

COPLEY-FAIRLAWN CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting

Copley High School Auditorium

March 19, 2024 5:30 p.m.

Jim Borchik, President, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

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

Jim Borchik
Trevor Chuna
Steve Doss
Beth Hertz
Paula Lynn

2024-23

A. Agenda

It was moved by Mr. Chuna, seconded by Mr. Doss, to adopt the agenda for the March 19, 2024 regular meeting, as presented.

AYES: Chuna, Doss, Lynn, Hertz, Borchik

NAYS: None

B. Recognition of Students

1. State Representative Bill Roemer presented a commendation on behalf of the Ohio House of Representatives and Auditor of State's office to Superintendent Brian Poe and Treasurer John Wheadon for the fiscal year 2023 audit and being fiscally responsible.
2. State Representative Bill Roemer presented an Ohio House of Representative resolution to Katelyn Young for her accomplishment of being an All-American in Soccer.
3. Student of the Month – February, 2024
Noah Putinski - Arrowhead
Gabriel Wojcinski - Fort Island Primary
Henry Tudhope - Herberich Primary
Oluwadamisi Fayomi - Copley-Fairlawn Middle School
Hannah Meeker - Copley High School
DeVonn Nixon II - Copley High School Student-Athlete
4. Girls' Basketball Team State Final Four

(Five Minute Recess)

C Recognition of the Public

The Copley-Fairlawn City School District Board of Education feels that while public participation in Board meetings is not required, it is a valuable way to receive input from community members. The Board will not enter into debate or discussion on any matter brought forward, instead the information will be forwarded to the proper individual for possible follow up. Those who wish to participate in the public comments section of the agenda must sign in on the sheet available at the entrance to the meeting. Those signed up to address the Board should limit their comments to a maximum of three minutes until the total time of 30 minutes is used according to Policy BDDH (Also KD) and Ohio Revised Code 121.22 and 3313.20.

Adrian Rehill, high school student, identified himself as a gay/transgender boy. He spoke about his right to an education in a safe environment. He said being a

transgender teen is not easy. He also said use of school bathrooms by trans people shouldn't be an issue—vaping and sex in the bathrooms is more of an issue.

Megan Kleidon, parent, thanked the administration and board members Borchik, Lynn, Hertz, and Doss for their continued commitment for the wellbeing and safety of all students in the school district. She highlighted six points of Title IX in regards to gender identity. She said as a parent of a transgender student, she's proud of the district's zero tolerance policy.

Shannon Wagner, parent, shared statistics about suicide and attempted suicide rates from a dot.gov website. She expressed her gratitude for the Copley-Fairlawn staff that assisted a family member.

Jody Nichols, parent, believes it is misplaced compassion to encourage students to transition. She said the school should be a safe space for all students and that each student should be offered gentle support and counseled about body mutilation. She said students are beautiful and perfect just the way they are.

Stacie Novelli, parent, expressed her concern about bathroom facilities and thinks a policy does not need to be instituted about bathroom use. She thinks a policy would set the wrong tone. She mentioned an article that appeared in the Washington Post about the LGBTQ community being targeted.

Tammy Buser, parent, quoted the district's mission statement that says "The Board will focus on the needs of every segment of Copley-Fairlawn's student population in order to maximize the academic, extracurricular, and personal development of all students." She emphasized all students. She also said that if she wanted religion to dictate her children's education, she would have sent them to parochial school.

Margaret Briem, Akron, identified herself as a local chapter president for "Moms for Liberty". She said it was a group established to protect parental rights. She offered each board member to sign a pledge for a "Parents Bill of Rights".

Lisa Bouchard, parent, said she is a mom of a child with mental health issues and another child that is transgender. She said she has a child that has a boy's body but has been a girl in mind since of the age of 2. She expressed how proud she was of the school and the support they give to each child.

Bobbi Beale, parent, identified herself as a clinical psychologist and a parent of a transgender child. She said they have been in the school system for five years and have always felt welcomed and supported; however, she said that her child is bullied and there is work necessary to make it safer for transgender students.

Mary Hoolihan, parent, identified herself as a Christian and stated that best practice is inclusivity for all students. Love thy neighbor.

Karmyn Allen, student, said she was an editor for the high school newspaper. She mentioned various high school groups and their intended involvement (e.g. Girl Up, IRIS, GSA, Passion, etc.). She said she didn't understand the platform for public participation and thought she would be able to ask questions instead of just making comments.

Steph Freeman, parent, identified herself as a licensed counselor. She said her family moved to the school district because of its reputation and diversity. She stated that not all parents are a safe place for LGBTQ children to discuss their sexuality or gender identity. She quoted a Trevor Project study that was done in 2022 about homelessness or housing instability for LGBTQ youth. She said counselors may be a lifeline for the students.

D. Treasurer's Business

It was moved by Mrs. Hertz, seconded by Mr. Doss to approve the following actions, upon the recommendation of the Treasurer:

1. Minutes

Approve the minutes of the Board of Education's regular meeting held February 20, 2024 and Special Meeting held March 11, 2024.

2. Financial Statement

Approve the financial statement for the month of February, 2024.

3. Property Value Complaints

Resolution Authorizing the Filing of an Original Complaint Against the Valuation of Real Property Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 5715.19

WHEREAS, Ohio Revised Code Section 5715.19(A) presently permits a board of education to file an original complaint with the County Auditor challenging the determination of the total valuation of property it does not own but that is otherwise located within the boundaries of its school district on or before the thirty-first day of March if the property was sold in an arm's length transaction during calendar year 2022, and the sale price exceeds the true value of the property for Tax Year 2023 by both ten (10) percent and \$535,000; and

WHEREAS, prior to filing an original complaint, a board of education is required to first adopt a resolution authorizing the filing at a public meeting. The resolution shall include: a) identification of the parcel or parcels that are the subject of the original complaint by street address, by permanent parcel number, b) the name of at least one of the record owners of the parcel or parcels, c) the basis for the complaint under divisions (A)(1)(a) to (f) of Ohio Revised Code Section 5715.19(A) relative to each parcel identified in the resolution, and (d) the tax year for which the complaint will be filed; and

WHEREAS, before adopting a resolution, Revised Code Section 5715.19(A)(7) provides that a board of education shall mail a written notice to at least one of the record owners of the parcel or parcels identified in the resolution stating its intent in adopting the resolution, the proposed date of adoption, and the basis for the complaint relative to each parcel identified in the resolution. The notice shall be sent by certified mail to the last known tax-mailing address of at least one of the record owners and, if different from that tax-mailing address, to the street address of the parcel or parcels identified in the resolution. The notice shall be postmarked at least seven calendar days before the board of education adopts the resolution.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Copley-Fairlawn City School District that the following property qualifies for an original complaint as it sold, according to the Summit County Records for \$1,300,000 July 26, 2022 and the County's tax year 2023 value is \$664,070:

Street Address	Permanent Parcel Numbers	Name of Record Owner	Basis for the Complaint	Tax Year of Filing
3261 Copley Rd. Copley, OH 44321	15-00836 & 15-00837	1200 LLC	R.C. 5715.19(A)(1)(d): Recent sale of the subject property establishes fair	2023

		market value.	
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board, through its counsel, has provided written notice to at least one of the record owners of the parcels identified herein in accordance with the statutory requirements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board desires to proceed with the filing of an original complaint for the property described in this resolution and authorizes its legal counsel, Peters, Kalail & Markakis Co., L.P.A. to file said complaint with the Summit County Board of Revision and to take any action necessary to defend the complaint including but not limited to participating in the Board of Revision proceedings and any further appeal.

4. Approval of Vendor Payments (Then and Now Certificates)

- a. It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the following item for payment in accordance with Ohio Revised Code 5705.41 (D):

Vendor	Description	Amount
Raptor Technologies	Visitor Management Annual Access Fee	\$3,424.00

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

2024-25

E. Superintendent’s Considerations and Recommendations

It was moved by Mrs. Lynn, seconded by Mrs. Hertz, to approve the following actions, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent:

1. Memorandum of Understanding – Walsh University

Approve the memorandum of understanding between Walsh University and the Copley-Fairlawn City School District to provide instructional services to qualifying students for the 2024-2025 school year. (College Credit Plus)

2. Service Contract - Akron Children’s Hospital for Washington D.C. trip

Approve a service contract with Akron Children’s Hospital to provide nursing services during the 8th grade Washington D. C. trip from May 28 through May 30, 2024.

3. In Lieu of Transportation

Approve in-lieu-of transportations payments for the 2023-2024 school year for the following students:

Old Trail School
 Soni, Arjun

Western Reserve Academy
 Soni, Anika

4. Overnight/Out-of-State Field Trip

Approve the following overnight field trip:

Copley High School Girls Basketball Team to the University of Dayton for the State Finals March 14-16, 2024.

5. Personnel

a. Certified

1. Accept the resignation of the following:

Coffee, Julie Teacher, effective May 31, 2024 for retirement purposes
2. Grant an unpaid leave of absence for Ellie Hardesty from January 25, 2024 through the end of the 2023-2024 school year.
3. Grant an unpaid leave of absence for Britney Rudowsky from March 18, 2024 through March 27, 2024.
4. Grant an unpaid leave of absence for Meghan McCoy beginning February 14, 2024 through March 11, 2024

b. Classified

1. Accept the resignation of the following:

Broughton, Curley	Bus Aide, effective March 15, 2024
Fragale, Samuel	Bus Aide, effective March 1, 2024
2. Employ the following classified personnel for the 2023-2024 school year, contingent upon subsequent receipt by the Board of Education of reports from FBI and BCII and official documentation of any required licensure, course work, degrees, and testing appropriate to the position for which the candidate is to be hired:

Dies, Elizabeth	Special Needs Assistant, effective March 11, 2024
Lebron, Victoria	Cafeteria Worker, effective March 12, 2024
McCalister, Pamela	Lunchroom/Recess Monitor, effective March 21, 2024
3. Employ the following substitute personnel for the 2023-2024 school year, contingent upon subsequent receipt by the Board of Education of reports from FBI and BCII and official documentation of any required licensure, course work, degrees, and testing appropriate to the position for which the candidate is to be hired:

Broughton, Curley	Bus Aide, Bus Driver, effective March 18, 2024
Fantozzi, Raymond	Custodian
Fawcett, Alva	Bus Aide, effective March 18, 2024
Mendise, Angela	Special Needs Assistant, effective February 29, 2024
Gill, Emily	Custodian, effective February 29, 2024
Wisniewski, Caleb	Custodian, effective March 6, 2024
Wright, Tenisha	Special Needs Assistant, effective March 12, 2024
- 4.. Grant an unpaid leave of absence for John Petrinec from March 7, 2024 through March 18, 2024
5. Terminate the employment of Tenisha Wright in accordance with Article 6, Paragraph F, of the agreement with the International

Brotherhood of Teamsters Local #348, for just cause under the probationary period.

c. Supplemental

1. Employ the following for the 2023-2024 school year contingent upon the subsequent receipt by the Board of Education of reports from FBI and BCII and official documentation of any required licensure, course work, degrees, and testing appropriate to the position for which the candidate is to be hired:

Athletic Coaches

Miller, Mary

CHS, Girls Track, Assistant Coach

AYES: Lynn, Hertz, Chuna, Doss, Borchik

NAYS: None

F. New Business

Mr. Chuna made a statement regarding the March 11, 2024 special board meeting. He stated that the most direct and personal contact we ever have with the government is through families and specifically our children in the school system. Further, during his short tenure on the Board, he has asked about transparency, parental rights and academic excellence. He said the meeting was supposed to cover questions he had raised on a variety of topics; however, he felt there was a coordinated effort to intimidate him since about 50 people showed up. He encouraged people to read the minutes from the meeting in order to get a better understanding about questions raised and answers given. He said while the meeting minutes are accurate they can't reflect the full context and content of the meeting. Mr. Chuna made a personal recording of the meeting and said he will post it on his personal website trevorchuna.com.

Mrs. Kirsch, Assistant Superintendent, gave an update on the construction projects. She said there was a slight problem with the bleachers at the high school that may require a modification. The Summit County building department is reviewing the entry and exit points to make sure there is enough space provided. The Summit County Engineer's office has finally approved the middle school stadium project. Since the project has been approved, the contractor will be notified and hopefully work will begin soon. Fencing is currently being installed around the high school softball field. Repairs are being completed on the high school softball infield that was damaged during the fencing installation. The high school front entrance and interior project is going to begin in the next week or two. Mr. Smith has informed parents and students of the new traffic patterns. The front entrance to the high school will be completely closed off once construction begins.

Mr. Poe, Superintendent, reminded everybody that on April 8, 2024 school will be closed for the solar eclipse. Glasses were purchased for each student and will be handed out in the school buildings.

2024-26

G. Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Chuna, seconded by Mrs. Lynn, to adjourn the meeting (6:51 p.m.)

AYES: Chuna, Lynn, Hertz, Doss, Borchik

NAYS: None