MEETING NOTES

Meeting Notes are not official until they are voted on by the Board of Education at its next Regular Meeting.

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Members present: Ms. Arnold, Mrs. Byler, Mrs. Crowley, Mr. Moog, and Mr. Perry.

3. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

4. Construction Update

NOTE: *Portions of the meeting's audio recording were difficult to decipher, so this document may include several incomplete sentences or inaccuracies. Some of the participants' names may be misspelled.*

Schorr Construction: Hello, everyone, my name is Rachel Eiferd, and I brought some coworkers with me today. This is Carrie Smith. She's a project manager. She's going to be helping or leading the effort for Brown renovation and addition.

This is Morgan Mitchell. She's our director of interior design; she'll be working with Carrie on that renovation and addition. So I'll go ahead and get started. This summer we worked on a few projects. I actually just tallied up today how many OAC meetings we have had. A huge thanks to the operations team for joining me for 63 meetings this summer.

We're going to be going over the playground improvements, secured entrances, phase two, tennis courts, and band towers. Starting with playground improvements, we completed playground projects at the Alton Darby Creek Campus, Hoffman Trail, Scioto Darby, and Washington. You'll see Beacons up there with an asterisk because it was one project we slipped in there kind of last minute.
So, with these projects, our goals were to provide upgraded equipment, have inclusive play, make it easily surveyable for your teachers to watch the students, and we wanted to provide equality across your district. So this phase two wraps up all your playgrounds, so feeling good about that. Here's a little snapshot of each of the playgrounds.

All of them but Beacon have the same equipment. Beacon there, you're looking at salvaged equipment. The one closest to us is from Alton Darby. The one in the background that looks like a globe, that's from Scioto Darby. This is for Beacon's temporary playground.
Moving on to secured entrances. We did Alton Darby Preschool, Avery Crossing, Darby Creek, Hauffman Trails, Horizon, and Norwich. For the majority of the schools, you're going to see what's on the left there. This is our prototype. This is what we did in phase one for Tharp, so this is our main model for these entrances.

Avery was a little different. It was more or less a hardware switch, and the preschool was a different configuration, so we just bumped out the whole vestibule there. Next we have tennis court replacements. We did these for Darby and Davidson High School. Darby's moving right along. Davidson, This is our color scheme for these courts. They're based off of Bradley, so you have the outer being gray and the inner courts being blue.

Band towers. We provided new band towers at all three of your high schools. This turned out to be a great project, and it ended about mid-summer. Bradley and Davidson, you'll see those yellow bollards that are kind of separating the tower from any student parking area, so keeping these new structures safe. And then Darby is located more or less out in the middle of a field. And with that, each of these are-- have lightning protection integrated into them, so added safety.

I'm going to hand this over to Carrie. She's going to go over Brown. All right. So the goal for Brown is to convert it from an existing K through five elementary to a sixth grade school. The construction schedule currently is to start in January of '28, after the students move to the new Brown down the road, and then to finish in August '29 to be open for the '29-'30 school year. The area of scope, it's a long list. It's not in-- not all ex-inclusive, but, we're going to do an addition for the music rooms, choir, orchestra, and band. Obviously, as an elementary school, it doesn't currently have those spaces. We're also going to update the plumbing fixtures throughout. They're all at the lower seat height for the little kids; going to bring them up. Special education classrooms are also going to get organized into a cluster for being able—for the teachers being able to assist each other. They're also going to get some accessible facilities and a mock kitchen. There's going to be some HVAC upgrades and general finish upgrades throughout, as well as the classrooms obviously are all going to get furniture and finish upgrades. That's the goal. So this is the proposed plan. Most of that is currently existing.

The additions on the upper right. The other highlighted portion is the special education cluster. It also includes the group bathrooms that are getting accessible upgrades, and then where the teachers' lounge and added offices for counselors are going to get added. For the typical classroom scope, we talked about the new furniture that's going to be included, so that's going to be enough desks in there for the full class, new teacher desks. We're going to include new casework, so the current sinks that are in there are going to come out. We're going to replace that with just a teacher storage cabinet for their personal belongings as well as classroom manipulatives.Next to that is going to be 15 double-stacked lockers to get you the 30 lockers in each classroom. We don't have space to put those in the corridors, so those are going to live inside the classrooms. On the other side of the classroom towards where the window is on the bottom, we're in the midst of figuring out what our HVAC solution is going to be and whether or not the units that sit directly underneath the windows can come out. If they can, that frees up some more space to add some more storage into those classrooms, but we're still figuring out, kind of with budgeting and everything, what the exact go-ahead is going to be there. In the common spaces, the IDC is just going to get a nice refresh. We're going to relocate the bookshelves over to one zone in the space and free up some more space for flexible furniture, and then move that teacher, desk to the center where they can observe the entire room, relocate some of the technology and teaching walls and things like that that are in there, and then provide opportunities potentially for some desktop computers in the back, um, if those are needed. The other space is going to be the cafeteria. We are going to take out those embedded tables and the benches that are in the walls there. We're going fill those in and hopefully provide some acoustical material to also help with the sound in that space because it's pretty loud. We are going to put new furniture in, so we've got a mix there of new bench seating, different seating styles of the rectangles and the circles to kind of give a little bit of variety in what the students get to choose for when they eat.

The checkout kiosks are going to move out to the main cafeteria space. Those are those two little rectangles on the kind of bottom on the right side there. A milk fridge is also going to move out there, so just free up some more space in that kitchen as the students come through. And then in the music wing, the choir, the band, and the orchestra rooms that Carrie mentioned are all going to go in. We have some good ideas on what the space will look like. There were some conversations that were starting to be had about what other needs the music might have in terms of practice pods or other things like that. We're going to see where that kind of shakes out with the budget. But new furniture in there as well for posture chairs and risers, and then adequate storage for instruments and, um, sheet music and things like that.

Just some basic elevations so far. So, we looked at a couple options for the roof, either matching the metal slanted or doing a more low-slope roof. And from constructability and budget standpoints, this was the better solution for that addition. But we're still going to try to make it, you know, as seamless as possible with the existing building, matching brick color as closely as possible, doing some banding that'll be similar to the other schools in that same area. So thank you.

Talk about what's coming up next for you guys and, it's going to be the performing arts center at Davidson High School. So I don't know if you guys remember, but back in March, we provided this district with assessments of all three high schools. And with that, we kind of saw that Davidson for phase one is what we're proposing is, needs to be addressed.

It's kind of the worst shape. So, with Davidson, we're going to be making a few different upgrades. These upgrades are going to include ADA accessibility in form of like a wheelchair lift, to get students up onto that stage level there. Interior finishes, fire suppression, such as having a sprinkler head in your control room, bringing it up to code. Electrical, a ton of stuff with electrical. HVAC, this is kind of what determined we were going start with Davidson. You guys have half of the airflow you should have in that. So although you won't see this upgrade, you'll definitely feel it. And technology as well. We plan to start this, uh, in April next year and finish around November.

Mr. Stewart:

Okay. Any questions? No question. One- go ahead.

Mr. Perry: Well, one came to mind, and it may be just my ignorance of how lockers work these days. But when we're talking about lockers being located in one classroom in Brown rather than-- Not one classroom, but classrooms, rather than the corridors, is the plan then to have the student come in, use the locker as like a homeroom- then go out and then come back to that homeroom before? Mm-hmm. Okay. Gotcha. That makes more sense.

Mr. Stewart:
Yes
Any other questions?

Ms. Arnold:
No question, but I just want say I-- Thank you so much for, especially on the playgrounds. I work with local commission, and we've been waiting over two and a half years, almost three years, for a new playground at Franks Park, and you guys have knocked out, I don't know, what, where are we at? Twelve or 11? I can't remember. If you count Beacon, it's 12. Twelve, yeah. Twelve playgrounds over two summers, and they can't even get one done. It's very impressive. And the secured entrances. We were over in Horizon for our meetings, and our folks were just impressed with the work there and the fact that we're securing these buildings and how it would look. So thank you very much. Appreciate that.

Mr. Stewart:

Well, along those lines, Kelly, we certainly want to thank the entire Schorr team. As you know, we made a change. And just in general, let me say, what a different experience it has been already. But I do want to take a moment to specifically point out Rachel.

She mentioned the 63 OACs, but she really didn't do herself justice. We have, we have put her through the wringer this summer. We've had, you know, construction projects come with challenges, and she has navigated all of them. Her attention to detail, her follow-through, her insistence that, that we, as the customer, get what, what it is we paid for, and her willingness to, uh, stay on top of contractors to get that has really been impressive, and we're really grateful for her. So just want to publicly thank the whole team, but also Rachel for her work this summer.

Mr. Moog:

I have a real quick question about Brown. So other than the renovations that you talked about, is there major projects like roofing or parking lots or anything like that that are going to need to be addressed through that, or is it just-

Schorr:

So the district just did a roofing assessment actually, and I think it's included. Was it do- Was it worked this summer? Yes.

Parking I think is, it's in okay shape. It's something that we looked at, but just as part of this project, getting it renovated and the addition for sixth grade, it's-- I don't think it's going to get included. Cool. No problem. Thank you.

Mrs. Byler:

For Beacon, just really quick. They'll get, like, their new playground then obviously when it's built, and we just use the leftover, but like, you know what I mean. Whatever. The, from other places just to give them a good year? Yes, it's just to get them through the year. That's great ... give them a chance to still be kids and active and- They don't have to take a whole year off of- Correct. Yeah. Playground. Yeah. Great. Thank you so much.

5. Five Year Forecast

[Click here](#) to follow along with the presentation slides.

All right. So as you're aware, changes in the last state budget now require a four-year forecast, including the current year and three years of projections, to now be completed by August 31st, with the revised forecast in February. Last fiscal year, this first filing was due in October, and I'm going to talk a little bit about the challenges in having that submitted two months earlier. Best practice is still for financial planning to occur on a five-year basis, so we are continuing to examine and approve a forecast that has the current year and then the four additional years of projections.

Tonight, I'm going to start by reviewing the February forecasted amounts for fiscal year '26, and compare those to our actual year-end amounts at June 30th, and then review some key components of the August forecast and highlight some of our key indicators, and review the assumption changes from the February forecast. So again, we're going to start and take a look at February projections versus the fiscal year, um, '26 actual amounts. This slide reflects the actual beginning cash balance year of 97.4 million at July 1st, 2025. Our total revenues were 274.2 million. Total expenditures were 256.6 million, which leads us to a cash balance, at June 30th of 2026 at $114.9 million. That cash balance is up by $17.5 million compared to that July 1st beginning balance, in terms of the revenue collected, the February forecast projected our fiscal year '26 revenue would total two hundred and seventy-two million. Actual revenues were two hundred and seventy-four million. So our total revenues, it was like one point eight million or point six seven percent more than what we had projected. We're at that hundred and one percent compared to the forecasted amount. Real estate and public utility revenue came in at about a million more than what was forecasted.

Our state revenue came in a little bit less and then our other operating revenue came in a little bit more. Those all balanced out to about one million dollars- one point eight million dollars more than what the forecast, um... than what the forecast amount was. Um, when we look at our expenditures, uh, the February forecast projected two hundred and sixty-three point six million.

Our actual expenditures were two hundred and fifty-six and a half million. The expenditures were about seven million or two point six percent less than what we had projected. We did have just over two million dollars in encumbrances for our purchase services, supplies, and capital outlay at the end of the fiscal year, so those are going to carry forward and be expended in fiscal year '27. But as you can see here, that all kind of netted out to spending about ninety-seven percent of what we had projected. Salary and benefit categories each came to within a hundred thousand dollars of what our projections were. And then as I mentioned, the purchase services, supplies, and capital outlay came in under. They came in at about thirty-three million as compared to the forty million that was forecasted. So we just allow-- Because of the forecast being due so much earlier in that February timeframe our departments and buildings have the ability to move those funds within their budget to different categories. So we like to have the flexibility to be able to do that and again, we did have some encumbrances that are going to carry forward. But all in all expenditures came in under budget.

Now I'm going to shift gears a little bit and talk about this current forecast, the updated projections for the current fiscal year, and then what adding fiscal year twenty thirty-one does to the forecast. So again, the ending cash balance we just reviewed that $114.9 million, um, for fiscal year '26 becomes the beginning cash balance for fiscal year '27. Um, we expect to end fiscal year '27, um, in June with a cash balance of $119.6 million. We get to that by adding the projected revenue of $278.8 million and subtracting out the $274.2 million in estimated expenditures that $4.5 million operating surplus gets added into that cash balance at the beginning of the fiscal year. This is the final year that we anticipate operating in a surplus situation, and that's just the nature of the operating levy cycle where we build the cash balance in the early years and then we prepare to deficit spend in the, in the later years of that levy collection cycle.

In February, we had projected that this fiscal year '27 ending balance was going to be $110.7 million. So this forecast represents an overall positive variance of just under $9 million in cash balance. This slide walks through the cash balance percentages that are projected at the end of each fiscal year. As you're aware, our board policy believes that maintaining a 20% cash balance is necessary in the interest of sound fiscal management. As this slide demonstrates, we are able to meet that 20% cash reserve policy through fiscal year 2030, with the cash balance projected to fall below that percentage to 14 and a half percent at the end of fiscal year 2031. When compared to the February cash balance, the expenditures increase for the current fiscal year. When you look at that percentage, we were at 40.3% for fiscal year for fiscal year '27, and now we're up to 43.6%. And then for fiscal year 2030, it was at 22%, and now it's up to 25 and a half percent.

So now we'll take a closer look at the revenue projections for the current year. Again, local taxes continues to represent the majority of our revenue at sixty-eight percent. State funding is remaining right at that twenty-five percent amount, and then all other revenues are about seven percent. The total revenue for fiscal year '27, two hundred and seventy-eight point eight million dollars this is just a five hundred and eighty-two thousand dollar increase from our February projections. Then, in terms of looking at that compared to our fiscal year '26 total revenue, it's about a one point seven percent increase from last fiscal year. Our property values are expected to increase about two percent for this next year because of the triennial update. Two percent for new construction and then about one percent moving forward. The triennial update increase is expected to be at eleven percent. That's the preliminary figure, um, that we've, that we've gotten from the county, and they continue to work through that process as folks negotiate that. The next triennial-- or I'm sorry, the next full reappraisal will happen in 2030. That projected increase is about nine percent that we're estimating presently.

So as of the date of this forecast, we've received several advanced payments from the county for the second half of '25 settlement. However, our final settlement will likely not occur until the end of September. And with the current state funding, we're at the end of the second year of a budget, so there are two state budgets in this forecast. We are not projecting any increase in funding from either of those budget cycles at the present time. That is remaining flat throughout this forecast so as the time of this forecast, with it being so early in the new fiscal year we have not received our final settlement for the second half of the '25 tax year.

We have not finalized the triennial update projections from the county, and we have not yet received a payment of state funding that's based on the current year enrollment data and information. So several unknowns when we're looking at, at it so early in the fiscal year. Um, on the expenditure side, again, salaries and wages account for a combined eighty-four percent of our general fund expenditures. Purchase services follow at eleven percent. The personnel Costs include all of our staffing updates for the current fiscal year, several new special ed teaching positions, and educational assistants being added. We did have a few regular education positions that were eliminated through attrition. We added a new board-certified behavior analyst and a new gifted intervention specialist. Then we had forty-five retirements in fiscal year '26, which resulted in expenditure reductions due to attrition of about two point four million dollars in total when you compare the higher salaries of the folks that were retiring with the salaries of the folks that are coming in. This takes into account our negotiated agreements that we have in place through June thirtieth of twenty twenty-eight. We are projecting a two percent increase, just as the status quo, moving forward from that for those last couple of years of the forecasting cycle. Our medical insurance costs we have not finalized rates for calendar year twenty-seven yet.

We have an insurance committee meeting the first week of September. The forecast has a an expected increase for this next year of ten percent. We're hopeful it might come in a little less than that, but it will be very close to that if it's not ten percent. And then we have eight percent increases included in the forecast moving forward.

Purchase services overall, we're projecting about a five percent increase each year. That includes all of our utilities, and then we're also seeing that's about the rate of increases we're seeing in our software agreements and some of the other items that we're paying for each year. It's about-- It's between a three and a five percent increase in all of those. So again, on the expenditure side, our unknowns: we have not yet had a payroll with all of our current year contracts in place. That won't occur until September the fifteenth. And then we have not yet finalized our twenty-twenty-seven medical insurance rates with the insurance committee, so this graph just looks at what we've already discussed.

Our expenditures began to outpace our revenues in fiscal year '28. Expenditures are in the light blue and revenues are in the dark blue there. Then on the right-hand side is that projected cash balance. You can see that decreasing as we move forward into the forecast. The February forecast projected that fiscal year 2030 would end at 68 and a half million, and then this forecast puts that balance up to just over $79 million. Another graph showing total revenues in blue, total expenditures in yellow. This one I think really illustrates how that gap between the two widens over time. And then you can see here our historical change in revenue over the past five years has been about 5.7%. During the last five years we had a reappraisal where we gained some revenue from that, and then we also had a new operating levy that passed, and we were seeing some increases in our state funding. So you have a larger historical increase. Looking forward, we're only projecting about a 1.2% increase in revenue through the rest of the forecast. On the expenditure side, the historical change has been just over 5%, and our projections for the next five years puts that at about 4.7%. Projected cash balance on hand, you can see this just in terms of days. I'd like to just continue to point out that our largest source of revenue we receive from the county, and the timing of those county auditor payments by the time they can get everything finalized and reconciled with the county treasurer's office we had historically received that spring settlement in March or April. It moved to May. It's been as late as June this past year. So when you're waiting on such a large portion of your revenue it's very important to have cash balance on hand to make sure that you can spend your $13 million a month in payroll and be able to continue to pay all of your bills and this final slide here this just shows basically if you added up all of your revenue that's forecasted in each of the, the five year or, sorry, it's a four-year period, fiscal year '27, through fiscal year 2030, um, and then looked at that compared to where we were in our February forecast.

In total, all of the revenue is $5 million more than what we were looking at in February, and all of the expenditures are six million dollars less than what we were looking at during that time period. So just about half a percent variance in either of those categories compared to that February forecast. While it's not significant, this forecast does represent an improvement in our condition for the next five years. We were projecting when we passed the operating levy in November of '24 that deficit spending would begin in fiscal year '27. Now we're looking at that not starting until fiscal year, uh, '28 and then cash balance does improve slightly throughout the forecast.

6. Board of Education approved the Five-Year Forecast:

7. Board of Education approved the K-12 PE Course of Study.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.