

Minutes of the Board of Education Regular Meeting of the Berea City School District held on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, immediately following the IDEA Hearing, at the Berea-Midpark High School, ATLAS Room, 165 E. Bagley Rd., Berea, OH 44017, and shown remotely on YouTube at the following address:

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

A. Opening Meeting

Members present: Farris ☒ Mack ☒ Chapman ☒ Michal ☒ Zirke ☒
Time in: 7:15 p.m.

Roll Call A-1
[Minute 13:28](#)

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Pledge of
Allegiance A-2
[Minute 13:43](#)

B. Public Participation

The names and topics of participating community members are as listed: Matt Petrus, BMMS Shout-outs; William Boone, BMHS Shout-outs; Deb Thompson, Book Ban and Released Time for Religious Instruction; Leanne Gruss, General Business.

Pub. Part.
B-1
[Minute 14:09](#)

C. Reports

Mr. Doug Schwind introduced Ms. Diane Xander, the Superintendent of Polaris as of January 1. Ms. Xander Presented a new program, where seniors can earn industry credentials while learning. O'Neal Healthcare is Partnering with Polaris, offering signing bonuses to participating students. The construction project in Engineering, robotics, and automation will add space for 150 students and programs will begin in Fall 2026. Polaris is hosting its first "Build Her Workshop" for 7th and 8th-grade girls interested in construction trades.

Polaris Update
C-1
[Minute 23:20](#)

D. Superintendent Recommendations

Mrs. Wheeler recognized Cristina Capretta for the new format she is providing board meeting updates, Including summaries and staff recognitions, to improve transparency for the community. She also addressed Concerns about public school funding, namely the governor's latest budget, which lacks adjustments for inflation. She encourages community members to write to local representatives to support fair funding for our schools.

Supt. Update
D-1
[Minute 27:29](#)

Zirke moved and Mack seconded the recommendation to approve items D3 - D20 as part of the consent agenda

Ayes: Farris ☒ Mack ☒ Chapman ☒ Michal ☒ Zirke ☒
Nayes: None

Consent
Agenda D-2
25-0218-2280
[Minute 31:41](#)

Mack moved and Zirke seconded the recommendation to approve the 2024-2025 classroom teachers to be paid for having an oversized classroom (BFT Article VII) for the first semester as shown on the agenda.

Ayes: Farris ☒ Mack ☒ Chapman - Abstain Michal ☒ Zirke ☒
Nayes: None

Oversized
Classroom
Elem D-21
25-0218-2281
[Minute 36:32](#)

Michal moved and Chapman seconded the recommendation to approve the MOU between the Board of Education and the Berea Federation of Teachers as shown on the agenda.

Ayes: Farris ☒ Mack ☒ Chapman ☒ Michal ☒ Zirke ☒
Nayes: None

Flag Football
MOU D-22
25-0218-2282
[Minute 36:57](#)

<p>Zirke moved and Mack seconded the recommendation to approve items D24-D29 as part of the consent agenda.</p> <p>Ayes: Farris ☒ Mack ☒ Chapman ☒ Michal ☒ Zirke ☒</p> <p>Nayes: None</p>	<p>Consent Agenda D-23 25-0218-2283 Minute 37:53</p>
<p>Zirke moved and Chapman seconded the recommendation to approve the proposal from Forever Lawn for the Purchase and installation of turf materials at Grindstone Elementary playground as shown on the agenda.</p> <p>Ayes: Farris ☒ Mack ☒ Chapman ☒ Michal ☒ Zirke ☒</p> <p>Nayes: None</p>	<p>Forever Lawn D-30 25-0218-2284 Minute 43:04</p>
<p>Mack moved and Zirke seconded the recommendation to approve the quote from Kiefer USA, in the amount of \$186,690.00, for the purchase of the Mondo Powerplay II 1.8mm, for the Berea-Midpark Middle School Sports-Center floor as shown on the agenda.</p> <p>Ayes: Farris ☒ Mack ☒ Chapman ☒ Michal ☒ Zirke ☒</p> <p>Nayes: None</p>	<p>BMMS Sports Center Floor D-31 25-0218-2285 Minute 43:46</p>
<p>Chapman moved and Mack seconded the recommendation to approve the quote from Affordable Fencing, in Amount of \$42,870.00, for the purchase of materials and labor for the Berea-Midpark Middle School Fence Enclosure around the BMMS Track and Football Field as shown on the agenda.</p> <p>Ayes: Farris ☒ Mack ☒ Chapman ☒ Michal ☒ Zirke ☒</p> <p>Nayes: None</p>	<p>BMMS Fence Enclosure D-32 25-0218-2286 Minute 44:39</p>
<p>Chapman moved and Zirke seconded the motion to approve the policy revisions, po5136.01R and po6460R As a result of the January 2025 Special Update as shown on the agenda.</p> <p>Ayes: Farris ☒ Mack ☒ Chapman ☒ Michal ☒ Zirke ☒</p> <p>Nayes: None</p>	<p>Policy Rev. D-33 25-0218-2287 Minute 45:35</p>
<p>Mack moved and Chapman seconded the adoption of the Special Education Model Policies and Procedures That were released by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce in December 2024 as shown on the Agenda.</p> <p>Ayes: Farris ☒ Mack ☒ Chapman ☒ Michal ☒ Zirke ☒</p> <p>Nayes: None</p>	<p>Resolution Adoption D-34 25-0218-2288 Minute 49:07</p>
E. Treasurer Recommendations	
<p>Mrs. Kaitlyn Flowers sat in for Mrs. Rowe, no report was given.</p>	<p>Treasurer's Update E-1 Minute 51:42</p>
<p>Mack moved and Zirke seconded the recommendation to approve items E3-E8 as part of the consent agenda.</p> <p>Ayes: Farris ☒ Mack ☒ Chapman ☒ Michal ☒ Zirke ☒</p> <p>Nayes: None</p>	<p>Consent Agenda E-2 25-0218-2289 Minute 52:01</p>
F. Regular Business	
<p>Chapman moved and Mack seconded the recommendation to approve the minutes from the January 13, 2025, Organizational Meeting and the January 13, 2025, Regular Meeting as shown on the agenda.</p> <p>Ayes: Farris ☒ Mack ☒ Chapman ☒ Michal ☒ Zirke ☒</p> <p>Nayes: None</p>	<p>Minutes Approval F-1 25-0218-2290 Minute 53:03</p>

Discussion was held regarding the School Voucher Lawsuit, in particular, the growing use of school vouchers in Ohio, the lack of accountability for private schools receiving state funds, and the ongoing legal efforts to Challenge the constitutionality of the voucher system. There is strong support for joining the lawsuit to protect Public education from the privatization and ensure that public funds are used responsibly.

Discussion
Voucher F-2
[Minute 53:32](#)

Chapman moved and Mack seconded the motion to join School Voucher Lawsuit.

School Voucher
Lawsuit F-3
25-0218-2291
[Minute 1:08:54](#)

Mrs. Chapman provided the legislative update. Recent developments include the following House Bills: HB 3, Establishes a \$25 million school bus safety fund and increases penalties for illegally passing a school bus; HB 79, increases penalties for assaulting sports officials; HB 88, requires schools to teach awareness and Designate a "Fentanyl Poisoning Awareness Week"; HB 97, mandates public schools to provide free meals to All students, regardless of ability to pay. Developments in Senate Bills: SB1, a controversial bill that will overhaul Ohio's public universities, banning diversity and inclusion efforts, imposing restrictions on classroom discussions, And changing university governance; SB 7, requires K-12 schools to provide instruction on substance abuse; SB 19, mandates districts to create a plan for students needing math intervention; SB 34, requires displaying Historical documents in classrooms; SB 44, allows students to receive multiple scholarships; SB 47-49, addresses Transparency. Financial Legislation developments; SB 93, proposes a new funding system for schools based on a Statewide property tax and increased sales tax.

Legislative
Update F-4
[Minute 1:09:02](#)

Mr. Mack reported on the Safety and Security Committee, and their ongoing efforts to keep children safe.
Mrs. Zirke reported the Education Foundation will be holding its annual auction online, March 6 -9, 2025.

Comm. Reports
F-6
[Minute 1:17:34](#)

Mrs. Farris clarified that the district did not remove books from the library due to requests from any groups or Individuals, but rather data showing low circulation. Also, students have shifted to using digital resources When accessing learning materials. Mrs. Farris emphasized the district is not engaging in banning books.

Board
Comments
F-7
[Minute 1:19:06](#)

G. Adjournment

Mack moved and Zirke seconded the recommendation to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes: Farris ☒ Mack ☒ Chapman ☒ Michal ☒ Zirke ☒

Nayes: None

Adjournment
G-1
25-0218-2292
[Minute 1:23:10](#)

Time adjourned: 7:16 p.m.

Date of Approval: 03/17/2025 Approved: Corinne A. Farris Attest: Julia A. House