

# THE BELL RINGER

## GAVEL-TO-GAVEL MEETING UPDATES

### SNAPSHOTS OF SUCCESS: YOUHA KIM

We're bringing back our #SnapshotsofSuccess to School Board meetings in a new format. The first virtual SOS features FHS Senior Youha Kim, who has a real talent for writing. A student of Dr. Chris Edwards, Kim has published several ethic cases with equity components to the prestigious academic journal the Prindle Post, published by DePauw University. Kim has received compensation for his work that ranks with graduate students and professors. Kim took Dr. Edwards' Ethics class last year and is also a member of the Ethics Bowl team. What began as his final project for the class and was first to be published, involved an analogy between the way in which the Koreans react to a Rising Sun Japanese flag and the way that Americans react to a Confederate flag. [Click here](#) to see Kim's #SnapshotofSuccess video. To read his writing, [click here](#).

### DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES CHANGES

Kelly Mullen has been an asset to Hamilton Southeastern Schools for nearly a decade. She has extensive knowledge of nursing services, general health and wellbeing, and has displayed exceptional dedication to students and staff at HSE. She began her nursing career in 1994.

Prior to coming to HSE in 2011 as the Nursing Supervisor, she worked in (cont.)

two other school corporations.

Kelly became the Director of Health Services in July 2019, and helped with the transition of our school nursing program to Community Health Network. As part of her role, she oversaw a team of 45 school nurses and organized numerous health-related trainings for staff.

"Kelly will be greatly missed. We have been very fortunate to have benefited from her 28 years of school nursing experience and leadership. We wish her the very best in her future endeavors," said Director of Staff and Student Services Ryan Taylor.

Kelly has been an integral part of our strategic response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

While she will be greatly missed, we are lucky that she will still be able to work with HSE in

some capacity in her new role as a Community Health Nurse with Hamilton County Health Department.

Replacing her, Amy Hanna, who has been a nurse in HSE Schools for more than a decade, and brings a wealth of institutional knowledge and experience to the position.



## **MONEY, MONEY, MONEY...**

A public hearing was held Wednesday on the 2021-22 Budget. There were no public comments. According to CFO Cecilie Nunn, the spending plan totals \$259.2 million. The new budget is slated to be adopted on October 28.

The board approved GO Bonds for 2020-21 that will be used to fund future construction and maintenance projects.

## **YMCA ADMENDMENTS**

Due to closures resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the YMCA has been unable to provide before- and after-school care in some HSE schools this fall. As a result, board members approved the YMCA's request to reduce its December 2020 payment.

## **PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE**

Superintendent Dr. Allen Bourff presented a draft of the Portrait of a Graduate to board members on Wednesday.

Bourff said the initial summary of the Portrait of a Graduate began with a series of surveys from teachers, parents and students that helped to define a learner. Bourff added, once complete, the Portrait of a Graduate will act as a beacon to guide the work happening K-12 in the development of skills that will empower students to be productive citizens of a global community. The board will review the initial draft of Portrait of a Graduate and provide feedback at an upcoming Work Session.

## **OPERATIONS PLAN REPORT**

Superintendent Dr. Allen Bourff told board members on Wednesday that COVID-related cases seem to be on the rise.

As of 5 p.m. on Wednesday, 125 students were identified as close contacts, 115 students had reported COVID- (cont.)

related symptoms and there had been 12 positive cases, for a student impact total of 252. That three-day number is in comparison to total student impact of 250 for the week of October 5-11. Bourff also mentioned an uptick in staff COVID-related cases as well. He shared with board members that Friday's football game (Royals versus Brownsburg) was cancelled due to COVID and the FOCUS Day Program at FCI was also suspended for two-days due to COVID-related cases.

While the increase in numbers is not good, said Bourff, the notification procedures being utilized at the buildings are working as designed. He reviewed the school nurses' typical process with board members if a student comes in with COVID-related symptoms.

But despite the increase in numbers, Bourff recommended grades 5-6 return to 100% in-person learning (Phase III) on Monday, November 2. He reminded the board the return date gives an extra week between Fall Break and the day grades 5-6 return full-time, which will allow for assessment of the well-being of the school community. "Right now, based on what we have experienced and what we are hearing from the intermediate principals, we are confident that we can safely move forward," said Bourff. "In addition, we feel that starting the week following Fall Break will allow us to see if there are any spikes in COVID-related cases."

Bourff also recommended the continuation of the virtual-only option through the end of the 2020-21 school year.

Both recommendations passed.