

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The Board of Education of the Canfield Local School District, Mahoning County, Ohio met in regular session this date at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present:

Mr. Nader Atway, President  
Mrs. Traci DeCapua, Vice President  
Dr. Betsy Ahlquist  
Mr. Matt Campbell  
Mr. Steven DeMaiolo

---

### **TREASURER PRO-TEMPORE**

Mrs. DeCapua was appointed Treasurer Pro-Tempore.

---

### **INTRODUCTION OF OCTOBER ROTARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH**

The following October Rotary Students of the Month were introduced:

Dr. Potts presented Aleen Barakat, Senior

Mr. Rubin presented Thomas Tsudis, Grade 8

Mr. Lavery presented Grant Kemble, CHC Grade 4

Grade 4 Hilltop student, Jocelyn Stellato, was not present

---

### **SUPERINTENDENT AND BOE UPDATE ON THE BOND ISSUE**

Mr. Atway thanked the community for taking their time to vote, and expressed optimism based on closing the gap from previous voting, stating he takes that as a small win.

Mr. Atway gave a huge thanks to the committee to support Canfield Schools for going above and beyond and thanked them individually by name; also thanked were other community members and teachers.

Mr. Atway mentioned the close in the gap occurred because this plan was more palatable from an economics perspective, but that a new middle school is still a must.

Mr. Atway spoke about what the people who voted no gave as their reasons for doing so including:

They believe they are taxed enough  
They believe we shouldn't have let the buildings get into this bad of shape in the first place  
They believe we could be getting funding from other sources

Mr. Atway stated that 1998 was the last time Canfield voters said yes to new facility money and that 2013 was the last time voters approved operating money for the district.

Mr. Campbell extended his thanks to the community and the board of education office including Joe Knoll, Pattie Prince and John Vitto.

Mr. Campbell shared that the biggest losers from all this are our students and staff. He mentions there's always an excuse and no sacrifice.

Mr. DeMaiolo gave kudos to Rachel Musser and the levy committee for their help and effort in trying to pass the bond issue.

Mr. DeMaiolo mentioned the next course of action could include exit polls to obtain data from the community.

Dr. Ahlquist expressed a need to try something different and mentions there are many points that still need to be addressed.

Mrs. DeCapua mentioned that we are living in a fractured and broken community after three failed levies and that the community needs to heal.

Mr. Knoll noted that there's a special election in May, which would mean we would need two resolutions needed by January 28<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Knoll spoke about updating our enrollment projections with OFCC. The 18 percent state share remains unchanged.

Mr. Knoll expressed that a school income tax cannot be put on to support a school bond issue and must be used with another funding source but is rarely used. He also mentioned if looking to do anything like that the community would need to be educated on the matter.

Mr. Atway advised that a work session is needed before the end of the year to focus strictly on the school building ideas.

---

### **SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

Mrs. DeCapua presented Student Resolutions#10-2025 through #21-2025 honoring the following individuals/teams:

CHS Girls Tennis Team  
Raania Khan  
Whitney Miller  
Hadley Moser  
Carly Fleming  
Ashtyn Hanousek  
Meredith Ross  
CHS Boys Golf Team  
Mick Ambrose  
Nathan Miller  
Danny Chaplow  
Topher Drombetta

### **CAPITAL CONFERENCE BOARD REPORTS**

Mr. Atway shared his take-away on the session he attended about the Ed Choice Vouchers and the distribution between funds to private and public schools.

Mrs. DeCapua shared her take-away on classes she attended about hot topics involving house bills and another about an exponential learning project.

Mr. DeMaiolo discussed a class that spoke about how school boards can engage more with the communities in which they reside.

Dr. Ahlquist added that the same session gave some advice on how to bridge the gap between the community and board office, through increased communication.

Mr. DeMaiolo shared his take-away from a class for a possible email subscription allowing the public to receive updates for board meeting dates and a link to the YouTube channel to increase attendance and increase awareness of topics discussed.

---

### **MINUTES**

Mr. DeMaiolo made a motion, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to waive the reading of the minutes of the October 9, 2024, regular meeting and approve the minutes as presented.

On roll call members voted as follows:

Dr. Ahlquist-yes   Mr. Campbell-yes   Mrs. DeCapua-yes   Mr. DeMaiolo-yes   Mr. Atway-yes

The President declared the motion carried.

---

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Jason Henry suggested the school board take immediate action going forward in regards to the levy and that exit polls involving a professional are needed. He stated there is a need to look at the entire picture on where and how to get the voter support. He also mentioned that time is needed to educate the public.

---

### **LICENSED RESIGNATIONS, CLASSIFIED RESIGNATIONS, CLASSIFIED TRANSFER, APPROVE CLASSIFIED SUBSTITUTES, EXTRACURRICULAR RESIGNATION AND HIRING EXTRACURRICULAR**

Mr. Knoll made the following recommendations:

**Resignations – Licensed:**

JoAnne Smotrilla

CHS Intervention Specialist  
effective May 30, 2025

Ruthanne Altiero

CVMS 5<sup>th</sup> Grade English Teacher  
effective June 1, 2025

Valerie Weingart CVMS 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Science/Social Studies Teacher  
effective June 1, 2025

Kim Wilson CVMS 8<sup>th</sup> Grade American History Teacher  
effective June 1, 2025

**Resignations – Classified:**

Josie Homsey Special Services Secretary  
effective April 1, 2025

Allison Kukura Hilltop Special Needs Aide  
effective October 25, 2024

Denise Carkido CHS Head Cook  
effective January 1, 2025

**Transfer – Classified:**

Tracy Patton from CVMS Special Needs Aide  
to CHS Special Needs Aide

**Approve Classified Substitutes:**

(Pending background checks)

Taylor Adams  
Cindy Rawlings  
Kate Yasher  
Allison Kukura  
Halle Schneider

**Resignation – Extracurricular:**

Steven Covelli Hockey Coach  
effective October 29, 2024

**Hiring – Extracurricular for the 2024-2025 School Year:**

**In-District Licensed Extracurricular**

|                        |               |         |
|------------------------|---------------|---------|
| Head Girls Track Coach | Lesley Holmes | \$6,326 |
|------------------------|---------------|---------|

**Out-of-District Licensed Extracurricular (Resolution #23-2025)**

|                   |                 |         |
|-------------------|-----------------|---------|
| Asst. Track Coach | Michael Rudloff | \$5,061 |
|-------------------|-----------------|---------|

**Non-Licensed Extracurricular (Resolution #24-2025)**

|                             |                 |         |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------|
| *Asst. Swimming Coach       | Bobby Kutsch    | \$3,796 |
| Asst. Track Coach (.5 time) | Eric O'Brien    | 2,531   |
| Asst. Track Coach (.5 time) | Ashleigh Rowley | 2,109   |
| Head Hockey Coach (.5 time) | David Rankin    | 2,320   |
| Head Hockey Coach (.5 time) | Josh Congelio   | 2,320   |
| Bowling Volunteer           | Lisa Devereaux  |         |

Contracts are pending verification of BCI/FBI background checks and completion of all required certifications and courses including but not limited to Pupil Activity Validations and CPR certifications for those supervising vigorous activities.

\* Support Organization Donated

Dr. Ahlquist made a motion, seconded by Mr. DeMaiolo, to approve the above recommendations as presented by the Superintendent.

On roll call members voted as follows:

Dr. Ahlquist-yes Mr. Campbell-yes Mrs. DeCapua-yes Mr. DeMaiolo-yes Mr. Atway-yes

The President declared the motion carried.

---

### **ACCESS PROGRAM AGREEMENT**

Mr. DeMaiolo made a motion, seconded by Mr. Campbell to adopt Resolution #9-2025 to approve an amendment to the program agreement with ACCESS.

On roll call members voted as follows:

Dr. Ahlquist-yes Mr. Campbell-yes Mrs. DeCapua-yes Mr. DeMaiolo-yes Mr. Atway-yes

The President declared the motion carried.

---

### **EMPOWER SUPERINTENDENT TO ACCEPT RESIGNATIONS**

Mrs. DeCapua made a motion, seconded by Mr. Campbell to adopt Resolution #22-2025 to empower the Superintendent to accept resignations.

On roll call members voted as follows:

Dr. Ahlquist-yes Mr. Campbell-yes Mrs. DeCapua-yes Mr. DeMaiolo-yes Mr. Atway-yes

The President declared the motion carried.

---

### **APPROVE CHANGES TO POLICIES**

Mr. DeMaiolo made a motion, seconded by Mrs. DeCapua to approve changes to Policies 6233, Amenities for Participants at Meetings and/or Other Occasions; 6320, Purchasing and Bidding; and 6680, Recognition.

On roll call members voted as follows:

Dr. Ahlquist-yes Mr. Campbell-yes Mrs. DeCapua-yes Mr. DeMaiolo-yes Mr. Atway-yes

The President declared the motion carried.

### **DONATIONS**

The following donations were presented and recommended they be accepted:

|                                    |              |                                        |
|------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------------------|
| Sisters Cupboard and Closet, LLC   | \$ 250.00    | Speech and Debate Fund                 |
| James & Jennifer Hallos            | 250.00       | Speech and Debate Fund                 |
| Steven Aubel                       | 100.00       | Speech and Debate Fund                 |
| Geisler Realty                     | 500.00       | Speech and Debate Fund                 |
| Spice Mill, Inc. (Dunkin Donuts)   | 520.00       | Hilltop Principal's Fund               |
| Spice Mill, Inc. (Dunkin Donuts)   | 520.00       | CH Campbell Principal's Fund           |
| Animal Medical Care Center         | 100.00       | Speech and Debate Fund                 |
| Cray Enterprises Inc (Dairy Queen) | 100.00       | Speech and Debate Fund                 |
| Colin & Louise Campbell            | 100.00       | Speech and Debate Fund                 |
| Wilson Lane Farm                   | 100.00       | Speech and Debate Fund                 |
| Elizabeth Skeels                   | 100.00       | Speech and Debate Fund                 |
| Amy J Carrier                      | 50.00        | CHS Craft Show                         |
| Centofanti Charitable Foundation   | 8,600.00     | Special Education Supplies & Equipment |
| Amy J Roth                         | 25.00        | CHS Craft Show                         |
| Canfield PTA                       | 2,626.76     | Hilltop STEM Supplies                  |
| Kwon & Beth Miller                 | 50.00        | CHS Craft Show                         |
| Ohio Pyle Prints, Inc.             | 19.97        | CHS Principal's Fund                   |
| Aaron & Jennifer Meyers            | 40.00        | CHS Craft Show                         |
| Heather Logan                      | 50.00        | CHS Craft Show                         |
| Brandalynn S. Hilgert              | 25.00        | CHS Craft Show                         |
| TCR Real Estate Holdings LLC       | 50.00        | CHS Craft Show                         |
| Joseph & Diana Murphy              | 25.00        | CHS Craft Show                         |
| Total Cash Donations               | \$ 14,201.73 |                                        |

Mr. DeMaiolo made a motion, seconded by Dr. Ahlquist, to accept the above donations as presented.

On roll call members voted as follows:

Dr. Ahlquist-yes Mr. Campbell-yes Mrs. DeCapua-yes Mr. DeMaiolo-yes Mr. Atway-yes

The President declared the motion carried.

---

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. DeMaiolo made a motion at 7:09 p.m., seconded by Mr. Campbell, to adjourn to a confidential executive session to discuss the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of a public employee.

On roll call members voted as follows:

Dr. Ahlquist-yes Mr. Campbell-yes Mrs. DeCapua-yes Mr. DeMaiolo-yes Mr. Atway-yes

The President declared the motion carried.

---

### **RECONVENE**

The meeting reconvened at 7:27 p.m.

November 13, 2024

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, at 7:28 p.m., Dr. Ahlquist made a motion, seconded by Mrs. DeCapua, to adjourn. The motion carried without dissent.

---

Mr. Nader G. Atway, President

---

Miss Patricia L. Prince, Treasurer

*A recording of the meeting is available to the public via the Canfield Local School District YouTube Channel, [www.youtube.com/canfieldschools](http://www.youtube.com/canfieldschools).*