor Teacher – Gelbart                   | 460.73            |

The following non-district pupil activity permit contracts were approved:

| <u>Name</u>     | <u>Activity</u>                            | <u>Amount</u>  |
|-----------------|--|----------------|
| David Burke     | Fall Athletic Manager                      | \$2,155.70     |
| Marilyn Koschik | Music Support Activity<br>Period – Orchard | 20.00 per hour |
| Deepa Nair      | Science Olympiad<br>Assistant Coach – SMS  | 3,233.55       |

The Board approved the resignations of Ian Spector, custodian at Solon High School, effective September 10, 2015, and Wayne Doberstyn, bus driver for Solon City Schools, effective January 4, 2016. The retirement of Barbara Schork, parking lot attendant at Solon High School, effective November 1, 2015, was approved.

Tuition reimbursements were approved for 31 individuals in the amount of \$22,790.82. The next board meeting will be September 28, 2015, 7 p.m. at the Board of Education.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **DISTRICT DEBT REFINANCING**

If you recall, at our July 13 BOE meeting a resolution was passed allowing for us to explore a possible debt refinancing of our 2005 Series bonds in order to achieve a savings for our taxpayers. Initially, based on market condition we estimated a potential savings of around \$200,000.

We are pleased to announce the refinance process is now officially complete. The debt refinance resulted in a total savings of \$282,044 (a 10% savings on a present value basis). The greater savings was due to a slightly more favorable market, as well as the overall attractiveness of Solon City Schools' credit rating and stability.

Please understand this amount is realized over an 11-year period and will not be "noticed" by our taxpayers.

### **FEDERAL GRANT ROBUST PROGRAMS – INADEQUATE FUNDING**

Our District receives some federal grant financial assistance based on our overall curriculum and student need. This federal funding sometimes can vary greatly from year to year. Our 2015-16 school year federal grant funding has been reduced to the point our General Fund will need to pick up the additional expenses. If the General Fund did not pick up the additional expenses, our programs associated with these federal grants would be significantly harmed and not nearly as robust as they are today.

The total amount of reduced funding is approximately \$150,000 related to the grants and positions below. Should our federal grant funding increase in the future, the additional funds will be utilized to once again fund these positions.

IDEA Part B: We have 13 employees who are working each day on approx. 85% IDEA Part B, but we only have enough funding in 516 to pay for 62% salaries and 47% benefits

Title III LEP: We have one employee who is working each day on approx. 73% LEP, but we only have enough funding in 551 LEP to pay for 55% salaries and 0% benefits

Title III Immigrant Ed: We have one employee who is working each day on approx. 13% Immigrant Ed, but we only have enough funding in 551 LEP to pay for 0% salaries and 0% benefits

Title I: We have three employees who are working each day on approx. 100% Title I, but we only have enough funding in 572 to pay for 100% salaries and 50% benefits

Title I: We have an additional four employees who are working each day on approx. 50% Title I, but we only have enough funding in 572 to pay for 0% salaries and 0% benefits

Early Childhood: We have an one employee who is working each day on approx. 93% Early Childhood, but we only have enough funding in 587 to pay for 29% salaries and 0% benefits

Title II-A: We have an one employee who is working each day on approx. 93% Title II-A, but we only have enough funding in 590 to pay for 41% salaries and 0% benefits

### 23 SOLON HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS NAMED NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLAR SEMI-FINALISTS

Solon High School is celebrating the accomplishments of 23 members of this year's senior class who have been named as semi-finalists in the 2016 National Merit Scholarship Competition.

"This senior class is already distinguishing itself in many ways," said Solon High School Principal Erin Short. "To have 23 seniors recognized as National Merit Scholarship semi-finalists is another mark of significant achievement for the class of 2016. The consistently high number of Solon students earning recognition by National Merit Scholar programs each year underscores the hard work of students and staff and depth of achievement at Solon High School and throughout the entire district."

The 23 Solon students earning National Merit semi-finalist status are Matthew Besman, Austin Bolomey, Rohin Devanathan, Lucy Dong, Laura Duffy, Ian Erkkila, Alexander Fan, Tianhui Fan, Daniel Guo, Rebecca Ilic, Amogh Iyer, Lawrence Liu, Achuth Nair, Alicia Nimrick, Rahul Rambhatla, Wilbert Ren, Marcie Rotblatt, Benjamin Stoler, Lauren Tucker, Emily Wang, Lois Wu, John Xiang and Chuyao Xu.

These students earned scores on the PSAT taken in their junior year that was 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.

The 23 semi-finalists will continue in the competition to become National Merit Scholar finalists by fulfilling several additional requirements in the coming months. 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.

In the next few weeks, Solon High School will also be able to announce the names of an additional more than 20 students who earned commended status in the 2016 National Merit Scholarship program.