

BOARD REPORT

November 6, 2017

REGULAR MEETING

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Board approved the payment of bills totaling \$64,589.85.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Board approved Jamie Blank, Ed Bubonics, Crystal Cadorini, Valerie Parillo and Deb Zito as home instruction tutors for the 2017-18 school year. Non-district pupil activity permit contracts were approved to the following individuals:

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Activity</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Joseph Dyser | Boys' Tennis – Head Varsity Coach | \$3,977.28 |
| Wanye Nie | SHS Volunteer Math Tutor | \$ 0.00 |

The Board approved the following individual as a substitute on an as needed basis for the 2017-18 school year:

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Michelle Blaugrund | General Education |
|--------------------|-------------------|

The Board approved a tuition reimbursement to one individual in the amount of \$125. The next board meeting will be December 11 at 6 p.m.

INFORMATION ITEMS

POLICIES

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

- 2271 – College Credit Plus Program (Revised)

The College Credit Plus documents to reflect recent changes from HB 49, which created a new eligibility requirement – students must be remediation-free on one of the tests established by the college presidents, or meet alternative criteria. Also, in addition to meeting the college's standard for admission and course placement, the student must meet standards for enrollment. The student must meet these standards for the college and the relevant academic program. Finally, the documents were updated to provide that when there is a dispute regarding the granting of credit, the school's decision is now appealed to the Department of Education instead of the State Board, and when a student submits a letter of

intent after the cut-off date and the Principal refuses to submit written consent, the student may appeal to the Superintendent instead of State Board for a final decision.

- 2464 – Gifted Education and Identification (Revised)

This revised policy was released in June 2017 as a special update. It is included in this regular update to allow for discussion with the NEOLA associate at the time of the regular update consultation, if desired.

- 4120.05 – Employment of Substitute Educational Aides (New)

HB 49 included a modification specifically to authorize a Board of Education to hire substitute instructional aides pending ODE's approval of their educational aide permit. Under the revised law, a board may hire a substitute aide to fill a position that is created by an employee absence or because of a temporary need for up to sixty (6) days as long as the superintendent believes the aide qualifies for a permit, and the aide has both submitted a completed application to ODE for a regular permit and has passed a background check. The aide must immediately cease work if the permit application is denied or sixty (60) calendar days have passed following the date the employee first began work.

- 5156 – Personal Communication Devices (Revised)

- 5136.01 – Electronic Equipment (Revised)

These two policies have been revised as a part of the overall technology update and to include options for prohibiting the use of "listen in" devices that were a topic of a legal alert released January 2017.

- 5330 – Use of Medications (Revised)

A legislative change in HB 49 allows students to possess and self-apply sunscreen. Policy 5330 has been updated to include the change. Districts need not regulate nonprescription sunscreen as a medication, and may not prevent students from possessing and applying it at school or school-sponsored events.

- 5530 – Drug Prevention (Revised)

HS 49 contains a prohibition on students possessing or using betel nut at school, on school property, and at any school-sponsored event. Betel nut (the fruit of the areca palm, betel leaf, and spices and sweeteners) is a stimulant that is used like chewing tobacco and produces a strong caffeine-like effect. It is sold as a separate chewing tobacco. Betel nut is not classified as a controlled substance or illegal drug, and is akin to a tobacco product.

- 6233 – Amenities for Participants at Meeting and/or Other Occasions (Revised)

It is neither possible nor practical for NEOLA to attempt to detail specific expenditures that apply only to your district in the "public purpose" policies. The intent of the changes proposed is to satisfy the Auditor of State's increased interest in verifying that the Board of Education has specifically authorized expenditures for a public purpose. In order to insulate your district from possible non-compliance, additional work must be done.

- 6680 – Recognition (Revised)
- 7300 – Disposition of Real Property/Personal Property (Revised)
- 8600.04 – Bus Driver Certification (Revised)

HB 388 stated a school district may not permit a person to operate a school bus if they had had an OVI conviction or guilty plea to an OVI or similar offense in the past ten years. Policy 8600.04 has been updated to include the extension of the look back period. Additional changes to the policy updated the annual physical examination required and certification and physical requirements for bus drivers.

- 9141 – Business Advisory Council (Revised)

Districts are required to establish a Business Advisory Council and follow the meeting and reporting requirements specified by the Ohio Department of Education.

- 7540.03 – Technology Update – Phase III (Revised)

Student Technology Acceptable Use and Safety

- 7540.04 – Technology Update – Phase III (Revised)

Staff Technology Acceptable Use and Safety

- 7540.05 – Technology Update – Phase III (Revised)

District-Issued Staff Email Account

- 7540.06 – Technology Update – Phase III (Revised)

District-Issued Student Email Account

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The Board took action at the October 23 board meeting directing Mr. Pickana and Mr. Regano to formulate a plan to ensure district solvency over the next five years. Our five-year projections reflect a net loss each year for the next five years. This loss is primarily based on the fact the district has not had a regular operating levy on the ballot since May 2010 (this does not take in account the .80 Safety and Security levy passed in November 2013, when at the same time .80 mills were reduced for the taxpayers out of the bond retirement fund).

Our annual tangible personal property tax (TPP) revenues in 2010 were \$10,700,000. TPP revenues in 2018 will be approximately \$4,800,000. The district has worked diligently to absorb the \$5,900,000 annual loss (approximately 5 mills) without passing this loss on to the taxpayers via an additional levy. The district has always, and will continue to, monitor classroom sizes and staffing levels to make certain the district is as efficient as possible. The district has changed insurance plans and increased employee contributions over the years to save money. Arthur Road was closed as a K-4 building in an effort to maximize efficiency. All staff negotiations

have taken place and the FY18 year is the first of four years of labor cost certainty. Concessions were made over the years by all staff to help offset the TPP loss.

However, simply put, it is time for the district to increase its revenues based on its continuing operating needs. There remains an issue of approximately 4 mills in TPP funds that will continue to be reduced. The district will continue to work with parties in Columbus and attempt to hold further future reductions off. Regardless, of future TPP dollars being eliminated, the district must take into serious consideration increasing revenues via a new, continuing operating levy.

HIGH SCHOOL FRESHMAN MENTORING PROGRAM PROMOTES DIALOGUE AND INCLUSION

Each month, Solon High School ninth grade students engage in interactive sessions as part of the Freshman Mentoring Program. Through FMP, older SHS students serve as year-long mentors to ninth graders, helping them acclimate to the high school environment. Within the context of carefully constructed sessions, the mentors share their own experience at Solon High School and provide tips and advice to help freshman students achieve success academically, socially and emotionally.

In addition, SHS students are working with facilitators from the Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio as part of the school's ongoing FMP discussions about diversity and creating an inclusive environment for all students at Solon High School.

Last week, the students addressed diversity, inclusion and cultural identity. The students participated in discussions and activities that encouraged them to think about their own cultural identity and how to have open and respectful dialogue with their peers. The activities and discussion help students better relate to their peers and gain clearer understanding of the experiences of other SHS students.

This is just one program districtwide that helps students develop and maintain healthy and respectful friendships and relationships. Other district programs range from ongoing mentoring programs to assemblies and engaging collaborative activities. The education, guidance and support students receive through these programs are important to their overall development and well-being, as well as their success in school.

Student education in this area is a partnership with parents as reinforcement of these ideas and ongoing discussion at home is critical.

One of the fundamental beliefs of the Solon Schools – reinforced through the district's strategic planning process – is that diversity enriches our community. The district mission, too, underscores this important core philosophy.