



BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

October 6, 2025 | Innovation Campus, The Hub

MEETING NOTES

Meeting Notes are not official until the Board of Education votes on them at its next Regular Meeting.

- A1 President called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
- A2 Members present: Ms. Arnold, Mrs. Crowley, Mrs. Murdoch, Mr. Perry, and Mr. Vorst.
- A3 Pledge of Allegiance

NOTE: *Portions of the meeting's audio recording were difficult to decipher; therefore, this document may contain several incomplete sentences or inaccuracies. Additionally, some of the participants' names may be misspelled.*

B. PROGRAMS / PRESENTATIONS

- B1 Students will share highlights from three Innovation Campus programs—NextGen Changemakers, Academy EDU, and Academy VIBE—showcasing their learning and impact. Their presentations will provide the board with a glimpse into how these courses empower students to lead, innovate, and create meaningful change.

Mr. Stewart: We have a lot of cool celebrations tonight, and we'll start with Mrs. Stacy Carter, principal here at the Hub, who's going to introduce some folks.

Mrs. Carter: We're going to share some exciting things that are going on here. As Mr. Stewart said, my name is Stacy Carter. I'm the principal at the Hub. I have the wonderful opportunity to discuss some of the activities that take place at the innovation campus. Many of you have been here before for various reasons, such as our community event or college jump-start. We appreciate all of your support. We're constantly evolving, so it's a great opportunity to share a bit about us and what we're all about.

As a reminder, the Innovation campus serves approximately 600 students in grades 6 through 12 daily, offering inclusive programming for every learner. So, when we say 'every student without exception,' we really mean every student without exception. We pride ourselves on offering something for everybody, as it says there. Our programming is co-designed and spans from college jumpstart to core classes to elective classes. We have inclusion in our EL newcomer program, and we continually add new programs that evolve based on student interests and needs. We have strong academic results to support our approach; that's our qualitative data. However, we also have quantitative data from student focus groups, where we constantly ask kids what they need, as well as from business and industry, to ensure we're keeping up with the evolving times.

Everything we do here is rooted in design thinking, which originates from the Stanford d.school, as well as thinking routines, which are derived from Harvard Project Zero and the district curriculum. We combine all that together to offer an excellent experience for kids. Kids love coming here. We often hear, there's just something about this place. It just feels really great. And we love that, and that's one of the significant things that we pride ourselves on. But also, everything we do is research-based. And we have the data to support that what we're doing is connecting with kids.

We naturally align with our portrait of a learner and the district commitment plan in response to business and industry needs, thanks to our real-world and student-centered focus. It was therefore easy for us to layer in the portrait of a learner and the four Rs with the district commitment plan. We have been recognized as an Apple Distinguished School. So has the ILC. We're really excited about that, and we're eager to see what's next for us.

So I've talked enough; nobody really wants to hear what I have to say. We want to hear from the kids about all the activities they are doing. I'm going to pass it over to Ann Bowen, our Academy EDU teacher.

Ms. Bowen: Thank you so much, Mrs. Carter. As she said, I'm Anne Bowen, and I teach Academy EDU here at the Hub. We are a dual enrollment class that allows students to earn both college credit and teaching profession credit. I've been doing this for several years, and we also have an eighth-grade theater course that my students and I brought with us to look back in the day, which I called Project PDU. I've invited Mr. Noah Wellman to speak today about how he has been a self-advocate for himself and a purposeful communicator over the past two years, working with him and me to build those resilient relationships as well. He and I have worked in the teaching profession since he was just a wee eighth-grader. So, with that, I'm going to turn it over to Noah Wellman, a second-year Academy EDU student.

Noah Wellman: I'm Noah Wellman. I'm a senior at Davison High School, and I came into Academy EDU last year thinking that I wanted to teach middle school social studies. We started with elementary observations, and that stuck with me. I really liked the younger grades. I was with Ms. Beck at Ridgewood Elementary, and that was a lot of fun. I went to Weaver Middle School with Mr. Bell. It was fun, but it hadn't really stuck like elementary observations. Probably what had the biggest impact on me was special education observations. And I went to Ridgewood Elementary with Teacher Eater, and I had a blast. It was great seeing all the kids. I'm back out there again this year with Teacher Eater. It's great seeing all the kids grow up, and yeah, it was just having a blast at Ridgewood with Teacher Eater. Thank you.

Ms. Bowen: Thank you, Noah, for taking the opportunity to speak about Academy EDU and how you had that change going through those real-world experiential opportunities. With that, I'm going to turn it over to a former Academy EDU student, Mr. Chase Hampton. He's going to talk about NextGen Change Makers.

Mr. Hampton: Good evening. My name is Chase Hampton. I am a Darby grad and a graduate of our Academy EDU program over at the ILC. Wasn't here yet. I teach a class called Next Gen Change Makers, where we explore emerging careers and technologies, including coding, sustainability, UX, and UI design. All with a thread of AI and machine learning woven into everything we do. We're providing students with safe and effective opportunities to explore the tools they will use for the rest of their lives, while gaining skills that will be applicable in an ever-changing world and prepare them for jobs that may not yet exist.

This is my student, Gus, who immediately demonstrated many of the skills we're trying to develop. But what impressed me most about Gus was that he came in with a passion and desire to improve on those skills. Gus is going to share about a project he developed.

Gus: Thank you. My name is Gus Harnish. I am an eighth grader at Weaver and a student in Honors Core Infusion 8 and NextGen Change Makers. We learned about sustainability and coding, and I have combined them in this project. It is a fully sustainable food farm. It uses what we call the agent. We use sensors to detect when the food grows, and we place blocks to create pressure plates that allow the agent to move back to the start.

Mr. Hampton: As you can see, Gus accomplished this in Minecraft Education Edition, a digital platform. The skills are extremely applicable both inside our classroom walls —both in NextGen Change Makers and in home building and Core Infusion —and outside our walls. I believe that the skills Gus gained through a project like this, as well as those we will develop throughout the remainder of the year, will benefit him beyond graduation from Hilliard City Schools. It's really cool to see the skills that they develop, and it's exciting for me as a teacher to instill in students skills that I believe they will take with them for the rest of their lives, as Academy EDU did for me. It directly impacts my career. Thank you so much. And I'm going to introduce Jihan an Academy Vibe student.

Jihan: Hello, my name is Jihan, and I'm a junior at Darby. I've been in Project Vibe, Academy Vibe 1, and Academy Vibe 2 for three years. And this is my journey of how it all began. So in eighth grade, I joined Project Vibe, not really knowing what it was about. And that's when I met new people who shared my interests and really experimented with music for the first time. I really loved what I was doing. I loved it so much that in my freshman year, I joined Academy Vibe 1. And that's when I really got to utilize all the technology they provided—and also learned new skills alongside music. I learned about marketing, including call-to-action, which is really important. And then Art Photoshopping for art covers. I also learned about storyboarding for film, because music and film go hand in hand, and I loved it again so much because it's so much fun. Then, as a sophomore, I joined Academy Vibe 2. Now, in that class, you can create anything you want with the technology, which has really given me the freedom to build my own music career. That's when I started making music under the artist name Gigi and created my own song, called SOS, which I released for the first time under my own name. I utilized the skills from Academy Vibe classes, including storyboarding, marketing, art, and more. And then, thanks to that, it blew up. And now, as you can see, I have combined streams from Spotify, YouTube, and other streaming sources, and I have almost a million streams, building a following of 30,000 by utilizing my skills and creativity and by establishing a brand. I want to thank Mr. Nagy for teaching me these amazing skills, and my parents, especially my mom, who's present right now, for giving me the freedom in this class. And yeah, that's me. Jihan, Gigi. Thank you.

Mr. Nagy: I don't have anything to add to that...what she said. My name is Phil Nagy. I'm a Hillard Davidson graduate myself and have been at the ILC for over 11 years, doing this crazy thing called Academy Vibe. We're so blessed to be able to work with kids, meet them where they are, build relationships, and then jump right into the rigor as well, learning new technologies. It can't be much more relevant than putting yourself out there and letting the whole world respond to you, mostly in good ways. And sometimes you...(unintelligible)...We're thrilled to be working with kids like Jihan. She makes having a job feel less like a job. One more time, Mrs. Carter, will wrap it up. Thank you guys for your time.

Mrs. Carter: Hopefully, what came out of all that is that we have students who really love coming to school. And that's why we have the best jobs here. We get to help foster these kids find their own path. Actually, they probably could have found their own path beside us, but we get to walk alongside them. We are grateful for all the support the district provides, and for our ability to do this. Any questions?

Mr. Stewart: I'll offer a comment. What a great commercial for what's going on here. I'll speak directly to Noah. Noah, in five years, I expect to see an application come across. And Gus and Jihan, amazing work. Thank you so much for sharing it with us.

B2 Perfect ACT Score

Darby

Rohan Narisetti

National Merit Semi-finalists

Bradley

Yash Patel

Kaichi Sasaki

Darby

Rohan Narisetti

Brady Wallen

Commended Scholars

Bradley

Mohamedkadar Ahmed

Bryn Bunnell

Colton Overly

Nima Raychaudhuri

Ammar Siddiqui

Darby

Kalyan Cheruvu

Aiza Khuhro

Davidson

Matthew Banyots

Lucas Dupaix

Dominic Ferrari

Tasneem Hassan

Samuel Mann

Daniel Monfort

Ella Tornes

Mr. Stewart: Next up is Trevor Maggied, our district's college and career counselor, who will recognize some other high achievers.

Mr. Maggied: Good evening, everybody. Each year, our juniors, along with approximately 1.5 million other high school students nationwide, enter the National Merit Scholarship competition by taking the PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). Approximately 50,000 of those one and a half million nationwide qualify to be recognized in one of two ways – as a National Merit Commended Scholar or as a National Merit Semi-finalist. The National Merit Commended Scholars represent approximately 3-4% of the test-takers nationwide. The semi-finalists represent about the top 1% of those test takers nationwide.

We have many of our students here tonight whom we're going to call up to recognize. We will also recognize one perfect ACT score this year, which is less than 0.5% of the students who take the test. I'm going to have them introduce themselves, including the high school they attend, what they're being recognized for, and their plans after high school. So let's go through this.

Each student who was in attendance introduced themselves and stated their plans following high school graduation. *(Portions of the audio recording were difficult to decipher.)*

Mr. Vorst: Congratulations to everyone. I love to see this. I love seeing the achievements you have made and celebrating you.

B3 Embrace, Empower, Inspire Award Winners: Jeff Haug and Ann Jadischke

Mr. Stewart: The celebration continues. I'm going to bring up Holly Meister from Scioto Darby and Will Ragland from Davidson High School to introduce our two Embrace, Empower, Inspire Award winners this month.

Ms. Meister: Hello. Good evening. I'm excited that we are going to take a couple of minutes to meet somebody really important to Scioto Darby. This is Jeff Haug. He's our extraordinary custodian. Also known as Mr. H and Mr. Jeff. He's always willing to do whatever we need. But you won't hear from me tonight—our kindergarten teachers were the ones who nominated him. So I'll just read to you what they said real quick.

“Jeff relentlessly works to make sure our space is always ready for the staff and kids. He goes above and beyond when needed, and he is the reason the kids can have a safe, clean environment to learn in. The kids look up to him, and he is such an important part of our SDE community. A special shout-out to Jeff for helping so many teachers move classrooms, set up new spaces, and keeping everything organized for us. We appreciate you so much.”

That is for Jeff, and this is for you as well. So thank you for all that you do for Scioto Darby.

Mr. Ragland: Good evening. My name is William Ragland. I'm the Principal of Davidson High School. It's my honor and pleasure to introduce you to Ms. Ann Jadischke. Ann is one of our very special EL teachers. Her work has spanned far and wide in the district and Davidson. I'll paraphrase her nomination. Ann is a tireless and passionate worker and advocate for our EL students. Due to her efforts, they have increased their Algebra I passage rate, and more of our EL students have passed the Algebra I exam at Davidson than ever before. Due to her work in the classroom—and, as I said earlier, her service in a myriad of roles within the district—she's truly an asset both to Davidson and the district. We thank her for her work.

B4 Five-Year Forecast – Melissa Swearingen

Mr. Stewart: Continuing the theme of celebration, Melissa's going to do the five-year forecast.

Mrs. Swearingen: We are having this presentation about a month earlier than we would have historically done. However, this is due to changes in the most recent state budget, which now require this forecast to be filed with the Department of Education and Workforce by October 15th. And then our required update will be due by February 28th. Next year, this initial presentation and forecasts have to be filed by the end of August. So, an even shorter timeline to get that to you. Another change in the state budget is that the forecast period we are required to file with the state has been changed to four years. We will certainly comply with this requirement, but best practice for financial planning remains on a five-year basis. What I'm sharing with you tonight will include the fifth year, so we can see it and have the information to plan. And then, as a reminder, I will have the forecast on here for your approval, as we said later this evening. So, we're going to review the forecast, and then I'll also highlight some of the changes that we've made since the last forecast.

Our starting cash balance, as shown in the bar graph to the left, on July 1st, was approximately \$97.5 million. We anticipate ending the current fiscal year with a cash balance of \$104.7 million. That means we will operate in a surplus in fiscal year 26, with revenues exceeding expenditures by approximately \$7.3 million. This is common during the first couple of years after a new operating levy is passed, when we build up our cash reserves to offset future expenditures.

With the passage of our 6.9 mil operating levy last November, fiscal year 26 represents the first full fiscal year of collections on our new levy due to the way the tax year aligns with the calendar year, rather than our fiscal year. In May, we had projected ending the fiscal year 26 with a \$96.9 million cash balance. So

this October forecast is more favorable. To recap, the total projected revenues for the year are \$270.2 million. The projected general fund expenditures for the year are \$262.9 million, leaving us with an operating surplus of \$7.3 million, as I mentioned.

We've discussed our cash balance reserve policy at great length, which is set at 20%. As this slide demonstrates, we project to meet the 20% cash reserve policy through fiscal year 29. In fiscal year 2030, the projected cash balance is expected to drop slightly below the trigger to just under 19%. We'll continue to monitor this trend in future forecasts and determine whether it persists over time. We'll discuss this further later to determine what it translates to in terms of days and other details.

Now, let's take a look at the revenue side of the forecast, specifically. As you can see, local tax revenue accounts for 68% of our general fund revenue, with 25% coming from the state. These percentages remain relatively stable throughout the current forecast. Very slight shift from the May forecast, when local taxes represented 67% and state funding comprised 27%. General fund revenue, \$270.2 million, represents a 2.3% increase from the May forecast and is primarily due to an approved state budget and understanding its impact.

Some key assumptions in our revenue model include that property values are expected to increase by approximately 1.6% over the next two tax years, followed by 1% annually due to new construction. We will have our next tri-annual update for tax year 2026. Currently, we expect valuation growth to come in at around 11% due to reappraisal. This forecast includes the new operating levy, as we mentioned, which generates approximately \$31.6 million in real estate taxes annually.

With property values rising from the 2023 reappraisal, the district's local capacity for state funding is increasing faster than the base cost. I'll discuss those terms in a little more detail in the next couple of slides. However, that number has essentially been frozen for at least two more years, contributing to an increase in our local share of state funding. I'll discuss this a little bit more in a couple of slides about what it's doing for our state funding. Our other operating revenues increase as we continue to receive payments from Amazon. And we begin receiving some payments from TruPointe in this fiscal year for those payments in lieu of taxes.

When we examine state funding, the state's fair School funding formula establishes a base cost methodology. It uses student-teacher ratios, minimum staffing levels, and actual costs to produce a unique base cost per pupil for each district in the state. The state and local cost method uses both assessed property values and income to determine the state share, and then calculates the resulting local share. For fiscal year 26, the state's share is \$26 million, or \$1,670 per pupil. In fiscal year 24, the amount was \$2,621 per pupil, which was 32% of the overall state share amount. Over the forecast, the state share drops to 20.6% in fiscal year 26 and then to 10% in fiscal year 29, remaining at this level unless action is taken to change the base cost number.

This state budget marks fiscal year 26 as the first year that we are guaranteed funding. And that's the graph on the right, which essentially shows what we received in funding back in 2020. And our state funding can't drop below that level. This shows the amount each year it will take, based on the guarantee, to return us to our 2020 position. They're back-filling that amount of money. So that's why our state funding is flat throughout the forecast: they're subsidizing that amount. After all, the calculations come out to much less than they did several years ago, which is why all those components in the funding formula are very important: if you change one and not the other, this is what happens.

So I'll talk about expenditures. Salaries and wages account for a combined 83% of our general fund expenditures. Not surprising since we are a labor-intensive organization. The next largest expenditure category is purchased services. And then, other expenditures, including supplies and materials, account for about 6%. These are about the same percentage as they were in May. The total general fund expenditures are \$262.9 million, a 1.4% increase from the May forecast, mainly due to approved negotiated agreements with both of our bargaining units and a finalized insurance rate for the 2026 calendar year.

Key assumptions include the components of the two negotiated agreements: cost-of-living increases in fiscal year 26 of 3.5% for certified staff and 4% for classified staff. And then 3% for classified staff and 3.25% for certified staff for the two years following. Our staffing projections stay at three certified and three classified staff each year to keep up with our growing special education and EL populations. So far this fiscal year, the net increase in staffing has been 4.5 FTEs. So, we're within that range that we were maintaining. In terms of benefits, medical insurance costs will increase by 4.7% for the calendar year 26. That's a result of lower insurance claims over the past 12 months, as well as when we compare it to the prior year and negotiated agreements that had some plan design changes. In addition, our employees will contribute an additional 1% towards the premium cost beginning in January of 26, and another 1% beginning in January of 27. Just for reference, our May forecast had 4.7% at 10%. So, that is a favorable variance. Moving forward, we're projecting a 6%-8% increase in that rate each year.

In purchased services. Our utilities represent a significant cost and continue to be a focus for us. We're expecting about a 25% increase in natural gas next year and an additional 35% increase in electricity, totaling about \$750,000. That's coming off a 25% increase in the prior year. So those are definitely things we continue to monitor. We are part of the consortium pricing for that. But that is about the best rate that we can get right now.

This graph provides just a visual of our revenues compared to our expenditures. As you can see in fiscal year 28, our expenditures begin to outpace our revenue, as the yellow line moves past the blue line. And then we begin to use our cash reserves to offset our expenses in excess of revenues. This graph looks at our annual changes in revenue and costs. Historically, our annual revenue growth has been about 4.1%. And then the forecasted growth is about 2.42%. And that's really due to state funding not growing at the same rate over the forecast period. Our annual change in expenses has been 4.35% historically and is projected to be just under 4.6% moving forward. So, still really close to what it has been historically.

As of the October forecast, our projected cash balance on hand is presented here in terms of days. Cash on hand demonstrates the importance of having enough money to make payroll each month and to accommodate late payments from the county. For our real estate taxes this past year, the final settlement didn't come until April. Sometimes we get those in February. Not always receiving those at the same time, and just wanting to make sure we have that cash on hand to make payroll. Our payroll is now \$12.6 million per month in salaries and \$5.6 million in benefits. So that's over \$18 million.

This shows the improvement in days' cash on hand when comparing the May forecast (in gray) to the October forecast (in blue). And you can see that the number of days has increased each year.

And then finally, this slide compares the overall October forecast to the May forecast. Again, revenue projections have improved by just over \$6 million, or 2.3%, and expenditures have increased by about \$3.6 million, or 1.4%. So, overall, our October forecast represented an improvement in our financial condition for fiscal years 26 through 29. And then this is the first time we're seeing fiscal year 30. In November, after

the new operating levy was first approved, we were projecting that we would be deficit spending in all but one year from fiscal year 26 through 29. This current forecast has an operating surplus in one additional year. So it's better in that regard as well.

And then our significant assumption changes in this October forecast are due to an improved state budget, ratification of our newly negotiated agreements, and finalization of our 2026 insurance rates.

With that, I'm happy to answer any questions.

Ms. Arnold: Real quick, and I don't know that you can answer this right now, but with the work groups' recommendations that have come out with respect to the taxes, is there any one of those things that really stand out that would really impact this forecast going forward? Is there something we should be focusing on, and perhaps a resolution to our state legislature? Or is it still too early to digest what they've come forward with those recommendations?

Mrs. Swearingen: I think it's a little too early to know where those recommendations are going to go. I'm not sure, other than a lot of conversations about the legislation eliminating emergency levies and the renewal levies, which don't impact our district. That's been the big topic of conversation recently. Still, I don't know, Dave, if there's anything from the alliance that's really stuck.

Mr. Stewart: Everyone's in a different position. There's some relief in there, for example, with the cash balance; it's a more realistic look at it. Many of the recommendations focus on passing other pieces of legislation. And it's really hard to tell how that will happen. It really does not have a significant impact on schools, at least right away. It's really more aimed at homeowners. But it is too early to tell, 'cause certainly not all 20 of those recommendations will be...*(unintelligible)*...

Ms. Arnold: I attended the OSBA central conference a couple of weeks ago, and one of the things they emphasized was the impact districts can make by contacting legislators. So, I think it behooves us to stay ahead of this as much as we can. I know you guys are constantly working with the various alliances and whatnot, but when we look at how this guarantee starts...we're just not seeing increases. It's really disturbing, on top of all the other pieces that are...

Mr. Stewart: Outside of the recommendations, there's another proposal to limit the growth of inside millage, which could have an impact on us.

Mrs. Swearingen: I pulled this slide back up from where the conversation had been at one point to limit the cash balance to 40%. It sounds more like they're looking at 100%. As you can see, this would be the only year that we would even be close to 40%. So, that is something we'll continue to watch, because that's the one I see having the biggest impact on us if it's in that 40% range.

Mrs. Crowley: Thank you for staying on top of all of this as it changes quickly. You're an award-winning treasurer, and it shows. Thank you, Melissa. Any other questions or comments?

Mr. Vorst: Yeah, it's a small piece of the pie. And I know we belong to consortia. Mike, maybe you can help with this. It sounds like we're getting a pretty significant increase in our utility costs. Is there a solution or a plan in the works, or do we just have to grin and bear it?

Mr. Dudgeon: In June, we negotiated only a 4-month extension because we're continuing to hedge further out due to the data centers' demand on local utility services. The utility market remains highly volatile. The four months that we locked into in June just expired in October. We just locked into a seven-month extension. I think it's going to be a long time before the market stabilizes and we see the days of one and two-year agreements.

Mr. Perry: Speaking of pieces of the pie, I think it would be interesting for our most significant piece of the pie, for income, of course, is real estate. I think it would be interesting to see if we could break that down by type, so we know where it's coming from and how it affects our interactions with our municipal neighbors. I think it would be interesting since that's the bulk of our thing.

Mrs. Swearingen: When you say by type, are you talking about residential, agricultural, commercial, etc.?

Mr. Perry: Yep.

Mrs. Swearingen: I have that breakdown, and I'm happy to provide a supplemental report that shows it in more detail.

C. ROUTINES

- C1 The agenda is correct as submitted.
- C2 The Board of Education adopted the agenda.
- C3 The Board of Education approved the September 2025 Treasurer's Report.
- C4 The Board of Education approved the minutes from the following meetings:
 - a. September 8, 2025, Regular Meeting
 - b. September 8, 2025, Regular Notes
 - c. September 22, 2025, Work Session
 - d. September 22, 2025, Meeting Notes

D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Board of Education appreciates citizen interest in meetings of the board. This place on the agenda is set aside to hear comments from visitors. When called, please go to the microphone so that remarks may be clearly heard and recorded. You must give your name and limit comments to three minutes. Comments must be respectful and professional in nature. Board members may or may not ask questions or make comments. No board member has the power or authority to act for the board; therefore, no response from an individual board member should be interpreted as an official action of the board. Portions of this meeting are being recorded.

Maxine Irvin

Hello. Thank you for this opportunity to speak before you tonight. My name is Maxine Irvin, and I'm the parent of two Hilliard Davidson High School graduates. Both have since earned master's degrees from Ohio universities. I also have grandchildren that are currently attending or will be attending public elementary school, and I'm gravely concerned about the education they will be receiving.

You probably don't wonder why I am wearing this t-shirt tonight, but I'm going to tell you anyhow. I am an alumni of Cleveland Heights High School. The Cleveland Heights School District had the foresight to see how harmful school vouchers are to public schools and to public students, and was one of the initial schools to join the Vouchers Hurt Ohio lawsuit.

My question is, how can the Hilliard City School Board say that they're concerned with the education of their students and not join the Vouchers Hurt Ohio lawsuit? Are you unaware that Ohio is pulling money away from public schools and instead sending our tax dollars to fund private, mostly religious schools via the ED choice voucher program?

I'm sure you are aware of the courts in their decision this year, stated that the EdChoice voucher program is unconstitutional. I know that the State Attorney General has the right to appeal the decision, but doing so is another black mark on his record by directly fighting against the best interests of the residents of Ohio. By not supporting the Vouchers Hurt Ohio lawsuit, Hilliard City Schools is complying with them, and I believe you are being derelict in your duties as school board members.

Ohio Public Schools were originally called common schools, not public schools, and I think we should go back to that terminology. The definition of common is shared by, coming from, or done by more than one. This is truly the meaning of public education in Ohio. While saying public education sounds like it is open to all, and not something that we create and support for all our students. Private schools are not common schools. From the creation of the first common school, it has been a requirement that Ohio not fund public or religious education. And yet that is what our state legislature is doing with the EdChoice program in complete violation of our state constitution. Until and unless elected officials recognize how harmful the current path is for public education and decide to do something about it, the only way we have to fight this infringement on public education is to use the courts to stand up for the rights of all Ohioans.

The educational system in Ohio was the envy of other states and throughout the world. That is no longer true due to the corruption of our current state officials and their desire to give tax breaks to the wealthy. By not joining the Vouchers Hurt Ohio lawsuit, the Hilliard City School Board continues to be complicit with the attack against and dismantling of public education. Thank you.

E. CONSENT AGENDA

The Board of Education approved the consent agenda, items E1 through E4. Action by the Board of Education in "Adoption of the Consent Agenda" means that all E items are adopted by one single motion unless a member of the board or the Superintendent requests that any such item be removed from the consent agenda and voted upon separately. Employments, where applicable, are contingent upon 1) Verification of education, 2) Proof of proper certification, and 3) Positive results from a criminal records check.

- E1 Approved the following Certified Personnel actions – See attachment to the Minutes.
- E2 Approved the following Classified Personnel actions – See attachment to the Minutes.
- E3 Employment – Stipends-Non-Contractual – effective for the 2025-2026 school year: Approved an hourly rate of \$55 for all staff participating in 21st Century grant activities at JW Reason.
- E4 Approved the following trip requests:
 - a. Bradley Shades of Blue, Kettering, OH – November 7, 2025

b. Darby Theatre, Chillicothe High School – April 10, 2026

Mr. Perry congratulated and thanked the following retirees for their service:

Certificated Personnel Retirements:

- David Fabb has been with Hilliard City Schools since 08/27/1998.
- Chris Fugitt has been with Hilliard City Schools since 08/29/1994.

Classified Personnel Retirements:

- Nancy Gordon has been with Hilliard City Schools since 12/16/1996.
- Tammy Rogers has been with Hilliard City Schools since 08/17/2007.

Mr. Perry: I'd also like to take a moment to recognize Betty Cameron, who unfortunately passed away. So thoughts and prayers to her family at this time of grieving.

F. ACTION AGENDA

F1 The Board of Education approved the following resolution:

AUTHORIZING CONVEYANCE OF EASEMENT AND RIGHT OF WAY The Chief Operating Officer (“COO”) and Treasurer recommend that the Board authorize the conveyance of an easement and right-of-way to the Ohio Power Company, a unit of American Electric Power (“AEP”) for electric and other current/ future energy or communication purposes in connection with Phase I of the Capital Improvements Project (the “Project”).

Background:

1. The Board is the owner of certain real property in Norwich Township, Franklin County, Ohio, bearing Franklin County Recorder’s Office Parcel Number 050-002853-00 (the “Property”).
2. As part of the Project, electrical utility facilities need to be installed on the Property and AEP requests an easement and right-of-way to construct and maintain such facilities (the “Easement and Right-of-Way”).
3. The Easement and Right-of-Way has been reviewed by legal counsel and the COO and Treasurer recommend the Board authorize the conveyance of the Easement and Right-of-Way to AEP.

The Board of Education hereby resolves as follows:

The Treasurer and Board President, with assistance from legal counsel, are hereby authorized to negotiate and execute the Easement and Right-of-Way on the Board’s behalf.

Mr. Dudgeon: Item F1 authorizes AEP to create a utility easement for the new Beacon Elementary School. Since the existing elementary school is in operation while we build a new elementary school, a new right-of-way easement is necessary. This has been reviewed, written, and approved by legal.

F2 The Board of Education approved the following resolution:

INTENT TO PARTICIPATE IN META SOLUTIONS SCHOOL BUS AND VAN COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM AND TO ADVERTISE AND RECEIVE BIDS FOR SCHOOL BUS CHASSIS AND BODIES

The Chief Operating Officer (“COO”) recommends the Board of Education authorize the District to participate in the school bus and van cooperative purchasing program administered by META Solutions.

Background:

1. The Board has identified a need to purchase school transportation vehicles.
2. Board of Education wishes to advertise and receive bids for the purchase of 3- 71 passenger conventional (type) school bus(es) and or 3 – 9-Passenger Van(s)

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

1. the Board of Education wishes to participate and authorize META Solutions (META) to advertise and receive bids on said Board’s behalf as per the specifications submitted for the cooperative purchase of 3 - 71 passenger conventional school bus(es) and 3 – 9-Passenger Van(s)
2. This resolution does not obligate the district to purchase the bus(es).

Mr. Dudgeon: This is the annual resolution we ask you to support, which allows META to negotiate on the district's behalf to purchase within the consortium. This opportunity does not obligate us to purchase buses or vans, but it does allow META to seek competitive prices on our behalf.

Mr. Vorst: Is this still typically our best way to get a good value?

Mr. Dudgeon: It is, yes, because there are so many districts participating in the consortium process. Basically, they're leveraging the economies of scale on our behalf.

Mr. Vorst: Are we still at three electric buses and holding?

Mr. Dudgeon: We are still at three electric buses and holding, yes.

F3 The Board of Education adopted the school calendar for the 2026-2027, 2027-2028, and 2028-2029 school years as presented.

F4 The Board of Education adopted the following resolution:

A RESOLUTION APPROVING OMNI & TSACG COMPLIANCE SERVICES TO SERVE AS THE SCHOOL DISTRICT’S THIRD-PARTY ADMINISTRATOR (TPA) TO PROVIDE ADMINISTRATIVE AND COMPLIANCE SERVICES FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT’S 403(B) AND 457(B) RETIREMENT PLANS, INCLUDING THE OASBO 457 DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN.

WHEREAS, the Hilliard City School District (the “District”) previously adopted and maintains an “eligible deferred compensation plan” under Section 457(b) of the Internal Revenue Code (the “Code”) through the

Ohio Association of School Business Officials (“OASBO”) 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan (the “Plan”); and

WHEREAS, OMNI & TSACG Compliance Services provides administrative and compliance services for employer-sponsored 403(b) and 457(b) retirement plans, ensuring such plans remain in full compliance with applicable IRS regulations; and

WHEREAS, OASBO is transitioning administration and compliance responsibilities for the Plan to OMNI & TSACG Compliance Services to ensure continued compliance with IRS rules and regulations; and

WHEREAS, as a Participating Employer under the Plan, the District desires to engage OMNI & TSACG Compliance Services as its Third-Party Administrator (TPA) for the District’s 403(b) and 457(b) retirement plans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Hilliard City School District, Franklin County, Ohio, that:

Section 1. OMNI & TSACG Compliance Services is hereby approved to serve as the District’s Third-Party Administrator (TPA) for the District’s 403(b) and 457(b) retirement plans, including the OASBO 457 Deferred Compensation Plan, in order to ensure full compliance with IRS rules and regulations.

Section 2. This Board finds and determines that all formal actions of this Board and any of its committees concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Board or committees, and that all deliberations of this Board and any of its committees that resulted in those formal actions were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with the law.

Section 3. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and immediately upon its adoption.

Mr. Vorst: Do you know what we pay for plan administration here, roughly? Is it a percentage?

Mrs. Swearingen: Nothing, and we will continue to pay nothing for that service. We will just get a better quality of service. I can't say you get what you pay for in this case. There's a reason OASBO has opted to move their plan there. I have previous experience with this company. They are very supportive in terms of compliance and it makes sense to have everything fall under one group.

F5 The Board of Education approved the October Five-Year Forecast.

F6 The Board of Education approved the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Hilliard City School District, Franklin County, Ohio, that to provide for the current expenses and other expenditures of said Board of Education, during the fiscal year, ending June 30, 2026 the following sums be and the same are hereby set aside and appropriated for the several purposes for which expenditures are to be made and during said fiscal year, as follows:

001 - GENERAL FUND	\$262,907,641
002 - BOND RETIREMENT	\$28,905,561
200 - STUDENT ACTIVITY	\$800,000
401 - AUXILIARY SERVICES	\$1,392,373

499	-	MISC STATE GRANT	\$123,588
509	-	21 ST CENTURY GRANT	\$132,633
516	-	TITLE VI-B IDEA	\$4,229,548
536	-	TITLE I – SCH IMPR	\$257,939
551	-	TITLE III	\$352,288
572	-	TITLE I	\$3,150,417
584	-	TITLE IV-A	\$258,248
590	-	TITLE II-A	\$554,249
599	-	MISC FEDERAL GRANT	\$79,706

Mrs. Swearingen: This is an amended appropriation resolution. You have a lot of grant funds on there to align with the allocations that we've received and any carryover from last year. You have the bond retirement fund on there to account for the new the payments and some of the funds that have to go out as a result of the newly issued debt from back in in September. And then, you have the general fund making sure that it aligns with the forecast that you just approved. One of the new requirements in the law is making sure that our appropriations align with the forecast.

G. REPORTS / INFORMATION / EXHIBIT ITEM

G1 Committee Reports

Ms. Arnold: The PTO and booster luncheon was last week which included a great presentation by Jake regarding our state state report card. It was actually one of the best attended PTO booster luncheons in a long time. It's been a while since I've seen that many folks there. There were a few questions from folks on the state report card. Mostly people wanted to talk to Dave about how things were going with the master facilities plan and when their building was going to be built. And then a few questions on Parent Square. But overall, it was a really great meeting with a lot of folks in attendance.

Mrs. Crowley: I have a similar report from ISPTO. We had that meeting on September 16th, and Dave was our guest of honor as well, and they asked him a lot of similar questions. He presented some construction updates, but they had a lot of questions about building, redistricting, and things like that. And then the ISPTO also had their meet the candidate night on September 30th. I heard it went great. Heard all the candidates were wonderful. And then they're having their financial workshop on Thursday, October 23rd, and their next meeting is October 21st at Darby High School.

Mr. Perry: We had our policy committee meeting last Friday. The packet was fairly dense. I think it was a little over 200 pages, but most of it was recommended and required policies from the General assembly. It should be on the agenda for a first reading shortly.

EXECUTIVE SESSION / ADJOURNMENT

H1 The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.