

President Pro Tem, Justin Henry, called the **Organizational, Budget, and Regular** monthly meetings to order at 6:15 p.m.

Acknowledge that Treasurer Mark Phillips issued the oaths of office to new board members Catherine Soehnlén and Jordan Starcher on January 2, 2026.

Roll Call: Ken Killian, Justin Henry, Cathy Soehnlén, Jordan Starcher – All Present

Pledge.

Ken Killian nominated Justin Henry for President of the Board of Education for 2026.

1.26 Motion by Soehnlén, seconded by Starcher to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Justin Henry as Board President.

Roll Call: Soehnlén, Starcher, Killian – All Yes Henry – Abstained

President Justin Henry assumed the chair.

Cathy Soehnlén nominated Ken Killian for Vice President of the Board of Education for 2026.

2.26 Motion by Henry, seconded by Starcher to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Ken Killian as Board Vice President.

Roll Call: Henry, Starcher, Soehnlén – All Yes Killian – Abstained

3.26 Motion by Starcher, seconded by Killian to approve to set date, time and place for regular monthly meetings: third Tuesday of month at 6:15 p.m. at Fairless High School.

Roll Call: Starcher, Killian, Soehnlén, Henry – All Yes Passed

4.26 Motion by Starcher, seconded by Killian to set Board member compensation at the maximum rate authorized by law per meeting. Board members will be paid for one meeting per month no matter how many meetings are held. Board members must attend at least one meeting per month in order to be compensated.

Roll Call: Starcher, Killian, Soehnlén, Henry – All Yes Passed

5.26 Motion by Starcher, seconded by Killian to approve Standing Resolutions for 2026:

Approve participation by the President and Vice President at the OSBA School Board President Workshop in 2026 with expenses to come from the Board Service Fund.

Establish service fund:

WHEREAS, Revised Code 3315.15 provides for the setting aside from the General Fund, a sum not to exceed two dollars (\$2.00) for each child enrolled, or twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00), whichever is greater; such sum of money to be known as the “Service Fund” - to be used in paying the expense of members of the Board, actually incurred in the performance of their duties, or of their official representatives, when sent out of the school district.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Fairless Local School District, does hereby establish a Service Fund; such fund to be set aside as an account within the General Fund and is hereby appropriated for the purpose of said Service Fund, the amount of \$20,000.00.

Authorize the Treasurer to seek advances and returns on tax settlements, invest inactive funds as they become available, at the best possible rate of interest, adjust posting errors on an as needed basis, and pay bills monthly, with a listing to be supplied to the Board.

Authorize the Treasurer to participate in Ohio’s Cooperative Purchasing Program.

Authorize the Superintendent to apply for, amend, and participate in any and all Federal, State, Local and Private funded grants and programs for the calendar year 2026.

Authorize the Superintendent or designated representative to appoint such personnel as is required for contingency situations, and submit such action to the Board for approval at the next regular meeting.

Authorize the Superintendent or designated representative to act for the Board on matters relating to Foundation, State and Federal grant application.

Authorize the Superintendent or designated representative to act for the Board on matters relating to service agreements or fiscal agent contracts involving other boards, agencies or organizations.

Authorize the Superintendent or designated representative to serve as the purchasing agent for the Board up to \$50,000 and submit such action to the Board for approval at the next regular meeting.

Authorize the Superintendent to employ personnel between board meetings.

To authorize the Superintendent, during periods when this Board is not in session, to make offers of employment directly to candidates for either teaching or nonteaching positions on behalf of this Board, and to acknowledge acceptance of such offers on behalf of this Board, subject to a subsequent vote of ratification by this Board; provided however, that upon ratification by this Board, the employment shall be deemed effective as of the date and time of the employee's acceptance of the Superintendent's offer.

Nothing in this resolution shall require the Board of Education to employ or continue to employ an individual who has not provided a criminal record check satisfactory to the Board or who has not satisfied any other prerequisite to employment created by law or Board policy.

The authorization provided by this resolution shall remain in effect until withdrawn by formal action of this Board.

Authorize the Superintendent to accept resignations between board meetings.

To authorize the Superintendent on behalf of this Board, to accept resignations submitted by employees during times when this Board is not in session, subject to ratification by this Board; provided however, that upon ratification by this Board, such resignations shall be deemed effective as of the date and time of the Superintendent's acceptance.

The authorization provided by this resolution shall remain in effect until withdrawn by formal action of this Board.

Roll Call: Starcher, Killian, Soehnlén, Henry – All Yes Passed

6.26 Motion by Killian, seconded by Soehnlén to approve and submit the budget for the Fairless Local School District, commencing July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027, to the Stark County Budget Commission in the amount of \$32,986,500.00. Asking Budget 2026-2027 as presented:

General Fund	\$23,000,000.00
Capital Projects	\$4,500,000.00
Debt Service	\$915,000.00
OSFC Maintenance	\$400,000.00
Special Revenue	\$1,269,500.00
Permanent Improvement	\$2,000,000.00
Proprietary	\$800,000.00
Fiduciary	\$102,000.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$32,986,500.00</b>

Roll Call: Killian, Soehnlén, Starcher, Henry – All Yes Passed

#### Recognition of Public

7.26 Motion by Killian, seconded by Soehnlén to approve Financial Report for December 31, 2025 and December 16, 2025 regular board minutes.

Roll Call: Killian, Soehnlén, Henry – All Yes Passed                      Starcher – Abstained

8.26 Motion by Killian, seconded by Starcher to approve mileage reimbursement rate, set by the IRS, at \$0.725 per mile, effective January 1, 2026.

Roll Call: Killian, Starcher, Soehnlén, Henry – All Yes Passed

9.26 Motion by Soehnlén, seconded by Starcher to designate the treasurer as authorized representative to attend public records training on February 4 or February 10, 2026 on behalf of board members.

Roll Call: Soehnlén, Starcher, Killian, Henry – All Yes Passed

## Report of the Superintendent - School Board Appreciation Month

- 10.26 Motion by Killian, seconded by Soehnlén to authorize an agreement with Beaver Constructors, Inc. (“Beaver”) to provide owner’s representative services for the Stadium Bleacher and Lighting Project (the “Project”).  
Roll Call: Killian, Soehnlén, Starcher, Henry – All Yes Passed
- 11.26 Motion by Starcher, seconded by Soehnlén to authorize agreements with Musco Sports Lighting, LLC (“Musco”) and Dant Clayton Corporation (“Dant Clayton”) for the Stadium Bleacher and Lighting Project (the “Project”).  
Roll Call: Starcher, Soehnlén, Killian, Henry – All Yes Passed
- 12.26 Motion by Killian, seconded by Starcher to approve and authorize the Superintendent to sign the Program Agreement between the Board and the Stark County Schools Council of Governments.  
Roll Call: Killian, Starcher, Soehnlén, Henry – All Yes Passed
- 13.26 Motion by Soehnlén, seconded by Starcher to approve a college credit plus memorandum of understanding with Kent State University for the 2026-2027 school year.  
Roll Call: Soehnlén, Starcher, Killian, Henry – All Yes Passed
- 14.26 Motion by Starcher, seconded by Killian to accept the resignation of Rene Bloom from her cook contract, effective December 30, 2025.  
Roll Call: Starcher, Killian, Soehnlén, Henry – All Yes Passed
- 15.26 Motion by Killian, seconded by Starcher to approve Logan Barkan as a one-year temporary certified substitute teacher, as needed, for the 2025-2026 school year.  
Roll Call: Killian, Starcher, Soehnlén, Henry – All Yes Passed
- 16.26 Motion by Soehnlén, seconded by Killian to approve the following one-year supplemental contracts for the 2025-2026 school year:  
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 2025-2026 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:  
Abraham Highben Reserve Baseball (7.6%)  
Roll Call: Soehnlén, Killian, Starcher, Henry – All Yes Passed

Announced the next regular board meeting will be held on February 17, 2026 at 6:15 p.m. at Fairless High School.

- 17.26 Motion by Killian, seconded by Starcher to enter executive session at 6:40 p.m. to discuss the appointment of a public official.  
Roll Call: Killian, Starcher, Soehnlén, Henry – All Yes Passed

President, Justin Henry, called the regular meeting back into session at 7:50 p.m.

- 18.26 Motion by Soehnlén, seconded by Starcher to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:51 p.m.  
Roll Call: Soehnlén, Starcher, Henry – All Yes Passed

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President, Justin Henry

X  
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Treasurer, Mark Phillips

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