

FAIRFIELD CITY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 21, 2024

The Board of Education of the Fairfield City School District in the County of Butler, Ohio, held a Regular Meeting on the 21st of March, 2024 in the Cafeteria at Creekside Middle School.

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

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

Also present: Mr. Smith, Mrs. Lane, Mrs. Hauer, Dr. Rice, Mr. Perry & Mr. Clemmons
Absent: Mrs. Aug

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Brian Begley

MOMENT OF SILENCE – Brian Begley

Mr. Begley asked for a moment of silence for student, Ben Wade and past Athletic Director, Mark Harden, who both passed away recently.

PRESENTATIONS/RESOLUTIONS

A. Creekside Middle School Spotlight – Kari Franchini

Dr. Franchini spoke about the feeder programs with Butler Tech that start in Middle School which include Project Lead the Way and Hospitality Fundamentals. Three sixth graders, Ella Wahoff, Hannah Linville and Esme Sedziol, spoke about projects they have done in Design and Modeling class and gave puzzle cubes to each Board member. Seventh graders, Emma Frey and Sariah Jackson, spoke about their project in Mr. Laflin’s Innovators and Makers class. Seventh grade students, Reese Marks, Shylee Todd and Amari Wilks talked about Mr. Starkey’s Green Architecture class. They are learning to build a shed.

The Board thanked the students for their presentations.

STATEMENT TO THE COMMUNITY REGARDING THE OUTCOME OF THE OPERATING LEVY ON MARCH 19, 2024 – Billy Smith

Mr. Smith read the following statement regarding future plans:

The operating levy that was on the March 19th ballot did not pass. As a result, the District will be implementing the following staff, program and service reductions that were approved by the Board of Education at the December 14, 2023, board meeting.

Before I review these reductions, I would like to refer you to the PowerPoint presentation on display. If it looks familiar, it is the same PowerPoint presentation that was shared at the December 14 board meeting. The Board approved it that night and it was shared with the community after being Board approved. After being shared with the community, the information has been available on our website for months. I point this out because I think it speaks to the fact that the District has been very transparent about what would happen if the levy passed or failed. Again, the following reductions will be implemented at the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year:

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Restructure the middle school schedules to eliminate five (5) teaching positions for an estimated cost savings of \$313,000.

Eliminate four and one-half (4.5) teaching positions at the Freshman and High School campuses for an estimated cost savings of \$282,000.

Restructure the curriculum and instruction department to eliminate three (3) positions for an estimated cost savings of \$188,000.

Eliminate .50 administrative position for an estimated cost savings of \$54,000. When combined with the .50 administrative reduction in the transportation department, the District is eliminating a total of one (1) administrative position for an estimated cost savings of \$102,000. This is in addition to the one (1) administrative position eliminated prior to the start of the 2023-2024 school year.

Reduce transportation to state minimum services with an estimated cost savings of \$1.3 million. There will be no changes to special needs transportation services in grades PreK-12. Transportation services for general education students in grades 9 and 10 will be eliminated. This also includes non-public and community schools. Only K-8 students whose residence is more than two (2) miles from their school, including non-public and community schools, are eligible for transportation regardless of sitters, daycares, etc. Butler Tech shuttles to and from Fairfield High School will not change. The District will explore the potential to declare transportation to certain non-public and community schools impractical.

Start times for some schools will change. As of right now, the projected start times are as follows:

Creekside and Crossroads Middle Schools: 7:45 am – 2:15 pm

Compass, South and East Elementary: 9:00 am – 3:30 pm

Central, West and North Elementary: 9:15 am – 3:45 pm

These reductions and changes in transportation services will result in the elimination of 22 bus driver positions, .5 administrative position and .5 office staff position. The number of bus drivers/chauffeurs will be reduced from 62 to 40.

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

24-26 UNPAID LEAVES OF ABSENCE/EMPLOYMENT – Mrs. Hauer

MOTION – Moved by Mrs. Berding-Miller to approve the following:

A. Personnel – Professional

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1. Unpaid Leaves of Absence

- a. Renee Hamilton, Creekside, Intervention Specialist
(effective for .25 of the day on March 8, 2024; for personal reasons)
- b. Jennafer Morningstar, North, Intervention Specialist
(effective for .50 of the day on February 7, 2024, for a full day each on February 8, 2024 and February 9, 2024, and for a .50 day on February 29, 2024; for personal reasons)
- c. Melissa Rump, North, 2nd grade
(effective for .75 of the day on March 22, 2024; for personal reasons)

2. Employment

- a. Extracurriculars 2023-2024

District

Ryan White, Show Choir Tech Director

Senior High

Kyle Bolser, Tennis, Assistant Boys
Jennifer Burley, Track, Assistant
Lance Durham, Baseball Head Coach
Dallas Haggard, Track, Assistant
Jason Krause, Track, Head Coach
Gabriel Olivencia, Baseball, Assistant 50%

- b. Home Instructor 2023-2024

Jessica Kuhlman

(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 \$33.71 per hour, effective for the 2023-2024 school year.)

- c. Volunteers - Coaching 2023-2024

Lamar Hargrove
Chad Reed

(The above-noted persons are recommended for approval as volunteer coaches for the 2023-2024 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.)

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

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

24-27 RESIGNATION/UNPAID LEAVES OF ABSENCE/EMPLOYMENT – Mrs. Hauer

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

B. Personnel – Support

1. Resignation

- a. Hadeel Zamel, Crossroads, Educational Assistant
(effective the end of the day March 8, 2024; for personal reasons)

2. Unpaid Leaves of Absence

- a. Janet Gillen, Crossroads, Food Service Assistant
(effective .75-day March 11, 2024 through March 19, 2024; for personal reasons)
- b. Melissa Snow, Transportation, Bus Driver
(effective February 16, 2024 through March 1, 2024; for personal reasons)
- c. Nicole Smith, Creekside, Food Service Assistant
(effective .25 day April 17, 2024 through April 19, 2024; for personal reasons)
- d. Barbara Vaughn, Crossroads, Educational Assistant
(extension of unpaid leave of absence effective March 8, 2024 through May 1, 2024)

3. Employment

- a. Joan Gooch, West, Educational Assistant
(effective March 5, 2024; for a new position)
- b. Jada James, East, Educational Assistant
(effective March 5, 2024; for a replacement position)

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

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

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C. Items for Board Discussion

1. OHSAA Award of Excellence – Aaron Blankenship

Mr. Blankenship stated he was there to highlight a project that the Athletic Department has been working on and being nominated for the Bruce Brown Award of Excellence. This is part award and part self-audit of the Athletic Department. They have completed two-thirds of the items needed to submit. The complete process should be done by the beginning of May. The Athletic Department will find out over the summer if they are chosen and if chosen, they will receive the award in the fall.

The Board thanked Mr. Blankenship for the presentation and his leadership to the Athletic Department.

2. Board Policy – Bill Rice

a. IGBEA-R – Reading Skills Assessment and Intervention (Third Grade Reading Guarantee)

Dr. Rice stated this is a revised policy due to House Bill 101.

24-28

APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICIES/APPROVAL OF THE ADDENDUM TO SUPERVISOR OF SPECIAL SERVICES CONTRACT, EFFECTIVE MAY 3, 2024 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024 TO ACT AS SUBSTITUTE DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL SERVICES

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

D. Other Items for Board Action

1. Recommend the approval of the following Board Policies:

a. IGD – Cocurricular and Extracurricular Activities

b. IGDJ – Interscholastic Athletics

c. KGB – Public Conduct on School Property

2. Recommend approval of the addendum to Supervisor of Special Services Jennifer Skirvin’s contract, effective May 3, 2024 through June 30, 2024 to act as Substitute Director of Special Services.

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

24-29

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 15, 2024 AND MARCH 7, 2024/APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2024/APPROVAL OF THE 2023-2024 AMENDED APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION/APPROVAL OF THE RESOLUTION

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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 DONATIONS/APPROVAL OF DISPOSAL OF FIXED ASSETS – Mrs. Lane

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

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

February 15, 2024 – Regular Session Meeting
March 7, 2024 – Regular Work Session Meeting

B. Recommend approval of the financial reports for the month of February 2024.

C. Recommend approval of the 2023-2024 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	<u>.50 mills</u>
Total	55.51 mills

E. Recommend approval of the following donations:

1. A donation of \$250 from the Lindenwald Kiwanis Club of Hamilton/Fairfield to Fairfield East Elementary School to be used for their Multi-Cultural Night.
2. A donation of \$250 from the Lindenwald Kiwanis Club of Hamilton/Fairfield to Fairfield Central Elementary School to be used for their Multi-Cultural Night.
3. A donation of \$250 from the Lindenwald Kiwanis Club of Hamilton/Fairfield to Fairfield Academy to be used for student incentives.
4. A donation of \$250 from the Lindenwald Kiwanis Club of Hamilton/Fairfield to Fairfield High School’s Athletic Department to be used for the athletic food pantry.
5. A donation of food valued at \$550 from Miami University’s Regional Campuses Global Programs to Fairfield North Elementary School to be used for their Multi-Cultural Night.
6. A donation of \$250 from Jim’s Tire and Auto to Fairfield Creekside Middle School to be used for testing incentives.
7. A donation of \$50 from Pollie and John Bruewer to Fairfield East Elementary School to be used for classroom supplies.

Total donations for 2024: \$2,350.00

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

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<u>Tag Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Location</u>
37301	Laptop	Technology
37321	Laptop	Technology
37357	Laptop	Technology
37697	Laptop	Technology
37745	Laptop	Technology
37983	Laptop	Technology
38191	Laptop	Technology
38299	Laptop	Technology
38825	Laptop	Technology
38842	Laptop	Technology
S10028	Laptop	Technology
S10044	Laptop	Technology
S10148	Laptop	Technology
S10388	Laptop	Technology
S10395	Laptop	Technology
S10425	Laptop	Technology
S10455	Laptop	Technology
S10772	Laptop	Technology
S10926	Laptop	Technology
S11055	Laptop	Technology
S11058	Laptop	Technology
S11116	Laptop	Technology
S11153	Laptop	Technology
S11400	Laptop	Technology
S11401	Laptop	Technology
S11601	Laptop	Technology
S11642	Laptop	Technology
S11770	Laptop	Technology
S11775	Laptop	Technology
S11826	Laptop	Technology
S11882	Laptop	Technology
S11913	Laptop	Technology
S12208	Laptop	Technology
S12210	Laptop	Technology
S12250	Laptop	Technology
S12262	Laptop	Technology
S12434	Laptop	Technology
S12723	Laptop	Technology
S12840	Laptop	Technology
S12954	Laptop	Technology
S13070	Laptop	Technology
S13203	Laptop	Technology
S13530	Laptop	Technology
S14143	Laptop	Technology
S14301	Laptop	Technology
S15632	Laptop	Technology
S15929	Laptop	Technology

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S16422	Laptop	Technology
NA	Concert Bass Drum	Freshman
NA	Concert Chimes	Freshman

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Legislative Update – Jerrilynn Gundrum

Nothing to report.

B. Butler Tech – Brian Begley

Mr. Begley said he recently toured the VORA Technology Center. He also mentioned that there was a presentation about the Aviation Program at the Middletown Airport which will have 200-220 students at this campus.

C. Student Achievement – Abby Berding-Miller

Mrs. Berding-Miller congratulated the Crossroads Select Band which has sixty-two members on receiving a superior rating at the Cincinnati Regional Concert Band Festival held at Mason High School.

D. Parks and Recreation – Scott Clark

Mr. Clark spoke about renting kayaks at Marsh Lake, the new playground equipment should be arriving soon at Harbin Park and North Trace golf course opens on April 1st.

E. Planning Commission – Billy Smith

Nothing to report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

March 29, 2024 – Spring Weekend, No School

April 1 - April 5, 2024 – Spring Break, No School

April 8, 2024 – Solar Eclipse Calamity Day, No School

April 9, 2024 – School Resumes

April 10, 2024 – District CDA Meeting, 6:00-7:00 PM, Fairfield Administration Building, Conference Room A

April 11, 2024 – Records Commission Meeting, 6:15 PM, Fairfield Senior High School, Catherine D. Milligan Community Room

April 11, 2024- Board Meeting, (Regular meeting), 6:30 PM, Fairfield Senior High School, Catherine D. Milligan Community Room

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BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Napier – He thanked the students for presenting tonight. He also mentioned that Mr. Mark Harden will be missed.

Mrs. Gundrum – She thanked Dr. Franchini for hosting the Board Meeting tonight and thanked all the students who presented tonight.

Mrs. Berding-Miller – She thanked Dr. Franchini and Mrs. Reid for having them at Creekside. She thanked Mr. Blankenship for his presentation. She also mentioned that if you are a Fairfield Township resident, you can get a free pair of eclipse glasses at the Fairfield Township Office.

Mr. Clark – He thanked Dr. Franchini and Mrs. Reid for having them at Creekside. He said the students were great. He thanked Mr. Blankenship and said he is doing an amazing job.

Mr. Begley – He stated he is glad to see students engaged in Butler Tech classes and thanked Creekside administrators for hosting the meeting tonight.

24-30

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 7:21 p.m. by the President, Mr. Begley.

President

Attest: _____
Treasurer