

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Monday, March 21, 2022**

The Board of Education of the Garfield Heights City School District met in regular session on Monday, March 21, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. with Mrs. Nichelle Daniels, President presiding.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mrs. Daniels, Mr. Juby, Ms. King, Ms. Morrison, Ms. Thomas
Absent: None

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Mr. Juby, seconded by Ms. Morrison to adopt the agenda.

Ayes: Mr. Juby, Ms. Morrison, Ms. King, Ms. Thomas, Mrs. Daniels
Nays: None

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Juby, seconded by Ms. Thomas to approve the minutes from the Special Board Meeting of February 15, 2022, the Regular Board Meeting of February 22, 2022 and the Special Board Meeting of February 28, 2022 as presented.

Ayes: Mr. Juby, Ms. Thomas, Ms. King, Ms. Morrison, Mrs. Daniels
Nays: None

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I begin my report with praise for the parents, families, students, and staff of the Garfield Heights City Schools, who have worked tirelessly over the last 24 months in demonstrating resilience, empathy, and strength during the covid pandemic. We all will take a significant step forward on March 28th when, upon returning from spring break, the Bulldog family will return to a mask-optional environment. If you feel the need to continue wearing a mask, you have the freedom to do so, however, those desiring to be mask-free will have that ability to do so. Thank you all helping to navigate these waters.

In addition, families are encouraged to help prepare their students for the upcoming testing season. Continuing to provide a nurturing environment, ensuring proper rest and sleep habits, positive self-talk, healthy meals, and more, have all been proven ways to help further success during these stressful times for students. I thank the teachers who remain diligent in their quest for academic success, and the students their upcoming testing season. You will do great!

Since our last meeting, many of our winter athletes and co-curricular participants ended their winter seasons. On behalf of the board of education, we commend those student-participants for their commitment to hard work, sacrifice, teamwork, and leadership during these endeavors. Families sacrifice a great deal as well to ensure success. And, we thank the coaches and advisors for their true mentorship of our students. Thank you all for being fine representatives of the Garfield Heights City Schools.

Our highly successful Music Express team was recently interviewed by Channel 3 news and will be included in an upcoming documentary. Congratulations to the very talented high schoolers who spend countless hours training, perfecting their song and dance capabilities and performing in competition. More information will be shared in the future regarding how our community can watch our Music Express team be highlighted. Congratulations to all.

Finally, I want to commend my colleague and Board Vice President, Millette King, who along with me, attended the recent Ohio School Board Association's Northeast Region's Spring Conference. This ongoing professional development helps to ensure that we as Board Members are receiving the training and up-to-date matters of importance from our state school board association. I was also honored to have received the Star Award for Training, and I thank the association for this honor. When accolades such as this are presented to any of our Board members, the entire school district benefits, so that we can be better public servants for the community.

Thank you for your continued support of the Garfield Heights City Schools. That concludes my report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Cuyahoga Valley Career Center - Ashley M. Thomas, M. Ed.

The CVCC Board of Education met on February 24th, we had a brief discussion about the return of summer camp and using that as a tool for recruitment and community awareness.

We reviewed the annual bullying and harassment report and we had a presentation from our HVAC Program and the amazing things that they are doing! We also got an invitation to the National Technical Honor Society's induction ceremony on April 6th.

Our student connection highlighted Zion Ellison, a junior who is in CVCC's graphic imaging technology program. Zion is a member of Students of Promise and he enjoys playing video games and spending time with his friends. He hopes to be a video game designer in his future! I would also like to congratulate our students who attended the Health Occupations Students of America Competitive Event. The followed students placed in their competitions: Faridath Nonditchao, Kalia Pulley, Morgan Rosello, Monteniece Robinson and Anaijha Smith. There were also 4 students who attended the Business Professionals of America Regional Contest, they also all placed in their contest. The students were Myla Bridges, Sofia Fasone, Kalvin Kutcher, and Isabella Torres.

Wellness Liaison – Heather Morrison

A highly attended winter sports banquet was held on March 15, 2022. Spring sports practices and scrimmages have started. The number of spring sports athletes is lower than normal, with many athletes not able to compete due to a lack of an OHSAA physical.

Our music express show choir continues to win group and individual awards. Winning individual awards at the last few competitions were Desire Goodwin – best female soloist, Makayla Svoboda – best performer, Willie Rose – best male soloist, Chideraa Udegbeum – best performer and Valerie Ortiz – best performer.

Major recent purchases include: MS baseball and softball supplies and winter awards.

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

Rescheduled until March 29, 2022

Finance Committee - Heather Morrison & Nichelle N. Daniels

Community and Family Engagement Liaison – Millette King, M. Ed. L.S.W.

At the February 28th City Council meeting, city council voted to repeal the community relations committee. Also at this meeting Shari Thomas spoke about the Southeast Community Coalition that she is coordinating with the cities of Maple Hts, Bedford, Bedford Hts. Warrensville and Garfield Hts. to address the mental health challenges that our communities have experienced due to the stressors resulting from COVID. The first meeting was held on March 15, 2022. I was unable to attend, however, I had a one on one meeting with Mrs. Thomas on March 8th to learn about more about the goals of the coalition. The coalition is in its infancy stage and she is seeking support from all communities.

The next city council meeting is this Monday March 28th at 7pm in council chambers.

Policy Committee – Joseph Juby & Nichelle N. Daniels

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

PRESENTATIONS

Superintendent Chris Hanke and Treasurer/Director of Business Services Al Sluka gave the Board an update on the action steps taken to address Strategic Plan Goal 4.1: Develop a plan to address the middle school limitations that incorporate a modern, open and collaborative learning environment.

RECOGNITIONS/COMMENDATIONS

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

On behalf of the Garfield Heights City Schools, I hope everyone enjoys a safe and enjoyable Spring Break. When staff and students return, on March 28th, the Garfield Heights City Schools will do so in a mask less environment for the first time in nearly two years. This means that masks will be optional for all individuals who will enter district facilities. This also means that the Garfield Heights City Schools will no longer be required to provide masks either. In addition, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) officially eased the order requiring case reporting and notification regarding Covid-19 Cases in K-12 Schools effective on Thursday, March 10, 2022. Schools are no longer required to maintain a system of reporting for Covid-19 cases, have a designated Covid-19 coordinator, notify parents of positive cases among students and staff, or report positive cases to local health departments. On behalf of everyone in the district, thank you to everyone for your patience and understanding during the last several years during the pandemic environment. Together, we persevered, and we have weathered this storm like true Bulldogs.

I thank the individuals who attended our Kindergarten Information Night on Wednesday, March 16th from 4:30- 6 p.m. at the High School. Please remember, that students who turn 5 years old on or before August 1st are eligible to register for Kindergarten next year. These in-person registration opportunities can be scheduled by contacting the Garfield Heights City Schools at 216-475-8100, and will take place in the Cappadonna Room at the Middle School, Monday, April 4th - Thursday, April 7th from 7:30 – 1:30 p.m. AND, Monday, April 11th - Thursday, April 14th from 7:30 – 1:30 p.m. Please remember, these are in-person and adult-only registration appointments.

Congratulations to our winter sport student-athletes for completing their season recently, and to the coaches and advisers who take the time and talent to motivate our children. Our student-athletes demonstrate a considerable amount of leadership, and we congratulate them on another season of success. Spring sport competitions are about to begin in the next several weeks, and we wish our spring sport participants and coaches all the best. That concludes my report.

REMARKS FROM THE PUBLIC REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

None

REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TREASURER

Moved by Mr. Juby, seconded by Ms. King to approve the financials for February 2022.

Ayes: Mr. Juby, Ms. King, Ms. Morrison, Ms. Thomas, Mrs. Daniels
 Nays: None

SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATIONS – CERTIFIED PERSONNEL

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

Approve the following Leave of Absences:

NAME	BLDG.	TYPE	EFFECTIVE DATES
Cheryl Carano	High School	Medical LOA for Family Member	2/28/22 - TBD
Amy Pullen	Elmwood	Intermittent Medical LOA	3/7/22 - 3/6/23
Carrie Spelich	Elmwood	Intermittent Medical LOA	3/7/22 - 3/6/23
Leigh Ann Pustai	Maple Leaf	Intermittent Medical LOA	3/11/22 - 3/10/23
Lori Frank	William Foster	Medical LOA	3/14/22 - 4/17/22

Approve the following Resignations:

NAME	POSITION	BLDG.	EFFECTIVE
Gina Lewis	Grade 3	Maple Leaf	6/30/22 (Retirement Resignation 29 years)

Accept the Supplemental resignation of Tamara Moeller as Noon Intramural Supervisor at William Foster for the Fourth Quarter.

Approve teachers participating in the District Kindergarten Information Night on March 16, 2022 be paid a stipend of \$50 out of Title I funds.

Approve K-12 ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies teachers working after school to develop scope and sequence be paid the curriculum rate, \$26.67 per hour, not to exceed 6 hours per month, paid from the General Fund.

Approve the Middle and High School teachers be paid the curriculum rate, \$26.67 per hour, not to exceed 6 hours, to review mathematics curriculum, paid from the General Fund.

Ayes: Mr. Juby, Ms. Thomas, Ms. King, Ms. Morrison, Mrs. Daniels
Nays: None

SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATIONS – EXEMPT PERSONNEL

Moved by Mr. Juby, seconded by Ms. Thomas to approve the Exempt Staff items as presented.

Approve the following Exempt Contract:

NAME	POSITION	BLDG.	STEP	EFFECTIVE
Kevin Sparks	EMIS Supervisor	Central Office	16	3/28/22

Ayes: Mr. Juby, Ms. Thomas, Ms. King, Ms. Morrison, Mrs. Daniels
Nays: None

SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATIONS – QUALIFIED PERSONNEL

Moved by Mr. Juby, seconded by Ms. Thomas to approve the Qualified Staff items as presented.

Approve the salary increase of Romie Graham, Linkage Coordinator, per the requirements of the CTAG Grant.

Ayes: Mr. Juby, Ms. Thomas, Ms. King, Ms. Morrison, Mrs. Daniels
Nays: None

SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATIONS – CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

Moved by Mr. Juby, seconded by Ms. Thomas to approve the Classified Staff items as presented.

Approve the following Leave of Absences:

NAME	BLDG.	TYPE	EFFECTIVE DATES
Donna Hepner	William Foster	Medical LOA	4/11/22 - 6/7/22

Approve Resignations as listed below:

NAME	POSITION	BLDG.	EFFECTIVE
Dreakimony Gill	Housekeeper	William Foster	2/28/22
Therese Mathews	Sub Cafeteria	Middle School	3/4/22

Ayes: Mr. Juby, Ms. Thomas, Ms. King, Ms. Morrison, Mrs. Daniels
Nays: None

SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATIONS – SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACTS

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

Athletic Supplemental Contracts for 2021-2022:

NAME	POSITION	BLDG.
Hanna Harb	Assistant Track Coach	High School

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

Nays: None

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT TO THE BOARD: POLICY:

The Board held the first reading on the Equity Policy that was submitted and recommended for approval by the Board Policy Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT TO THE BOARD: MISCELLANEOUS:

Moved by Mr. Juby, seconded by Ms. King to approve the following miscellaneous items:

2022-2023 District Calendar, as presented.

Adult Breakfast/Lunch increase, as presented.

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

Nays: None

REMARKS FROM THE PUBLIC REGARDING MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:

Ms. Joni Wanderstock addressed the Board:

Good Evening Board of Education....

I had the pleasure of knowing Bob Dobies for approximately 30 years, so I was happy to read in the board minutes last month that you had dedicated this room to him and deservedly so. This room naming also brought to mind a few others that I have actually been wanting to address for some time now, and I think the timing is right to do so at this evening's board meeting.

In looking around the room I think there are only two other people that would be aware of what I feel so compelled to now share with the board. If you have worked at the middle school or been there when it was the high school, I am sure you are familiar with the term Capadona Room. But what I am quite sure you are not aware of is that it was named after an amazing man, father and grandfather of students in this district. Decades ago, "Cappy" as he was lovingly referred to, spent thousands of dollars of his own money to renovate the room in the basement of the now middle school. At the time of its completion, it was a state of the art conference room that was used pretty much on a weekly basis for various meetings throughout the district. There was a label on the door and a plaque inside its walls. Most unfortunately however, over the years this room became everything but what it was intended for. A wrestling practice room, a room where football players threw their dirty equipment, and a storage room have been just a few of its usages over the years. For those of us that knew Cappy, it was just heartbreaking to see this declining transformation. Although it was cleared out in recent years, it lacks the luster it once had and I wonder what became of the sign bearing Cappy's name.

There are two other rooms that I know were also dedicated to special individuals. The library at Maple Leaf was named after John Geraci, another former board member and the father of Debby Hrin, a teacher at William Foster. And then there was the committee spearheaded by parent Denise Vlastic who orchestrated the naming of the Middle School library after another former GHHS graduate and an admired and revered educator and administrator in this district for over three decades, Marlene Remesch. Although I have not been in the Maple Leaf library for years, last time I was there I did not see the beautiful plaque bearing John's likeness. The middle school library also had a beautiful plaque honoring Marlene which I know for a fact is not there anymore, as I inquired about it years ago. Sadly, the library as we once knew it is no longer at the middle school either. As an educator, I would also like to see the rebirth of the library for this age group.

All three of these room dedications were board approved and thus, I am sure they are notated in the archives of past board meeting minutes.

While some may think this is no big deal, it is a big deal. I know this to be true on a personal level as shortly after my Dad died, Cornell University dedicated his classroom to him. Not only was this a huge honor for my family, but it was also so very meaningful for those that knew and loved him too, in addition to being a wonderful tribute to his memory.

I am sharing all of this with you, the board, in the hope that you can resurrect these plaques and give those they represent the credit that they earned and just like Bob Dobies, deserve. In all honesty, it is truly the respectful and right thing to do. As I tell students every year when I have the privilege of making a presentation at Senior Recognition Night, to them the scholarships they receive are merely a name on a piece of paper. But to those of us fortunate enough to have been blessed with the honorees' presence in our lives.... they are so very much more.

Thank you Board of Education for your time in allowing me to share this with you all.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT BOARD MEETINGS

Board of Education Regular Board Meeting at Garfield Hts High School – Monday, April 11, 2022 6:00 P.M.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

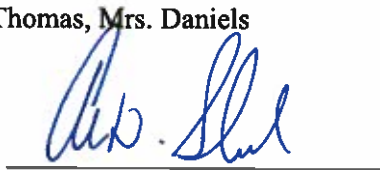
Moved by Ms. King, seconded by Mr. Juby to adjourn the meeting at 6:49 p.m.

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

Nays: None



President



Treasurer