

President, Hope Hill, called the **March 25, 2025** regular monthly meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

The Treasurer called the roll with the following members present:

Ken Killian, Jody Seward, Charles Snyder, Hope Hill – All Present Justin Henry, Absent

Pledge of Allegiance

Recognition of Public

Patricia Bucher –Sugarcreek Twp. Trustee candidate

Athletics - State Indoor Track Meet

Speech and Debate

43.25 Motion by Snyder, seconded by Killian to approval of Financial Report for February 28, 2025 and regular board minutes from February 18, 2025.

Roll Call: Snyder, Killian, Seward, Hill – All Yes Passed

44.25 Motion by Killian, seconded by Seward to approve a resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorize the necessary tax levies and certify them to the County Auditor:

	Inside	Outside
Permanent Improvement	3.00	
Bond Retirement Fund		1.90
OFCC Maint. Fund		.50
General Fund	1.60	36.00
Total	4.60	38.40

Roll Call: Killian, Seward, Snyder, Hill – All Yes Passed

45.25 Motion by Seward, seconded by Snyder to approve a contract with CHI Corporation for network management and maintenance services at a cost of \$70,475.00.

Roll Call: Seward, Snyder, Killian, Hill – All Yes Passed

46.25 Motion by Snyder, seconded by Killian to approve a contract with ATT for the installation of WiFi equipment and service on two buses using eRate funds in the amount of \$7,300.

Roll Call: Snyder, Killian, Seward, Hill – All Yes Passed

47.25 Motion by Seward, seconded by Killian to approve the following contract with the SPARCC from June 1, 2025 - July 31, 2026 school year to provide technology support at an approximate cost of \$76,500.00.

Roll Call: Seward, Killian, Snyder, Hill – All Yes Passed

48.25 Motion by Seward, seconded by Snyder to approve a contract with Stark County Educational Service Center to provide Business, Curriculum/Instruction, Special Needs, Legal and Professional Development and Pre-School Services for FY26, in the amount of \$150,000.00 to be deducted from state foundation payments to Fairless and paid on semi-monthly basis throughout the fiscal year.

Roll Call: Seward, Snyder, Killian, Hill – All Yes Passed

49.25 Motion by Snyder, seconded by Seward to approve FY24 State Auditor's Report; the district received an unqualified opinion.

Roll Call: Snyder, Seward, Killian, Hill – All Yes Passed

- 50.25 Motion by Seward, seconded by Killian to approve a three-year agreement with PSI for nursing services, 37.5 hours per week, as follows:
2025-2026 - \$75,740.00
2026-2027 - \$79,530.00
2024-2025 - \$83,510.00
Roll Call: Seward, Killian, Snyder, Hill – All Yes Passed
- 51.25 Motion by Seward, seconded by Snyder to approve a contract with the Stark County Educational Service Center to provide Title III English Language Learner Consortium Services for the 2025-2026 school year.
Roll Call: Seward, Snyder, Killian, Hill – All Yes Passed

Report of the Superintendent

March 10th Business Advisory Council Notes

Report on OSBA/BASA Legislative Conference

State Biennial Budget and Pending Legislation Updates

- 52.25 Motion by Seward, seconded by Snyder to approve a resolution to implement an Expenditure Reduction Plan for Fairless Local Schools

Whereas, Fairless Local Schools is committed to maintaining financial stability while continuing to provide quality education for its students; and

Whereas, the 2025-2027 Ohio Biennial Budget proposes a possible reduction in public school funding, including a reduction to the state foundation funding of over \$1,000,000 for Fairless Local Schools; and

Whereas, the Board of Education recognizes the need to reduce expenditures by approximately \$650,000 for the 2025-2026 school year to ensure the district's long-term fiscal sustainability; and

Whereas, the District has identified cost-saving measures, including reductions through attrition, reductions in support staff and Educational Service Center (ESC) support staff, and an increase in class sizes; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Fairless Local School Board hereby approves the expenditure reduction plan of approximately \$650,000, which includes the following actions:

1. Reduction through Attrition – Implementing cost savings by not filling certain positions vacated through retirements and resignations.
2. Reduction in Support Staff and ESC Support Staff – Assessing and eliminating or reducing select positions within the district and ESC services while maintaining essential operational and educational functions.
3. Increase in Class Size – Adjusting student-to-teacher ratios where feasible to optimize staffing efficiency while striving to maintain educational quality.

Be it further resolved, that the Superintendent and Treasurer are directed to oversee the implementation of this plan and provide periodic updates to the Board regarding progress and financial impact; and

Be it finally resolved, that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption by the Fairless Local School Board.

Roll Call: Seward, Snyder, Killian, Hill – All Yes Passed

- 53.25 Motion by Killian, seconded by Snyder to adopt a resolution for Special Education Model Policies and Procedures (with slight modifications):

Whereas, Ohio Revised Code § 3323.08 requires each school district to provide assurances to the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce ("DEW") that the District will provide for the education of children with disabilities within its jurisdiction and has in effect policies, procedures, and programs that are consistent with the policies and procedures adopted by DEW; and

Whereas, DEW developed a document entitled "Special Education Model Policies and Procedures" ("2024 Model Policies") that a board of education may adopt to fulfill the requirement described in the preceding paragraph; and

Whereas, on February 18, 2025, the Board approved a resolution to adopt DEW's 2024 Model Policies; and

Whereas, the District subsequently learned that the 2024 Model Policies contain certain statements that conflict with existing State and Federal laws and/or applicable case law; and

Whereas, the Board is interested in rescinding its earlier action and instead adopting a slightly modified version of DEW's 2024 Model Policies that is consistent with existing State and Federal law and/or applicable case law;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Board of Education hereby rescinds Board Resolution 31.25 and adopts DEW's 2024 Model Policies in their entirety except for the following sentences, which are specifically rejected in their current form and will not be implemented as written. The Board directs that the language identified below shall be considered either modified as specified, or, where indicated, deleted to ensure the District complies with applicable State and Federal laws and/or caselaw:

- P. 10. Destruction of Educational Records.
 - Original Language: "Ensures the information is destroyed at the request of the parents."
 - Action: Replace sentence with "Once a parent is notified that personally identifiable information maintained by the District is no longer required to provide educational services to their child, or is not otherwise required to be maintained by the District based on State or Federal law or applicable retention schedules, the parent may request that the information be destroyed."
- P. 14. Independent Education Evaluation at Public Expense.
 - Original Language: "An educational agency may not impose conditions or timelines related to obtaining an IEE, except for the criteria described above."
 - Action: Delete this sentence in its entirety.
- P. 33. Extended School Year.
 - Original Language: "The IEP team should consider emerging skills as part of the IEP process for children who are exhibiting beginning skill sets."
 - Action: Delete this sentence in its entirety.
- P. 42. Services.
 - Original Message: "Although not required, educational agencies are encouraged to provide services during short-term removals to assist children with disabilities to continue to make progress toward their IEP goals and prevent them from falling behind."
 - Action: Delete this sentence in its entirety.

Be it further resolved, that the Board directs all staff in the District to use and comply with the 2024 Model Policies (as modified herein). The Board further authorizes the Superintendent to notify DEW of the Board's adoption of the modified 2024 Model Policies through DEW's monitoring systems by uploading a copy of this Board resolution by March 30, 2025, and by November 30 for each subsequent school year; and

Be it further resolved, the Board acknowledges that the 2024 Model Policies (as modified herein), while comprehensive, do not include every requirement set forth in the IDEA, the regulations implementing IDEA, the Ohio Operating Standards, the Ohio Revised Code, and/or the Ohio Administrative Code, and the Board recognizes its obligation to follow these laws and regulations,

as well as applicable case law, in the event there is a conflict between their requirements and the Board-adopted 2024 Model Policies (as modified herein).

Roll Call: Killian, Snyder, Seward, Hill – All Yes Passed

- 54.25 Motion by Seward, seconded by Snyder to approve a memorandum of understanding between the Fairless Local School District and Walsh University to provide College Credit Plus services for the 2025-2026 school year.

Roll Call: Seward, Snyder, Killian, Hill – All Yes Passed

- 55.25 Motion by Seward, seconded by Killian to hear second reading and adopt the following policies:

0131.1	Technical Corrections
0171	Review of Policy – Rescind
1422.01	Drug-Free Workplace
2271	College Credit Plus Program
2340	Field and Other District-Sponsored Trips
2430.02	Participation of Community/Stem School Students in Extracurricular Activities
2431	Interscholastic Athletics
2460	Special Education
2460DE	Special Education - Rescind
5113	Inter District Open Enrollment
5120	Assignment within District
5131	Student Transfers
5223	Released Time for Religious Instruction During the School Day
5330	Use of Medications
5350	Student Health, Well-Being, and Suicide Prevention
5460	Graduation Requirements
5610	Removal, Suspension, Expulsion, and Permanent Exclusion of Students
5751	Parental Status of Students
5780.01	Parents’ Bill of Rights
6151	Insufficient Funds Checks
7421	Restrooms, Locker Rooms, Shower Rooms and Changing Rooms
7440.01	Video Surveillance and Electronic Monitoring
8142	Criminal History Record Check for Contracted School Services
8452	Automated External Defibrillators (“AED”) and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
8500	Food Services

Roll Call: Seward, Killian, Snyder, Hill – All Yes Passed

Heard first reading of the following revised policies (no action taken):

1613	Student Supervision and Welfare
3213	Student Supervision and Welfare
4213	Student Supervision and Welfare

- 56.25 Motion by Seward, seconded by Snyder to approve Gracie Ashton as a temporary certified substitute teacher, as needed, for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year, effective April 1, 2025.

Roll Call: Seward, Snyder, Killian, Hill – All Yes Passed

- 57.25 Motion by Killian, seconded by Seward to accept the following resignations:
Michael Kimball, Custodian, effective March 31, 2025, for retirement purposes
Eric Johnson, aviation teacher, effective May 30, 2025, for retirement purposes
Jessica Cattell, Spanish teacher, effective May 30, 2025
Anna Rankl, Paraprofessional Aide, effective May 30, 2025
Stuart Courtney, Bus Driver, effective June 2, 2025

Roll Call: Killian, Seward, Snyder, Hill – All Yes Passed

- 58.25 Motion by Snyder, seconded by Seward to approve Gregory Wentling as Head Elementary Custodian, effective March 3, 2025.

Roll Call: Snyder, Seward, Killian, Hill – All Yes Passed

- 59.25 Motion by Seward, seconded by Killian to approve up to 10 hours of home instruction per week at the BA 0 rate for Mike Rittmaier through June 1, 2025.
Roll Call: Seward, Killian, Snyder, Hill – All Yes Passed
- 60.25 Motion by Killian, seconded by Seward to approve a one-year probationary 8 hr. custodian contract for Shaluh Mack, Step 6, effective March 31, 2025.
Roll Call: Killian, Seward, Snyder, Hill – All Yes Passed
- 61.25 Motion by Snyder, seconded by Seward to approve a one-year probationary 5 hr. cook contract for Shauna Mills, Step 1, effective March 17, 2025.
Roll Call: Snyder, Seward, Killian, Hill – All Yes Passed
- 62.25 Motion by Killian, seconded by Snyder to approve Danny Thompson as a substitute custodian, effective March 10, 2025.
Roll Call: Killian, Snyder, Seward, Hill – All Yes Passed
- 63.25 Motion by Seward, seconded by Killian to approve a \$2,500.00 stipend for Marla Terrell as high school summer school P.E. teacher for 2025.
Roll Call: Seward, Killian, Snyder, Hill – All Yes Passed
- 64.25 Motion by Seward, seconded by Snyder to rescind the following supplemental contracts:
Larry Carter Asst. Baseball 5.75%
Jessica Swihart Asst. Track 6.5%
Roll Call: Seward, Snyder, Killian, Hill - All Yes Passed
- 65.25 Motion by Seward, seconded by Killian to approve the following stipends for certified personnel for the 2024-2025 school year:
Jessica Swihart Asst. Track 8%
Joseph Moriarty Weight Room – Spring
Roll Call: Seward, Killian, Snyder, Hill – All Yes Passed
- 66.25 Motion by Seward, seconded by Snyder to approve the following:
- Whereas, Section 3313.53 of the Ohio Revised Code authorizes the employment of non-teachers and/or non-district teachers as coaches and supervisors of student activity programs, and
- Whereas, this Board has posted the positions as being available to the employees of the district who hold teaching certificates and no such employee qualified to fill the position has applied for, been offered and accepted such position, and
- Whereas, this Board then advertised the positions as being available to certificated individuals not employed by the district, and thereafter received applications from the following individuals who are experienced and otherwise qualified to serve in the position.
- Be it therefore resolved, that the following individuals be employed under extra- curricular contracts in said positions for the school 2024-2025 year at the stipend amount for such positions as set forth in the current negotiated agreement, contingent upon satisfactory completion of the BCI/FBI criminal records check as required by law. Said coaches shall also have the necessary first aid training and CPR and/or other coaching requirements completed prior to beginning of season:
Jonathan Norman JH Track 6%
- Issue revised supplemental contracts for the following:
Matthew Samaco Asst. Baseball 7.6%
Abraham Highben Reserve Baseball 7.6%
Samuel Uminski Freshman Asst. Baseball 7.6%
Roll Call: Seward, Snyder, Killian, Hill – All Yes Passed

67.25 Motion by Seward, seconded by Snyder to enter executive session at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the employment of a public official.

Roll Call: Seward, Snyder, Killian, Hill – All Passed Yes

President, Hope Hill, called the meeting back into session at 8:15 p.m.

Announced the next regular board meeting will be held on April 15, 2025, 6:15 p.m. at Fairless High School.

68.25 Motion by Snyder, seconded by Seward to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:16 p.m.

Roll Call: Snyder, Seward, Killian, Hill – All Yes Passed

X _____
President, Hope Hill

X _____
Treasurer, Mark Phillips

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