

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Knoll announced that the Canfield Innovation Fundraiser is underway. Donations are being sought.

Mr. Knoll emphasized the districts five star award and quoted a letter from the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce “this remarkable accomplishment highlights your district’s commitment to advancing academic achievement and supporting student success.”

Mr. Knoll mentioned March is Music in our Schools Month, activities include:

- Hilltop 4th grade performing Ohio Music Show
- Concert and Symphonic Bands receiving Superior ratings at the 2025 OMEA District Contest.
- One Octave Higher and Chamber Ensemble receiving Superior ratings at the 2025 OMEA District Contest.

Mr. Knoll recognized that Speech and Debate, under the supervision of Jeremy Hamilton, finished 10th in the state. He also mentioned Inaya Khan was the state champion in Declamation.

Mr. Knoll announced that Daniela Lucia Pappalardo, 7th grader, was the champion of the 92nd annual WFMJ regional spelling bee.

Mr. Knoll spoke about the swim team placing at state in the Boys and Girls 200 medley relay, Boys 100 backstroke, Boys 200 individual medley and Girls 1M diving. He also mentioned Coach Stacy Sowers was awarded Girls Coach of the Year.

Mr. Knoll stated that both Girls and Boys Basketball Teams are District Champions.

Mr. Knoll announced wrestling had four state qualifiers: Gabe Miller, Tyler Scharrer, Tristan Miller and Joey Pannunzio. The team received the All Ohio Academic award based on the Team GPA.

Mr. Knoll announced indoor track qualified for State in the 4 x 800 and shot put.

Mr. Knoll recognized the Math 24 Competition, under the supervision of Shari Munno, had multiple winners in grades 4-8.

Mr. Knoll stated that Canfield art students had 1st and 2nd place winners at the Butler Art Institute of America Contest. He also announced the Special Abilities Art show is scheduled for Wednesday, March 19th at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Knoll gave an update due to the MSC Chemical Spill:

- field investigation and sampling was conducted at CHS
- summary of results is pending
- semi-permanent fence is being installed to prevent access to the creek

Mr. Knoll spoke about the school calendar. He stated he wants to do what's best for the kids. His priorities are student learning, families, then district. The driving philosophy is that with fewer instructional days before a high-stakes test, it affects both the pace and the depth of teaching, making it more difficult for students to retain knowledge. He also mentioned that other variables are taken into consideration as well as what works in comparable districts.

Mr. Knoll talked about school funding. He discussed the Fair School Funding Plan (FSFP) and that traditional public school students are losing funding even though 90% of students are public school students. This puts a burden on tax payers. He stated that Canfield is on the guarantee and the Governor's proposal recommends a reduction in the guarantee. Canfield receives \$1,777 per student from the state, while the cost to educate is over \$11,000 per student. Property values and income levels are factors driving the formula and Canfield's amounts are above average in the state. He said we need to advocate with the following:

- * complete phase-in of FSFP
- * update base costs in FSFP
- * do not reduce guarantee
- * adjust categorical funding

INTRODUCTION OF FEBRUARY ROTARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

The following February Rotary Students of the Month were introduced:

Dr. Potts presented Karley Gerst, Senior

Mr. Rubin presented Luca Shaner, Grade 8

Mr. Lavery presented Lucas Myers, CHC Grade 4

Mr. Flood presented Frankie Anthony, Hilltop Grade 4

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Mrs. DeCapua presented Resolutions #63-2025 through #89-2025, recognizing the following students:

Hayden Price
Anthony Zoccali
Andrew Helmick
Ryan Weibling
Karsten Miller

Zachary Mullane
Noah Calabrette
Mikey Zoccali
Fallon Amedia
Adele Colonna
Katie Weibling
Josie Protain
Jillian Palusak
Lyla Gray
Emelia Korom
Gianna Gamberale
Mena Monroe
Matea Ronyak
Madelyn Gray
Carina Gamberale
Mia Dingman
Matt Logan
CHS Girls Basketball Team
Jenna Triveri
Carly Fleming
Marina Koenig
Sofia Castronova

MINUTES

Mr. Campbell made a motion, seconded by Mr. DeMaiolo, to waive the reading of the minutes of the February 12, 2025, 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.

TREASURER'S REPORTS

Dr. Ahlquist made a motion, seconded by Mrs. DeCapua, to approve the check payment register for the month ending January 31, 2025, to approve purchases as approved by the Superintendent, certified by the Treasurer, and detailed in the Purchase Order Register, and to approve investments as detailed in the investment report.

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

Brook Vaughn expressed concerns on the early start date for the school year and would like the board to explore other options such as hours vs days.

Mr. Atway commented that the calendar is a hot topic that is not being ignored. The board is open to asking questions and reevaluating the situation in the future but next year's calendar is already in place.

Jason Henry wanted to be sure facilities are on the forefront. He also discussed calendar issues noting there are many differing opinions and viewpoints.

Mr. Atway commented that the takeaway should be "students first" and we don't want to compromise on calendar dates that may affect our educational program.

Mrs. DeCapua commented why she felt we started after Labor Day in the past because we were a farming community, a 4H community and had many student who were involved in the Canfield Fair. As a result of this, the date stuck for many years but now there are other educational factors that need to be taken into consideration.

**LICENSED RESIGNATION, TRANSFER/REASSIGNMENTS, APPROVE CLASSIFIED
SUBSTITUTES, EXTRACURRICULAR HIRING, EXTRACURRICULAR RESIGNATION,
HIRING CLASSIFIED SUMMER HELP**

Mr. Knoll made the following recommendations:

Resignation – Licensed:

John Vitto	Requesting Retire/Rehire effective August 1, 2025
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Transfer/Reassignments:

Logan Franczkowski	from CVMS Intervention Tutor to Grade 5 Teacher at \$44,285 effective 2025-2026 School Year
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Dawn Goclano	from CHS Lunchroom Aide to CHS Cafeteria Worker at \$15.52 per hour effective March 12, 2025
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Approve Classified Substitutes:

Sara Reyes
Alison Gregg
Phillip Lipscomb

Hiring – Extracurricular for the 2024-25 School Year:

Out of District Licensed Extracurricular (Resolution #90-2025)

Softball Volunteer	Candace Kekic
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Non-Licensed Extracurricular (Resolution #91-2025)

Asst. Girls Lacrosse	Steve Tyson	\$ 2,531
Softball Volunteer	Barb Balestrino	
Boys Lacrosse Volunteer	Gary Hoffman	

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

Resignation:

Adam Kemp	Asst. Boys Lacrosse Coach effective 2024-2025 School Year
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Hiring Classified Summer Help:

Tonya Hartman	CVMS Summer Secretary at \$13 per hour, 5 hours per day
Kathy Palumbo	Hilltop Summer Secretary at \$13 per hour, 5 hours per day
Angela Bourque	CHC Summer Secretary at \$13 per hour, 5 hours per day

Mr. DeMaiolo made a motion, seconded by Mrs. DeCapua, 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.

2025 RETIRE/REHIRE FOR JOHN VITTO AND CHERYL TUBIC

Dr. Ahlquist made a motion, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to adopt Resolution #92-2025 establishing a public meeting on the issue of reemployment of John Vitto and Cheryl Tubic.

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.

OUT OF STATE FIELD TRIP REQUESTS

Mr. Knoll presented the following requests for out of state field trips and recommended they be approved:

CH Campbell First Grade	Learn about animals in real life Keystone Safari Grove City, Pennsylvania May 23, 2025
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Model UN Club

Participate in a Conference
Westminster College
New Wilmington, Pennsylvania
April 9, 2025

Mrs. DeCapua made a motion, seconded by Mr. DeMaiolo, to approve the above requests for out of state field trips as recommended 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.

MAHONING VALLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS SERVICE AGREEMENT

Mr. Campbell made a motion, seconded by Dr. Ahlquist, to approve the Mahoning Valley Regional Council of Governments Service Agreement – July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

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.

ESC OF EASTERN OHIO AGREEMENT

Mrs. DeCapua made a motion, seconded by, Dr. Ahlquist, to approve the ESC of Eastern Ohio Additional Services Agreement for July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026.

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.

SPECIAL EDUCATION MODEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Mr. DeMaiolo made a motion, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to approve Resolution #93-2025 adopting the special education model policies and procedures.

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.

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING AMOUNTS AND RATES

Mrs. DeCapua made a motion, seconded by Dr. Ahlquist, to adopt Resolution #94-2025 Accepting the Amounts and Rates for the 2025-2026 school year.

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

Mrs. DeCapua presented the following donations and recommended they be accepted:

Robert Senn Studio, Inc.	\$ 2,000.00	CHS Principal's Fund
Robert Senn Studio, Inc.	1,775.00	CVMS Principal's Fund
Robert Senn Studio, Inc.	1,212.00	Hilltop Principal's Fund
Robert Senn Studio, Inc.	1,182.00	CHC Principal's Fund
Matthew & Jennifer Morgan	250.00	Challenge 24
Jamie Daugherty & Charles Musta	100.00	Challenge 24
Gary & Jennifer Coleman	100.00	Challenge 24
Brian & Elyssa Gaps	250.00	Challenge 24
Gault Heating Inc.	100.00	Challenge 24
Johnson Family Dental Boardman LLC	250.00	Challenge 24
Eleferios & Heather Helidonas	50.00	Challenge 24
Beth & Paul Drennen	100.00	Challenge 24
Mark Smallwood CPA	100.00	Challenge 24
David & Leanna Kemble	50.00	Challenge 24
Julie A Swauger	100.00	Challenge 24
Michael & Nicole Sahli	50.00	Challenge 24
Karen & Anthony Thomas	25.00	Challenge 24
Philecia Carpenter	50.00	Challenge 24
Michael & Sherry Karis	50.00	Challenge 24
Balbir Sandhu & Sarbjit Kaur	50.00	Challenge 24
John & Diana Scrocco	250.00	Challenge 24
Carrie Ratliff	250.00	Challenge 24
Shannon Yonnotti	50.00	Challenge 24
Paul & Mary Witkowski	50.00	Challenge 24
Darren & Marisa Augustine	250.00	Challenge 24
Junior Women's League of Canfield, Inc.	500.00	Challenge 24
Ahmad and Judith Mashqbeh	100.00	Challenge 24
Ryan and Christina Melewski	250.00	Challenge 24
Gene Haas Foundation	2,750.00	Jets Club – Robotics
Jeanne Mosure	500.00	Jets Club – Robotics
Kyle M. Brown Memorial Foundation	2,000.00	CVMS Principal's Fund
Total Cash Donations	\$ 14,794.00	

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

Mrs. DeCapua made a motion at 7:08 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 8:09 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, at 8:10 p.m., Mr. Campbell made a motion, seconded by Dr. Ahlquist, 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.