

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS 001
Minutes of MADEIRA BOARD OF EDUCATION
Organizational Meeting & Regular Meeting
Held January 13, 2025

The Organization and Regular meeting of the Madeira Board of Education was held on Monday, January 13, 2025 at 7pm respectively in accordance with written notices sent to each member. The meeting was called to order by President Pro Tempore Mr. Steve Bernicke.

Present: Mr. Steve Bernicke, Mr. Brad Cunningham, Mr. Dave Eberly, Mr. Ryan Lex, Mrs. Ann Ramos.

Also present at the meeting were Kenji Matsudo, Emily Hauser, Dave Bergan, Diane Nichols, Gretchen Bloomstrom, Erin Beers, Betsy Henning and teachers, students and family of students recognized below.

AGENDA (01-25) – Mr. Eberly moved, seconded by Mr. Lex to approve the agenda for the January 13, 2025 meeting of the Board of Education.

Vote: Mr. Cunningham, aye; Mr. Eberly, aye; Mrs. Ramos, aye; Mr. Bernicke, aye; Mr. Lex, aye.

RECOGNITIONS

Assistant Principal, Gretchen Bloomstrom, introduced:

Girls Golf Coach Catie Kauffman, who was named District Division 2 Coach of the Year, and team members who qualified for the state championship.

National Merit Semi-Finalists Morgan Starr, Owen Dixon, Wes Nelson, Will Manning.

National Merit Commended Students Nathan Gemmel, Nina Gravlee, Nora Katz, Sasha Pinyayev.

Jennifer Jordan and Entrepreneurship students.

Ryan Ervin and students who qualified to compete in the state marching band competition.

Girls Cross Country Coach Josh Dooley and team members who qualified for the state competition.

Girls Soccer Coach Dan Brady, who was named Ohio Division 5 Coach of the Year, and team members who won the state championship.

National Honor Society advisors Jen Jordan and Laura Edwards who will introduce new inductees and honorary staff inductee Jennifer Bruening.

Ben Wetzel who received a perfect ACT score.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Nomination and Election of Officers for 2025

President (02-25) – Mr. Steve Bernicke, representing the Board, nominates **Mr. Ryan Lex** as President of the Madeira Board of Education for the 2025 calendar year, seconded by Ann Ramos.

Vote: Mr. Cunningham, aye; Mr. Eberly, aye; Mrs. Ramos, aye; Mr. Bernicke, aye; Mr. Lex, abstain.

President takes over the meeting from the President Pro Tempore for nomination and election of Vice President

Vice-President (03-25) – Mr. Ryan Lex, representing the Board, nominates **Mr. Steve Bernicke** as Vice President of the Madeira Board of Education for the 2025 calendar year, seconded by Mr. Eberly.

Vote: Mr. Cunningham, aye; Mr. Eberly, aye; Mrs. Ramos, aye; Mr. Bernicke, abstain; Mr. Lex, aye.

Swearing In of the Elected Board Officers – (Exhibit-1) – Mr. Ryan Lex and Mr. Steve Bernicke took the Oath of Office.

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Order of the Roll Call (04-25) – Mr. Bernicke moved, seconded by Mr. Eberly to approve the order by alphabetical order, with rotation of the first voter in the previous meeting to the fourth during the current meeting, and the President always voting fifth and last.

Vote: Mr. Cunningham, aye; Mr. Eberly, aye; Mrs. Ramos, aye; Mr. Bernicke, aye; Mr. Lex, aye.

Time, Date, and Location of Meetings (05-25) – Mr. Bernicke moved, seconded by Mr. Cunningham to designate the following dates for Regular Board Meetings at 7pm in the Madeira High School – Perin Learning Commons, 7465 Loannes Dr., Hamilton County, Madeira, Ohio, unless otherwise announced.

January 13, 2025	May 19, 2025	September 15, 2025	January 12, 2026
February 18, 2025	June 16, 2025	October 20, 2025	
March 17, 2025	July 21, 2025	November 17, 2025	
April 21, 2025	August 11, 2025	December 15, 2025	

Vote: Mr. Cunningham, aye; Mr. Eberly, aye; Mrs. Ramos, aye; Mr. Bernicke, aye; Mr. Lex, aye.

Board Service Fund (06-25) – Mr. Bernicke moved, seconded by Mr. Eberly to approve in the amount of **\$10,000** to be set aside from the General fund to be used in paying expenses incurred by the Madeira Board of Education or their official representatives in the performance of their duties during 2025.

Vote: Mr. Cunningham, aye; Mr. Eberly, aye; Mrs. Ramos, aye; Mr. Bernicke, aye; Mr. Lex, aye.

Board Appointees (07-25) – Mr. Bernicke moved, seconded by Mrs. Ramos to appoint as follows:

- Planning Commission – Mrs. Ann Ramos
- Legislative – Mr. David Eberly
- Student Achievement Liaison – Mr. Steve Bernicke
- Great Oaks – Mr. Steve Ashbrock, Community Member

Vote: Mr. Cunningham, aye; Mr. Eberly, aye; Mrs. Ramos, aye; Mr. Bernicke, aye; Mr. Lex, aye.

Legal Counsel (08-25) – Mr. Cunningham moved, seconded by Mrs. Ramos to appoint **Ennis Britton** as legal counsel for calendar year 2025 in accordance with ORC 3313.203 and 3313.47.

Vote: Mr. Cunningham, aye; Mr. Eberly, aye; Mrs. Ramos, aye; Mr. Bernicke, aye; Mr. Lex, aye.

IRS mileage rate (09-25) – Mrs. Ramos moved, seconded by Mr. Bernicke to approve the 2025 IRS mileage reimbursement rate and any changes issued during the year **(\$.70/mile as of 1/1/25)** for professional leave and district business approved within the course of assigned district positions.

Vote: Mr. Cunningham, aye; Mr. Eberly, aye; Mrs. Ramos, aye; Mr. Bernicke, aye; Mr. Lex, aye.

Superintendent Authorizations

Professional Leave (10-25) – Mr. Bernicke moved, seconded by Mrs. Ramos to authorize the Superintendent to approve requests from school employees to attend professional meetings within the amount of appropriations for the calendar year 2025.

Vote: Mr. Cunningham, aye; Mr. Eberly, aye; Mrs. Ramos, aye; Mr. Bernicke, aye; Mr. Lex, aye.

Temporary Personnel (11-25) – Mr. Bernicke moved, seconded by Mrs. Ramos to authorize the Superintendent, during periods when this Board is not in session, to make offers of employment directly to candidates for either teaching or nonteaching positions on behalf of this Board, and to acknowledge acceptance of such offers on behalf of this Board, subject to subsequent vote of ratification by this Board; provided however that upon ratification by this Board, the employment shall be deemed effective as of the date and time of the employee's acceptance of the Superintendent's offer.

Nothing in this resolution shall require the Board of Education to employ or continue to employ an individual who has not provided a criminal records check satisfactory to the Board or who has not satisfied any other prerequisite to employment created by law or Board Policy.

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The authorization provided by this resolution shall remain in effect until withdrawn by formal action of this Board.

Vote: Mr. Cunningham, aye; Mr. Eberly, aye; Mrs. Ramos, aye; Mr. Bernicke, aye; Mr. Lex, aye.

Resignations (12-25) – Mr. Bernicke moved, seconded by Mr. Eberly to authorize the Superintendent to accept resignations which have been submitted by employees during times when the Board is not in session, subject to ratification by this Board; provided however, that upon ratification by the Board, such resignations shall be deemed effective as of the date and time of the Superintendent's acceptance.

The authorization provided by this resolution shall remain in effect until withdrawn by formal action of this Board.

Vote: Mr. Cunningham, aye; Mr. Eberly, aye; Mrs. Ramos, aye; Mr. Bernicke, aye; Mr. Lex, aye.

Student Discipline Suspension Appeals Designee (13-25) – Mrs. Ramos moved, seconded by Mr. Eberly to authorize the Board of Education designee for students discipline suspension appeals to be designated as the Superintendent and/or Assistant Superintendent.

The authorization provided by this resolution shall remain in effect until withdrawn by formal action of this Board.

Vote: Mr. Cunningham, aye; Mr. Eberly, aye; Mrs. Ramos, aye; Mr. Bernicke, aye; Mr. Lex, aye.

Treasurer Authorizations

Federal, State and Local Grants (14-25) – Mr. Eberly moved, seconded by Mrs. Ramos to authorize the Treasurer to enter into and/or accept or participate in Federal, State, and Local Grants or agreements and authorize the Treasurer to appropriate funds for the grants awarded.

Vote: Mr. Cunningham, aye; Mr. Eberly, aye; Mrs. Ramos, aye; Mr. Bernicke, aye; Mr. Lex, aye.

Certificate of Estimated Resources (15-25) – Mr. Eberly moved, seconded by Mrs. Ramos to authorize the Treasurer to file requests for amendments of the Certificate of Estimated Resources with the Hamilton County Auditor as information becomes available to the Treasurer to warrant such a filing.

Vote: Mr. Cunningham, aye; Mr. Eberly, aye; Mrs. Ramos, aye; Mr. Bernicke, aye; Mr. Lex, aye.

Fund to Fund Transfers (16-25) – Mr. Eberly moved, seconded by Mrs. Ramos to authorize the Treasurer to make fund to fund advances, advance returns and transfers as needed throughout the year with Board ratification per current law as part of the financial reports at the regular meetings.

Vote: Mr. Cunningham, aye; Mr. Eberly, aye; Mrs. Ramos, aye; Mr. Bernicke, aye; Mr. Lex, aye.

Inactive Funds (17-25) – Mr. Bernicke moved, seconded by Mr. Eberly to authorize the Treasurer to invest inactive funds at the most productive interest rate, whenever these funds are available, within the limits of the law and district policy.

Vote: Mr. Cunningham, aye; Mr. Eberly, aye; Mrs. Ramos, aye; Mr. Bernicke, aye; Mr. Lex, aye.

Deposits and Withdrawals (18-25) – Mr. Bernicke moved, seconded by Mrs. Ramos to resolve that the funds of the Madeira Board of Education be deposited in its name, and that, after authorization by Board resolution, the same be subject to withdrawal by checks, drafts, and other orders for the payment of money, made, signed, withdrawn, accepted or endorsed in the name of the Madeira Board of Education and signed by the Treasurer, effective January 1, 2025 until the organizational meeting of the Board in January, 2026, in accordance with ORC 3315.51.

Vote: Mr. Cunningham, aye; Mr. Eberly, aye; Mrs. Ramos, aye; Mr. Bernicke, aye; Mr. Lex, aye.

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Public Records Officer (19-25) – Mr. Cunningham moved, seconded by Mr. Bernicke to designate the Treasurer as the Public Records Officer and authorize the Treasurer to convene meetings of the Records Commission not limited to, but at minimum, annually.

Vote: Mr. Cunningham, aye; Mr. Eberly, aye; Mrs. Ramos, aye; Mr. Bernicke, aye; Mr. Lex, aye.

Pay Bills (20-25) – Mrs. Ramos moved, seconded by Mr. Bernicke to authorize the Treasurer to pay all bills within the limits of the appropriations resolution as prescribed by ORC 3313.18 as bills are received under assumption goods received or services performed are acceptable.

Vote: Mr. Cunningham, aye; Mr. Eberly, aye; Mrs. Ramos, aye; Mr. Bernicke, aye; Mr. Lex, aye.

Blanket and Super Blanket Purchase Orders (21-25) – Mr. Eberly moved, seconded by Mrs. Ramos to authorize the treasurer to use blanket purchase orders, provided that no such purchase order shall be in an amount in excess of \$500,000 and no such blanket purchase order shall extend beyond the end of the fiscal year. Super blanket purchase orders are not subject to the \$500,000 limitation.

Vote: Mr. Cunningham, aye; Mr. Eberly, aye; Mrs. Ramos, aye; Mr. Bernicke, aye; Mr. Lex, aye.

Tax Budget (22-25) – Mr. Bernicke moved, seconded by Mrs. Ramos to adopt the Tax Budget for fiscal year July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. (Exhibit-2)

Vote: Mr. Cunningham, aye; Mr. Eberly, aye; Mrs. Ramos, aye; Mr. Bernicke, aye; Mr. Lex, aye.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC – There were no public comments at this time.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

Maximizing & Reimagining the MMS Media Center (Exhibit-3) – presented by Erin Beers and Betsy Henning.

Objective: The Maximizing and Reimagining the MMS Media Center team was tasked with examining the utilization of the middle school media center to explore ways to reimagine its use to enhance student learning. With a new MES Dumont Media Center and updated MHS Perin Learning Center, now is the time to reimagine the MMS Sellman Media Center.

What innovative learning spaces help middle school students thrive?

Current Space:

- The MMS Media Center remains in its current state from when it was built in 2006.
- Furniture sturdy but extremely heavy and inflexible.
- Grade levels reserve the space for a variety of reasons, but each use is different and requires a unique furniture set-up.
- The space is also utilized for testing and lunch groups.
- Moving the furniture requires preplanning and the physical support of multiple individuals.
- Chromebook storage and maintenance needs currently dictate space usage in the media center.
- There is a Cricut, laminator and poster making printer for adults, there is not a makerspace.

Desires:

- Increased storage and organization:
 - Shelving to display items
 - Storage for tech materials
- Furniture:
 - Functional tables and chairs on casters-similar to the PLC
 - 4-6 tables for collaboration
 - Soft seating: couches/coffee tables

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- Technology:
 - More functional circulation desk with work space and closed storage
 - Student managed work and charging station- cafe'/coffee shop style
 - Chromebook cart/storage that locks -more functional/hidden
 - Printer setup rack to display and organize printed materials
- Collaboration space
 - Breakout/closed-off rooms for working time
 - Maker materials for student use
- Light/bright paint

Future of Media Centers: Storage Centered to Learner Centered
Flexible learning environments to accommodate various activities

- Inspiration space
- Inviting as a hub of school activity
- Inclusion of makerspace
- Collaborative space
- Technology as a pivotal role
- Decentralized and open space

Research from: Education Market Essential and EdTech Magazine

Key Findings:

Key findings of our interviews with local Districts: Sycamore, Reading, Wyoming, Seven Hills, Indian Hill, Mariemont:

- The collective understanding that the media center can become a powerful hub of student activity.
- All of the schools we interviewed are working to create spaces that are student centered, and invite collaboration, creation and escape.
- Funding is typically through private donors, the school Foundation, budgeted maintenance, or through grant writing.
- Those managing the spaces welcome partnerships with classrooms and active learning opportunities.
- When possible, the media center spaces have been separated into reading, maker, media and collaboration areas.

Recommendations:

Do now, no cost:

- Remove or repurpose existing Macintosh computers and monitors. The monitors can become display screens for student collaborative work with the addition of an HDMI cord.
- Remove the center bookshelves currently in the media center. Many of the books can be housed in the wall space. The removal of the shelves allows for more flexible floor space.

Long Term Planning, no cost:

- Explore grant opportunities for funding.
- Looking into flexible seating options that include tables on casters and soft seating options.
- Review the floor plan, look for opportunities to create collaborative work spaces.
- Reexamine how the circulation desk is used.
- Survey teachers and students for needs and desires.
- Speak with MES and MMS media and maker staff to understand needs and reflections on the use of space; especially as students transition from one building to the next and have ore agency in learning.

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Long Term Action Items:

- Invest in flexible seating options including tables on casters and soft seating options.
- Remove the circulation desk.
- Create student leader opportunities for students to manage Chromebook and technology needs.
- Add any closed room spaces.
- Invest in student maker materials, consumable and non-consumable.
- Invest in media production materials.
- Add inspirational graphics to the walls.
- Add collaborative workstations with access to a display board and white board.

CONSENT CALENDAR (23-25) – Mr. Bernicke moved, seconded by Mr. Eberly to approve the consent calendar.

A. Minutes

1. December 16, 2024 (Exhibit-4)

B. Resignation – Classified/Support

1. Kailyn Dudley – MES Educational Assistant

C. Treasurers Report

1. **General Fund Financial Report for December, 2024** and warrant payments for all funds in the amount of \$704,078. (Exhibit-5)

	Dec 1- Dec 31	FY25 FYTD	FY24 FYTD
Revenues	\$256,959	\$13,777,000	\$13,443,831
Expenditures	\$2,943,480	\$13,549,593	\$15,597,250
Ending Cash	\$14,200,688	\$14,200,688	\$12,599,189

2. Donations

Donor	Item/Recipient	Amount
Elena Leshyn (in honor of Madeleine Luther)	MHS – Theatre	\$200.00

Vote: Mr. Cunningham, aye; Mr. Eberly, aye; Mrs. Ramos, aye; Mr. Bernicke, aye; Mr. Lex, aye.

FINANCE

OSBA Membership (24-25) – Mr. Eberly moved, seconded by Mr. Bernicke to approve the 2025 membership in the Ohio School Boards Association, electronic subscription to Briefcase, and electronic subscription to School Management News. **(Exhibit-6)**

Vote: Mr. Cunningham, aye; Mr. Eberly, aye; Mrs. Ramos, aye; Mr. Bernicke, aye; Mr. Lex, aye.

OSBA Legal Assistance Fund (25-25) – Mr. Eberly moved, seconded by Mr. Bernicke to resolve to participate in the OSBA Legal Assistance Fund for Calendar Year 2025 and authorize the Treasurer to pay the LAF \$250.00. (Exhibit-7)

Vote: Mr. Cunningham, aye; Mr. Eberly, aye; Mrs. Ramos, aye; Mr. Bernicke, aye; Mr. Lex, aye.

Then and Now (26-25) – Mr. Bernicke moved, seconded by Mr. Cunningham to approve invoices with Then and Now certificate in accordance with O.R.C. 5705.41(D).

Vendor	Item	Amount
Henry Schein, Inc.	Athletic Training Equipment	\$3,700.00

Vote: Mr. Cunningham, aye; Mr. Eberly, aye; Mrs. Ramos, aye; Mr. Bernicke, aye; Mr. Lex, aye.

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GOVERNANCE

High School Course Planner (27-25) – Mrs. Ramos moved, seconded by Mr. Eberly to adopt the High School Course Planner for the 2025-2026 school year. (Exhibit-8)

Vote: Mr. Cunningham, aye; Mr. Eberly, aye; Mrs. Ramos, aye; Mr. Bernicke, aye; Mr. Lex, aye.

Homestead Exemption Enhancement (28-25) – Mrs. Ramos moved, seconded by Mr. Cunningham to resolve to enhance the Homestead Exemption Program and property tax rollback to provide additional financial assistance for senior citizens. (Exhibit-9)

Vote: Mr. Cunningham, aye; Mr. Eberly, aye; Mrs. Ramos, aye; Mr. Bernicke, aye; Mr. Lex, aye.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Finance – There was no formal report provided at this time.
- Buildings and Grounds – Mr. Bergan reported that we had a lot of snow and our snow plow vendor, Schill, really let us down. He also reported that thankfully, Motz was able to get the turf down at the Baseball field before the snow. The gym floor and bleachers are up next.
- Community Relations – Mr. Matsudo reported how proud he is of all the students tonight. It has been a really exciting fall with a really great group of kids.
- Policy – There was no formal report provided at this time.

BOARD COMMITTEE/LIASION REPORTS

- Planning Commission – Mr. Matsudo reported that the next study that will be presented on A.I.
- Great Oaks – Mr. Matsudo reported that Chief Ashbrock is going to come with Mr. Matsudo to meet the Oaks students for lunch.
- Legislation – Mrs. Hauser reported that the following bills passed during lame duck session. House Bill 8 which includes the parents' bill of rights to require public schools to adopt a policy on parental notification on student health and well-being and instructional materials with sexually explicit content and required religious release time as well as a policy on release time for religious instruction. House Bill 206 expands expulsion authority for Superintendents and temporary reprieve for charter school closure. Senate Bill 208 requires public schools to allow open enrollment for active military families. Additionally, the joint committee on property tax review reform recommendations are as follows: 1. Expand the Homestead Exemption using a means-tested approach. 2. Implement relief measures to support taxpayers with high property taxes relative to income. 3. Allow counties to temporarily adjust reappraisal schedules to promote more equitable tax burdens across counties and explore a mechanism to allow for the current formula or three-year averaging, whichever is best for taxpayers. 4. Include emergency and substitute levies in 20-mill floor calculations and consider eliminating replacement levies. 5. Lower the acceptable market value percentage for mass appraisals from 90% to 85%, and remove the Department of Taxation's authority to order county auditor value adjustments. 6. Review the effectiveness of TIFs, especially for residential development, enhance public input and oversight requirements; and improve revenue sharing between impacted jurisdictions.
- Student Achievement Liaison – Mr. Matsudo reported that our students are doing great both on the field and academically, as shown by tonight's recognitions.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

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ADJOURNMENT (29-25) – Mr. Eberly moved, seconded by Mrs. Ramos that the January 13, 2025 regular meeting of the Madeira Board of Education be adjourned.

Vote: Mr. Cunningham, aye; Mr. Eberly, aye; Mrs. Ramos, aye; Mr. Bernicke, aye; Mr. Lex, aye.

Board President

Treasurer