

FAIRFIELD CITY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 19, 2026

The Board of Education of the Fairfield City School District in the County of Butler, Ohio, held a Regular Meeting on the 19th of March, 2026 in the Catherine D. Milligan Community Room at Fairfield Senior High School.

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

ROLL CALL – Present: Mrs. Berding-Miller, Mr. Clark, Mr. Cline, Mr. McDonald & Mr. Napier
Absent: None

Also present: Mr. Smith, Mr. Phillips, Mrs. Hauer, Mr. Hussel, Mrs. Aug, Mr. Perry & Mr.
Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Abby Berding-Miller

PRESENTATIONS/RESOLUTIONS

A. Academy School Spotlight – Chrissy Zboril

Director Mrs. Zboril presented an overview of the Fairfield Academy, a program designed to support students who benefit from a smaller, more flexible learning environment. The Academy emphasizes individualized instruction, flexible pacing, and credit recovery, while also preparing students for life beyond high school.

- Focus on college and career readiness through partnerships with Butler Tech, Galen College of Nursing, military representatives, and other organizations.
- Student involvement in community service through the Edgeworks program, allowing students to earn graduation seals.
- Development of mentoring relationships between high school and middle school students.
- Student participation in extracurricular activities including athletics, band, and pre-apprenticeship programs.
- Innovative engagement strategies such as incentive-based events and themed activities.
- The Academy has produced 493 graduates to date and is approaching 500 total graduates.

Board members commended the program for its strong relationships, positive culture, and impact on student success.

B. Butler County Success Liaison Program – Matt Crapo

Mr. Crapo presented information on the Success Liaison Program, which connects students and families to community resources to remove non-academic barriers to learning.

- Services include support with food, clothing, housing, transportation, medical needs, and more.
- Five liaisons serve students across the district.

- During the 2024–2025 school year, 756 students (approximately 7–8% of the district) received support.
- The program is supported through community partnerships, donations, and grant funding rather than district operating funds.

Board members emphasized the importance of addressing the whole child and praised the strong collaboration with the community.

COMMUNICATION

This is the portion of the meeting where you are invited to share your thoughts with the Board. In order for the Board to fulfill its obligation to complete the planned agenda in an effective and efficient fashion, a maximum of thirty (30) minutes of public participation may be permitted at each meeting. Please know that this time has been set aside for the Board to listen to you. Your comments are valued and will be taken into careful consideration. The Board will not engage in dialogue at this time. Presentations are limited to five (5) minutes each.

1. Joel Jentelson (Resident/Taxpayer)

Mr. Jentelson expressed appreciation for district teachers and shared concerns regarding ceremonial land acknowledgment practices. He indicated that his support for a future tax levy would depend on maintaining a focus on core academic priorities.

2. Mayor's Youth Committee Students

Students Laila Smith and Mya Ramirez presented on their involvement in the Mayor's Youth Committee. They discussed opportunities to learn about local government, participate in leadership experiences, and attend the National League of Cities Conference. Mr. Smith invited the students to participate in a future discussion session with district leadership.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS

26-30 RESIGNATION/UNPAID LEAVES OF ABSENCE/EMPLOYMENT– Mr. Hussel

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

A. Personnel – Professional

1. Resignations

- a. S. Becky Emenaker, West, 1st grade
(effective August 1, 2026; for retirement purposes)
- b. Trisha Lutterbie, Senior High, Math
(effective June 1, 2026; for retirement purposes)
- c. Melissa Turner, Crossroads, Intervention Specialist
(effective at the end of the 2025-2026 school year; for personal reasons)

2. Unpaid Leaves of Absence

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- a. Catherine Hensley, Senior High, English
(effective for a .75 of a day on February 24, 2026; for personal reasons)
- b. Carrie Vossman, Crossroads, EL Teacher
(effective April 13, 2026 through May 17, 2026; for childrearing purposes)

3. Employment

- a. Extracurriculars 2025-2026

District

John P. Muldoon, Director of Theatre Arts Program

Senior High

Ciji Davis, Softball, Reserve Assistant 25%

Lance Durham, Baseball, Head Coach

Desiree Miles, Softball, Reserve Assistant 75%

John P. Muldoon, Technical Director, Stage

Adam Thomas, Track, Assistant

Freshman

Ciji Davis, Softball

West Elementary

Marla Biondo, Intramurals

- b. Substitute Teachers 2025-2026

Erika Klaber

Tyler Richardson

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

- c. Volunteers 2025-2026 (Athletic)

Josiah Parker

Daryl Wisor

(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.)

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SECOND – Seconded by Mrs. Berding-Miller

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5-0

26-31

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

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

B. Personnel – Support

1. Resignations

- a. Gina Gentry-Fletcher, District, School & Community Relations Director
(effective the end of the day June 30, 2026; for retirement purposes)
- b. Giah Chen Khoo, East, Educational Assistant
(effective the end of the day May 21, 2026; for personal reasons)

2. Unpaid Leaves of Absence

- a. Brenda Mount, Creekside, Educational Assistant
(effective March 1, 2026 through April 12, 2026; for personal reasons)
- b. Cherie Sergent, Transportation, Bus Driver
(effective March 9, 2026 through April 17, 2026; for personal reasons)
- c. Raymond Van Praag, Compass, Head Custodian
(effective .25 day March 19, 2026 through April 10, 2026; for personal reasons)

3. Employment

- a. Michelle Beyer, Transportation, Bus Driver
(effective March 9, 2026; for a replacement position)
- b. Aniyah Tivis, West, Educational Assistant
(effective March 9, 2026; for a new position)

4. Support Substitute 2025-2026

Sarah Glenn

(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.)

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

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SECOND – Seconded by Mr. McDonald

ROLL CALL – Ayes: Mrs. Berding-Miller, Mr. Clark, Mr. Cline, Mr. McDonald & Mr. Napier
Nays: None
Motion Carried: 5-0

C. Items for Board Discussion

1. Precautionary Financial Status – Jay Phillips

Mr. Phillips informed the Board of a precautionary fiscal oversight designation due to a projected negative cash balance in FY28. He explained that the district must submit a financial plan to the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce. The Board has already approved \$4.5 million in reductions, positioning the district ahead of requirements. A formal plan will be presented for approval in April.

2. Adoption of Selected Materials – Mandy Aug

Mrs. Aug presented the annual curriculum adoption recommendations. Selected materials were aligned with Ohio standards and evaluated for rigor and usability. Implementation will include teacher training and ongoing support, with a six-year adoption cycle in place.

3. Board Policies – Kim Hauer

a. JEB – Entrance Age (Mandatory Kindergarten)

This policy is related to HB 114.

b. EFD – Misbranded Foods and Cultivated-Protein Food Products

This policy is related to HB 10.

26-32 APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICIES

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

D. Other Items for Board Action

1. Recommend approval of the following Board Policies:

a. DLC and DLC-R – Expense Reimbursement

b. JEB – Entrance Age (Mandatory Kindergarten)

c. EFD – Misbranded Foods and Cultivated-Protein Food Products

SECOND – Seconded by Mrs. Berding-Miller

ROLL CALL – Ayes: Mrs. Berding-Miller, Mr. Clark, Mr. Cline, Mr. McDonald & Mr. Napier
Nays: None
Motion Carried: 5-0

TREASURER’S RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 19, 2026 AND MARCH 5, 2026/APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2026/APPROVAL OF THE FY26 AMENDED APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION/APPROVAL OF THE RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR/APPROVAL OF THE RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH THE SENIOR HIGH STUDENT ACTIVITIES LEGACY ACCOUNT AND AUTHORIZE THE TREASURER TO TRANSFER ANY REMAINING BALANCES FROM GRADUATED CLASS ACCOUNTS OF THE CLASSES OF 2016 THROUGH 2025 INTO THE LEGACY ACCOUNT AND CLOSE THOSE DORMANT ACCOUNTS/APPROVAL OF FUND-TO-FUND TRANSFERS/APPROVAL OF DONATION/APPROVAL OF DISPOSAL OF FIXED ASSETS –

Mr. Phillips

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

A. Recommend approval of the minutes of the following meetings:

February 19, 2026 – Regular Meeting
March 5, 2026 – Work Session Meeting

B. Recommend approval of the financial reports for the month of February 2026.

C. Recommend approval of the FY26 Amended Appropriations Resolution.

D. Recommend approval of the resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the budget commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor.

County Auditor’s Estimate of Tax Rate To Be Levied:

Bond Retirement Fund	1.50 mills
General Fund	53.51 mills
Permanent Improvement Fund	.50 mills
Total	55.51 mills

E. Recommend approval of the resolution to establish the Senior High Student Activities Legacy Account and authorize the Treasurer to transfer any remaining balances from the graduated class accounts of the Classes of 2016 through 2025 into the Legacy Account and close those dormant accounts.

F. Recommend the approval of the following fund-to-fund transfers:

\$300,000.00

From: 001 General Fund

To: 024 Employee Benefits Self-Insurance Fund

Purpose: To support projected employee benefit self-insurance claim expenditures

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\$117,003.29

From: 020 Public School Support Fund
To: 001 General Fund
Purpose: Transfer in accordance with allowable uses of Public School Support Fund resources

\$785,000.00

From: 035 Termination Benefits Fund
To: 001 General Fund
Purpose: Support the payment of employee termination benefits

G. Recommend approval of the following donation:

1. A donation of \$1,300.00 from The Book Bus for Fairfield North Elementary's book fair.

Total donations for 2026: \$1,800.00

H. Recommend approval of the disposal of the following fixed assets:

Tag Number	Disposal	Building
16737	Tape Recorder	Special Services
16821	Tape Recorder	Special Services
16823	Tape Recorder	Special Services
16824	Tape Recorder	Special Services
18805	Recorder	Special Services
19826	Digital Recorder	Special Services
19827	Digital Recorder	Special Services
36916	Laptop	Technology
37005	Laptop	Technology
37184	Laptop	Technology
37186	Laptop	Technology
37189	Laptop	Technology
37324	Laptop	Technology
37427	Laptop	Technology
37609	Laptop	Technology
37839	Laptop	Technology
38091	Laptop	Technology
38189	Laptop	Technology
200025	Transmitter	Special Services
200046	Receiver	Special Services
200047	Receiver	Special Services
200048	Receiver	Special Services
200049	Receiver	Special Services
210011	Transmitter/Receiver	Special Services
210012	Transmitter/Receiver	Special Services
210013	Transmitter/Receiver	Special Services
210014	Transmitter/Receiver	Special Services
S10086	Laptop	Technology

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S10110	Laptop	Technology
S10283	Laptop	Technology
S10350	Laptop	Technology
S10518	Laptop	Technology
S10534	Laptop	Technology
S10762	Laptop	Technology
S10770	Laptop	Technology
S10972	Laptop	Technology
S11067	Laptop	Technology
S11442	Laptop	Technology
S11528	Laptop	Technology
S11907	Laptop	Technology
S12090	Laptop	Technology
S12350	Laptop	Technology
S12511	Laptop	Technology
S12533	Laptop	Technology
S12884	Laptop	Technology
S13020	Laptop	Technology
S13053	Laptop	Technology
S13351	Laptop	Technology
S13453	Laptop	Technology
S13523	Laptop	Technology
S13839	Laptop	Technology
S13896	Laptop	Technology
S13958	Laptop	Technology
S14459	Laptop	Technology
S14499	Laptop	Technology
S14528	Laptop	Technology
S14731	Laptop	Technology
S14749	Laptop	Technology
S14831	Laptop	Technology
S14832	Laptop	Technology
S15024	Laptop	Technology
S15108	Laptop	Technology
S15381	Laptop	Technology
S15435	Laptop	Technology
S15511	Laptop	Technology
S15552	Laptop	Technology
S15603	Laptop	Technology
S15642	Laptop	Technology
S15678	Laptop	Technology
S15964	Laptop	Technology
S16071	Laptop	Technology
S16103	Laptop	Technology
S16220	Laptop	Technology
S16222	Laptop	Technology
S16255	Laptop	Technology
S16401	Laptop	Technology

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S16418	Laptop	Technology
S16587	Laptop	Technology
S16733	Laptop	Technology
S16979	Laptop	Technology
S17066	Laptop	Technology
S17094	Laptop	Technology
S17292	Laptop	Technology
S17312	Laptop	Technology
S17444	Laptop	Technology
S17591	Laptop	Technology
S17618	Laptop	Technology
S17628	Laptop	Technology
S17725	Laptop	Technology

SECOND – Seconded by Mr. McDonald

ROLL CALL – Ayes: Mrs. Berding-Miller, Mr. Clark, Mr. Cline, Mr. McDonald & Mr. Napier
Nays: None
Motion Carried: 5-0

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Legislative Update – John Cline

Mr. Cline reported that he is continuing to monitor several pieces of pending legislation, including House Bills 671 and 715. He also noted a bill currently under review that would mandate recess time for students. He indicated that there are no significant updates at this time but will continue tracking developments.

B. Butler Tech – Abby Berding-Miller

Mrs. Berding-Miller shared that Butler Tech recently held a ribbon cutting for its new Aviation Center, which was well attended by community members and elected officials. Plans are already underway to pursue additional funding to expand the facility. She also reported on a recent open house and a fundraising event to support student program costs. Upcoming events include a BioScience Center ribbon cutting and the annual Student Showcase on April 20.

C. Student Achievement – Kevin McDonald

Mr. McDonald recognized several student accomplishments, including Simone Blair being elected Ohio BPA State President. He also highlighted choir achievements at the OMEA Large Group Contest, successful performances at the Crystal Classic show choir event, and upcoming performances at a Cincinnati Reds game. He also recognized the district's athletic trainers during National Athletic Training Appreciation Month.

D. Parks and Recreation – Scott Clark

Mr. Clark provided an update on the Marsh Lake project, noting that development plans include expanded recreational opportunities while preserving natural elements. The project is expected to break ground in the near future with completion projected around 2030.

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E. Planning Commission – Billy Smith

Mr. Smith reported that the most recent Planning Commission meeting was canceled and therefore no updates were available.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- March 23, 2026 – Community Conversations with Jay Phillips and Billy Smith, 9:00 – 11:00 AM at Fairfield Administration Building, Conference Room A. Please contact Angie Neal by 4:00 PM on Friday, March 20, 2026 to schedule your appointment at neal_an@fairfieldcityschools.com or 513-858-8568
- March 24, 2026 – Community Conversations with Jay Phillips and Billy Smith, 6:00 – 8:00 PM at Fairfield East Elementary, Media Center. Please contact Angie Neal by 4:00 PM on Monday, March 23, 2026 to schedule your appointment at neal_an@fairfieldcityschools.com or 513-858-8568
- March 26, 2026 – Career Fest, 8:00 AM – 2:30 PM, Fairfield Senior High School, Arena
- March 30 – April 3, 2026 – Spring Break, No School
- April 6, 2026 – School Resumes after Spring Break
- April 9, 2026 – Board Meeting (Regular Session), 6:30 PM, Fairfield Senior High School, Catherine D Milligan Community Room

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Napier – He expressed appreciation for the presentations and highlighted the strong sense of community support within Fairfield.

Mr. McDonald – He emphasized the importance of the Fairfield Academy and Success Liaison Program, noting their impact on student success and expressing concern regarding potential impacts of financial challenges on these programs.

Mr. Cline – He noted the importance of collaboration between the district and community organizations in removing barriers to learning.

Mrs. Berding-Miller – She highlighted the district’s commitment to meeting students’ needs beyond academics and praised community partnerships supporting student well-being.

Mr. Clark – He reflected on the value of both programs in supporting the whole child and preparing students for success beyond the classroom.

26-34

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION – Moved by Mr. Napier to recess to Executive Session at 8:12 p.m. to discuss the following:

- The employment of public employees 121.22 (G) (1)
Court Action 121.22 (G) (3) – Pending or Imminent Litigation

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SECOND – Seconded by Mrs. Berding-Miller

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5-0

The Board resumed the meeting at 9:33 p.m.

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ADJOURNMENT

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

SECOND – Seconded by Mr. Cline

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5-0

The meeting was adjourned at 9:34 p.m. by the President, Mr. Clark.

President

Attest: _____
Treasurer