

Held August 12

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**COPLEY-FAIRLAWN CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Special Meeting

Board Planning Retreat/Work Session

Board of Education Conference Room

August 12, 2025 12:00 p.m.

Beth Hertz, President, called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

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

Jim Borchik  
Trevor Chuna  
Steve Doss  
Beth Hertz  
Paula Lynn

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A. Agenda

It was moved by Mr. Borchik, seconded by Mr. Doss, to adopt the agenda for the August 12, 2025 special meeting, as presented.

AYES: Borchik, Doss, Lynn, Chuna, Hertz

NAYS: None

B. Topics

## 1. Achievement Date Review

Mrs. Aimee Kirsch, Superintendent, reviewed preliminary test score data and history. She explained that focus will be given to the middle school since the test results are showing they did not meet the necessary benchmarks set by the State.

## 2. Board Goals and 2026 Focus Areas

The board goals were reviewed and will be set for approval at the regular August 2025 board meeting. Focus will continue to be discipline at the middle school and class sizes. Additional staff was hired at the middle school for the upcoming school year. A Dean of Students position was created along with an additional guidance counselor and a behavioral prevention specialist. The behavioral specialist is being paid for by a grant.

## 3. Permanent Improvement Projects and Construction Update

Mr. Wheadon, Treasurer, gave an update on the ongoing construction projects. He stated that Mrs. Kirsch, Mr. Robinson, Business Manager, and personnel from Infinity Construction and Fanning Howey met last week (August 5<sup>th</sup>) to discuss outstanding issues and close-out of the projects. Infinity Construction presented about \$222,000 worth of change orders that still need to be considered for approval. The change orders are for work that were requested to be done and date back several months. The paperwork was not completed in a timely manner. The recommendation will be to pay for the changes requested. He also said that a final walk through with the Fanning Howey and Infinity Construction is scheduled for Friday August 15<sup>th</sup>.

With the remaining funds from the bond, the Board of Education are considering additional projects. They reviewed multiple potential projects and indicated their top priorities are a restroom and storage facility by the high school baseball/softball fields; renovating or building a new band room at the middle school since the current space is outdated and not conducive to accommodating the size of participants; crossing signals installed on

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Ridgewood Road at Cotswold; renovating the entrance to the pool/gymnasium area; and renovating the entrance and meeting room at the board office along with making the restrooms ADA (American Disabilities Act) compliant. Other projects being considered based on funding are tuckpointing the buildings, all weather surfaces at the high school baseball/softball fields, press box renovations and sound system enhancement at the middle school athletic complex, and other various projects. Parking lot renovations at each school are already planned for the summer of 2026 along with the installation of new fuel tanks at the bus garage.

4. Financial Update

Mr. Wheadon reported that the 40% carryover balance cap was not vetoed in July 2025 as was anticipated; however, the deadline to veto any part of House Bill 96 is December 31, 2026. The district will continue to negative spend in fiscal year 2026 and until such time that a new levy is requested and approved. The district has been accessing the carryover balance since fiscal year 2023 when it began to negative spend. The process of negative spending is normal when a district has a carryover balance in order to extend the term of a levy cycle.

5. Policies

Mr. Wheadon reviewed policy JN (Student Fees, Fines, and Charges). The policy in part states that the administration will establish procedures for the collection of unpaid charges. He updated the board that the procedures enacted last school year have been effective to assist in collection of outstanding fees. The guidelines in place are a student cannot participate in dances or field trips if they have an outstanding balance. He also said any student that had an outstanding balance at the high school was sent a letter in the past two weeks indicating the balance due and the mailing also included an application to apply for free/reduced lunches if they were eligible.

Mrs. Kirsch discussed the cell phone policy and enforcement. She indicated that the policy approved late last school year is already outdated based on the new law signed by Governor DeWine. Our current policy allowed high school students to have access to their phones between classes and during lunch. After January 2026, this will be against the new law; therefore, we will need to update the policy. The middle school administration plans to send a video to parents and students regarding the use of cell phones and electronic devices. The elementary school administration will have students place their electronic devices in their school bags at the beginning of the school day and will assist any child that needs help putting the device back on at the end of the day. Teachers have been told they are to call a member of the administration team if they see a student with an electronic device being used during school hours. Staff will go over the rules with the students at the beginning of the school year. Also, posters will be visible throughout the buildings showing expectations and consequences for violations of the policy.

6. Review of the August 19, 2025 board agenda

Mr. Wheadon and Mrs. Kirsch reviewed the draft copy of the August 19, 2025 regular board meeting agenda with the board members.

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C. Executive Session

It was moved by Mr. Doss, seconded by Mr. Chuna to go into executive session pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G). The board shall consider the employment of a public employee of the school district pursuant to Section 121.22(G)(1) and matters required to be kept confidential by federal law or regulations or state statutes pursuant to Section 121.22(G)(5) at 3:03 p.m.

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AYES: Doss, Chuna, Borchik, Lynn, Hertz  
NAYS: None

The board returned to public session at 3:31 p.m.

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D. Adjournment

It was moved by Mrs. Lynn, seconded by Mr. Doss, to adjourn the meeting (3:32 p.m.)

AYES: Lynn, Doss, Chuna, Borchik, Hertz  
NAYS: None

  
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President

  
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Treasurer