BOARD NOTES

To help aid communication, we were asked to post notes of what took place at each board meeting. These are not the official meeting minutes as they will be approved at the next board meeting. This, however, is the running notes from each meeting.

Meeting Date: October 19th, 2026, Time: 6:00 p.m. Location: Utica Middle School

The September meeting was a regular business meeting and began promptly at 6:00 p.m. with all Board members in attendance except Jordan Atherton. Mrs. Atherton submitted her Board resignation due to her upcoming move out of the district. Mr. Hartley reported that the first quarter had concluded. He also noted that adjustments to ParentSquare are ongoing and thus far, the platform is serving its intended purpose well. The Board was reminded that the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) Capital Conference is scheduled for November 15-17. Additionally, Mr. Hartley wished good luck to all fall athletes entering tournament competition and congratulated the boys' and girls' cross-country teams on earning the 2026 LCL Cardinal Championship title.

During the Work Session, the Board conducted a second reading of Board policies and accepted a plan presented by the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC). The proposed plan includes the demolition of the 1957 and 1965 portions of the middle/intermediate school building, as well as renovations and updates to the current high school gymnasium. This represents the first step toward the construction of a new middle school. The district will continue collaborating closely with the architect and the auditor's office to develop cost estimates and evaluate levy options. The Board also plans to host a public forum in early December to provide information and gather community input regarding the project. Additionally, the Board recognized the efforts of the Strategic Planning Committee, Goal 1, for its outstanding work in advancing the district to its current stage in the building project.

As part of the Consent Agenda, the Board approved the Licking Regional Educational Service Center Certified Substitute List No. 5 for the 2026-2027 school year. The Board also approved a speech pathologist, mail courier, the classified substitute list, and the permanent substitute for food service.

Under the Finance Consent Agenda, the Board approved the August 2026 financial and reconciliation reports, the payment of bills for September 2026, and the payment of bills associated with Then and Now Certificates. The Board also authorized the Treasurer and Superintendent to issue purchase orders in accordance with Board Policy 6400. Additionally, the Board approved the FY2027 purpose statements and budgets as presented.

In other Board action, the Board approved the adoption of policy revisions, additions, and deletions; approved volunteer coaches for boys' basketball; and approved a student's request for early graduation.

During Board discussion, Mrs. Cooperider thanked the Strategic Planning Committee, Goal 1, for its tireless work on the middle school project. She expressed her appreciation for the committee members' time, dedication, and commitment, noting that their efforts have been instrumental in advancing the project. Mrs. Paxton inquired about the process for appointing a new Board member to fill the upcoming vacancy. She also requested that the Athletic Department redistribute the Athletic Code of Conduct for review by students, parents, coaches, and community members prior to the winter sports season. The request was made as part of the district's ongoing efforts to address concerns related to bullying within athletic programs and to reinforce expectations for sportsmanship and conduct.

During the Hearing of the Public, A parent addressed the Board regarding concerns involving their child's experiences during middle school and high school, including matters related to athletics and bullying. They shared her perspectives and experiences and encouraged continued attention to these concerns to help ensure a positive and supportive environment for all students.

The board went into executive session at 7:02 p.m. with the purpose of discussing personnel with no action being taken after. The board returned at 7:45 p.m.

The meeting concluded at 7:46 p.m. The next regular meeting is on November 16, 2026, at Utica Elementary School at 6:00 p.m.