

**Gallipolis City School District Board of Education**

Regular Meeting  
December 20, 2023

The Gallipolis City School District Board of Education met at 6:30 p.m. on December 20, 2023 at Gallia Academy Middle School Library located at 340 Fourth Avenue, Gallipolis, OH 45631.

REGULAR MEETING

Kelly Barker, Jared Smith, Evan Houck, Hayden Houck, Amber Houck, Bella Houck, Neil Houck, Nathan Wilson, Chris Stout, Sharon Fisher, Wendy Canaday, Winston Saunders, Jennifer Easter, Ed Burris, Joel Elliott, Josh Bodimer, Nikki Riffle, Tarik Vanmeter, Debbie Shelton, Meghan Denney, Chris Rathburn, Braylan Rathburn, Bryan Martin, Mitzi Martin, Steve Kenney, Krista Kenney, Kelly Ratliff, Kelly Carter, Larry Carter, Terry Qualls, Crystal Facemire, Kenny Davis and Gabriel Raynor were in attendance.

VISITORS

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. with Vice President Mr. Alex Saunders presiding. The following members were present: Ms. Lynn Angell; Mr. John O'Brien, Ms. Ameer Rees; Mr. Alex Saunders; Ms. Reagan Skidmore, Student Representative; Mr. Aidan Toler, Student Representative; Mr. Craig Wright, Superintendent and Ms. Bethany Lewis, Treasurer.

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Pledge of Allegiance

PLEDGE

(111-23) Motion by Ms. Lynn Angell seconded by Mr. John O'Brien to approve agenda  
ROLL CALL VOTE: Ms. Lynn Angell; yes; Mr. John O'Brien, yes; Ms. Ameer Rees, yes; Mr. Alex Saunders, yes.  
Motion approved.

APPROVE AGENDA

(112-23) Motion by Ms. Ameer Rees seconded by Ms. Lynn Angell to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2023 regular meeting  
ROLL CALL VOTE: Ms. Ameer Rees, yes; Ms. Lynn Angell, yes; Mr. John O'Brien, yes; Mr. Alex Saunders, yes.  
Motion approved.

APPROVE MINUTES

Vice President Alex Saunders opened the floor for public participation.

Visitor Bryan Martin cautioned the Board on moving to electric buses by describing the concerns including: performance on terrain, battery costs, battery disposal, cost of bus itself, fire system for electrical fires, maintenance and safety training, insurance, operational layout and charging stations. He added that participating in special financial incentives could make an impact that would lead to higher taxes for the community.

PUBLIC  
PARTICIPATION

Ms. Lynn Angell responded that she researched electric buses while at the Ohio School Board Conference and then meet with Transportation Director Troy Johnson which shared similar concerns along with how electric buses could be supported on long trips such as sporting events. Superintendent Wright echoed having the same discussions with Mr. Johnson.

Visitor Josh Bodimer thanked Ms. Amee Rees and Mr. John O'Brien for their years of service on the Board of Education and for being assets to our community. He continued to share his support of the current football program. He reminded the Board that Coach Brent Saunders was hired as a young coach and was supported for over 29 years of coaching. Wade Bartholomew coached for the district for one year before leaving and this year was named Ohio Coach of the Year for Division 1. He asked the Board to support Coach Carter who is a young coach and building the program.

PUBLIC  
PARTICIPATION

Kenny Davis commented that the football program is growing and will continue grow as Coach Carter leads to more success.

Larry Carter thanked the kids and parents for coming and showing support. He asked the Board to move forward with the football program and the coach.

Jared Smith spoke about how Coach Carter helped kids gain employment after high school and helped kids play football at the college level.

Chris Stout echoed the qualities of Coach Carter as caring about kids and taking the time to know each kid well enough to speak about each player without notes at the sports banquet.

Terry Qualls commented on how the coach checked on kids after surgery and major life events.

Debbie Shelton stated she along with others were confused about what is going on.

Superintendent Wright responded that he could not comment. There is a process that the district must follow and in order to honor that process he could not comment.

Joel Elliott added that he was impressed with the players in attendance and speaking in front of large crowds and that should be a sign of how much they think of Coach Carter.

Gabriel Raynor added his support of the coach and the program.

(113-23) Motion by Ms. Lynn Angell seconded by Mr. John O'Brien to approve:

- A. Financial report for the month ended November 30, 2023
- B. Membership in Ohio School Board Association and participate in OSBA Legal Assistance Fund for calendar year 2024
- C. Section 457(b) Eligible Deferred Compensation Plan authorization

FINANCIAL REPORT

OSBA MEMBERSHIP

457(b)

**WHEREAS**, The Gallipolis City School Board of Education (the "Employer") is a governmental employer as defined in Section 457(e)(1)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), and

457(b)

**WHEREAS**, Employer wishes to offer eligible employees an opportunity to enhance their personal retirement savings by deferring receipt of current compensation, and

**WHEREAS**, the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 amended Section 457(b) of the Code to provide eligible individuals who perform services for the Employer with increased opportunities to save for post-employment needs.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE GALLIPOLIS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT, COUNTY OF GALLIA, STATE OF OHIO, does hereby authorize Bethany Lewis ("Authorized Employee") as Treasurer to adopt a Non-qualified deferred compensation plan that qualifies under Section 457(b) of the Code, and shall make the Plan available to the following individuals:

- All Employees
- All Employees, except those employees in the following class or classes:  
Employees who are students performing services described in section 3121(b)(10) of the Internal Revenue Code
- All independent contractor who perform services for the Employer from time to time

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that authorized Employee is hereby authorized, directed and empowered to execute any documents, contracts, or agreements as may be necessary or desirable to implement the plan, and is further authorized, directed and empowered to take any and all actions necessary or desirable to effectuate the foregoing resolutions.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ms. Lynn Angell, yes; Mr. John O'Brien, yes; Ms. Ameer Rees, yes; Mr. Alex Saunders, yes.  
Motion approved.

(114-23) Motion by Ms. Lynn Angell seconded by Ms. Ameer Rees to authorize OSBA to review policies in light of HB33:

OSBA POLICY  
REVIEW

**WHEREAS**, the Ohio General Assembly passed the state's biennial operating budget for FY24-25 (HB33) which Governor DeWine signed into law on July 3, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, HB33 made significant legislative changes impacting the Ohio Department of Education ("ODE") and State Board of Education ("SBOE"), including renaming ODE the Department of Education and Workforce, creating the position of Director of Education and Workforce, establishing within the Department of Education and Workforce a Division of Primary and Secondary Education and a Division of Career-Technical Education, creating the Department of Children and Youth, creating the position of Director of Children and Youth and reallocating powers and duties between the State Board of Education, Department of Education and Workforce and Department of Children and Youth; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education recognizes the need to assess each of its board policies to determine necessary updates to ensure alignment with the new HB33 legislative requirements impacting ODE and SBOE;

OSBA POLICY  
REVIEW

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE GALLIPOLIS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT, COUNTY OF GALLIA, STATE OF OHIO** the following:

1. Authorizes the Ohio School Boards Association to commence a thorough review of its individual board policies to identify those requiring updates due to the new HB33 legislative requirements impacting ODE and SBOE;
2. Requests that the Ohio School Boards Association create a chart for the Board outlining the specific policy sections requiring updates and provide a brief summary of the proposed modifications for each affected policy to facilitate a clear understanding of the recommended updates.
3. Take effect immediately upon approval.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ms. Lynn Angell, yes; Ms. Ameer Rees, yes; Mr. Alex Saunders, yes; Mr. John O'Brien, yes.  
Motion approved.

(115-23) Motion by Mr. John O'Brien seconded by Ms. Lynn Angell to approve:

- A. Request for leave of Brittany Beman beginning on January 4, 2024 and ending on or around February 19, 2024 with paid leave to be used until exhausted and then the leave will be unpaid
- B. Agreement with Gallipolis Education Association and McKenzie Carmichael
- C. Substitutes for the 2023-2024 school year as follows:
  1. Charles McGuire as Custodian
  2. Amanda Mossburg as Aide
  3. Grace Thomas as Aide and Teacher pending licensure
- D. Approve The Big Cover Up Grant in the amount of \$1,720 awarded to Gallia Academy High School Key Club with Advisor Danella Newberry
- E. Agreement with ArchiveSocial to provide social media archiving for the period January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024
- F. Lease agreement with Lisa Osborne Investments LLC for the period December 1, 2023 through November 30, 2024
- G. Agreement with Holzer Therapy and Wellness Center for reduced membership cost to Gallipolis City School District staff
- H. Revised policies as follows:
  1. IGD, CoCurricular and Extracurricular Activities
  2. IGDJ, Interscholastic Athletics
  3. KGB, Public Conduct on District Property
- I. Purchase of one (1) 77/78 Passenger School Bus for the 2024-2025 school year

LEAVE REQUEST

GEA AGREEMENT

SUBSTITUTES

KEY CLUB GRANT

ARCHIVESOCIAL

LEASE

WELLNESS

POLICIES

ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. John O'Brien, yes; Ms. Lynn Angell, yes; Ms. Ameer Rees, abstained, Mr. Alex Saunders, yes.  
Motion approved.

As per Resolution (4-23) E. 1. "Authorize the Superintendent to post positions and approve substitute and/or supplemental contracts as needed,"

Cameron Hesson was approved as a Substitute Aide effective November 17, 2023

Superintendent Wright announced the district partnered with other districts to apply for the Appalachian Community Grant to build a facility offering medical and optical services and mental health counseling. The grant awardees will be named in February.

The Board set the date for the organization meeting as January 11, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at Gallia Academy Middle School Library with the regular meeting to follow.


Superintendent Wright thanked Ms. Ameer Rees and Mr. John O'Brien for serving on the Board. He presented them with fleur de lis made by Gallia Academy Vocational Agriculture students.

(116-23) Motion by Ms. Lynn Angell seconded by Ms. Ameer Rees at 7:07 p.m. to move into executive session for consideration of the following: the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, compensation of an employee and/or matters required to be kept confidential by Federal law or State statute  
ROLL CALL VOTE: Ms. Lynn Angell, yes; Ms. Ameer Rees, yes; Mr. Alex Saunders, yes; Mr. John O'Brien, yes.  
Motion approved.

Meeting reconvened at 7:55 p.m. with the following present: Ms. Lynn Angell; Mr. John O'Brien, Ms. Ameer Rees; Mr. Alex Saunders; Mr. Craig Wright, Superintendent and Ms. Bethany Lewis, Treasurer.

(117-23) Motion by Mr. John O'Brien seconded by Ms. Ameer Rees to adjourn the regular meeting.  
ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. John O'Brien, yes; Ms. Ameer Rees, yes; Mr. Alex Saunders, yes; Ms. Lynn Angell, yes.  
Motion approved. Meeting adjourned.

The foregoing is a true and accurate copy of the Record of Proceedings from the December 20, 2023 regular meeting of the Gallipolis City School District Board of Education.

  
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Gallipolis City School District

1-11-24  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bethany Lewis, Treasurer  
Gallipolis City School District

1/11/24  
Date

EMPLOY SUB AIDE

GRANT

NEXT MEETING

RECOGNIZED  
BOARD MEMBERS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

RECONVENE

ADJOURN