

# BOARD REPORT

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August 14, 2017

## REGULAR MEETING

### TREASURER'S REPORT

The Board approved the payment of bills totaling \$978,024.46. The Board approved the original permanent appropriation of funds for the Solon City School District to provide for current operating expenses and other expenditures during fiscal year ending June 30, 2018.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Board approved the revision of the following policy: 2464 – Gifted Education and Identification:

Changes included in the revised operating standards include:

- A. Flexibility for districts to align gifted services with district policies regarding class size and instructional time;
- B. Increased communication between districts and families of students who are gifted to ensure transparency;
- C. Additional assurances for equity of access to identification of students through whole-grade screenings in two grade bands;
- D. Increased protections for access to services for identified students from underrepresented populations (minority, economically disadvantaged, students with disabilities and English learners);
- E. Increased collaboration between district gifted education staff and general education staff; and
- F. Strengthened standards for professional development of general educators providing gifted services.

A Revenue Sharing Agreement was approved with the city of Glenwillow and GED Integrated Solutions, Inc. for 0%. Although there is no revenue-sharing between the village and the schools, the schools will benefit by receiving 51% of the property taxes projected to be \$125,000 annually.

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The following out-of-state trips were approved:

- The Ski and Snowboard Club to travel to Holiday Valley Ski Resort in Ellicottville, New York, on Saturday, February 10, 2018.

- The Solon High School Model United Nations to travel to Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois from April 12 to 15, 2018.

The Board approved the parent-student handbooks and the Code of Conduct for the 2017-18 school year.

1. **Addition of Community Service Consequence for Attendance Violations** – following the lead of the state of Ohio, we have adjusted our attendance rules and will no longer be suspending students for excessive tardies or absences. Instead, we have added a Community Service requirement through which students will work directly with our custodial and maintenance staffs after school in lieu of being suspended from school.
2. **Community Service Alternative** – additionally, we have chosen to use community service as an alternative to suspensions for non-violent offenses to attempt to reduce our out-of-school suspensions and keep students in school. In all, we have replaced OSS with Community Service in 7 specific areas of our Code of Conduct – classroom disruption, horseplay, failure to comply with directives, profane language, attendance, loitering and forgery. [Please note: for any violation that poses a danger or involves violence, we have made no change and we will continue to remove students under OSS.]
3. **Drug/Alcohol Violations** – in an attempt to deter drug/alcohol offenses, we have added community service to the first offense violation as well as an educational component. Recently we have had little success with our students who complete a full drug assessment being assigned any educational classes/meetings by the independent medical facility completing the evaluation. Therefore, the high school is spearheading a joint effort with Orange, Beachwood, Chagrin Falls and Mayfield high schools to partner with a free Cuyahoga County resource, including Recovery Resources, which will allow us to collectively add a mandatory educational component for first time offenders if students want their suspension to be reduced.
4. **Addition of Specific Consequence Levels** – in our ongoing efforts to strive for consistency and fairness among all students when applying the Code of Conduct, we have decided to specify levels of consequences in 10 areas, including classroom disruption, abusive language, dangerous conduct, disrespect/harassment, horseplay and forgery.

The Board approved an agreement between the Solon Board of Education and Ohio Schools Council in the amount of \$2,138.44 for programs administered through the Ohio Schools Council.

The Board approved 106 individuals as substitutes on an as needed basis and 106 monitors and aides for the 2017-18 school year. The bus routes were approved for the 2017-18 school year.

A limited teaching contract was issued to the following individual for the 2017-18 school year:

Roxbury

Carly Cancasci .5 Interventionist

The Board hired the following individual as a teacher for the 2017-18 school year:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Kaley Miller	Bachelor's Step a(0) Kindergarten .5 Parkside Elementary School	\$22,096.00

The Board approved non-district pupil activity permit contracts to the following individuals:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Jovon Johnson	Football - Gr. 7 Coach - 40%	\$1,927.68
Meredith Paskert	Volleyball - Assistant Coach	4,177.28
Matthew Wieczorek	Boys Varsity Cross Country Coach	3,977.28

Supplemental contracts were approved to the following individuals:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Susan Adams	Lewis Mentor Teacher – Czaplicki	\$ 472.25
Joyce Cardinale	Sport Faculty Manager - SHS	4,958.63
Kelly Fishman	Girl Up Advisor	1,325.76
Leann Fonner	Sport Faculty Manager - SHS	4,722.50
Valerie Gottfried-Smith	Gay-Straight Alliance	1,416.75
Julia Howell	Parkside Mentor Teacher – Miller	708.38
Trish Kruse	Girls Tennis - Middle School Coach	3,541.88
Robin Majors	Staff Development - Orchard - 2016/17	708.38
Shawn Surdy	Sport Faculty Manager - SMS	8,851.15

The Board approved tuition reimbursements to 23 individuals in the amount of \$10,385.  
The next board meeting will be September 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.

- 1544 – Employment of Retired Administrators
- 3144 – Employment of Retired Teachers
- 4144 – Employment of Retired Classified Employees

## INVESTMENT COMMUNITY AFFIRMS THE DISTRICT'S EDUCATIONAL AND FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Citing the Solon Schools' "proactive and prudent management," the two major financial ratings agencies, Fitch Ratings and Moody's Investor Services, both have affirmed the district's current ratings and credit worthiness. Fitch Ratings affirmed Solon's AA+ rating and stable outlook. Moody's Investor Services affirmed the district's Aa1 rating, noting it is higher than the median rating for U.S. school districts.

"This is great news from the investment community," said Solon Schools' Treasurer Tim Pickana. "These ratings affirmations by Fitch and Moody's are important indications that the financial and educational operations of the Solon Schools are solid. The decisions demonstrate that Fitch and Moody's believe the Solon Schools are very efficient."

The two ratings services went through every aspect of the district's finances and the five-year forecast to determine the ratings updates. The fact that the district maintained both ratings underscores that the Solon Schools operate in a sound financial manner and that expenditures are within the district's means.

In addition to the district's financial ledgers, other areas considered by Fitch and Moody's in affirming the credit ratings included the educational quality provided to students, stabilization in enrollment figures and ongoing community support for the Solon Schools.

"The district's financial profile is characterized by exceptionally strong operating performance, underpinned by financially conservative management, strong voter support and substantial reserves," according to Fitch. "The district has strong capacity to withstand an economic downturn."

"This action by Fitch and Moody's is a significant endorsement of the sound educational and financial operations of our district, as well as the stability of our community," added Solon Superintendent Joseph Regano.

## SOLON RANKS #1 IN THE NATION IN THE 2018 BEST K-12 SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN AMERICA NICHE RATINGS

The Solon Schools were named the #1 district in the United States in a new nationwide rating of more than 100,000 public school districts and schools released by Niche.com, a community and education comparison resource. All six K-12 Solon schools received A+ ratings and each ranked in the top 5 in Ohio and the top 100 nationally.

In addition to the #1 district ranking nationwide, Solon also earned the #1 rating for Best Place to Teach in Ohio and the #2 ranking nationwide for the District with the Best Teachers in America for 2018.

The 2018 Best Schools and Best School District in America rankings are based on a rigorous analysis of many data points from the U.S. Department of Education and other sources, which include academics; state assessment and ACT/SAT scores; student-teacher ratio; the quality of colleges students consider; culture and diversity; teachers; resources and facilities; health and safety; clubs, activities and sports; as well as parent and student surveys.