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# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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MINUTES OF JANUARY 25, 2018 5:30 PM  
BERKSHIRE BOARD OF EDUCATION

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
BERKSHIRE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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\* 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. Boyd, Mr. Manfredi, Mrs. Raikes, Ms. Stanley, Mr. Wadsworth-present.

A motion made by Mr. Wadsworth, seconded by Mr. Manfredi to approve the current agenda.

Discussion: Ms. Stanley questioned why the agenda was sent out the morning of the meeting and if it is normal the board is notified of meeting dates at the same time the meeting notices are released to the media. Mrs. McCaffrey stated it was an oversight on her part and sent the agendas late but that the Board voted on the meeting on January 29 at the regular meeting in January.

Roll Call: Mr. Boyd-aye, Mr. Manfredi-aye, Mrs. Raikes-aye, Ms. Stanley-nay, Mr. Wadsworth-aye  
4 ayes, 1 nay  
Motion Carried.

## **Facilities/Levy Presentation**

Chris Smith from TDA Architects presented on the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission evaluation of the Berkshire Buildings.

John Stoddard-Superintendent presented on the PRIME (Partnership in Rural Innovative Models in Education)

Beth McCaffrey-Treasurer presented the current levies collected by the district and the USDA (United State Department of Agriculture) loan application.

The Board asked questions regarding the PRIME project, OFCC evaluations, USDA funding and enrollment projections.

## **Public Discussion:**

Jay Giles, resident - Supports this opportunity. The State legislatures made this work for our benefit and the Board should vote yes and move ahead.

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Todd Hornak, resident- Thinks the Board should move forward. We have been talking about this since 2012 and a lot of questions were answered and the voters/taxpayers should decide if this happens or not, not 5 board members.

Linda Stone, former teacher at Berkshire and a fifth generation resident - This is a great opportunity and Berkshire has already been consolidated many time (Troy, Claridon, Ledgesmont) and that it is never easy but we have to look at the big picture and do what is best for the kids.

Tim Hess, sixth generation resident - We need to do what is best for the kids and adapt to the changes. We have this awesome opportunity with lots of excitement for the district. Thanked Mr. Stoddard for his leadership.

Jody Miller, resident and graduate - Stated she would hate to see the shame of the past deny this opportunity to the future. This deserves to go to ballot and let the taxpayers decide.

Joel Hoar, resident and graduate - Would like to see other board members at the community meetings Mr. Stoddard has been holding. Noted at the Ledgesmont PTC meeting, there were more Burton people than Montville/Thompson residents. He also added adding five minutes to a 45 minutes bus route is not that big of a deal and he feels people will make the drive.

Lee Imhof, Troy resident and past board member for 13 years - When Claridon and Troy consolidated with Burton it was no easy but there was no choice. This is a great opportunity and we need to have strength in numbers.

Jim Romask, Claridon resident with four children - The Board has an obligation to put this on the ballot for vote.

Linda Stone, Excited about the opportunity to do something big and look at what this will do to the value of our homes and the community as a whole. We have the opportunity to be role models and do what is best for the kids.

Sherry Hornak, resident - Moved to Alabama and moved back to Geauga County and noted nothing has changed since she moved away. Struggled with what school to send her kids because of that. Something needs to change and we need to give our kids more opportunities.

Jerry Hiscox, resident and graduate - We have the opportunity to be a leader in this state and nationwide. The politicians make this happen so now we need to do the same. Former board members are supportive of this and now we have a Superintendent that has done everything possible to make this happen. We are not Burton, Claridon, Troy, Montville, Thompson, we are the Berkshire Badgers and there is more positives than negatives when it comes to this project.

Linda Valentino, Claridon resident - We need to look at the future and give the public a chance to vote.

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Jay Giles-hope leadership is taken and allows this to be put on the ballot.

Jody Miller-The fear of closing elementary schools should not affect how the Board votes on Monday.

Linda Stone- Children are already driving the same distance from Troy to Burton Elementary, so it is no different to ask Ledgemont students to be on the bus for 45 minutes when Troy kids have been doing it for years.

Mr. Manfredi- when Ledgemont called him regarding a merger, he welcomes them with open arms. By taking on Ledgemont, they actually saw a tax decrease. This will be the first time in 26 years of Berkshire going to ballot for a tax increase besides the earned income tax.

Joel Hoar- the board members vote does not matter, let the community vote and have a say.


John Manfredi- whether a levy passes or fails, it is all about education and we need to keep educating the community.

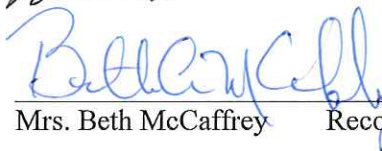
Jim Romask- this is our shot as the economy is the strongest it has been in 25 plus years.

## Adjournment

A motion made by Mr. Wadsworth, seconded Mrs. Raikes to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Roll Call: Mr. Boyd-aye, Mrs. Manfredi-aye, Mrs. Raikes-aye, Ms. Stanley-aye, Mr. Wadsworth-aye  
All Ayes  
Motion Carried

  
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Mr. Jim Boyd President

  
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Mrs. Beth McCaffrey Recorder of Proceedings