

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**Minutes – Regular Board Meeting**  
**March 15, 2021**

The Board of Education of the Garfield Heights City School District met in regular session on Monday, March 15 at 6:00 p.m. with Mrs. Nichelle Daniels, President of the Board, presiding.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Mrs. Daniels, Ms. King, Ms. Morrison, Ms. Thomas

Absent: Mr. Juby

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Moved by Ms. Thomas, seconded by Ms. Morrison to adopt the agenda as presented.

Ayes: Ms. Thomas, Ms. Morrison, Ms. King, Mrs. Daniels

Nays:

**MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**READING & APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by Ms. King, seconded by Ms. Thomas to approve the minutes from the Special Meeting of February 2, 2021, Special Meeting of February 8, 2021 and February 16, 2021 as presented.

Ayes: Ms. King, Ms. Thomas, Ms. Morrison, Mrs. Daniels

Nays:

**BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

On behalf of the entire Board of Education, the Garfield Heights City Schools welcomed students back to in-person learning in the Hybrid educational model during the week of Monday, March 8th. I, along with Vice President King and Board Member Thomas, had the opportunity to personally greet students as they returned to classes, and were inspired and encouraged by the students' enthusiasm. The Board of Education will continue to positively affirm our students and staff in doing everything possible to ensure that they uphold and fulfill our new vision of being a premier school district in the entire State of Ohio.

In total, approximately 1,700 students were kept safe and successfully educated in conducting the districtwide return to in-person hybrid learning, and in addition, those students and families who have chosen to remain in the remote learning model due to safety concerns were effectively educated as well.

I'd like to commend Superintendent Hanke and the entire administrative team, who have worked extremely hard in preparing the buildings and facilities for the safe return of students and staff.

Temperature taking, de-misting, thermal imaging camera technology and more, represent some of the innovation and steps taken in the buildings to uphold that safe return. Thank you to our administration for the caution, compassion and care that has been taken to make sure our students and staff would be safe. The staff at the Garfield Heights City Schools deserves our gratitude as well, for such a seamless transition to our Hybrid learning model. The Board of Education also extends their congratulations to Mr. Kneisel, on receiving the Garfield Heights Teacher's Association's Teacher of the Year Award. Your hard work, Mr. Kneisel, represents the dedication of our entire staff, and your special recognition is the product of your commitment to the students of our District. Thank you, and congratulations!

The Board of Education would also like to send a shout out to our High School Boys Basketball Team, who finished with an overall record of 10 wins and 5 losses. Coach Johnson and his team had high hopes for the season, which unfortunately were interrupted by nuances related to the coronavirus. Despite starts and stops, the basketball team persevered and remained determined throughout the entire season, as they always do. While we're sorry that a full season could not be conducted, everyone continues to be excited for the future of your program!

In other news from the Board of Education, on Thursday, March 11, 2021, I along with Councilwoman Shayla L. Davis, was invited by the National Congress of Black Women to participate in a discussion with Governor DeWine's team about giving greater vaccine access to inner ring suburbs, such as in communities like Garfield Heights. The leadership represented in this meeting with the Governor's office went above and beyond in successfully securing support to increase access. As a school district, it is important that our community has access to vaccination. Working towards immunity in the Garfield Heights community will support the school district's efforts in safely returning all students to our school buildings in the future. Our teachers and staff members participating in the vaccination support these efforts as well, and as front-line workers who are tasked with educating our community's students, this was an important step to keep us all safe.

In addition, on March 3, 2021, I met with State Representative Stephanie Howse about Garfield Heights Legislative priorities which include:

- Permanent ability of public schools to offer fully online programs.
- Report card reform
- School Funding Overall
- Eliminating the district deduct model for community/charter schools.

Thank you always to Representative Howse, for continuing to champion our District with your time!

Finally, the month of March is Women's History Month and we commend all women for their achievements and continued strength in fighting for our overall rights and equality as women. With that, I conclude my report.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Cuyahoga Valley Career Center – Christine A. Kitson

Student Activities - Ashley M. Thomas, M. Ed.

- The winter season ended with our boys basketball team making it to the district semifinals, girls bowling team making it to regionals and boys bowler Joe Lenart making it to regionals.
- Our spring sports consisting of baseball, softball, boys track, girls track and tennis have all started their practices.
- Spring sport modifications include extending dugout seating and increasing the number of available game balls.
- I hope everyone was able to catch our high school choirs recent virtual performance on FOX 8, they did amazing!

Legislative Committee – Ashley M. Thomas, M. Ed. & Nichelle N. Daniels

Strategic Plan Committee – Millette King, M. Ed., L.S.W. & Nichelle N. Daniels

Finance Committee – Heather Morrison & Nichelle N. Daniels

City Liaison – Millette King, M. Ed. L.S.W.

- Congratulations to Frank Tagliarini who was appointed to the vacancy as Councilperson in Ward 6. This vacancy was due to Matt Burke's transition to Interim Mayor.
- There will be a Legislative meeting held on March 18, 2021 at 6:30 to discuss modifying the ordinance against raising hens in residential yards. Section 9 of the Charter will be discussed in reference to no person who works for a public agency can hold a seat on city council. You can attend the meeting via Zoom using ID 893 1547 4985
- The next City Council meeting is scheduled for Monday March 22, 2021 at 7:00 via zoom using ID 893 1547 4985.
- The city will be hosting free COVID vaccinations at the civic center on March 20, 2021. Call City Hall for more information.
- Councilwoman Shayla L. Davis has access to a limited number of free COVID vaccination codes for the mass vaccination site at the CSU Wolstein Center. Contact Councilwoman Davis at [sdavis@garfieldhts.org](mailto:sdavis@garfieldhts.org).

Policy Committee – Joseph Juby & Nichelle N. Daniels

Legislative Liaison – Ashley M. Thomas, M. Ed.

## **PRESENTATION**

## **RECOGNITIONS/COMMENDATIONS**

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Thank you, Madame President-

I write to the Garfield Heights City Schools community enthusiastically sharing that students and staff in our District were once again reunited through our in-person hybrid learning model during the week of March 8th. As I and my administrative team visited each of the buildings throughout the week, we were overcome with the emotion, excitement and enthusiasm which was on full display by our students... who returned to classrooms with visible happiness and anticipation... and our staff members... who welcomed our district's children with smiles and a desire to resume as much normalcy as possible.

In addition to the staff members, the principals and the administrative team at the Garfield Heights City Schools deserves a great deal of credit. Treasurer and Business Services Director Al Sluka coordinated the key building and facilities upgrades to ensure safety and COVID compliance for everyone returning. Our Director of Teaching and Learning, Lee Ann Reiland, played a significant role in structuring the hybrid in-person learning model, Director of Technology Shari Bailey has maintained and upheld the technology requirements necessary to instruct during this unprecedented time, Director of Student Services Brooke Pillets has ensured that the increased special needs of our students have been addressed and met... and, Assistant Superintendent Sean Patton and Director of Pupil Services Dr. Gordon Dupree, continue to go above and beyond providing resources to families in need, particularly through a Town Hall meeting that is taking place this Thursday about agency support in Northeast Ohio. That Town Hall begins at 6 p.m. and you won't want to miss it!

I particularly would like to thank the members of our Board of Education, President Daniels, Vice President King and Member Thomas, who made time in their schedule to greet our students during this first week of in-person learning. Their emotion, care and compassion was on full-display as they greeted students and staff. Thank you for such a heartfelt demonstration of your support of this District.

Finally, I thank the devoted staff members of the Garfield Heights City Schools and wish them all the best on a safe and successful conclusion to the remainder of the school year. Their participation in the vaccination process was a critical first step in ensuring the safety of not only themselves, but our students and our community. Special thanks also goes out to the Educational Services Center of Cuyahoga County for their facilitation of the vaccines over a seamless two-day process.

With that, I conclude my report.

## REMARKS FROM THE PUBLIC REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

None

## REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TREASURER

Moved by Ms. Thomas, seconded by Ms. Morrison to approve the financials for February 2021, as presented.

Ayes: Ms. Thomas, Ms. Morrison, Ms. King, Mrs. Daniels

Nays:

## SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATIONS - CERTIFIED PERSONNEL:

Moved by Ms. Thomas, seconded by Ms. Morrison to approve the Certified Staff items as presented.

## ACCEPT THE RETIREMENT RESIGNATIONS AS PRESENTED BELOW:

NAME	POSITION	BLDG.	EFFECTIVE DATE	YEARS OF SERVICE w/GHCS
Keshock, C. Robert	Music	WF	6/7/21	33
Monastra, Paul	Intervention Spec.	WF	6/30/21	32
Perko, Lisa	Grade 3 Teacher	ML	6/7/21	31

## LEAVE OF ABSENCES:

NAME	BLDG.	TYPE	DATES
Wourms, Curtis	HS	Pd. Admin LOA	2/12/21 - TBD
Mazzolini, Karyn	HS	Intermittent Medical LOA	2/10/21 - 12/30/21

Approve the following teachers participating in the McGraw Hill "Celebrating Literacy Instruction" professional development series be paid at the Curriculum Rate of \$26.02/hour, not to exceed 4 hours, funded out of Title I:

Laura Bartlett	Jana Jenkins
Jennifer Boucher	Paula Kijowski
Jennifer Corrado	April Kossman
Pamela Dorton-Farr	Rebecca Louvain
Debbie Drennan	Lana Mastroianni
Brittany Funk	Alyssa Reichard
Diane Horvath	Ashley Turner

Approve the following teachers participating in additional McGraw Hill "Math Is... K-8 Leadership" professional development series courses be paid at the Curriculum Rate of \$26.02/hour, not to exceed 2 hours, funded out of Title I:

Jennifer Boucher
Debra Hrin
Debbie Drennan

Ayes: Ms. Thomas, Ms. Morrison, Ms. King, Mrs. Daniels

Nays:

**SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATIONS - CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL**

Moved by Ms. Thomas, seconded by Ms. Morrison to approve the Classified Staff items as presented:

**ACCEPT THE RESIGNATIONS AS PRESENTED BELOW:**

NAME	POSITION	BLDG.	EFFECTIVE DATE
Cartagena, Jaileen	Building Asst. (1B)	WF	2/19/21
Kubinski, Denise	General Cafe (1C)	HS	2/19/21
Peters, Melissa	Instructional Asst. (2B)	WF	3/5/21
Davis, Ruth	Housekeeper (1D)	MS	2/19/21
Richardson, Cheryl	General Cafe (1C)	MS	3/5/21
Palo, Brita	Elem. Office Asst. (2A)	ML	3/19/21
Collette, Michael	Housekeeper (1D)	MS	3/5/21
Shanahan, Richard	Delivery Driver (2E)	Garage	3/5/21

**ACCEPT RETIREMENT RESIGNATION(S) AS PRESENTED BELOW:**

NAME	POSITION	BLDG.	EFFECTIVE DATE	YEARS OF SERVICE W/GHCS
Newton, Donna	Attendance Sec. (4A)	HS	6/30/21	36

**APPROVE THE CLASSIFIED CONTRACT(S) AS PRESENTED BELOW:**

NAME	POSITION	BLDG.	STEP	HOURS	EFFECTIVE DATE
Henderson, Frances	PT Vehicle Driver (3E)	Garage	0	4	3/8/21
Carter, Miriam	Instructional Asst. (2B)	WF	1	6	3/8/21
Jackson, Lashaunte	Bus Driver (3E)	Garage	3	4	3/8/21
McKinney, Larissa	Instructional Asst. (2B)	WF	2	6	3/15/21
Hardnick, Shelia	Building Asst. (1B)	ML	0	3	3/15/21

**LEAVE OF ABSENCES:**

NAME	BLDG.	TYPE	DATES
Newton, Donna	HS	Medical LOA	3/1/21 - 6/4/21
Owens-Hodge, Toya	ML	Intermittent Medical LOA for Family Member	11/4/20 - 11/3/21
Johnson, Jontae'	Central Office	Unpaid Days	3/15-16/21 and 3/22-23/21
Heard, Maureen	ML	Intermittent Medical LOA for Family Member	3/4/21 - 3/3/22

Ayes: Ms. Thomas, Ms. Morrison, Ms. King, Mrs. Daniels

Nays:

**SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATIONS - SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACTS**

Moved by Ms. Thomas, seconded by Ms. Morrison to approve the Supplemental Contracts as presented.

**ATHLETIC SUPPLEMENTAL POSITIONS - SPRING SPORTS**

NAME	ATHLETIC SUPPLEMENTAL	BLDG.
Adams, Eboni	Assistant Track Coach	HS
Mazzolini, Karyn	Assistant Softball Coach	HS
Wiemken, Alexandra	Assistant Softball Coach	HS
McQueen, Michael	Head Track Coach (7/8 Boys)	MS
Lubera, Ethan	Assistant Track Coach (7/8 Boys)	MS
Lieberth, Dan	Head Track Coach (7/8 Girls)	MS
Kyser, Paula	Assistant Track Coach (7/8 Girls)	MS

Ayes: Ms. Thomas, Ms. Morrison, Ms. King, Mrs. Daniels

Nays:

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT TO THE BOARD: POLICY:**

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT TO THE BOARD:  
CONTRACTS:**

Moved by Ms. Thomas, seconded by Ms. Morrison to approve the agreement between the Garfield Heights City Schools and Applewood Centers, Inc. operating as Gerson School to provide alternative educational services for the 2020-2021 school year for students on Individualized Education Programs.

Ayes: Ms. Thomas, Ms. Morrison, Ms. King, Mrs. Daniels  
Nays:

Moved by Ms. Thomas, seconded by Ms. Morrison to approve the two-year agreement with the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio and the Garfield Heights City Schools.

Ayes: Ms. Thomas, Ms. Morrison, Ms. King, Mrs. Daniels  
Nays:

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT TO THE BOARD:  
MISCELLANEOUS:**

Moved by Ms. Thomas, seconded by Ms. Morrison to approve the school calendar for the 2021-2022 school year, as presented.

Ayes: Ms. Thomas, Ms. Morrison, Ms. King, Mrs. Daniels  
Nays:

Moved by Ms. Thomas, seconded by Ms. Morrison to approve the bus routes and stops for the 2020-2021 school year and authorizes the Transportation Supervisor and/or Director of Business Services to make minor adjustments for reasons of safety and/or expediency, as presented.

Ayes: Ms. Thomas, Ms. Morrison, Ms. King, Mrs. Daniels  
Nays:

Moved by Ms. Thomas, seconded by Ms. Morrison to waive High School student class fees for the 2020-2021 school year.

Ayes: Ms. Thomas, Ms. Morrison, Ms. King, Mrs. Daniels  
Nays:

**REMARKS FROM THE PUBLIC REGARDING MISCELLANEOUS SCHOOL ITEMS**

None




**ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT BOARD MEETINGS**

Board of Education Work Session Meeting 6:00 P.M.  
April 12, 2021

Board of Education Regular Meeting – 6:00 P.M.  
April 19, 2021

Moved by Ms. King, seconded by Ms. Morrison to adjourn the meeting at 6:22 P.M.

Ayes: Ms. King, Ms. Morrison, Ms. Thomas, Mrs. Daniels  
Nays:

  
President

  
Treasurer