

COPLEY-FAIRLAWN CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Special Meeting

Board of Education Conference Room

November 25, 2024 4:00 p.m.

Jim Borchik, President, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

John Wheadon, Treasurer, called the roll and the following were present:

Jim Borchik
Trevor Chuna
Steve Doss
Beth Hertz
Paula Lynn

2024-93

A. Agenda

It was moved by Mrs. Lynn, seconded by Mrs. Hertz, to adopt the agenda for the November 25, 2024 regular meeting, as presented.

AYES: Lynn, Hertz, Chuna, Doss, Borchik

NAYS: None

B. Topics

1. Policies

Mrs. Aimee Kirsch, Superintendent, said she had discussed field trips abroad with the teachers that had expressed interest. She told them that the school would not be sponsoring the field trips or have any affiliation with them. However, she told them that they are welcome to do them on their own. She further explained that school attorneys are recommending no overnight field trips because of sharing of rooms and other factors that open the district to potential lawsuits.

There was discussion about the student cell phone policy that is required. Specifically, to also take into consideration cell phones on overnight trips. Some districts are requiring the cell phones to be gathered at night and students would not have access to them until the next morning. This would alleviate any unwanted pictures/videos being taken or searching of inappropriate websites.

Mrs. Kirsch said that a letter will be sent out by the high school administration regarding the use of metal detector wands. The high school has purchased wands in order to assist them when there is a report of vaping, weapons, or other metals not allowed on school property. The district has a policy which allows the use of wands; however, additional guidelines will be developed for use. There could be random searches using the wand in order to keep the school safe on a daily basis.

Vape detectors are being researched. If detectors are going to be utilized, a policy or guideline will need to be developed.

Substitute teachers were discussed along with the history of using an outside organization to assist in securing substitutes. The same procedures will be used as in the past with each case being looked at on an individual basis.

There is a policy in place currently that allows for 2 foreign exchange students to be permitted into the district per year. Some host families/companies requested that the policy be revisited and possibly additional exchange students be allowed. The board and administration feel that the current policy reflects the desire of the school district and it does not need amended.

Mrs. Kirsch has had additional conversations with the representatives from LifeWise academy. LifeWise Academy is an educational program that provides Bible education offsite during school hours to those interested. Mrs. Kirsch said that the program will begin in January and be open to 2nd graders only. The program plans to expand in the future to all grades. The release time for students is during lunch/recess break.

2. Construction Update

Mr. Steve Robinson, Business Manager, gave an update on the construction at the buildings. He said a meeting was held on November 25th and all open items were discussed along with time lines. Items that caused scheduling impacts and delays were discussed. Since the original construction was delayed by the Summit County Building Department in April, 2024, the deadline was pushed back until the end of March 2025 to get everything complete. The final inspection by the architect is to be held December 2nd at the primary buildings. A walk through is also scheduled for the middle school on December 2nd. The hope is that all areas at the middle school will be completed by the end of winter break. The high school has many areas that need to be completed as Mr. Robinson pointed out at the regular board meeting on November 17th.

3. Financial Forecast

Mr. John Wheadon, Treasurer, reviewed the forecast and explained various levy options in the future. The intent is to see how this current school year goes and then to determine if a levy should be requested in 2026 or 2027. Negative spending which means expenditures exceed revenues has occurred the past three years and will continue throughout the life of the forecast without new money being approved. This is common operating procedure. The last operating levy was passed in 2002.

4. Suburban League Realignment

The Suburban League will be voting in the near future to add Medina City School, Kenston Local Schools and Mayfield City Schools. This realignment is occurring because Kent Roosevelt City Schools, Cuyahoga Falls City Schools and Tallmadge City Schools opted to leave the league in 2026-2027

5. Classroom Management

As a follow-up to the last regular board meeting and concerns raised by a parent about classroom management in a kindergarten classroom at Arrowhead Primary School, the administration will continue to review the classroom and offer additional support to the teacher. Other teachers are being used to assist/mentor the current teacher.

6. December Regular Meeting Agenda

The December regular meeting will be held on December 17th. Mr. Wheadon explained most items are routine items but there will be a recommendation to approve a payment to Copley Township for School Resource Officer services for April and May 2024. He explained the original purchase order was not sufficient; but, it was unknown since the invoice was just received in November, 2024.

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C. Adjournment

It was moved by Mrs. Lynn, seconded by Mr. Chuna, to adjourn the meeting (5:58 p.m.)

AYES: Lynn, Chuna, Doss, Hertz, Borchik

NAYS: None

President

Treasurer