The Board of Education of the Fairfield City School District in the County of Butler, Ohio, held a Regular Meeting on the 20th of March, 2025 in the Gymnasium at Fairfield East Elementary School.

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

25-26 APPOINTMENT OF TREASURER PRO TEM

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

Appoint Mrs. Gundrum as Treasurer Pro Tem since Interim Treasurer is not present at the Board Meeting.

<u>SECOND</u> – Seconded by Mr. Clark

ROLL CALL - Ayes: Mr. Begley, Mrs. Berding-Miller, Mr. Clark & Mr. Napier

Abstain – Mrs. Gundrum

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 4-0

ROLL CALL – Present: Mr. Begley, Mrs. Berding-Miller, Mr. Clark, Mrs. Gundrum, & Mr.

Napier

Absent: None

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

Absent: Ms. Lee

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Mike Napier

PRESENTATIONS/RESOLUTIONS

A. East Elementary School Spotlight – Roxanna Woyat

Mrs. Woyat, Mr. McEldowney and Ms. Robinson spoke about the East Elementary Houses – Building Community at East Elementary though "Houses"

They shared Houses Fun Facts

- In a school setting, "HOUSES" refer to a system where students are divided into smaller groups
- Often each house has a unique name or theme
- Houses foster a sense of belonging
- Houses create smaller, more manageable communities within the school to build stronger connections between students and staff.

Mrs. Woyat spoke about the "Houses Committee". This is a team of teachers that work together to create lessons related to the topic assigned for that particular month. All topics correlate with Positivity Project. When a new student comes to East, Ms. Robinson places them in a "House".

"Houses" Lesson Topics

- September Forgiveness
- October Integrity
- November Gratitude

- December Self Control
- January Social Awareness
- February Humility/Kindness
- March Perseverance
- April Purpose
- May End of Year Celebration

Mr. McEldowney spoke about the "Houses" Meetings - "Houses" meet on the last Friday of every month for thirty minutes. He explained that the "Houses" groups consist of students from grades one through five and there are approximately thirteen students in each group. These groups meet in classrooms, conference rooms, the cafeteria and the gym.

Mrs. Woyat explained that the East Houses is about Building Community. By grouping students from different grade levels into houses, students feel more connected to a smaller group, fostering a sense of belonging and support. Each house creates a house name and many houses create a team chant. Some of the names are: Perfectly Patient Pineapples, Leading Leopards, No Drama Llamas, Rockin' Reptiles, and Terrific Turtles. She said East Houses is about Mentorship. Older students can mentor younger students within their house, providing guidance and support.

Mrs. Woyat stated they had some students there that formed a "House" named Wacky Watermelons. Ms. Robinson did a lesson with them on Perseverance.

- Do you know what perseverance means?
- Showed a video on perseverance
- Definition: Perseverance is the ability to keep working towards a goal, even when its difficult or frustrating. It's a character trait that involves ticking with a task, activity or learning process.
- Discussion question: Is there a time in your life when you had to show perseverance? Was there a time you wanted to give up, but you didn't?

The students participated in an activity to show perseverance.

The Board thanked the students and staff for the presentation.

COMMUNICATION - None

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.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS

25-27 <u>RESIGNATIONS/RESIGNATION CORRRECTION/UNPAID LEAVE OF ABSENCE/EMPLOYMENT</u> – Mr. Hussel

<u>MOTION</u> – Moved by Mrs. Berding-Miller to approve the following:

A. Personnel – Professional

1. Resignations

- a. Brianna Elder, District, Speech Language Pathologist (effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year; for personal reasons)
- b. Cindy Heinze, District, Physical Therapist, 40% (effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year; for personal reasons)
- c. Allie Washing, District, School Psychologist (effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year; for personal reasons)

2. Resignation Correction

a. Ross Baker, Senior High, Intervention Specialist (correct effective resignation date to March 19, 2025; previously listed on February 20, 2025 Board agenda effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year; for personal reasons)

3. Unpaid Leave of Absence

a. Kailey Stapleton, Central, 3rd grade ELA (effective on March 27, 2025 through May 16, 2025; for childrearing purposes)

4. Employment

- a. Erin Cofskey, Senior High, English (recommended for a new one-year limited teaching contract for the 2025-2026 school year, effective August 7, 2025; for a replacement position)
- b. Cailin Collins, District, School Psychologist (recommended for a new one-year limited teaching contract for the 2025-2026 school year, effective August 7, 2025; for a replacement position)
- c. Joshua Coyle, Creekside, Intervention Specialist (recommended for a new one-year limited teaching contract for the 2025-2026 school year, effective August 7, 2025; for a replacement position)
- d. Megan Cruey, North, Intervention Specialist MD/SC (recommended for a new one-year limited teaching contract for the 2025-2026 school year, effective August 6, 2025; for a new position)
- e. Ashley Hetrick, Central, 5th grade ELA (recommended for a new one-year limited teaching contract for the 2025-2026 school year, effective August 6, 2025; for a replacement position)
- f. Gayle Jett, West, RN

(recommended for a new one-year limited teaching contract for the 2025-2026 school year, effective August 6, 2025; for a replacement position)

- g. Supriya Khirwadkar, Senior High, EL Teacher (recommended for a new one-year limited teaching contract for the 2025-2026 school year, effective August 7, 2025; for a replacement position)
- h. Lynn Riestenberg, Compass, 5th grade ELA (recommended for a new one-year limited teaching contract for the 2025-2026 school year, effective August 6, 2025; for a replacement position)
- i. Emma Skirvin, Creekside, Intervention Specialist (recommended for a new one-year limited teaching contract for the 2025-2026 school year, effective August 7, 2025; for a replacement position)
- j. Todd Spenceley, Freshman, Social Studies (recommended for a new one-year limited teaching contract for the 2025-2026 school year, effective August 7, 2025; for a replacement position)
- k. Extracurriculars 2024-2025

Senior High

Tommy West, Tennis, Boys

Freshman

Mark Jarvis, Volleyball, Boys Marcel Toney, Baseball, Assistant

Crossroads Middle

Kelly Massie, Select Choir Director

Compass

Lisa Gundler, Intramurals

South Elementary

Christopher Turner, Intramurals

1. Home Instructors

Jennafer Morningstar Matthew Tyla

(Periodically the district has students who qualify for home instruction by placement on an IEP developed through the Special Services Department. It is recommended that the above noted person(s) be employed as Home Instructors at the rate of \$34.39 per hour, effective for the 2024-2025 school year.)

m. Volunteers Coaching 2024-2025

Kenneth Burdine Josh Cunningham Mike Wazyniak

(The above-noted persons are recommended for approval as volunteer coaches for the 2024-2025 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.)

<u>SECOND</u> – Seconded by Mr. Clark

ROLL CALL - Ayes: Mr. Begley, Mrs. Berding-Miller, Mr. Clark, Mrs. Gundrum & Mr. Napier

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5-0

25-28 <u>RESIGNATIONS/UNPAID LEAVES OF ABSENCE/EMPLOYMENT/SUPPORT SUBSTITUTES</u> – Mr. Hussel

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

- B. Personnel Support
 - 1. Resignations
 - Ashley Dare, District, Confidential Secretary I
 (effective the end of the day June 30, 2025; to accept another position within the
 District)
 - b. Cheryl Graham, Senior High, Educational Assistant (effective the end of the day March 7, 2025; for personal reasons)
 - c. Jovonta Harrison, Crossroads, Educational Assistant (effective the end of the day March 10, 2025; for personal reasons)
 - d. Vickie Rudder, Transportation, Bus Driver (effective the end of the day May 30, 2025; for retirement purposes)
 - e. Erin Shaw, East, Educational Assistant (effective the end of the day March 26, 2025; for personal reasons)
 - 2. Unpaid Leaves of Absence
 - a. Sara Denney, Creekside, Food Service Assistant (effective March 5, 2025 through March 7, 2025; for personal reasons)

b. Lisa Nimmo, Creekside, Educational Assistant (effective March 10, 2025 through April 4, 2025; for personal reasons)

3. Employment

- a. Shawn Mack, District, Custodian (effective March 17, 2025; previously temporary custodian; for a replacement position)
- b. Lara Nelson, East, Educational Assistant (effective March 11, 2025; for a replacement position)
- c. James Pierce, Transportation, Bus Driver (effective March 24, 2025; for a replacement position)
- 4. Support Substitute 2024-2025

Ethan Fitter - Educational Assistant

(All recommendations are for the 2024-2025 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 Mrs. Berding-Miller

ROLL CALL – Ayes: Mr. Begley, Mrs. Berding-Miller, Mr. Clark, Mrs. Gundrum & Mr. Napier

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5-0

C. Items for Board Discussion

1. Courses of Study – Mandy Aug

Mrs. Aug stated that she is working to modernize the Courses of Study by doing some updating and she hopes to be complete by July 1st.

2. Adoption of Materials – Mandy Aug

Mrs. Aug commented that Fairfield has a strong process when it comes to adoption of materials. This evening she has Science for grades nine through twelve and Math for Kindergarten through fifth Grade. She said over the next two to three months she will be bringing more for Board approval. She stated the Science and Math will be on the next agenda for approval.

3. Building Usage – Lance Perry

Mr. Perry said he has been working with Payroll and Mr. Clemmons to update the Building Usage process. He stated it will be on the next board agenda for approval.

4. Crossroads Elevator Modernization Bid – Lance Perry

Mr. Perry stated there was additional electrical work needed so they had to re-bid. TKE was the lowest bidder. The work will take approximately three weeks and will be done over the summer. He said this will be on the next board agenda for approval.

5. Forest Fair Mall Development Agreement – John Clemmons

Mr. Clemmons spoke about the Forest Fair Mall/Cincinnati Mills Mall which is about ninety-nine acres on Gilmore Road. He stated fifty-five acres is being sold to a new purchaser and will be demolished and approximately four point five (4.5) acres is located in the Fairfield City School District. Mr. Clemmons stated when the agreement was originally set in early 2000s, there was a clause in the agreement that if the value decreases the Fairfield City School District would receive payment from the developer. We are asking for payment with a three-way agreement where the seller, buyer and City of Fairfield pay three hundred thousand (\$300,000.00) each. He said it was a reasonable deal and recommended approval of this agreement.

25-29 APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICIES/APPROVAL OF PERFORMANCE CONTRACT FOR ASHLEY DARE EFFECTIVE MAY 19, 2025 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2025/APPROVAL OF THE FOREST FAIR MALL DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT/APPROVAL OF THE RESOLUTION TO ADOPT NEW POLICY IGBAA SPECIAL EDUCATION MODEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

MOTION – Moved by Mr. Clark to approve the following

- D. Items for Board Action
 - 1. Recommend approval of the following Board Policies::
 - a. IGBAA- Special Education Model Policies and Procedures
 - b. BDDH- Public Participation at Board Meetings
 - 2. Recommend approval of a performance contract for Ashley Dare as she transitions from Support Staff Payroll to Payroll Supervisor effective May 19, 2025 through June 30, 2025.
 - 3. Recommend approval of the Forest Fair Mall Development Agreement.
 - 4. Recommend approval of the Resolution to Adopt New Policy IGBAA Special Education Model Policies and Procedures:

WHEREAS, RC 3323.08 requires each school district to provide assurances to the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) that the district will provide for the education of children with disabilities within its jurisdiction and has in effect policies, procedures, and programs that are consistent with the policies and procedures adopted by DEW; and

WHEREAS, DEW developed a document entitled "Special Education Model Policies and Procedures" ("Model Policies") that a board of education may adopt to fulfill the requirement described in the preceding paragraph; and

WHEREAS, the district has reviewed the Model Policies and determined that certain statements within the Model Policies are unnecessary to comply with state and federal law or conflict with existing state and federal laws and/or applicable case law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby adopts DEW's Model Policies in their entirety, a copy of which is on file in the office of the Superintendent and incorporated herein by reference as new policy IGBAA, except for the following sentences, which are specifically rejected in their current form and will not be implemented as written. The Board directs that the language identified below is either modified as specified, or, where indicated, deleted to ensure the district complies with applicable state and federal laws and/or case law:

- P. 10. Destruction of Educational Records
 - o Original Language: "Ensures the information is destroyed at the request of the parents."
 - Action: Replace sentence with "Once a parent is notified that personally identifiable information maintained by the district is no longer required to provide educational services to their child, or is not otherwise required to be maintained by the district based on state or federal law or applicable record retention schedules, the parent may request that the information be destroyed."
- P.14. Independent Education Evaluation at Public Expense
 - Original Language: "An educational agency may not impose conditions or timelines related to obtaining an IEE, except for the criteria described above."
 - o Action: Delete the sentence in its entirety.
- P. 33. Extended School Year
 - Original language: "The IEP team should consider emerging skills as part of the IEP process for children who are exhibiting beginning skillsets."
 - o Action: Delete the sentence in its entirety.
- P.42. Services
 - Original Message: "Although not required, educational agencies are encouraged to provide services during short-term removals to assist children with disabilities to continue to make progress toward their IEP goals and prevent them from falling behind."
 - o Action: Delete the sentence in its entirety.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board directs all staff in the District to use and comply with the modified Model Policies as set forth above. The Board further authorizes the Superintendent to notify DEW of the Board's adoption of the modified Model Policies through DEW's monitoring systems by uploading a copy of this Board resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board acknowledges that the Model Policies, while comprehensive, do not include every requirement set forth in the IDEA, the regulations implementing IDEA, the Operating Standards, the Ohio Revised Code, and/or the Ohio Administrative Code, and the Board recognizes its obligation to follow these laws and regulations, as well as applicable caselaw, in the event there is a conflict between their requirements and the Board-adopted Model Policies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that existing policy IGBAA is hereby repealed.

SECOND - Seconded by Mrs. Gundrum

ROLL CALL - Ayes: Mr. Begley, Mrs. Berding-Miller, Mr. Clark, Mrs. Gundrum & Mr. Napier

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5-0

TREASURER'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS

25-30 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 20, 2025 AND MARCH 6, 2025/APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2025/APPROVAL OF THE 2024-2025 AMENDED APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION/APPROVAL OF THE RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR/APPROVAL OF DONATIONS/APPROVAL OF DISPOSAL OF FIXED ASSETS/APPROVAL OF THE COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AGREEMENT (CRA) CORE & MAIN, INC. & GSK SEWARD ROAD LLC CONTINGENT UPON APPROVAL BY FAIRFIELD CITY COUNCIL —

<u>MOTION</u> – Moved by Mrs. Berding-Miller to approve the following:

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

February 20, 2025 – Regular Session Meeting March 6, 2025 – Regular Work Session Meeting

- B. Recommend approval of the financial reports for the month of February 2025.
- C. Recommend approval of the 2024-2025 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 following donation:

- A donation valued at approximately \$400.00 for assorted items for the Latchkey Program from Raising Cane's.
- 2. A donation of \$100.00 to Fairfield East Elementary for students to purchase books at the Book Fair from Debra Rettich.

Total donations for 2025: \$1109.09

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

Tag Number	<u>Description</u>	Location
23932	Laminator	Creekside
36369	Projector	Technology
36413	Computer	Technology
36992	Laptop	Technology
37389	Laptop	Technology
38077	Laptop	Technology
38845	Laptop	Technology
S10218	Laptop	Technology
S10275	1 1	Technology
S10273 S10319	Laptop	0.
S10564	Laptop	Technology
	Laptop	Technology
S10611	Laptop	Technology
S10877	Laptop	Technology
S10914	Laptop	Technology
S10916	Laptop	Technology
S11013	Laptop	Technology
S11283	Laptop	Technology
S11481	Laptop	Technology
S12114	Laptop	Technology
S12338	Laptop	Technology
S12495	Laptop	Technology
S12759	Laptop	Technology
S13004	Laptop	Technology
S13389	Laptop	Technology
S13462	Laptop	Technology
S13874	Laptop	Technology
S13963	Laptop	Technology
S14052	Laptop	Technology
S14255	Laptop	Technology
S14579	Laptop	Technology
S14740	Laptop	Technology
S14887	Laptop	Technology
S15379	Laptop	Technology
S15496	Laptop	Technology
S15553	Laptop	Technology
S15583	Laptop	Technology
S15901	Laptop	Technology
S16014	Laptop	Technology
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S16075	Laptop	Technology
S16126	Laptop	Technology
S16156	Laptop	Technology
S16173	Laptop	Technology
S16376	Laptop	Technology
S16431	Laptop	Technology
S16985	Laptop	Technology
S17067	Laptop	Technology
S17118	Laptop	Technology
S17125	Laptop	Technology
S17295	Laptop	Technology
S17296	Laptop	Technology
S17300	Laptop	Technology
S17352	Laptop	Technology
S17365	Laptop	Technology
S17563	Laptop	Technology
S17575	Laptop	Technology

G. Recommend approval of the Community Reinvestment Agreement (CRA) Core & Main, Inc & GSK Seward Road LLC contingent upon approval by Fairfield City Council March 24, 2025.

This agreement includes a four (4) year, 45% tax exemption with an estimated annual payment to the district of \$5,455.00.

<u>SECOND</u> – Seconded by Mr. Clark

ROLL CALL – Ayes: Mr. Begley, Mrs. Berding-Miller, Mr. Clark, Mrs. Gundrum & Mr. Napier

Navs: None

Motion Carried: 5-0

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Legislative Update – Jerrilynn Gundrum

Mrs. Gundrum spoke briefly about talk of dissolving the U.S. Department of Education. She encouraged everyone to please read up and contact your legislators with your thoughts or feelings. She also discussed HB143 which would require school board members to be nominated by primary election and designate a party on the ballot.

B. Butler Tech – Brian Begley

Mr. Begley spoke about an end of the year award that was given out named the "Peg Clark Award". This award is named after Scott Clark's mother. He also mentioned the All Boards Meeting will be on May 1, 2025, which is the same day as Fairfield's Board Meeting but said the showcases will be held at each campus on April 24 and May 1 from 4:00-8:00 p.m. Mr. Begley also spoke briefly about a bill that was introduced regarding cell phone usage in schools.

C. Student Achievement – Abby Berding-Miller

Mrs. Berding-Miller highlighted Emma Keller, a South Elementary student whose mother works at a non-profit that builds beds for kids who do not have a bed and Emma raises money to give every child a panda bear to cuddle with which they purchase from IKEA. This year IKEA heard about this and donated 400 panda bears for a total of 700 pandas that have been donated to Sleep in Heavenly Peace.

D. Parks and Recreation – Scott Clark

Mr. Clark said it's the last days to vote for the Best Park in Butler County. He mentioned the Summer Camps will be starting soon on April 10th. He commented that RASKALS volunteer group is looking for volunteers for April 26 to help senior residents with outdoor tasks.

E. Planning Commission – Billy Smith

Nothing to report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

March 22, 2025 – Job Fair, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Fairfield Senior High School, Cafeteria March 31-April 4, 2025 – Spring Break, No School April 7, 2025 – School Resumes after Spring Break
April 10, 2025 – Board Meeting (Regular Session), 6:30 PM, Fairfield Senior High School, Catherine D Milligan Community Room

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

<u>Mr. Napier</u> – He thanked Mrs. Woyat for the presentation. He stated it was very enjoyable. He thanked Mrs. Aug for the Courses of Study and Adoption of Materials information. He thanked Mr. Perry for the Building Usage and the Elevator Modernization Bid. He then thanked Mr. Clemmons for all the information on the Forest Fair Mall Development Agreement.

<u>Mrs. Gundrum</u> – She thanked Mrs. Woyat and the "Wacky Watermelons" for their fun presentation. She said it was enjoyable to interact with the students.

Mrs. Berding-Miller – She thanked Mrs. Woyat for the presentation. She enjoys interacting with the students. She thanked Mrs. Aug for keeping them up to date with curriculum items. She thanked Mr. Perry for updating the usage information and the elevator update. She thanked Mr. Clemmons for putting the clause in the agreement and being diligent so we can get what we are due to receive.

Mr. Clark – He thanked Mr. Clemmons for his perseverance and hard work on the agreement with Forest Fair Mall. He stated he recently read to third graders at West Elementary. He thanked Mrs. Aug for all the hard work. He congratulated the students and parents for making Crystal Classic amazing. He ended by thanking Mrs. Woyat for having them and that it was great to interact with the students.

<u>Mr. Begley</u> – He commented that Right to Read Week is at Central next week. He mentioned the food drive for the Fairfield Food Pantry which runs through March 27th with collection at each school.

25-31 <u>EXECUTIVE SESSION</u>

<u>MOTION</u> – Moved by Mr. Napier to recess to Executive Session at 7:51 p.m. to discuss the following:

Court Action R.C.121.22 (G) (3) – Pending or Imminent Litigation Collective Bargaining 121.22 (G) (4)

<u>SECOND</u> – Seconded by Mrs. Berding-Miller

ROLL CALL - Ayes: Mr. Begley, Mrs. Berding-Miller, Mr. Clark, Mrs. Gundrum & Mr. Napier

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5-0

The Board resumed the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

25-32 ADJOURNMENT

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

SECOND – Seconded by Mr. Napier

ROLL CALL - Ayes: Mr. Begley, Mrs. Berding-Miller, Mr. Clark, Mrs. Gundrum & Mr. Napier

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5-0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m. by the President, Mr. Begley.

Attest:					
President	Treasurer				