

COPLEY-FAIRLAWN CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Special Meeting/Work Session

Copley High School Main Office Conference Room

February 5, 2024 4:00 p.m.

Jim Borchik, President called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

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

Jim Borchik
Trevor Chuna
Steve Doss
Beth Hertz
Paula Lynn

2024-08

A. Agenda

It was moved by Mrs. Hertz, seconded by Mr. Doss, to adopt the agenda for the February 5, 2024 special meeting/work session, as presented.

AYES: Hertz, Doss, Chuna, Lynn, Borchik

NAYS: None

2024-09

B. Executive Session

It was moved by Mrs. Lynn, seconded by Mrs. Hertz to go into executive session pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(1). The board shall consider the employment/evaluation of employees or officials of the school district at 4:03 p.m.

AYES: Lynn, Hertz, Doss, Chuna, Borchik

NAYS: None

The board returned to public session at 4:32 p.m.

C. Topics

1. Construction Update

Mr. Poe reported that another set of reviews/edits required by the Summit County Engineer on the middle school athletic complex project was submitted. He also noted that Copley Township is also experiencing delays from the engineer's office with their project.

A bid opening will be conducted on Wednesday February 7, 2024 for the renovations to the following: restrooms at each building, commons and cafeteria at the high school, cafeteria at the middle school, entrance at the high school, Bistro 81, the auditorium and the locker rooms.

The high school stadium project is going well. Walls of the field house have begun to be built. Grading for the bleachers and sewer construction is on-going. The weather has been cooperative which has allowed Summit Construction to work continuously on the project.

2. Retirement Appreciation Gift

Currently, the afghan given to retirees as an appreciation for their years of service has outdated buildings on it. Since construction is ongoing and the buildings will look different in the near future, a newly designed afghan will be developed after construction is complete.

3. Test Scores

A history of test scores from 2016 through 2023 were discussed. Categories reviewed were Science, Math, Social Studies, and English Language Arts. It was noted that all test scores decreased from pre-pandemic to post-pandemic. 2023 showed an increase in most scores when compared to 2021.

4. Counselor/Mental Health Disclosure/Gender and Sexuality

A discussion occurred about disclosure to parents from counselors and mental health personnel about gender and sexuality. A question was raised about the timing of notifying parents. Mrs. Kirsch, Assistant Superintendent, said that students can discuss topics with counselors and mental health personnel four to six times prior to them having to report it to anybody else. If a student discloses that they intend to harm themselves or someone else a counselor must notify a parent/guardian and/or other necessary agencies (i.e. Children Services, law enforcement). The district currently employs 8 counselors, 4 clinical counselors, and contracts with two outside organizations to provide additional counseling.

Flags posted in classrooms and stickers posted on classroom doors were also questioned. Mr. Poe explained that we must follow the 1st Amendment of the Constitution. It was further explained that the stickers are a “safe space” for students to go if they need to talk to an adult.

The building construction includes the installation of single use bathrooms. These are bathrooms in each building for students to use that are gender neutral. They will be next to the male and female bathrooms but have their own entrance/exit. They are similar to a family restroom at an airport. There is concern that these bathrooms will be abused by students for such things as vaping or smoking since they are self-contained. It was explained that they have the same risk as our current bathrooms. There was a question raised about establishing a board policy for bathroom use but Superintendent Poe said no policy will be recommended and that there is clearly a decision out of the 6th district federal court that appears to be at odds with a bill that is currently being considered by the Ohio legislature.

2024-10

D. Executive Session

It was moved by Mr. Borchik, seconded by Mrs. Hertz to go into executive session pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(1). The board shall consider the employment/evaluation of employees or officials of the school district at 6:31 p.m.

AYES: Borchik, Lynn, Hertz, Doss, Chuna

NAYS: None

The board returned to public session at 7:17 p.m.

2024-11

E. Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Chuna, seconded by Mr. Doss, to adjourn the meeting (7:17 p.m.)

AYES: Chuna, Doss, Lynn, Hertz, Borchik

NAYS: None

President

Treasurer