



Minutes of the Board of Education Regular Meeting of the Berea City School District held on Monday, January 11, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at Grindstone Elementary 191 Race St. Berea, Ohio 44017 and shown remotely on YouTube at the following address:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2eDqel9zE2CFfmt6DakRiA/videos?view_as=subscriber

A. Opening Meeting

Welcome to the livestreamed Regular Meeting of the Berea City School District on January 11, 2021.

This is a meeting of the Board of Education in public for the purpose of conducting the School District’s business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There is time for public comment during the meeting as indicated in this agenda.

The Board of Education is a decision-making group. The public may express sentiments to assist the members in making decisions, but time spent answering routine questions or criticisms takes time from the Board’s business meeting. Questions about operation of the schools should be directed to your child’s teacher or the administrator of the school. Items on the agenda normally include reports from the Board and/or from the Superintendent or his/her staff. These reports do not require formal Board action, but they are relevant to the operation of the schools. Action items on the agenda require formal action by the Board. These items are presented to the Board in motions by Board members, or in recommendations by the Superintendent. Routine business - For efficiency of operation, the Board condenses items of routine business into lists or schedules, and presents these for action as consent agenda items. Board members receive their meeting agendas on the Wednesday preceding the meeting. This provides the opportunity for Board members to review all agenda items and associated exhibits well before considering action.

B. Regular Business

Members present: Chapman Duke Dockman Farris Postel Roll Call B-1

Start Time: 7:19 p.m.

President Ana Chapman called for the Pledge of Allegiance. Pledge B-2

Postel moved and Dockman seconded that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the December 21, 2020, Regular Board of Education as shown on the agenda Minutes Approval B-3
21-0111-1316

Roll Call: Ayes: Chapman Dockman Duke Farris Postel
Nays: None Motion Carried

Mrs. Farris shared that the Education Foundation Committee would be meeting this coming Monday. Mr. Postel asked if there would be an online auction and Mrs. Farris did not know for certain but assumed there would be. Board of Education Committee Reports B-4

Mrs. Chapman wished a Happy New Year to all and welcomed everyone back from the holiday break.

Board of Education
Comments
B-5

None

Public Participation
B-6

C. Superintendent Recommendations

Mrs. Wheeler shared a packet of information with the Board that included information on changes in quarantine guidelines. In most classes the students will be more than 3 ft apart which helps with the new quarantine guidelines and we shouldn't be quarantining students as much. Mrs. Wheeler shared information about the family surveys that went out in regards to bringing students in grades 6-12 back and from that survey 70% of families chose to send students back in either a hybrid or full in-person learning environment. There were approximately 1900 responses to the survey. Mrs. Wheeler recommended bringing students back to something close to full time whether it be 5 days a week or 4 days a week with remote learning on Fridays. She would like Dr. Smithberger and Mr. Discenza to meet with their building committees to begin the discussion on returning.

Superintendent's
Update
C-1

Mrs. Chapman asked for some clarification on keeping students three feet apart during class changes. Mrs. Wheeler explained that she would like the buildings to have time to meet and discuss those types of things. There will still be one way hallways and stairwells and masks will still be worn. She also addressed staggered release times and said it was good in theory but it isn't actually something that is possible. Mrs. Chapman asked if teachers would be in the hallway to ensure that students would be wearing masks and Mrs. Wheeler answered yes, they should be monitoring the hallways as it is and that the students have been good about wearing their masks.

Mr. Postel asked about the start date for PK through grade 5 and if they were starting at 4 or 5 days a week. Mrs. Wheeler stated they are returning to 5 day instruction.

Mrs. Chapman asked if the students would be traveling from class to class with the dividers. Mrs. Wheeler explained that the dividers were actually bought before the change in information came out about the 6 ft to 3 ft recommended distancing. Mrs. Wheeler said she would like Dr. Smithberger and Mr. Discenza to discuss the need for shields at their buildings then make a recommendation. Mr. Discenza was asked about the fifth graders carrying their shield with them and he said there was a lot of conversation and hesitation about them being carried across the building to their specials. They were able to fashion them into dividers to use in the encore classes so the students wouldn't have to carry the shields back and forth. Mrs. Chapman asked if the dividers in the encore classes were being cleaned between each class and it was explained that they are not used in the same manner as the individual shields are and that the students are still masked while in encore classes. Discussion then took place regarding cleaning products that disinfect for a longer period of time and Mr. Postel added that cleaning products are very hard on plastics and break them down over time. Mrs. Chapman thought the students were using shields to eat lunch but that is not the case. Clarification was made that at BPE the students are eating lunch at their desks with their shields but at GS and BC the students are eating in the cafeteria without shields but are spaced apart from one another. Mrs. Chapman stated that it concerns her a little when the students are unmasked.

Mrs. Farris said she knows we are all looking forward to getting kids back in the classroom and we are getting to the point where people feel comfortable and she understands that the ultimate problem was the quarantine issue with the teachers and that the students weren't necessarily the ones bringing the virus into the schools. She is okay with the Administration beginning the process of getting everything in place so the students in grades 6 through 12 could get back to the classroom. Mrs. Wheeler reminded everyone that the majority of that planning had already been done. That is the work that Dr. Smithberger and Mr. Discenza did over the summer when we initially planned to return to in-person learning.

Mrs. Chapman wanted to caution that unless you are a teacher, bus driver or a cafeteria worker you don't know what it's like being in a classroom during a pandemic.

She stated that it's important to take the adults ideas and perspectives into play because there is real fear of being around people especially little kids when they are unmasked. Mrs. Wheeler stated that she was actually very proud of the work that has happened in the district in regards to conversations with staff members and that conversations would continue between administrators and staff members. Mrs. Wheeler said the commitment forms for families would be sent out in the next day or two. Mrs. Chapman asked of there was any new information on vaccinating employees. Mrs. Wheeler sent a survey to staff asking for numbers of employees that would opt to receive the vaccine. She spoke with the Board of Health on Friday and they are cautiously optimistic that the staff could be vaccinated the first week in February. When, where and how it will happen is still unknown. Mrs. Farris asked Mrs. Wheeler if the promise of vaccines for the district to return to some sort of in person learning made her feel like they were dangling the vaccines in front of her to try to get a commitment. Mrs. Wheeler said yes and no, she was on a call with ODE recently and there isn't going to be any sort of "school police" enforcing anything but there were a lot of rumblings about the tone of that message to districts. Mrs. Farris wished Tracy and the district luck with the vaccination process.

Superintendent's
Update Cont.
C-1

Mrs. Wheeler and Mrs. Rowe presented the Board Members with certificates to recognize them for School Board Recognition Month. Mrs. Wheeler mentioned the important work that they do and said they serve as a vital role between the community and the classroom. She thanked them for the important part they play in our schools and our community.

School Board
Recognition
C-2

Farris moved and Dockman seconded the recommendation that items C4-C9 be approved as part of the consent agenda.

Consent Agenda
C-3
21-0111-1317

Roll Call: Ayes: Chapman Dockman Duke Farris Postel
Nays: None Motion Carried

It was recommended that the following appointment(s) be approved as indicated:

Certified Personnel -
Appointments
C-4

1. Replacement Teacher

Haines, Logan Effective 01/06/2021 \$237.41/day

2. Supplemental Contracts 2020-2021 as shown below:

Dobbs, Karen Head Girls Indoor Track Coach (+7) \$1,395.00

Nigro, Matthew Head Boys Indoor Track Coach \$1,395.00

It was recommended the nonrenewal of teacher listed on the April 20, 2020 board agenda be recalled and placed at the appropriate step on the appropriate salary schedule effective for the 2020-2021 school year as indicated:

Certified Personnel
Teacher, Recalled
from Reduction in
Certified Staff
C-5

Sloat, Kathleen Recall 1.0 effective 01/04/2021 (106 days) Limited Contract

It was recommended that the following 2020-2021 Titans Virtual Learning Academy (TVLA) teachers be paid for having an over-sized classroom for the first quarter as indicated:

Certified Personnel -
 Payment of Stipends/
 Over-sized classroom
 C-6

Jennings, Stacey	\$750.00	BMMS
Manus, Frances	\$750.00	Grindstone
Meyer, Melissa	\$750.00	BMMS

It was recommended that the following certified personnel be paid \$18.00 per hour from the regular salary account for hour(s) worked on IEP/ETR Writing for Jon Peterson/Autism Scholarship students as indicated:

Certified Personnel -
 IEP/ETR Writing
 C-7

Cifranic, Sandra	1 hour	12/4/2020
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It was recommended that the following resignation(s) be accepted at the end of the day as indicated:

Classified Personnel –
 Resignations
 C-8

1. Behrend, Terry effective end of the day 12/31/20
 Custodian #1 SERS Retirement
2. Perez, Carmen effective end of the day 12/31/20
 Transportation SERS Retirement

It was recommended that the following appointment(s) be approved as indicated:

Classified Personnel –
 Appointments
 C-9

1. Assistant Bookkeeper
 - a. Jocke, Sarah Step 0 01/19/2021
 (Current employee probationary appointment)
 (Reclassification from Office Assistant)
2. Intervention Associate-District Wide
 - A. Bates, Terrell Step 0 01/04/2021
 (New employee probationary appointment)
 - B. Dyne, Matthew Step 0 01/04/2021
 (New employee probationary appointment)
 - C. Zeleznik, Kathy Step 0 01/04/2021
 (Current employee probationary appointment)
 (Reclassification from Student Monitor)

3. Classified Personnel Supplementals 2020-2021 as shown below:

Berea-Midpark High School

Barnes, Timothy	Assistant Boys Indoor Track Coach (7+)	\$1,046.00
Heaton, Hunter	Assistant Girls Indoor Track Coach (2)	\$896.00
Rowland, Myranda	Head Softball Coach (2)	\$4,668.00

It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the Kent State University Memorandum of Understanding for the College Credit Plus Partnership agreement for the 2021-2022 school year as shown on the agenda.

College Credit Plus MOU
-Kent State University
C-10
21-0111-1318

Roll Call: Ayes: Chapman Dockman Duke Farris Postel
Nayes: None Motion Carried

The policy shown on the agenda was presented for a first reading.

Board Policy - First
Reading
C-11

D. Treasurer's Recommendations

Mrs. Rowe stated that the December monthly report was added to the agenda this morning. We are trending favorably in revenue and cash balance mainly because we received the workers comp. dividend check which was around \$979,000.00. Around \$200,000.00 was received in November. Mrs. Rowe will update the forecast with those numbers figured in and there will be more discussion about it at the February 1st BOE meeting. The audit has been completed and filed but it has not been finalized so it is still confidential. The only comment that Mrs. Rowe feels we may get is in regards to the outstanding check list which she is aware needs to be cleaned up and old checks need removed. The checks will go to an unclaimed funds account and after 5 years can go back to the general fund.

Treasurer's Update
D-1

Mr. Postel asked what the worker comp. premium is that the district pays and Mrs. Rowe said it was normally close to \$260,000.00 a year.

Farris moved and Postel seconded the recommendation that items D3-D5 be approved as part of the consent agenda.

Consent Agenda of
Treasurer's
Recommendations
D2
21-0111-1319

Roll Call: Ayes: Chapman Dockman Duke Farris Postel
Nayes: None Motion Carried

It was recommended that, in compliance with Section 5705.40 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Board approve the supplemental appropriations as shown on the agenda and approve the 2021 appropriations to be amended to include the changes as detailed in the document attached to the agenda (Amended Appropriation Measure Certificate-Section 5705.412)

Supplemental
Appropriations and
Amended
Appropriations
Measure
Certificate
D-3
21-0111-1320

Supplemental Appropriations

FUND/SPCC	DESCRIPTION	INCREASE/ DECREASE	AMOUNT
019-0009	CCBH Cares	Decrease	(\$ 14,630.99)
507-3321	CCBH Cares	Increase	\$ 14,630.99
587-5020	IDEA PS Handicapped	Decrease	(\$ 601.18)
439-5020	New ECE Grants	Increase	\$ 23,588.31
572-3320	Title 1 Neglected	Increase	\$ 1,007.52
551-5020	LEP (Title III) Limited English	Decrease	(\$ 5,496.98)
551-3320	Title III Immigrant	Decrease	(\$ 1,119.03)
516-5020	Flow Thru - 6B IDEA	Decrease	(\$ 42,116.20)
590-5020	Educator Quality/Academic Achievement	Increase	\$ 33.65
572-5020	Title I Basic	Decrease	(\$193,586.54)
516-5021	Flow Thru - 6B IDEA	Increase	\$220,063.37
551-5021	LEP (Title III) - Limited English	Increase	\$ 12,577.71
551-3321	Title III Immigrant	Increase	\$ 2,248.76
572-5021	Title I Basic	Increase	\$316,826.81
572-3321	Title I Neglected	Increase	\$ 33,530.02
587-5021	IDEA PS Handicapped	Increase	\$ 41.81
590-5021	Educator Quality/Academic Achievement	Increase	\$ 36,031.75

It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the investments as listed on the Custom Holdings Report provided by RedTree Investments as shown on the agenda.

Approval of
Investments
D-4

It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the financial statements and the total payments to vendors for the month of December, 2020 as shown on the agenda

Approval of Financial
Statements and
Payments to Vendors
D-5

Dockman moved and Postel seconded the motion to approve the Tax Budget for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2021 as presented by the Treasurer at the Tax Budget Hearing on January 11, 2021 and as appears on the agenda.

Approval of the 2021-
2022 Tax Budget
D-6
21-0111-1320

Roll Call: Ayes: Chapman Dockman Duke Farris Postel
Nays: None Motion Carried

E. Adjournment

Postel moved and Dockman seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

Adjournment
E-1
21-0111-1321

Roll Call: Ayes: Chapman Dockman Duke Farris Postel
Nays: None Motion Carried

Time meeting adjourned: 7:52 p.m.