

# Board Business



## BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Julie Wagner Feasel,**  
President  
(740) 657-4091

**Teri Meider,**  
Vice President  
(740) 657-4094

**Scott Galloway,**  
(740) 657-4092

**Dimon McFerson,**  
(740) 657-4090

**Jennifer Smith,**  
(740) 657-4093

*all numbers listed are  
voicemail*

*The Olentangy Local Schools Board of Education met during a regular meeting on November 23, 2009. The following information highlights some of the major items discussed and decided.*

### Board President's Report

Olentangy Board of Education President Julie Wagner Feasel updated the community on some of the state funding concerns and the district's cost savings measures that have been enacted during the 2009-10 school year. Some of the cost savings items include:

- restructuring the middle and high school drug testing program to eliminate the announced pre-season drug screening;
- reducing substitute pay for all classified categories except substitute bus drivers;
- restructuring the kindergarten schedule from half-days on Fridays to all-day every other Friday;
- postponing the purchase of new social studies books at the elementary level;
- reducing custodial overtime;
- restructuring professional development;
- eliminating four additional bus routes that had been included in the budget despite gaining more than 1,000 new students;
- eliminating permanent substitutes in all of the elementary schools;
- contracting with Ohio Health for athletic trainer services;
- restructuring the elementary strings program for the 2010-11 school year;
- imposing a classified "hiring freeze;" and,
- adjusting student teacher ratios for new student growth.

Feasel also updated the community on some recent legislative and lobbying efforts related to all-day kindergarten and new initiatives coming out of the Ohio House and Senate related to childhood obesity. Feasel stated that she supports the ideas behind many of these proposals, but does not want additional unfunded mandates forced upon an already tight school budget. Feasel intends to contact Ohio Senator Bill Harris regarding these latest proposals.

### Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Wade Lucas, Ed.D., updated the board on several items including a meeting he had with State Superintendent Deborah Delisle on November 13 related to the all-day kindergarten mandate from House Bill (HB)1 that was approved this summer. HB 1 requires that all Ohio school districts offer all-day every-day kindergarten beginning with the 2010-11 school year. However the Ohio Department of Education is charged with the implementation of this initiative and will be offering a waiver for high performing district's that may need more time to implement this type of program. Lucas again stressed that the district is supportive of an all-day kindergarten program, but needs time to build additional schools and develop an appropriate curriculum and staffing plan to successfully implement this program. Lucas also stated that after his meeting with Delisle he feels confident that Olentangy will qualify for at least a one-year waiver from the state so long as the district has a plan to accomplish the program goals in the near future.

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## Superintendent's Report - *continued*

Lucas also provided further information related to the recent bomb threats at Olentangy Orange Middle School (OOMS) and the adjustments to the elementary strings program. OOMS students experienced disruptions to their school day on November 9 and twice on November 18 due to bomb threats. Multiple searches of the school revealed no threat, but the district continues to work with the Delaware County Sheriff's Office to investigate all three incidents. The school has also enhanced several security plans and efforts to discourage this type of behavior from happening again.

The elementary strings program will move from part of the school day to after-school hours beginning with the 2010-11 school year. This change is being done to save more than \$842,600 in salary and benefit costs by not hiring six music positions that were suppose to be hired over the next four years. A presentation and frequently asked questions information related to the program change is available online at <http://www.olentangy.k12.oh.us/district/learning/index.html>.

Lucas' full report is available on the Superintendent's Blog at <http://olentangyschools.net/blog/superintendent/>.

## Treasurer's Report

Olentangy Treasurer Becky Jenkins discussed her process for updating the five-year financial forecast now that the board has approved new enrollment projections and the 10-year master facilities plan at their last meeting. Jenkins said that Executive Director of Human Resources Gale Marsh has used that information to develop an updated staffing model that she is now placing into the forecast. She will then discuss that forecast with Olentangy administrators and ask for input from the Finance and Audit Committee. Jenkins hopes to have an updated forecast to present to the board for a first reading in January 2010.

Jenkins also informed the board that for the eighth consecutive year, her department earned the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The GFOA Certificate of Excellence is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by the district in its fiscal management practices.

## Discussion Items

### Presentations

- **Ohio Association of School Business Officials (OASBO) presentation of 2009 Outstanding School Business Official Awards**

Dave Varda, executive director of OASBO, presented Pam Riley, food services supervisor, and Becky Jenkins, treasurer, with 2009 Outstanding School Business Official Awards for 2009. The OASBO awards were created 24 years ago to recognize the accomplishments of outstanding public school business officials. Award nominees are judged on three criteria: service to school system, service to the profession and service to the community. Jenkins started her career with Olentangy as assistant treasurer in 2004 and became treasurer in 2006. Riley became the director of Olentangy's Food Service Department in 1997 after several years of experience in food service for the healthcare industry, business and schools.

- **Olentangy Hyatts Middle School (OHMS) Student Council**

Three officers from the OHMS student council shared their experiences of hosting the Ohio Association of Student Councils (OASC) Leadership Workshop on November 7. The students discussed the general purpose of the conference and how hosting this event increased their leadership skills. They also discussed other council activities such as a blood drive on December 1 from 2:30 to 8:30 p.m.

## Action Items

- **Specific Human Resource Items – Classified Staff**

Olentangy Shanahan Middle School (OSMS) custodian Sean Hamel resigned, effective November 20, 2009. Hamel's position will not be replaced as part of the district's "classified hiring freeze" efforts to continue to provide high quality service while also reducing costs wherever possible.

- **Approve establishment of the Liberty United Club for Kids (LUCK) at Olentangy Liberty High School (OLHS)**

The board approved the establishment of a new club for students at OLHS. The Liberty United Club or Kids (LUCK) group provides students with and without disabilities the chance to experience recreation together. The students will get together once a month for social outings such as athletic events, movies and school dances. The idea is to encourage acceptance of, communication with and understanding of students of all ability levels.