
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

**MINUTES OF MARCH 9, 2015 6:00 P.M.
BERKSHIRE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
BERKSHIRE BOARD OFFICE**

* The Board of Education recognizes the value to school governance of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on school matters of community interest.

In order to permit the fair and orderly expression of such comment, the Board shall provide a period for public participation at every public meeting of the Board and publish rules to govern such participation. These rules are available at each Board meeting. Anyone desiring to speak is asked to make this request in advance. Participants must be recognized by the presiding officer. Comments shall be directed to the presiding officer; not to Board members individually. Board Bylaw 0169.1



PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Roll Call: Mr. Koster, Mr. Manfredi, Mr. Honkala, Mr. Imhof, Mrs. Brown – present

Motion made by Mr. Honkala, seconded by Mr. Manfredi to make an amendment to the current agenda to honor Mr. Battles for serving over 30 years for students at the Berkshire and Ledgesmont School Districts.

Roll Call: All Ayes
Motion Carried.

Motion made by Mrs. Brown, seconded by Mr. Honkala to approve the current agenda and Minutes from February 9, 2015, regular meeting.

Roll Call: All Ayes
Motion Carried.

Territory Transfer

Motion made by Mr. Manfredi, seconded by Mr. Honkala to approve the following resolution regarding the territory transfer with Ledgesmont Local Schools.

WHEREAS, Section 3311.22 of the Ohio Revised Code permits the governing board of an educational service center to initiate a territory transfer of an entire school district within the educational service center's territory to an adjoining district within that same territory; and

WHEREAS, Section 7 of House Bill 487 provides for the cancelation of an eligible school district's Solvency Assistance Fund debt when such a territory transfer is effectuated on or before June 30, 2015;

WHEREAS, on January 27, 2015, the Geauga County Educational Service Center approved a resolution proposing a territory transfer of all of Ledgesmont Local School District to the Berkshire Local School District; and

WHEREAS, on February 28, 2015, the Geauga County Educational Service Center approved a resolution to proceed with the territory transfer effective June 30, 2015.

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

Section 1. The Board accepts the territory transfer of the entire Ledgemont Local School District to Berkshire Local School District, effective June 30, 2015, pursuant to Section 3311.22 of the Ohio Revised Code and Section 7 of House Bill 487, and contingent upon the cancelation of the Ledgemont Local School District's Solvency Assistance Fund debt.

Section 2. The Superintendent and/or Treasurer are hereby authorized and directed to provide a copy of this Resolution to the Geauga County Educational Service Center and the Ledgemont Local School District Board of Education and to take any and all actions necessary to effectuate the territory transfer.

Section 3. It is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Board, and that all deliberations of this Board and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public or in executive session as permitted by Ohio law.

Section 4. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and immediately upon its adoption.

Roll Call: Mr. Koster – Aye, Mr. Manfredi – Aye, Mr. Imhof – Aye, Mr. Honkala – Aye,
Mrs. Brown - Aye

Motion Carried.

Mr. Koster welcomed Ledgemont to the Berkshire School District.

Treasurer's Report:

Let the records reflect that – The Treasurer has submitted a statement to the board and to the Superintendent showing the revenues and receipts from whatever sources derived, the various appropriations made by the board, the expenditures and disbursements therefrom, the purposes thereof, and the balances remaining in each fund. The financial statements for the period ending **February, 2015**, submitted subject to audit and include: Financial Summary, Appropriations and Revenue Summary, Check Register Recap, and Bank Reconciliation per *ORC 3313.29*.

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Remove Income Tax Issue

Motion made by Mr. Honkala, seconded by Mrs. Brown to remove the .25% earned income tax issue from the May 5, 2015 special election ballot.

Roll Call: Mr. Koster – Aye, Mr. Manfredi – Aye, Mr. Imhof – Aye, Mr. Honkala – Aye,
Mrs. Brown - Aye

Motion Carried.

Donations:

Motion made by Mr. Manfredi, seconded by Mr. Koster to accept the following donations:

Karen Honkala	Wresting pay to play	160.00
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Roll Call: All Ayes

Motion Carried.

Resolution Accepting Tax Rates

Motion made by Mr. Manfredi, seconded by Mr. Imhof to approve the following resolution as required by the Tax Budget Commission.

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.

WHEREAS, this Board of Education in accordance with the provisions of law has previously adopted a Tax Budget for the next succeeding fiscal year commencing on July 1st, 2015 and WHEREAS, the Budget Commission of Geauga County, Ohio, has certified its action thereon to this Board together with an estimate by the County Auditor of the rate of each tax necessary to be levied by this Board, and what part thereof is without, and what part within the ten mill limitation; therefore, be it RESOLVED, By the Board of Education of the Berkshire Local School District, Geauga County, Ohio, that the amounts and rates, as determined by the Budget Commission in its certification, be and the same are hereby accepted; and be it further RESOLVED, that there be and is hereby levied on the tax duplicate of said School District the rate of each tax necessary to be levied within and without the ten mill limitation as follows:

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SCHEDULE A				
SUMMARY OF AMOUNTS REQUIRED FROM GENERAL PROPERTY TAX APPROVED BY BUDGET COMMISSION, AND COUNTY AUDITORS ESTIMATED TAX RATES				
FUND	Amount to be Derived from Levies Outside 10 Mill Limitation	Amount Approved by Budget Commission Inside 10 Mill Limitation	County Auditor's Estimate of Tax Rate to be Levied	
			Inside 10 Mill Limit	Outside 10 Mill Limit
General Fund	3,798,077.00	1,033,108.00	4.50	45.30
Library Fund	381,297.00	0		1.70
Permanent Improvement	253,645.00	0		2.50
TOTAL	4,433,019.00	1,033,108.00	4.5	49

SCHEDULE B		
LEVIES OUTSIDE 10 MILL LIMITATION, EXCLUSIVE OF DEBT LEVIES		
GENERAL FUND	Maximum Rate Authorized to Be Levied	County Auditor's Estimate of Yield of Levy (Schedule A, Col 1)
26.10 Current expense levy authorized by voters on 1976 and Prior not to exceed - Continuing - years.	26.10	1,900,761.00
5.0 Current expense levy authorized by voters on 11-08-1977 not to exceed - Continuing - years.	5.00	364,130.00
4.70 Current expense levy authorized by voters on 08-02-1983 not to exceed - Continuing - years.	4.70	495,093.00
4.50 Current expense levy authorized by voters on 11-05-1985 not to exceed - Continuing - years.	4.50	474,026.00
5.0 Current expense levy authorized by voters on 05-03-1988 not to exceed - Continuing - years.	5.00	564,067.00
TOTAL General Fund outside 10 mill Limitation	45.30	3,798,077.00

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SCHEDULE B		
LEVIES OUTSIDE 10 MILL LIMITATION, EXCLUSIVE OF DEBT LEVIES		
NON-GENERAL FUND	Maximum Rate Authorized to Be Levied	County Auditor's Estimate of Yield of Levy (Schedule A, Col 1)
2.50 Permanent Improvement Fund levy authorized by voters on 11/05/13 not to exceed - five - years.	2.50	253,645.00
1.2 Burton Library Fund levy authorized by voters on 5-06-14 not to exceed - Continuing - years.	1.20	381,297.00

and be it further RESOLVED, that the Fiscal Officer of this Board be and is hereby directed to certify a copy of this Resolution to the County Auditor of said County.

Roll Call: Mr. Koster – Aye, Mr. Manfredi – Aye, Mr. Imhof – Aye, Mr. Honkala – Aye,
Mrs. Brown - Aye

Motion Carried.

Appropriation Changes:

Motion made by Mr. Manfredi, seconded by Mrs. Brown to amend the following appropriations:

Straight A STEM Grant + 188,686.19

Roll Call: All Ayes

Motion Carried.

Advances

Motion made by Mr. Koster, seconded by Mr. Honkala to approve the following advance to be re-paid by June 30, 2015.

From General to Food Service 1,000.00

Roll Call: All Ayes

Motion Carried.

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Then and Now

Motion made by Mr. Honkala, seconded by Mr. Manfredi to approve the following Then and Now Encumbrance:

Cuyahoga ESC	Audiologist Services	\$5,255.64
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Roll Call: All Ayes
Motion Carried.

Vocational Report

Mr. Miller mentioned the FabLab at the Auburn Career Center is up and running and encouraged the public to stop out sometime and take a look. He also reported that they just held the Skill USA Competition. About 6-8 schools participate each year and it is good to see all the potential. There were skills from welders to brick layers. Students have the opportunity to advance to regional and states if they place.

The Auburn Career Center also has bids currently out to replace about a half million dollars in pavement.

Committee Reports

The facilities committee has met and has finalized the list for summer projects to be completed from the Permanent Improvement Fund.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Certified:

Motion made by Mr. Honkala, seconded by Mr. Manfredi to approve a one year contract for Stephen Reedy as Principal for the 2015/2016 school year, Responsibility level 13, Step 5.

Roll Call: All Ayes
Motion Carried.

Motion made by Mrs. Brown, seconded by Mr. Manfredi, to approve the retirement of Jackie Arnold, effective June 30, 2015.

Roll Call: All Ayes
Motion Carried.

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Motion made by Mr. Honkala, seconded by Mr. Manfredi to approve the following supplemental contract:

- Shannon Moore Head Softball Coach
- Brittany Bakalar Assistant Softball Coach
- Hannah Bomback Jr. High Track Coach
- Kelsey Kimmel Jr. High Track Coach
- Thad Youngen Jr. High Track Coach

Roll Call: All Ayes

Motion Carried.

Motion made by Mrs. Brown, seconded by Mr. Koster to approve Gina Kriz on the salary schedule effective January 25, 2015 from Level V to Level VI.

Roll Call: All Ayes

Motion Carried.

Classified:

Motion made by Mr. Honkala, seconded by Mr. Manfredi to approve the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, there is an opening in the position of Confidential Secretary, Board Office; and

WHEREAS, Lavada Hanley has been recommended for the position.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Lavada Hanley be re-employed in the position of Confidential Secretary Board Office beginning on April 1, 2015, and continuing through June 30, 2015 at the rate of \$19.50 per hour for a total of 26 days.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is hereby found and determined that all formal action of this Board concerning and/or relating to the adoption of this Resolution was taken in an open meeting of this Board and that all deliberations of this Board and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public and in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Roll Call: Mr. Koster – Aye, Mr. Manfredi – Aye, Mr. Imhof – Aye, Mr. Honkala – Aye,

Mrs. Brown - Aye

Motion Carried.

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Motion made by Mr. Manfredi, seconded by Mr. Honkala to approve the following supplemental contracts for the 2014/2015 school year:

- Steve Smetana Head Baseball Coach
- Bob White Assistant Baseball Coach
- Bill Poole Assistant Baseball Coach-50%
- Julie Cole Head Girls' Track Coach
- Aimee Green Assistant Track Coach
- David Kindall Boys' Head Track Coach-75%
- Jon Skolmutch Boys' Head Track Coach-25%
- Austin Arnold Assistant Track Coach

Roll Call: All Ayes
Motion Carried.

Motion made by Mr. Honkala, seconded by Mr. Koster to approve John Dingman as a volunteer coach for the junior high track team.

Roll Call: All Ayes
Motion Carried.

Motion made by Mrs. Brown, seconded by Mr. Manfredi to approve Christina Hoskin as a Substitute Playground Aide and Custodian. All background checks have been completed.

Roll Call: All Ayes
Motion Carried.

Business:

Motion made by Mr. Manfredi, seconded by Mr. Koster to approve to purchase order to Preston Ford, for \$23,755.38 (\$24,255.38 less \$500.00 trade in) for a 2015 eight passenger van.

Roll Call: All Ayes
Motion Carried.

Motion made by Mr. Honkala, seconded by Mr. Koster to approve inter-district service agreement, with Lake County Education Service Center, for K'nextions Learning Academy, for the 2015/2016 school year.

Roll Call: All Ayes
Motion Carried.

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Old Business

Mr. DeLong reported on March 12th athletic coaches will be going to Ledgemont to meet with students in regards to signing up form fall and winter sports.

March 13th a meeting will be held at Burton Elementary with Burton PTO and Ledgemont PTO to start combining the organizations and becoming one

Mr. DeLong will also be meeting with Deb O'Conner who runs the library system in Ledgemont

Mr. DeLong gave an update on the IStem project. There have already been two walkthroughs with vendors, maintenance supervisor and the IT director. They are now in the process of looking at the discovery lab and where they are going to place the equipment for the video conferencing. Mr. Miller asked if any of the students have been exposed to this type of learning yet. Mr. DeLong responded by saying that is leaving that up to the teachers next year but the kids have not yet been exposed to anything yet.

Mr. Koster asked Brian Hiscox (athletic director) if any coaches at Ledgemont are interesting in coming to Berkshire to coach. Mr. Hiscox said the coaches at Ledgemont are aware that if they want to coach for Berkshire they should send a resume and application to him and he would take a look. Brian also said they would have first priority to be called back to coach.

Mr. DeLong recently received student demographic information for the Ledgemont students. Berkshire will begin to enter that information in Infinite Campus so student schedules can be posted. Mr. DeLong would like to mail each parent a welcome letter with the students pin and password so they can log on to see class schedules before the first day of class.

Mr. Koster asked Suzanne Steinhoff (transportation director) about the transportation issue between Berkshire and Ledgemont. Suzanne stated that she was going to wait until after this board meeting and will set up a meeting with Community Bus to look at details.

New Business

Mr. DeLong stated that AC4P (actively caring for people) will be at Berkshire March 10th to meet with the students involved in the program. Mr. DeLong hopes this will inform the Ledgemont students with the program and the purpose of it. There will also be a social at Cleats in Chardon with kids from Chardon High School.

Mr. Koster recognized Mrs. McCaffrey for receiving the Government Finance Officers Association award for financial reporting for the period ending June 30, 2014.

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Open Public Participation

Barb Lillibridge asked Mrs. McCaffrey if Ledgemont would have a deadline of March 20th to have all remaining PO's opened. Mrs. McCaffrey answered by stating that was up to Ledgemont. Mrs. Lillibridge then asked why the school was purchasing a van. Mr. DeLong answered it was because our current van broke and a replacement is needed. Barb then asked why Lavada Hanley was rehired. Mr. DeLong answered by saying the office needed her help with the transition with merging with Ledgemont. Barb then asked what she needed to do to start a Jr. High soccer team. Mr. Hiscox answered by saying that he has been talking to Mr. DeLong about that and they are working on it.

Mr. Miller asked the Board what is going on with the Kent project. Mr. DeLong reported that they have met and are waiting on more specific details. The decision has not yet been paid if the school will be a 9-12 building or a 7-12 building. Mr. Manfredi added that they are waiting on other financial information from other districts.

Brian Kimmel asked how Berkshire staff will be impacted with the merging with Ledgemont. Mr. Koster answered by saying they are looking at names and numbers. The Board has met with legal counsel and union representatives. Teachers may retire which could potentially open up some positions allowing less to have to be put on the RIF list.

Bryan Wadsworth asked the Board what is going to be done to make the Ledgemont and Berkshire district feel like one district and wondered if any Burton Elementary students would be relocated to Ledgemont. Mr. Koster said that he would like to have joint board meeting or Berkshire board meetings in the Ledgemont communities. Mr. DeLong stated that the two PTO organizations are meeting and talking about making the organizations become one. Mr. Koster also mentioned that there has not been any talk about sending some of Burton Elementary students to the Ledgemont building. The plan is to keep the Ledgemont Elementary at their current location and just the high school students would be relocated to the high school at Berkshire.

Adjournment

Motion made by Mr. Honkala, seconded by Mr. Manfredi, to adjourn the meeting at 6:40p.m.

Roll Call: All Ayes

Motion Carried.

Mr. Jim Koster

President

Mrs. Beth McCaffrey

Recorder of Proceedings