

FAIRFIELD CITY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION
WORK SESSION
FEBRUARY 5, 2026

The Board of Education of the Fairfield City School District in the County of Butler, Ohio, held a Work Session Meeting on the 5th of February, 2026 in the Catherine D. Milligan Community room at Fairfield High School.

The meeting was called to order by the President at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL – Present: Mr. Clark, Mr. Cline, Mr. McDonald & Mr. Napier
Absent: Mrs. Berding-Miller

Also present: Mr. Smith, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Hussel, Mrs. Hauer, Mrs. Aug, Mr. Perry & Mr. Clemmons

Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – John Cline

PRESENTATIONS/RESOLUTIONS

A. State of the District – Billy Smith

Mr. Smith presented the State of the District, highlighting student achievement, staff dedication, community partnerships, district initiatives, and ongoing efforts to engage and inform the community. He emphasized the strength of the district's people while acknowledging financial challenges related to state funding and the importance of transparency and community advocacy.

Board members thanked Mr. Smith for the presentation and commented on the value of celebrating district successes.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS

26-14 RESIGNATIONS/UNPAID LEAVES OF ABSENCE/EMPLOYMENT– Mr. Hussel

MOTION – Moved by Mr. Napier to approve the following:

A. Personnel – Professional

1. Resignations

- a. Michelle Hilbert, South, Assistant Principal
(effective at the end of the day May 31, 2026; for retirement purposes)
- b. Madeline McGuire, Creekside, 6th grade Math
(effective at the end of the 2025-2026 school year; for personal reasons)

2. Unpaid Leave of Absence

- a. Kathryn Beatty, East, 2nd grade
(effective March 11, 2026 through May 22, 2026; for childrearing purposes)
- b. Julie Hale, Central, 2nd grade
(effective February 18, 2026 through March 27, 2026; for childrearing purposes)

3. Employment

- a. Lydia Wheatley, District, Speech Language Pathologist, additional 20% contract
(recommended for an additional percentage to her limited contract for the 2025-2026 school year, effective January 12, 2026; This brings her to an 80% limited contract status.)

- b. Extracurriculars 2025-2026

Senior High

Jackson Alfrey, Vocal Director High School Musical
Quinn Caney, Show Choir Combo Band Director
Jeremiah Clark, Basketball, Assistant Girls 50%
Robert Jackson Basketball, Assistant Girls 50%
Jerome Nelson, Basketball, Girls, Head Coach
Jabari Thomas, Wrestling, Assistant Coach, Girls

Freshman

Jeremiah Clark, Basketball, Girls
Eunika Hisle, Basketball, Assistant Girls
Robert Jackson, Basketball, Girls
Rayona Wilkinson, Basketball, Assistant Girls

Middle – Creekside Middle and Crossroads Middle Combined

Kurt Fielden, Wrestling, Assistant Coach

Middle – Creekside Middle

Courtney Brinker, National Junior Honor Society Advisor 50%
Jennifer Brown, National Junior Honor Society Advisor 50%

Central Elementary

Megan Veldhaus, Intramurals-Volleyball

- c. Substitute Teachers 2025-2026

Sarah Mounts
Collin Murphy
Justine Peters
Mackenzie Rueve
Maria Steffee

(All recommendations are for the 2025-2026 school year at a rate of \$125 per day.)

- d. Volunteers 2025-2026 (Athletics)

Zahrya Bailey
Gabrielle Crane

FAIRFIELD CITY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION
WORK SESSION
FEBRUARY 5, 2026

(The above-noted persons are recommended for approval as volunteer coaches for the 2025-2026 school year in district athletic programs. Board approval of volunteers is a requirement of the Ohio High School Athletic Association. Recommendation is contingent upon submission of all required documents.)

(All employment is contingent upon satisfactory submission of all required documents.)

SECOND – Seconded by Mr. Cline

ROLL CALL – Ayes: Mr. Clark, Mr. Cline, Mr. McDonald & Mr. Napier

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 4-0

26-15

RESIGNATIONS/UNPAID LEAVES OF ABSENCE/EMPLOYMENT/SUPPORT
SUBSTITUTES/ATHLETIC EVENT WORKERS – Mr. Hussel

MOTION – Moved by Mr. McDonald to approve the following:

B. Personnel – Support

1. Resignations

- a. June Haynes, East, Educational Assistant
(effective the end of the day January 13, 2026; for personal reasons)
- b. Sonya Mentzer, Compass, Educational Assistant
(effective the end of the day January 9, 2026; for personal reasons)
- c. James Pierce, Transportation, Bus Driver
(effective the end of the day December 19, 2025; for personal reasons)
- d. Lisa Williams, Crossroads, Educational Assistant
(effective the end of the day December 31, 2025; for disability leave of absence)

2. Unpaid Leaves of Absence

- a. Janet Black, Freshman, Educational Assistant
(effective April 13, 2026 through April 21, 2026; for personal reasons)
- b. Michael Speights, Central, Educational Assistant
(effective .25 day January 16, 2026; for personal reasons)

3. Employment

- a. Janae Kimble, Transportation, Bus Driver
(effective January 14, 2026; for a replacement position)
- b. Dianna Moon, Crossroads, Educational Assistant
(effective January 20, 2026; for a replacement position)

FAIRFIELD CITY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION
WORK SESSION
FEBRUARY 5, 2026

- c. Christina Robbins, Senior High, Data Entry II
(effective January 12, 2026; for a replacement position)
- d. Rachel Rogers, Compass, Educational Assistant
(effective January 12, 2026; for a replacement position)
- e. Xerek Saylor, Crossroads, Educational Assistant
(effective January 29, 2026; for a replacement position)

4. Support Substitutes 2025-2026

Michelle Beyer
Savannah Caldwell
Maureen Fields
Amanda Herrmann
Rose Lamb
Sara Mendoza
Lucena Michel
Mary Whipple

(All recommendations are for the 2025-2026 school year at a rate approved by the Board, and contingent upon satisfactory submission of all required documents.)

5. Athletic Event Workers 2025-2026

Mike Brown
Wyatt Day
Rais Fataki

(All recommendations are based on the needs of the Athletic Department for the 2025-2026 school year at a rate approved by the Board, and contingent upon satisfactory submission of all required documents.)

(All employment is contingent upon satisfactory submission of all required documents.)

SECOND – Seconded by Mr. Cline

ROLL CALL – Ayes: Mr. Clark, Mr. Cline, Mr. McDonald & Mr. Napier

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 4-0

C. Items for Board Discussion

1. 2026 State Legislative Conference – Billy Smith

Mr. Smith shared the information about dates for the 2026 State Legislative Conference with the Board in case any member would like to attend.

2. FCSD OHSAA Membership – Billy Smith

Mr. Smith stated this is an annual event to pass a resolution to keep their membership current with OHSAA.

3. School Bus Safety Grant Update – Lance Perry

Mr. Perry stated that Governor DeWine launched an Ohio School Bus Safety Grant last fall. The grants will help ensure safer travel for Ohio students through safety upgrades to existing buses and the addition of advanced safety features on new buses. Mr. Perry said about two weeks ago, we were notified that we were awarded just over \$25,000.

26-16

APPROVAL OF THE MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDIES/
APPROVAL OF THE 2026-2027 OHSAA BOARD OF EDUCATION RESOLUTION

MOTION – Moved by Mr. Napier to approve the following:

D. Other Item for Board Action

1. Recommend approval of the Middle School and High School Programs of Studies.
2. Recommend approval of the 2026-2027 OHSAA Board of Education Resolution as follows:

WHEREAS, Fairfield City School District, District IRN number: 046102 of 4641 Bach Lane, Fairfield, OH 45014, Butler County, Ohio

Has satisfied all the requirements for membership in the Ohio High School Athletic Association, a voluntary unincorporated association not-for-profit; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education/Governing Board (“Board”) and its Administration desire for the schools with one or more grades at the 7-12 grade level under their jurisdiction to be voluntary members of the OHSAA;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION/GOVERNING BOARD that all schools listed on the reverse side of this card do hereby voluntarily renew membership in the OHSAA and that in doing so, the Constitution, Bylaws, General/Sport-specific Regulations and Business Rules of the OHSAA are hereby adopted by this Board as and for its own minimum requirements as it pertains to but not limited to, student-eligibility, coaching requirements, and administrative responsibility. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Board reserves the right to raise the minimum standards as it deems appropriate for the schools and students under its jurisdiction; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the schools under this Board’s jurisdiction agree to conduct their athletics programs in accordance with the Constitution, Bylaws, General/Sport-specific Regulations, Business Rules, interpretations and decisions of the OHSAA and cooperate fully and timely with the Executive Director’s office of the OHSAA in all matters related to the interscholastic athletic programs of the schools. Furthermore, the schools under this Board’s jurisdiction shall be the primary enforcers of the OHSAA Constitution, Bylaws, General/Sport-specific Regulations, Business Rules and the interpretations and rulings rendered by the Executive Director’s office. The administrative heads of these schools understand that failure to discharge the duty

FAIRFIELD CITY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION
WORK SESSION
FEBRUARY 5, 2026

of primary enforcement may result in fines, removal from tournaments, suspension from membership and/or other such penalties as prescribed in Bylaw 11.

SECOND – Seconded by Mr. McDonald

ROLL CALL – Ayes: Mr. Clark, Mr. Cline, Mr. McDonald & Mr. Napier

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 4-0

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Legislative Update – John Cline

Mr. Cline provided a legislative update and reviewed recent activity at the state level. He discussed House Bill 114, which was passed at the end of the 2025 legislative session and is scheduled to go into effect on March 20, 2026. The bill adjusts kindergarten age eligibility requirements and requires districts to admit students who are five years old on the first day of instruction. The legislation also addresses a scoring error on the 2024–2025 Ohio State science assessment. Mr. Cline further reported on House Bill 671, a newly introduced bill that would allow the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce to withhold foundation funding from school districts involved in certain legal actions against the state related to school funding. The Board indicated it would continue to monitor this legislation closely.

B. Butler Tech – Abby Berding-Miller

Nothing to report due to Mrs. Berding-Miller’s absence.

C. Student Achievement – Kevin McDonald

Mr. McDonald reported on a number of recent student accomplishments across academics, athletics, and extracurricular activities. He congratulated the Fairfield High School Academic Team for scoring a perfect 20 out of 20 during the alphabet round in competition against Princeton, noting this was a rare achievement. He also recognized the Mock Trial Team for advancing to regional competition and highlighted individual student awards earned during the competition. Additional recognitions included the middle school wrestling team winning its fourth consecutive GMC championship, achievements by the Fairfield show choirs, and the academic accomplishments of students earning perfect ACT composite scores. Mr. McDonald emphasized the importance of extracurricular and co-curricular opportunities in developing leadership, teamwork, and student engagement.

D. Parks and Recreation – Scott Clark

Mr. Clark said there isn’t much going on currently but did mention that the Fairfield Fire Department had an emergency ice rescue training at Marsh Lake recently. He also said that on February 21st at 10:00 a.m., there is a Crossword Puzzle Contest at the Community Arts Center.

E. Planning Commission – Billy Smith

Mr. Smith reported that the Planning Commission meeting scheduled for January 28, 2026, was canceled and therefore there was no update to share.

FAIRFIELD CITY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION
WORK SESSION
FEBRUARY 5, 2026

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- February 12, 2026 – Community Engagement – FCSD Finances: The Road Ahead 2.0, 6:00-8:00 PM, Fairfield Central Elementary, Cafeteria
February 16, 2026 – Presidents’ Day – No School
February 18, 2026 – Community Engagement – FCSD Finances: The Road Ahead 2.0, 6:00-8:00 PM, Fairfield North Elementary, Cafeteria
February 19, 2026 – Board Meeting (Regular Session), 6:30 PM, Fairfield Senior High School, Catherine D. Milligan Community Room

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Napier – He thanked Mr. Smith for the State of the District presentation and expressed appreciation to district staff and fellow board members for their work.

Mr. McDonald – He thanked Mr. Smith for the presentation and noted that it effectively highlighted the many positive efforts taking place throughout the District. He also expressed appreciation to Mr. Phillips for providing board members and the community with clear, factual financial information through ongoing communication efforts, noting the value of having reliable resources to reference when discussing district finances.

Mr. Cline - He thanked Mr. Smith for the presentation and commented on the breadth of accomplishments highlighted across the District. He emphasized the importance of community and school alignment, noting that the success of the District and the community are closely connected. Mr. Cline expressed appreciation for student leadership opportunities, extracurricular programs, and staff dedication, and recognized the value of continued transparency and community education related to district finances.

Mr. Clark - He expressed appreciation for the State of the District presentation and acknowledged the strong level of community involvement and engagement reflected throughout the report. He commended district staff for their leadership and collaboration and specifically recognized the effectiveness of Mr. Phillips’ financial communication efforts, noting their importance in helping the community better understand school funding and financial challenges.

26-17 EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION – Moved by Mr. Napier to recess to Executive Session at 7:25 p.m. to discuss the following:

The employment of public employees 121.22 (G) (1)

SECOND – Seconded by Mr. Cline

ROLL CALL – Ayes: Mr. Clark, Mr. Cline, Mr. McDonald & Mr. Napier

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 4-0

The Board resumed the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

26-18 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION – Moved by Mr. McDonald to adjourn the meeting.

SECOND – Seconded by Mr. Cline

FAIRFIELD CITY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION
WORK SESSION
FEBRUARY 5, 2026

ROLL CALL – Ayes: Mr. Clark, Mr. Cline, & Mr. McDonald
Nays: Mr. Napier
Motion Carried: 3-0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m. by the President, Mr. Clark.

President

Attest: _____
Treasurer