EAST KNOX BOARD OF EDUCATION **REGULAR**

May 14, 2026, East Knox Elementary, 6 pm

A. Call to Order

The President, Ms. Bush, called the meeting to order, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Roll Call

The President called the roll:

Mr. Joshua Beltz, here
Ms. Lindsay Bush, here
Mr. Alan Huffman, here
Mr. Randy Reese, here
Mrs. Melissa Tomlinson, here

C. Approval of the Agenda

Recommendation to approve the agenda as presented.

26-039 MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED
Mr. Huffman moved and Mr. Beltz seconded the motion to approve the agenda.
Roll call: All Present-Yes. Motion carried.

D. Public Hearing

Opportunity for public to comment on IDEA Part B Funds.

- IDEA Hearing Public Comment- received approximately $264,000 in FY26
  - 2 Elementary intervention specialist positions
  - 1 JR/SR intervention specialist position
  - Student Services Director salary and benefits

E. Presentation(s)

- Isabella Kelley – FCCLA – Nationals in DC in July 2026 – Presentation.
  - Presentation on “Fast Fashion” and sustainability and environmental impacts.

F. EKEA Representative

- Mr. Ron Fannin – EKEA Presentation
  - Concerns regarding athletic hiring practices, specifically in relation to the employment of the head basketball coach.

G. Superintendent Report and Board/Community Discussion

- Mr. Baird - Updates/Discussion Items
  - Policies and Weighted GPA for Advanced and CCP Classes – agree to table the recommendation.
  - Review of Knox ESC billing and services for the 2026-2027 school year.

- Athletic training services for the 2026-2027 school year are being reviewed due to increased costs by KCH, Avita Health has interest in providing a quote.
- Review the playground project and costs anticipated compared to the budget.
- Congratulate Jasmine Smith on FFA State Degree.
- Congratulate Bella Kelley on FCCLA National qualification.
- Presentation of 2027-2028 School Year Calendar.
  - Melissa Tomlinson asked about changing the layout of the school year calendar.
  - Melissa Tomlinson asked about Knox ESC costs for student support specialist, career navigator, and admin building rental, as well as increased preschool costs.
- Reviewed the preschool location and the change in placement for the preschool.
  - Melissa Tomlinson reviewed emails she has received regarding preschool location.

H. Elementary Building Report

- Mr. Coleman – Assistant Principal – outline of current space being utilized in building
  - Melissa Tomlinson asked for the review of the upper classroom configuration.
- Kindergarten Presentation – kindergarten graduation project
- Mrs. Jackie Nutt, Director of Preschool – presented on the programming.
  - Preschool teacher presented on the activities of the preschool students throughout the year.
- Mrs. Lauren Mohnasky, Gifted Teacher
  - Presented with a student. The student discussed her sourdough bread project.

I. Athletics

- Mr. Bailey Sprague
  - Recognition of students who plan to speak to the board of education.
  - Baseball team won KMAC Championship and obtained the #2 seed in the tournament.
  - Softball team finished with an improved season and an opportunity for growth with a successful 8th grade class.
  - Boys and girls track accomplishments.
  - Obtaining pricing for adjustable basketball hoops.

J. Student Board Representative

- Reagan Beatty
  - Review of student accomplishments for the 2025-2026 school year.

K. Jr./Sr. HS Building Report

- Mrs. Sprang – Principal
  - Outline of current space being utilized in building.
  - East Knox Lions Club sponsoring the Leo Club.
  - Thank you to PTO, board, Mrs. Stahl for work on teacher appreciation week.
  - Introduction of Mr. Stair, new biology teacher.

L. Public Participation

Please see Board Policy #0169.1

- Wess McKown – concerns regarding the preschool moving to the jr./sr high next school year.
- Rush Beatty – concerns regarding the firing of the head basketball coach, Ryan Powell, expressed support for Mr. Powell and his impact on the players.
- Peyton Hull – appreciation for Mr. Powell, basketball coach and his experiences with him.
- Kyson Miller – senior basketball player who shared the impact Mr. Powell made on his basketball career and their relationship.
- Mr. Huffman – Board Member, thanked the basketball players for their comments.

M. Treasurer Report

- Financial Update
  - Ohio School Plan renewal
    - $3,172 increase (3.5%)
      - Buses 8 years or less in age valued at replacement cost ($125,000)
      - Appraisal completed by insurance to update property coverage limits

N. Treasurer Recommendations

Recommendation to approve the minutes from the April 9, 2026, regular meeting.

Recommendation to approve the April 2026 Financial Report as presented.

Recommendation to accept the donation from the Knox County Healthcare Coalition for 15 Citizen Aid public treatment kits valued at $750.

Recommendation to accept the following donations:

New Directions, $250 to the JR/SR High PBIS Program
Apple Valley Storage, $500 to FCCLA
Wayne-Jay & Mel Heffelfinger, $100 to FCCLA
Elise Lingenfelter, *$200* to FCCLA
Toni Wolford, $50 to FCCLA
Lisa and Robert Downes, $100 to FCCLA
Leslie Gilbert, $25 to FCCLA
Samantha Hawn, $20 to FCCLA
Megan Bullock, $13 to FCCLA
Jaimye Weaver, $35 to FCCLA
Boss & Son Excavating, LLC, $150 to FCCLA

Recommendation to approve the following student activity fund for the 2025-2026 school year:

200-9350 Europe Trip

Recommendation to approve the benefit agreement from Delta Dental effective July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2028 as provided.

26-040 MOTION TO APPROVE THE ABOVE RECOMMENDATIONS
Mr. Beltz moved and Mrs. Tomlinson seconded the motion to approve the above recommendations.
Roll call: All Present-Yes. Motion carried.

O. Superintendent Recommendations

Recommendation to table the following Neola Board Policies.

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PO5421 GRADING
PO5430 CLASS RANK

26-041 MOTION TO TABLE THE ABOVE RECOMMENDATION
Mr. Beltz moved and Mr. Huffman seconded the motion to table the above recommendation.
Roll call: All Present-Yes. Motion carried.

Recommendation to approve the following Neola Board Policy as presented.

Special Update – March 2026 Revised Food Service

PO8300 FOOD SERVICES

Melissa Tomlinson asked about bad debt in regards to the special update PO8300 and how second lunches/ala carte are handled.

26-042 MOTION TO APPROVE THE ABOVE RECOMMENDATION
Ms. Bush moved and Mr. Huffman seconded the motion to approve the above recommendation.
Roll call: All Present-Yes. Motion carried.

Recommendation to approve the 2027-2028 School-Year Calendar as presented.

Recommendation to approve the service agreement beginning August 1, 2026 through July 31, 2027 with Knox County Educational Service Center for the 2026-2027 school year for contracted special education and preschool services.

Recommendation to approve the renewal of liability, fleet, crime, cyber, and property insurance with Ohio School Plan for the period July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027 at a cost not to exceed $89,000.

Recommendation to approve the overnight field trip for an FCCLA student to Nationals in Washington DC, July 5-11, 2026.

Recommendation to approve the quote from Xtek Partners, Inc. for Digital Signage Displays within the campus buildings, $5,282 per year for 60 months for equipment and licensing.

Recommendation to approve the renewal agreement with META for July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027 for Lightspeed filter services for $5,591.20.

Recommendation to approve the agreement with Cardinal Rehab LLC for certified orientation and mobility services from August 1, 2026-June 30, 2028 school year at a rate of $95 per hour plus mileage reimbursement.

Recommendation to approve the agreement with Gaggle.Net, Inc. for archiving district accounts for the period July 1, 2026- June 30, 2027 for an annual cost of $6,615.

Recommendation to approve the purchase of one 83-passenger bus from Hill International Trucks for $135,803 from the capital improvement funds (070).

Recommendation to approve the purchase of a replacement batting cage system for the high school gymnasium from Victory Athletics, Inc. for $27,650 from the capital improvement funds (070).

Recommendation to approve the renewal agreement with Rumpke Waste and Recycling Services for a three-year period for service at East Knox Elementary.

Recommendation to approve the three-year contract with Julian and Grube for GAAP compilation services for the reports ending in 2026, 2027, and 2028 at a rate of $5,800 per year.

Recommendation to approve the agreement with Central Ohio Behavioral Consulting (COBC) for behavior consultation on an as needed basis for the 2026-2027 school year, at a cost of $150 per hour plus $100 in travel per visit not to exceed $15,000 per year.

Recommendation to approve the contract with DBA Catalyst Life Services for the 2026-2027 school year for audio-logical services at $100 per hour on an as needed basis.

Recommendation to approve the agreement with Precision Driving School for Drivers Education Services, eligible for students enrolled in the East Knox Schools during the regular school day, for the school year 2026-2027.

Recommendation to approve the quote from Martin Public Seating for science tables for the Jr./Sr. High School, cost $10,176.41.

Recommendation to approve the quote from The Wassertrom Company for a replacement range and gas-connector hose kit for the high school kitchen, $6,145.22.

Recommendation to approve the agreement with META for July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027 for Attendance K12 software for $2,699.55

26-043 MOTION TO APPROVE THE ABOVE RECOMMENDATIONS
Ms. Bush moved and Mr. Beltz seconded the motion to approve the above recommendations.
Roll call: All present – Yes. Motion carried.

Recommendation to approve the purchase of 7-12 Literature Curriculum and professional development from HMH Education Company for a total cost of $66,407.17.

Mr. Huffman asked why this is being pulled out.

Ms. Bush indicated that some teachers are being forced to use the curriculum and do not want to use the products.

Mr. Baird indicated that the teachers worked together to choose the curriculum and no concerns were brought to him.

26-044 MOTION TO APPROVE THE ABOVE RECOMMENDATION

Mr. Beltz moved and Ms. Bush seconded the motion to approve the above recommendation.
Roll call: Mr. Beltz-No, Ms. Bush-No, Mr. Huffman-Yes, Mr. Reese-No, Mrs. Tomlinson-Abstain (***indicated she did not have enough information available to vote either way***). Motion Failed.

Recommendation to approve the below resolution:

AWARDING CONTRACT TO GOOD HOME MAINTENANCE, INC. DBA GHM, INC. FOR THE ELEMENTARY PLAYGROUND PROJECT AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT

The Superintendent recommends the Board award a contract to Good Home Maintenance, Inc. dba GHM, Inc. ("Contractor") for the Elementary Playground Project ("Project") as the lowest responsible bidder and requests authority to execute a contract with Contractor for the Project.

Rationale:

1. The East Knox Local School District Board of Education identified a need for the Project.
2. The Board's design professional, BSHM Architects, Inc. (the "Architect"), prepared design documents for the Project.
3. Working with the Architect and the Board's legal counsel, the Superintendent solicited sealed, competitive bids in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code 3313.46.
4. A legal notice for the Project was placed in the local newspaper for the bid period required by the Ohio Revised Code for public school construction projects. At the bid deadline, the bids were opened publicly, read aloud, and tabulated.
5. As only one bid was received, Contractor was the apparent low bidder for Project and provided a bid of $274,890.
6. The Superintendent and Treasurer, in consultation with the Architect, reviewed the Contractor's bid, evaluated the Contractor, and has determined that the Contractor's bid is responsive to the bid solicitation, and that the Contractor is responsible to perform the work.
7. The Superintendent, adopting the recommendation of the Architect, recommends the Board award the contract for the construction of the Project to the Contractor as the lowest responsible bidder, in the total amount of $274,890 ("Contract Sum").

The East Knox Local School District Board of Education resolves as follows:

1. Based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board awards the contract for the Project to the Contractor as the lowest

responsible bidder in the amount of the Contract Sum.

2. The Superintendent and Treasurer are authorized to sign, as required, a contract between the Board and the Contractor in the amount of the Contract Sum, and to sign any related documents consistent with the intent of this resolution.

26-045 MOTION TO APPROVE THE ABOVE RECOMMENDATION
Mr. Huffman moved and Mr. Beltz seconded the motion to approve the above recommendation.
Roll call: All present – Yes. Motion carried.

P. Memorandum of Agreement(s)

Recommendation to approve the presented Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the East Knox Local School District Board of Education (Board) and the East Knox Education Association (EKEA) regarding a change in the Agreement dated July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2029, in regards to all certified staff, adding terms and conditions of the agreement with certified staff training.

Recommendation to approve the presented Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) by and between the East Knox Local School District Board of Education (Board) and the East Knox Education Association (EKEA) dated July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2029, in regards to the Part-Time Spanish Teacher position only.

Recommendation to approve the presented Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) by and between the East Knox Local School District Board of Education (Board) and the East Knox Education Association (EKEA) dated July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2029, in regards to the Part-Time Graphic Arts Teacher position only.

Recommendation to approve the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) by and between the East Knox Local School District Board of Education (Board) and the East Knox Education Association (EKEA) regarding a change in the Agreement dated July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2029, in regards to all certified staff.

Article VI, Section 608 Supplemental Pay, Section B. Groups to be amended as follows, adding:

Group VI:
High School Leo Club
Junior High Student Council
Elementary School Yearbook

Ms. Bush asked if they would present their certification for being employed, Mr. Baird indicated “Yes”.

26-046 MOTION TO APPROVE THE ABOVE RECOMMENDATIONS
Mr. Beltz moved and Mrs. Tomlinson seconded the motion to approve the above recommendations.
Roll call: All present – Yes. Motion carried.

Q. Personnel—(Subject to proper placement on the salary scale, contingent upon favorable report from the BCII/FBI, and receipt of proper certification.)

Recommendation to approve the Student Summer Worker Job Description as presented.

Recommendation to accept the resignation of Tyler Rosshirt, Classroom Teacher, effective at the end of the 2025-2026 contract year.

Recommendation to accept the resignation of Heather Price, Bus Driver, effective April 13, 2026.

Recommendation to add Megan Bullock to the approved van driver list.

Recommendation to approve the following for summer school staffing 2026.

Alyssa Nixon – Elementary Summer School Teacher
Eden Carpenter – Elementary Summer School Teacher
Jean Colopy – Elementary Summer School Aide
Shelbie Wells – Elementary Summer School Aide
Sheri Ryals – Elementary Summer School Coordinator
Jessica Claggett – Elementary Summer School Food Service
Rebecca Casebolt – Elementary Summer School Food Service
Megan Bullock – Jr./Sr. High Summer School Teacher
Kevin Bullock – Jr./Sr. High Summer School Coordinator
April Hawkins – Summer School Bus Driver
Roxanne Burch – Summer School Bus Driver

Recommendation to approve the following supplemental contracts for the 2026-2027 school year:

Megan Bullock	Play Director	Step 3
Amber Carpenter	FCCLA Advisor	Step 8
Elizabeth Pozderac	Yearbook Advisor	Step 9
Amber Carpenter	Jr./Sr. HS PBIS Advisor	Step 2
Kelsey Sinzinger	Jr./Sr. HS PBIS Member	Step 0
Katrina Wobbecke	Elem. PBIS Member	Step 0
Rebecca Dangerfield	Elem. PBIS Member	Step 0
Allison Bennett	Elem. PBIS Member	Step 0
Bria Warner	Elem. PBIS Member	Step 0
Cara Owens	Elem. PBIS Advisor	Step 0
Tisha Melick	Senior Class Advisor	Step 4
Tisha Melick	Senior Class Advisor	Step 4
Samantha Carey	Elem. Yearbook Advisor	Step ***2***
Samantha Carey	Art Club Advisor	Step 1
Andrew Beatty	Assistant Football Coach	Step 10
Ronald Looney	Head Varsity Girls Basketball	Step 1
James Price	Volunteer HS Football	Volunteer

Recommendation to approve the following substitute teacher rates for the 2026-2027 school year:

Regular substitute teacher - $110.00 per day
Long-term substitute teacher - $150.00 per day

Recommendation to non-renew the following long-term substitute teacher contracts:

Christina Wythe
Macy Springer

Recommendation to non-renew, as an annual course of action, the following non-teaching contracts for the 2025-2026 school year.

Assistant Baseball - Derrick Steinmetz
Assistant Baseball - Weston Melick
Head Track - Jason Ewalt
Head Softball - Abbigail Lester
Assistant Softball - Cameron Bailey
Assistant Softball - John Tucker
Spring Strength and Conditioning - Darrick Faucett

Recommendation to approve a one-year limited contract for the 2026-2027 school year for the following licensure /teaching staff as follows:

Zachary Stair	BS	Step 0
Stephanie Warner	MA+15	Step 5
Macy Springer	BA150	Step 0
Cynthia May (.65 FTE)	BA	Step 0
Latavia Murrell	BA	Step 0
Leahandria Hood	BA	Step 0

Recommendation to approve the renewal of certificated/teaching contracts, effective with the 2026-2027 school year, as follows. Note: Contracts must be electronically signed by May 22, 2026 or the contract offer may, at the Superintendent's sole discretion, be considered withdrawn.

One-Year	**2026-2027**	**Level**	**Step**
Gabrielle	Burkhalter	BA	3
Eden	Carpenter	BA	1
Abigail	Cummins	BA	4
Brian	Dodd	BA/150	5
Kristine	Dougherty	MA	1
Debra	Dugan-Burden	BA/150	11
Jessica	Eaton	BA	4
Hailey	Filicky	MA	3
Samantha	Hawn	MA	10
Jerry	Jacobs	BA/150	13
Rachael	Journey	BA	1
Julia	Kelly	MA	3
Keara	Latham	BA	2
Ellie	Melick	BA	2
Halie	Moreland	MA	3
Carolyn	O'Brien	MA	11
Amanda	Prince .5 FTE	BA/150	8
Callie	Proper	BA	1
Kelsey	Sinzinger	MA	12
Margaret	Snyder	BA	2
Bailey	Sprague	BA/150	4
Gage	Steinmetz	MA	3
Jayna	Svoboda	BA/150	1
Kailee	Wallace	BA	4
Kati	Weber	BA/150	12
Trudy	Westover	MA	5

Three-year	**2026-2027, 2027-2028, and 2028-2029**		
Austin	Allen	BA/150	6
Samantha	Carey	BA/150	4
Rebecca	Dangerfield	BA/150	6

Brian	Frankenfield	MA	16
Melissa	Frazee	MA	13
Leah	Gatton	BA	4
Leslie	Gilbert	BA/150	13
Abigail	Grandstaff	MA	6
Rachel	Legros	BA/150	10
Tisha	Mickley-Melick	BA/150	31
Lauren	Mohnasky	BA	5
Alyssa	Nixon	BA	7
Michal	Pfettscher	BA/150	4
Tyler	Sabo	MA	10
McKenna	VonAllman	BA	5
Bria	Warner	MA	12

Recommendation to approve 25 extended days for Julia Kelly for the 2026-2027 school year, $7,157.

Recommendation to approve an Athletic Director stipend for $5,604 for Bailey Sprague for his duties as Athletic Director, for the 2026-2027 contract year.

Recommendation to approve 25 extended days for Bailey Sprague for the 2026-2027 school year, $6,847.

Recommendation to approve 60 extended days for Debra Dugan-Burden for the 2026-2027 school year, $20,579.

Recommendation to approve one extra period of pay for Debra Dugan-Burden for the 2026-2027 school year, $7,932.

Recommendation to pay the following stipends for Spring 2026 student teaching mentoring (cost paid by MVNU):

Lisa Downes- $250.00
Samantha Carey- $35.00

Recommendation to pay the following for summer 2026 professional development upon completion of work and submission of their timesheet(s):

School Links Training (3 hours)
- Kelsey Sinzinger, Tyler Sabo, Austin Allen, Jessica Eaton, and Julia Kelly

New ELA Curriculum (6 hours)
- Margaret Snyder, Brian Frankenfield, Ellie Melick, and Jessica Eaton

New Science Curriculum (6 hours)
- Stephen Sterling and Zachary Stair

New Social Studies Curriculum (3 hours)
- Austin Allen and Benjamin Thompson

Gifted Training and Certification (15 hours)
- Lisa Downes

Elementary Building Leadership Team (10 hours)
- Gage Steinmetz, Katrina Wobbecke, Bria Warner, Carolyn O’Brien, Ronald Fannin, Sheri Ryals

Wonders/Study Sync (4 hours)
- All K-3 teachers, 4-6 ELA Teachers and K-6 Intervention Specialists

New Social Studies Curriculum (4 hours)

- Katrina Wobbeck, Karen Meade, Stephanie Warner, Macy Springer

Recommendation to employ Christine Doolittle for up to 30 hours for summer curriculum training and mapping with JR/SR High staff at a rate of $50.00 per hour.

Recommendation to approve the requested unpaid day for Charles Dudgeon for April 24, 2026.

Recommendation to place the following on the classified substitute list as indicated below:

Daniel Grindle – Substitute Bus Driver
Elizabeth Bennington – Substitute Bus Driver
Lisa Baker – Substitute Nurse
Shanna Richards – Substitute Food Service

Recommendation to employ the following one-year nonteaching limited contracts beginning with the 2026-2027 school year:

Daniel Grindle	Bus Driver	Step 0
Elizabeth Bennington	Bus Driver	Step 0
Melanie Meade	Food Service - 5-hour	Step 5
Tiffany Davis	Instructional Assistant	Step 5
Cynthia May	Instructional Assistant	Step 5 (part-time)

Recommendation to approve the Knox County ESC board approved substitute teachers for the 2025-2026 school year as follows:

Brittani Marie Smith
Jean C. Guerin

Recommendation to approve the Knox County ESC board approved aide(s) for the 2025-2026 school year as follows:

Austin Burkhart

26-047 MOTION TO APPROVE THE ABOVE RECOMMENDATIONS
Mr. Huffman moved and Mr. Reese seconded the motion to approve the above recommendations.
Roll call: All present – Yes. Motion carried.

Ms. Bush asked for the following recommendation to be added to the agenda.

Recommendation to approve the supplemental contract for Ryan Powell, Step 10 as Head Basketball Coach for the 2026-2027 school year.

26-048 MOTION TO APPROVE THE ABOVE RECOMMENDATION
Mr. Huffman moved and Mr. Beltz seconded the motion to approve the above recommendation.
Roll call: Mr. Huffman-No, Mr. Beltz-No, Ms. Bush-No, Mr. Reese-Yes, Mrs Tomlinson-Yes. Motion Failed.

***Mr. Beltz, Mr. Huffman, and Miss Bush presented comments regarding Mr. Powell and the basketball program. All indicated their decision was not driven by individual parents.

May 14, 2026, East Knox Elementary, 6 pm

R. Board Recommendation

Recommendation to approve compensation to board member, Josh Beltz, for attending the following training:

Pepple and Waggoner School Negotiations Workshop
1/15/26 $60 (3 hours)

26-049 MOTION TO APPROVE THE BOARD RECOMMENDATION
Mrs. Tomlinson moved and Ms. Bush seconded the motion to approve the above board recommendation.
Roll call: Mr. Beltz - Abstained; All others present – Yes. Motion carried.

S. Executive Session

Recommendation to enter into executive session, for the sole purpose of, and pursuant to the following Ohio Revised Codes as follows:

Ohio Revised Code 121.22 (G) (2) – (6) – To consider the purchase of property for public purposes

26-050 MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION
Mr. Huffman moved and Ms. Bush seconded the motion to enter into Executive Session.
Roll call: All Present-Yes. Motion carried.

Time in: 8:27 p.m.

All board members where present and Mr. Baird and Mrs. Busenburg.

Time out: 8:33 pm

T. Adjournment

Recommendation to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

26-051 MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING
Mr. Beltz moved and Mr. Huffman seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m.
Roll call: All Present-Yes. Motion carried.

U. Visitors

Wess McKown	Sarah Schneider	Karen Schneider
John Mohnasky	Rush Beatty	Peyton Hull
Kyson Miller		

_____ _____
President Treasurer