



Minutes of the Board of Education Regular Meeting of the Berea City School District held on Monday, August 15, 2025, at 6:00 P.M., 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: 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call A-1
[Minute 5:07](#)

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Pledge of
Allegiance A-2
[Minute 5:14](#)

B. Public Participation

The names and topics of participating community members are as listed: Maryanne Haller, Introduction, Berea Library Manager.

Pub. Part.
B-1
[5:35](#)

C. Reports

Mr. Doug Schwind shared the Polaris Report. Polaris has been chosen to host the Spring Regional Conference on March 25, 2026. Polaris is launching a new innovations lab this upcoming school year, and will be led by Melissa Burchett, who teaches the Polaris Digital Marketing Satellite Program at BMHS. The next Polaris Board Meeting is August 16, 2025.

Pol. Update
C-1
[Minute 7:16](#)

D. Superintendent Recommendations

Mrs. Wheeler provided the Superintendent Update. Dr. Smithberger presented the Advanced Placement (AP) program, highlighting five years of growth. Mrs. Wheeler reported that the state released new guidance defining "Instructional time" as it impacts cell phone policies in schools, as any period when students are expected to be in attendance, including instruction, transitions between classes, recess, meals, and field trips. The administrative team will meet to revise their approach, and the board will need to adopt an updated policy. Additionally, school year preparations are underway with convocation on Friday, PD on Monday, staff work day on Tuesday, and students returning on Wednesday.

Supt. Update
D-1
[Minute 9:09](#)

Mack moved and Zirke seconded the recommendation to approve items D3-D26 as part of the consent agenda.

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

Consent
Agenda D-2
25-0811-2389
[Minute 42:31](#)

Zirke moved and Chapman seconded the recommendation to adopt the Substitute Rates of Pay, as shown on the agenda.

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

Sub Pay
Rate D-27
25-0811-2390
[Minute 42:56](#)

Mack moved and Chapman seconded the recommendation to approve the Client Service Agreement with the Ohio Substitute Teacher Services as shown on the agenda.

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

OSTS
Agree. D-28
25-0811-2391
[Minute 43:21](#)

Mack moved and Zirke seconded the recommendation to approve the MOU with the Berea Federation of Teachers and the Berea Board of Education for the revision of Early Childhood Education Language as Shown on the agenda.

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

Nayes: None

MOU BFT
Revision D-29
25-0811-2392
[Minute 43:50](#)

Chapman moved and Zirke seconded the recommendation to approve the employment of non-bachelor's Degree substitute teachers for the 2025-2026 school year as shown on the agenda.

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

Nayes: None

Non-Bach
Sub. D-30
25-0811-2393
[Minute 44:28](#)

Zirke moved and Michal seconded the recommendation to approve the job description for Staff Wellness Ambassador positions at various district buildings as shown on the agenda.

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

Nayes: None

Staff Well.
Position D-31
25-0811-2394
[Minute 45:10](#)

Mack moved and Chapman seconded the recommendation to approve items D33-D35 as part of the consent Agenda.

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

Nayes: None

Consent
Agenda D-32
25-0811-2395
[Minute 45:48](#)

Zirke moved and Mack seconded the recommendation to approve the 2025-2026 Preschool Parent Handbook as shown on the agenda.

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

Nayes: None

Preschool
Handbook D-36
25-0811-2396
[Minute 46:48](#)

Mack moved and Zirke seconded the recommendation to approve the quote from CDW for a five-year renewal Of all Meraki licensing used by the district for security cameras, network equipment, and dashboard access as Shown on the agenda.

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

Nayes: None

CDW Quote
D-37
25-0811-2397
[Minute 47:17](#)

Mack moved and Chapman seconded the recommendation to approve the revised quote from Fredericksburg Fence for materials, labor, and installation of a new fence, and removal of the previous fence, as shown on the Agenda.

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

Nayes: None

BMMS Fence
Quote D-38
25-0811-2398
[Minute 48:24](#)

Zirke moved and Chapman seconded the recommendation to approve the disposal by donation, sale, recycling, Or Trash of the obsolete and/or damaged items and remove them from the inventory records as shown on the Agenda.

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

Nayes: None

Bus Removal
D-39
25-0811-2399
[Minute 49:15](#)

Chapman moved and Zirke seconded the recommendation to approve the revision to po0162, Quorum, as Shown on the agenda.

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

Nayes: None

po0162 Quor.
Rev. D-40
25-0811-2400
[Minute 49:52](#)

Mack moved and Chapman seconded the recommendation to remove Item 41 from the agenda.
Ayes: Farris ☒ Mack ☒ Chapman ☒ Michal ☒ Zirke ☒
Nays: None

Item 41 D-41
25-0811-2401
[Minute 51:07](#)

E. Treasurer Recommendations

Mrs. Rowe provided the Treasurer's Update. The July report is postponed due to technical issues with the Forecast rollover to fiscal year 2026. The Stuff the Bus event raised over \$4,000 in donations, which were used To purchase additional supplies for students. Mrs. Rowe also noted a few routine business items, including: Fee adjustment for "The Outsiders" book and the annual investment authorization approval.

Treasurer's
Update E-1
[Minute 53:14](#)

Mack moved and Chapman seconded the recommendation to approve items E3-E9 as part of the consent Agenda.
Ayes: Farris ☒ Mack ☒ Chapman ☒ Michal ☒ Zirke ☒
Nays: None

Consent
Agenda E-2
25-0811-2402
[Minute 54:27](#)

Chapman moved and Zirke seconded the recommendation to approve the distribution of change funds as On the agenda.
Ayes: Farris ☒ Mack ☒ Chapman ☒ Michal ☒ Zirke ☒
Nays: None

Change Funds
E-10
25-0811-2403
[Minute 54:56](#)

F. Regular Business

Zirke moved and Chapman seconded the recommendation to approve the minutes from the July 14, 2025, Regular Meeting, as shown on the agenda.
Ayes: Farris ☒ Mack ☒ Chapman ☒ Michal ☒ Zirke ☒
Nays: None

Minutes
Approval F-1
25-0811-2404
[Minute 55:36](#)

Mrs. Chapman provided the legislative update. There was one override of the governor's veto and there hasn't been any motion. They are currently on summer recess.

Legislative
Update F-2
[Minute 56:00](#)

Mr. Draves provided the Safety and Security Committee update. The Ohio School Safety Center completed a Safety and security assessment at our five buildings. SROs and administrators walked the buildings with them And located any vulnerable points and reported on what needs to be fixed. Our district scored extremely well, And the administration and SROs were provided with action steps to address vulnerabilities. A new program, Handle with Care, is being implemented, which notifies the district of any students who come in contact with adverse childhood events, and the building is notified to "Handle With Care", in regards to that and child. Mrs. Michal provided the Transportation Committee update. Bus routes will be sent out, and the StopFinder app's Lag issues should be fixed. Buses have new GPS systems, which track buses in real time and alert mechanics of Needed repairs. Bus routes and stops have been consolidated this year, as well. Mrs. Farris reported on the Finance Committee. The budget bill was discussed, and the cash balance policy. Comments included: a reminder for board members to review applications for the board member representative, Stuff the Bus was a fantastic event, and the Berea Artfest is coming up in September, and the Board will have a Table.

Committee
Reports &
Brd. Comments
F-3
[Minute 56:23](#)

G. Executive Session

Pursuant to R.C. 121.22 (G)(8), Zirke moved and Chapman seconded to move into Executive Session for the Purpose of considering consideration of confidential information related to the marketing plans, specific business Strategy, production techniques, trade secrets, or personal financial statements of an applicant for economic Development assistance, or to negotiations between the School District and other political subdivisions respecting Requests for economic development assistance as provided in R.C. 5709.73 to R.C. 5709.75. And that the Information is directly related to a request for economic development assistance under Ohio law, or that involves Public infrastructure improvements or the extension of utility services that are directly related to an economic Development project.

Exec. Session
G-1
25-0811-2405
[Minute 1:05:27](#)

Ayes: Farris Mack Chapman Michal Zirke
Nays: None

Pursuant to R.C.121.22 (G)(8), Chapman moved and Zirke seconded that Executive Session is necessary to Protect the interests of the applicant or the possible investment or expenditure of public funds to be made in Connection with the economic development project.

Exec. Session
G-2
25-0811-2406
[Minute 1:06:44](#)

Ayes: Farris Mack Chapman Michal Zirke
Nays: None

H. Adjournment

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

Adjournment
H-1
25-0811-2407

Ayes: Farris Mack Chapman Michal Zirke
Nays: None

Time adjourned: 8:11 p.m.

Date of Approval: 09/15/2025 Approved: Corene A. Jarvis Attest: Jul A. Lowe