

Board Business



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The Olentangy Local Schools Board of Education met during a regular meeting on February 23, 2010. The following information highlights some of the major items discussed and decided.

Board President's Report

Julie Wagner Feasel highlighted an article related to the challenges of the school funding system that was in the Sunday, February 21 edition of *The Columbus Dispatch*. Feasel discussed how it related to some of the same challenges that Olentangy Local Schools is currently facing. She also highlighted the Delaware Area Career Center (DACC). She is Olentangy's representative on their board and was pleased with all of the high-end programs the school offers.

Superintendent's Report

In his presentation to the board, Olentangy Superintendent Wade Lucas, Ed.D. highlighted four items on the agenda, four good things that recently occurred in the district, two current and three upcoming events. The good things Lucas highlighted are:

- an Olentangy Orange High School (OOHS) senior is a candidate in the 2010 Presidential Scholars Program;
- all six high school students who had qualified as Semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship program are now Finalists;
- the Olentangy High School (OHS) football team earned honors for academic excellence from the Ohio High School Football Coaches Association, only 20 of the 715 eligible teams in the state earned this award; and,
- Olentangy High School (OHS) Girls' Basketball Coach Jeff Riley is the District 11 Assistant Coach of the Year and is now nominated for the state level award.

The first current event that Lucas highlighted was a bomb threat at Olentangy Orange Middle School (OOMS) that placed the school into a level two lockdown for approximately 40 minutes on February 19. Due to increased security efforts in the school, the district was quickly able to identify the person responsible for the threat. The second current event was the announcement that the district, in cooperation with the Delaware County Sheriff's Office, conducted random canine walkthroughs of the district's three high schools that morning. During the canine searches, high school students remained in their classes for approximately 45 minutes while teams reviewed the school locker areas and student parking lots. A few minor infractions were found, but no illegal substances. Those infractions are being handled through the district's normal discipline procedures.

Finally, Lucas discussed three upcoming events:

- a decision regarding the OOMS overcrowding situation is expected in March;
- the announcement of the Executive Director of Secondary Learning position is also expected in March; and,
- the initial interviews for the Olentangy Berkshire Middle School (OBMS) principal position will begin next week.

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

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Action Items

Board Action Items

- **Approve Treasurer's Contract**

The board approved a four-year employment contract with Rebecca Jenkins as the treasurer. The contract begins August 1, 2010 and ends July 31, 2014 at an annual rate of \$116,787. Jenkins shall be evaluated each year based upon performance goals set by the board and the board may increase her salary once each year depending upon the board's evaluation of her performance in relation to those goals. The contract includes 260 work days and 25 vacation days. Jenkins' previous educational stipend was moved to the annual salary side of her contract. However, just like the rest of the administrative team, Jenkins will not receive an increase in her compensation for the 2010-11 school year.

Treasurer's Action Items

- **Approve resolution to sell bonds**

The board approved a resolution to sell new money bonds in the amount of \$17,920,000. This money will be used for the construction of elementary schools 15 and 16. Elementary 15 will use approximately \$11.6 million and the remaining \$6.3 million will be used towards the total price for Elementary 16. While the money for both schools will not be immediately needed, the district has determined that it is better to sell the bonds at one time in order to avoid paying issue costs twice. In addition, the market is currently very favorable for good interest rates for the district.

- **Approve resolution for employee severance package**

The board also approved an employee severance package agreement with Educators Preferred Corporation (EPC). The agreement authorizes EPC to offer a separation package to more than 500 certified, classified and food service employees. If enough employees choose to take part in the agreement, then the district could realize a cost savings by replacing those employees with less experienced employees that would be lower on the pay scale. EPC will be presenting this package to all eligible employees in the coming weeks. If a minimal threshold of employees participating in this opportunity is not met, then the district will not offer the program at all. Further details related to this initiative are expected in the coming months.

Superintendent's Action Items

- **Approve contract for the purchase and implementation of a districtwide time clock system**

The board approved a \$94,975 contract with Timeware Inc. for the purchase and implementation of a districtwide time clock system. The new system will increase payroll efficiency and accuracy by replacing the current paper timecard operation. Only classified employees that currently fill out a paper timecard will use the new system, which has the ability to identify employees by scanning several different points on their fingers.

- **Approve school colors for Olentangy Berkshire Middle School**

The board approved the two official colors for Olentangy Berkshire Middle School (OBMS), which is scheduled to open during the 2011-12 school year. The district solicited input from the community and received more than 137 submissions with 15 unique options that met the district's requirements. The colors are Olentangy Blue (PMS 287) and black. The blue is the same as all of Olentangy's other schools to signify that they are all part of one singular school district. The black was selected because the OBMS mascot is a Sentinel and as one resident stated, "... given its military connections, I think blue and black would be great colors for the school. It gives strength and toughness that go along with the name."

- **Approve security and video surveillance upgrades**

The board approved a \$61,920 contract with Acree Dailey to provide security and video surveillance upgrades at 15 of the district's schools. Some of the security upgrades include enhancements to the door entry systems.

- **Approve contracts for commercial grade appliances**

The board approved two contracts for a total of \$26,835.74 with C&T Design and Equipment Co., Inc. and Louis R. Polster Co., to purchase commercial grade microwaves, coffee pots and freezers. The commercial grade appliances are needed in order to meet certain fire code regulations. The new appliances will be used in all schools in areas such as employee workrooms. The old appliances will be sold in the future at a school auction to help recoup some of this cost.