

Northwest Local Schools

November 23, 2020 Regular Meeting

The Northwest Board of Education held the Regular Meeting at 7:00 P.M. in the Northwest High School Commons. The following members were present: President James Gindlesberger, Vice-President Victor Colaianni, Mrs. Rita Gearheart, Mr. Robert Schilling, Superintendent Mr. Dennis Lambes and Treasurer Dan Levensgood. Mrs. Julia Barkey was absent.

MISSION STATEMENT

We educate, motivate and inspire each student to achieve his or her highest potential.

VISION STATEMENT

Northwest Local School District: A premier learning organization – the gateway to opportunities

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

206.20 Mr. Colaianni moved that the Northwest Local Board of Education **approve the agenda as presented**. Mr. Schilling seconded the motion and upon the roll call the result was as follows: Mr. Colaianni, aye. Mr. Schilling, aye. Mrs. Gearhart, aye. Mr. Gindlesberger, aye. Mrs. Barkey, absent. Motion carried.

Mr. Schilling moved that the Northwest Local Board of Education **approve the following resolutions:**

207.20 **Approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 26, 2020.**

208.20 **Approve the “Then and Now” transactions**-as presented.

209.20 Approve the master electric energy sales agreement.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A RENEWAL AGREEMENT TO THE MASTER ELECTRIC ENERGY SALES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DISTRICT AND POWER4SCHOOLS’ ENDORSED ELECTRIC SUPPLIER, ENGIE RESOURCES LLC.

WHEREAS, the Board of Education (the “Board”) of this School District (the “District”), as a member of one of the Associations, pursuant to this resolution desires to authorize the execution and delivery by the District of Renewal Agreement to the Master Electric Energy Sales Agreement between the District and ENGIE (the “Power Sales Agreement”), pursuant to which the District, will purchase electricity generation for its school facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Schools Council, Ohio School Boards Association, Ohio Association of School Business Officials, and the Buckeye Association of School Administrators (the “Associations”) each carries out cooperative purchase programs and promotes cooperative arrangements and agreements among its member school districts and government agencies or private persons; and

WHEREAS, the Associations collectively do business under the trade name “Power4Schools” (“P4S”) for the purpose of endorsing competitive retail electric service (“CRES”) providers to supply retail electric energy services to the Associations’ members; and

WHEREAS, the members of, and other participating public schools associated with, the Associations desire to purchase retail electric energy services from the CRES provider that has received the endorsement of P4S, ENGIE Resources LLC (“ENGIE”); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education (the “Board”) of this School District (the “District”), as a member of one of the Associations, pursuant to this resolution desires to authorize the execution and delivery by the District of a Master Electric Energy Sales Agreement between the District and ENGIE (the “Power Sales Agreement”), pursuant to which the District, will purchase electricity generation for its school facilities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE NORTHWEST SCHOOL DISTRICT, COUNTY OF STARK, STATE OF OHIO, as follows:

Section 1. The Board authorizes and directs the Treasurer to execute and deliver, in the name of the District and on its behalf, the Power Sales Agreement, substantially in the form now on file with this Board, with any changes that are not inconsistent with this resolution and that may be acceptable to the Treasurer whose acceptance shall be conclusively evidenced by the execution of such document by the Treasurer.

Section 2. Monies adequate to pay amounts due under the Power Sales Agreement for the current fiscal year are hereby appropriated for that purpose.

Section 3. it is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of the Board concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were adopted in an open meeting of the Board, and that all deliberations of the Board and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Mrs. Gearhart seconded the motions and upon the roll call the result was as follows: Mr. Schilling, aye. Mrs. Gearhart, aye. Mr. Colaianni, aye. Mr. Gindlesberger, aye. Mrs. Barkey, absent. Motions carried.

210.20 Mr. Schilling moved that the Northwest Local Board of Education **dissolve the Regional Council of Governments agreement**. Mrs. Gearhart seconded the motion and upon the roll call the result was as follows: Mr. Schilling, aye. Mrs. Gearhart, aye. Mr. Colaianni, aye. Mr. Gindlesberger, aye. Mrs. Barkey, absent. Motion carried.

211.20 Mr. Schilling moved that the Northwest Local Board of Education **endorse the Fair School Funding Plan**.

RESOLUTION TO ENDORSE THE FAIR SCHOOL FUNDING PLAN, AS INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE COMPANION BILL TO SUBSTITUTE H.B.304, AND TO ENCOURAGE THE 133RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO EXPEDITE THE PASSAGE OF THE BILL.

WHEREAS, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled in *DeRolph v. State of Ohio* (1997) that Ohio’s method for funding schools through the state’s school foundation program was unconstitutional under Article VI, Section 2 of the Ohio Constitution; and

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WHEREAS, in *DeRolph*, the Ohio Supreme Court declared that Ohio's school funding system was over-reliant on local property taxes, and as such, was inherently discriminatory to children based on where they reside for disparities exist between communities of affluence and impoverishment; and

WHEREAS, since the *DeRolph* decision, the Ohio General Assembly has failed to create a funding system that meets Ohio's constitutional standard of securing "...a thorough and efficient system of common schools throughout the state"; and

WHEREAS, Ohio's solution to satisfy the Ohio supreme Court's order has been to pass a series of biennial budgets containing politically expedient remedies that have not eliminated the over-reliance on local property tax or mitigated the discriminatory nature inherent in the series of "funding fixes" legislated over the last 23 years; and

WHEREAS, Ohio's previous biennial budget crafted by the 132nd Ohio General Assembly, and effective July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019, created a funding system with "capped" districts, and districts receiving a minimum level of funding referred to as the "guarantee"; and

WHEREAS, the previous biennial budget identified 503 school district out of 610, or 82%, either "capped" in their funding or on the "guarantee," which is a testament that Ohio's funding model is not effective; and

WHEREAS, Ohio's current biennial budget crafted by the 133rd General Assembly, froze foundation funding for Ohio schools at 2019 fiscal year levels (effectively placing all district on "the Guarantee"), which funding levels have subsequently been cut due to the economic impact of the Coronavirus pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the current school funding system in Ohio lacks a rational basis for determining both the cost of educating students and how the funding of education is shared between the state and local taxpayer; and

WHEREAS, Representative Robert Cupp (R) and Representative John Patterson (D) convened a statewide workgroup, made up of eight practicing school district CFO/Treasurers and eight practicing Superintendents (the "Cupp-Patterson Workgroup"), to devise a new formula, and recognizing that Ohio needs an overhaul to its school funding system, have spent the last three years determining the inputs necessary to fund a "thorough and efficient system of common schools" that reduces the over-reliance on local property tax and creates equity in the state foundation system; and

WHEREAS, the Cupp-Patterson Workgroup carefully analyzed national research, best practices, actual Ohio school district spending data, and drew on their own extensive experience in educating students and operating school districts to make recommendations for a school funding system that meets the needs of all Ohio's students in the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, the Cupp-Patterson Workgroup developed recommendations that laid out a rational, transparent, comprehensive and-most of all-fair system for funding schools based on the actual cost of providing a basic education for all students in Ohio (the "Base Cost"); and

WHEREAS, the Cupp-Patterson Workgroup developed a method of sharing the funding of the Base Cost between the state and local taxpayers that is easy to understand and based on a fair, defensible measure of the capacity to generate funds local; and

WHEREAS, the Cupp-Patterson Workgroup identified and provided a framework for providing additional resources to meet needs beyond those of basic education, including the areas of the social, emotional, safety, and mental health of student, the additional challenges driven by students living in poverty, with special needs, with limited English proficiency, and who are academically gifted; and

WHEREAS, the Cupp-Patterson Workgroup developed recommendations for properly funding Career Technology Centers, Educational Service Centers, and Charter and Community schools; and

WHEREAS, based on the research and work outlined above, the Cupp-Patterson Workgroup produced and recommended the Fair School Funding Plan, which was introduced in House Bill (H.B.) 305, and is currently incorporated into and improved upon in a companion bill in the Senate, Senate Bill (S.B.) 376; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio General Assembly and the governor of Ohio have an opportunity to devise a funding formula, as outlined in the Fair School Funding Plan, that is an investment in Ohio's children and Ohio's future.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Northwest School District, that:

Section 1. It is necessary to formally endorse the Fair School Funding Plan, as introduced in S.B. 376 of the 133rd General Assembly (the Senate companion bill to Substitute H.B. 305), to ensure that K-12 schools in Ohio are funded using a rational school funding system that meets the needs of all Ohio's students in the 21st century.

Section 2. The Treasurer is authorized to deliver or cause to be delivered a certified copy of this Resolution to community leaders; to members of the Ohio House of Representatives and the Ohio Senate, including Representative Roemer and Senator Roegner; and to the office of Governor Michael DeWine.

Section 3. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption.

Mrs. Gearhart seconded the motion and upon the roll call the result was as follows: Mr. Schilling, aye. Mrs. Gearhart, aye. Mr. Colaianni, aye. Mr. Gindlesberger, aye. Mrs. Barkey, absent. Motion carried.

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212.20 Mr. Schilling moved that the Northwest Local Board of Education **appoint Michelle Studer to complete another term with the Board of Trustees of the Canal Fulton Public Library** beginning January 13, 2021. Mr. Colaiani seconded the motion and upon the roll call the result was as follows: Mr. Schilling, aye. Mr. Colaiani, aye. Mrs. Gearhart, aye. Mr. Gindlesberger, aye. Mrs. Barkey, absent. Motion carried.

Mrs. Gearhart moved that the Northwest Local Board of Education **approve the following resolutions:**

213.20 **Employ Megan Moore, 10-month secretary**, at the administration building, 5 yrs. exp., effective November 2, 2020.

214.20 **Employ Megan Blake, 3rd Shift custodian**, at Northwest Primary/Northwest High School, 0 yrs. exp., effective November 9, 2020.

215.20 **Employ Deanna Billman, high school aide**, at Northwest High School, 0 yrs. exp., effective November 23, 2020.

Mr. Colaiani seconded the motion and upon the roll call the result was as follows: Mrs. Gearhart, aye. Mr. Colaiani, aye. Mr. Schilling, aye. Mr. Gindlesberger, aye. Mrs. Barkey, absent. Motions carried.

216.20 Mr. Schilling moved that the Northwest Local Board of Education **award the following persons supplemental contracts for the 202-2021 school year-contingent upon criminal record check, certification and number of student athletes:**

Michael Stefan	7/8 th Grade Wrestling Coach
Shawn Lazarus	Winter Weightlifting Coach

***RESOLUTION:WHEREAS** the Northwest Local Board of Education has offered the above positions to employees of the District who have a certificate of the type described in section 3319.22 of the revised code and no such employees qualified to fill the positions have accepted, and **WHEREAS** non-teaching personnel have applied for the positions, and have been recommended by the building principal or for whom the co-curricular activity is to be supervised,

WHEREAS it is required that the Board of Education fix the compensation of the non-certificated individuals so employed at the same amount as the employees and execute a written contract for a term not to exceed one year.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Northwest Local Board of Education employ the above stated persons in the positions listed above.

Mrs. Gearhart seconded the motion and upon the roll call the result was as follows: Mr. Schilling, aye. Mrs. Gearhart, aye. Mr. Colaiani, aye. Mr. Gindlesberger, aye. Mrs. Barkey, absent. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION

- A. SUPERINTENDENT'S SEARCH –meetings were held the previous week with staff members asking for their suggestions. The survey is still on the website, everyone's opinion is appreciated.
- B. POLICY FIRST READING
 - BDC- Executive Sessions
 - DJB-Petty Cash Accounts
 - EDE-Computer/Online Services
 - DM-Deposit of Public Funds
 - DH-Bonded Employees and Officers
 - EDE-E-Computer Network Agreement Form
- C. REMOTE LEARNING-Mr. Lambes read a letter from a district parent saying they appreciate the risks involved but believe in-person learning is the best alternative for students. He also relayed the hope is to stay on campus, but there is always the possibility we may go remote if necessary.
- D. WINTER SPORTS-Mr. Hathaway has put in place regulations for visiting teams to adhere to.
- E. DATE OF NEXT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING – January 4, 2021. The Organizational Meeting will begin at 7:00 P.M. and the Regular Meeting immediately following at 7:30 P.M, the site of the meeting is yet to be determined.

At this time President Gindlesberger recognized visitors Jill Sommers who asked about the Northwest website and curriculum and Loren Sundheimer, school play set designer, who asked about possibility of a building to store sets for future use.

217.20 Mr. Schilling moved that the Northwest Local Board of Education **go into executive session at 7:42 P.M.** to to discuss Personnel- To consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of an employee or the investigation of charges or complaints against an employee. Mrs. Gearhart seconded the motion and upon the roll call the results were as follows: Mr. Schilling, aye. Mrs. Gearhart, aye. Mr. Colaiani, aye. Mr. Gindlesberger, aye. Mrs. Barkey, absent. Motion carried.

President Gindlesberger brought the board out of executive session and back into regular session at 8:06 P.M.

218.20 Mr. Schilling moved that the Northwest Local Board of Education **adjourn the regular meeting at 8:07 P.M.** Mr. Colaiani seconded the motion and upon the roll call the result was as follows; Mr. Schilling, aye. Mr. Colaiani, aye. Mrs. Gearhart, aye. Mr. Gindlesberger, aye. Mrs. Barkey, absent. Motion carried.

President James Gindlesberger

Treasurer Dan Levengood