



MEETING NOTES

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

- A1 The 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: *The audio recording of the meeting was difficult to decipher, so this document may include several incomplete sentences or inaccuracies.*

B PROGRAMS / PRESENTATIONS

- B1 Embrace, Empower, Inspire Award Winner – Kate Miller

Good evening, I'm Herb Higginbotham, Director of Elementary Education, and it's my pleasure to share this month's Embrace, Empower, and Inspire Award recipient, Mrs. Kate Miller. I'll invite her to come up to be recognized. All 30 staff members wrote individual nominations for Kate to be recognized. Each nomination identified the many reasons that each staff member appreciates her leadership. Staff highlighted things about Kate's selflessness, support, and consistent encouragement.

Last Friday at Brown Elementary, many of us in this room had the pleasure of seeing Kate surprised by her staff and giving her this award. Many of the people in attendance were all of her staff, her mom and dad, her husband, her daughter, her brother, sister-in-law, niece, and nephew. It was a family affair. It was wonderful to see. It was clear from the celebration and the many shared accolades that Kate exemplifies that Brown Elementary has such a special place in our district. We are so grateful for your leadership and are pleased to share with you this award.

Mrs. Miller said I was truly surprised, humbled, and honored. I actually told my staff that they did a better job of surprising me than my husband did proposing to me. They did a great job. But like I said, I was humbled and honored, and I just have the best staff ever. It's easy to love and lead them. But I wanted to thank Herb, Mr. Stewart, Mrs. Abraham, and all the directors because I could not do what I do every day without their love and support. This district is just amazing, so thank you all so very much.

Mr. Stewart said I want to make sure you caught that all 30 of her staff members submitted individual nominations. Really cool.

C ROUTINES

- C1 The agenda is correct as presented.
- C2 The Board of Education adopted the agenda.

C3 The Board of Education approved the August 2024 Treasurer’s Report.

Mr. Vorst asked if there was anything special. Mrs. Swearingen said nothing stands out. Everything is trending according to plan, but it’s still early.

C4 The Board of Education approved the minutes from the following meetings:

- a. August 12, 2024 – Regular Meeting
- b. August 12, 2024 – Meeting Notes
- c. August 26, 2024 – Work Session
- d. August 26, 2024 – 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.

NOTE: *With no access to the public participation forms, some names may be misspelled.*

Josie Tabaka

Hello. My name is Josie Tabaka. I'm a parent of a student at Ridgewood Elementary School. I live in Ridgewood Estates, approximately three-quarters of a mile from the school. This past summer, Norwich Township changed the bridge walkway area to a no-parking zone. This was done under the auspices of making it safer for student walkers. It has made the area much less safe. The chaos of people dropping students off has now been extended to a much broader area of Ridgewood Estates.

I am here because many parents brought their concerns to the Norwich Township Trustees, who made the change. They told us that this is the Hilliard Board of Education's responsibility to fix.

I am here to notify you that this area is unsafe for our children. There is no way to stop and assist a child who needs help walking to or from school. It is unrealistic to expect a young child such as a kindergartner to walk in a neighborhood without sidewalks on their own. Additionally, due to the conditions of the drop-off area at Ridgewood on Dublin Road, many parents from other neighborhoods are using the walk or drop-off zone in Ridgewood Estates, which contributes to congestion in our neighborhood.

There is a resident who lives at the corner of Cameron and Darbyshire, who has installed multiple cameras at the drop-off zone and has created a website with film of our children walking to and from school and parents in the drop-off zone. I feel incredibly uncomfortable trusting this man around my child.

I look forward to your solution.

Jim Tarantine

Good evening everybody. My name is Jim Tarantine. I'm the proud son of a retired public school superintendent and elementary school teacher. I was also the superintendent's son at Johnson High

School. I know firsthand what it feels like when a community doesn't support their school system, their teachers, their administrators, and most importantly, their students.

But I'm not here to talk about that tonight. And I'm not here to talk about how proud I am of my eleventh-grade daughter, Aria. I'm here on a very positive note to proudly talk about my son, James Tarantine, Hilliard Davidson's class of 2024. He was an honor student, varsity football and hockey captain, Buckeye Boys State representative, Ceramics Governor's Cup finalist, and now a freshman, or plebe, at the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Specifically, though, I want to thank three people in the district. First, I want to thank Mr. John Horn, James' ceramics teacher at Hilliard Davidson. When you run through James' resume—hockey player, football player, West Point cadet—it doesn't scream out arts. But Mr. Horn helped James find his passion for ceramics. With all the accolades that James got last year, my favorite moments were the ones at the Governor's Cup show for the arts and the art show at Davidson. To see James laughing and smiling with kids that on paper were very different from him made me truly appreciate what Mr. Horn and Hilliard Davidson do.

If you look at the pictures of Mr. Horn's students, you'll see jocks, theater kids, and bandies, a diverse group of all united in their passion. Thank you, Mr. Horn, publicly. As you know, arts are one of the programs that can be at risk when a community does not support their schools.

Second, I want to thank Vice Principal Matt Faska. Mr. Faska was a voice of encouragement, advice, and really helped James navigate through his senior year. He's honest, direct, and truly cares about our Davidson students' dreams in high school and beyond. James wanted to record a video, but at West Point, it's kind of frowned upon since he's a representative of the U.S. Army now. Thank you, Mr. Faska. As you know, schools can be at risk when a community doesn't support their school system.

Last but certainly not least, I want to thank Tom Woodford. I can say this with 100 percent certainty, James would not be at West Point if it wasn't for him. Two years ago, Mr. Woodford gave James a checklist. Here's what it takes. Here's what you gotta do. Here's the bar you're setting for yourself. You gotta have a plan B. You gotta have a plan C. From that point forward, Coach Woodford was always available. He helped James with communication, had advice each step of the way, and gave direct feedback when James took a different turn. He was and is a mentor.

When James got into West Point, I called Coach Woodford and I told my wife I think Tom's more excited than we are. Thank you, Coach. Oh, and to keep with the theme as earlier, college counselors and other key administration roles that Hilliard provides our awesome students could be at risk when the community doesn't support their schools.

Thank you again for your time. Go Cats! Please remember to support your schools this November.

Discussion:

Mr. Vorst added I know Jim and Amber a little. We go to the gym together. They're in their 40s, and they're in better shape than most teenagers. It's really not fair. But thank you guys for raising a tremendous young man who's gone on to this challenging role. It speaks really high really great on behalf of our district to have a kid who goes to West Point. Like you mentioned, it takes a village, and it's not an easy thing. I know we've talked a couple of times about this whole process, and you mentioned specifically Mr. Woodford a couple of times. It's great that there were all these other people, but thanks to him and

you guys for raising a great young man. Thanks to Aria for being a little sister. Job well done and we look forward to seeing what James does in the future.

E CONSENT AGENDA

The Board of Education approved the consent agenda, items E1 through E3. 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 Approved the following trip requests:
 - a. Darby Choir, Washington DC – May 23, 2025
 - b. Davidson Girls Basketball, Canton, OH – December 27, 2024
 - c. Bradley Ohio Model United Nations, Columbus, OH – December 8, 2024

Discussion:

Mr. Perry said I believe we have a couple of retirements here. Dena Merrell, who has been with us since 2002. Also, Claudia Bright, who’s been with us since 1991, and Debra Thompson, who’s been with us since 1998. Thank you all for your many years of service.

F ACTION AGENDA

- F1 The Board of Education approved the following 2024 Summer Graduates:

Bradley High School

Kaelyn Michelle Clark

Darby High School

Milan Rayne Brannan

Discussion:

Congratulations. Best of luck in your future.

- F2 The Board of Education approved the following resolution:

META Cooperative Advertising and Receiving Bids for School Bus Chassis and Bodies

WHEREAS, the Hilliard City Schools Board of Education wishes to authorize the Chief Operating Officer to advertise, receive bids, and purchase up to ten (10) 78-passenger conventional school bus chassis and bodies.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Hilliard City Schools Board of Education wishes to participate and authorize the META Solutions (META) to advertise and receive bids on said Board's behalf as per the specifications submitted for the cooperative purchase of up to ten (10) 78-passenger conventional school bus chassis.

Discussion:

Mr. Dudgeon explained that this resolution allows Meta Solutions to negotiate pricing on behalf of the district as part of the larger consortium of participating districts. It's non-binding, and we're not obligated to follow through with a purchase.

F3 The Board of Education approved the following resolution:

The Superintendent recommends Fanning Howey as the most qualified firm to serve as the design professional and to provide the master planning, design, and related construction administration services for the Capital Improvements Project – Phase I (the “Project”).

Rationale:

1. The Board requires a design professional to provide the master planning, design, and related construction administration services for the Project.
2. Sections 153.65 through .71 of the Ohio Revised Code prescribes a qualifications-based selection process, which is required to be followed by public entities when design professional services are needed.
3. In accordance with the statutory process, the Superintendent publically advertised and issued a request for qualifications for design professional services and evaluated the statements of qualifications submitted by the professional design firms. The District received several statements of qualification and ranked them in accordance with the criteria outlined in the request for qualifications.
4. Following this evaluation, the District identified Fanning Howey to be the most qualified design firm to provide the required design professional services.
5. The Superintendent recommends that the Board select Fanning Howey as the firm most qualified to perform the design and related construction administration services for the Project.

The Board of Education resolves as follows:

The Board selects Fanning Howey as the firm most qualified to perform the master planning, design, and related construction administration services for the Project and authorizes the Superintendent, working with other District administrators and legal counsel, to solicit a pricing proposal from Fanning Howey and negotiate an agreement for the Project. The agreement will be brought to the Board for approval at a later date.

Discussion:

Mr. Perry asked for an overview. Mr. Stewart said the district has had a decades-long relationship with Fanning & Howey. As we look towards the successful passage of Issue 39 and the related construction projects that would come along with that, we need to appoint a firm to serve in those roles. Six firms submitted the request for qualifications. Those qualifications were scored on a rubric, and Fanning and Howey was the firm that was selected.

Following the vote, Mr. Stewart pointed out two of our contacts from Fanning and Howey. Unfortunately, I can't see them, but Jen Fuller and Brandon Binnicker are both here. I just want to say congratulations and look forward to a lot more years of a great working relationship.

F4 The Board of Education adopted the following policies:

- a) IKF – Graduation Requirements
- b) JN – Student Fees

Mr. Perry said, "Beth, you had a question about this?" Mrs. Murdoch said, "I read it this way and just wanted to say it out loud to make sure I understood the green highlighted section in policy JN that says students are eligible for the free lunch program for any materials and participation fees. Do those participation fees include sports?" Mr. Stewart said yes. Mrs. Murdoch said, "I'm just making sure. I thought so."

Mr. Perry made another statement that was too difficult to decipher.

G REPORTS / INFORMATION / EXHIBIT ITEM

G1 Committee Reports

No committee reports

H EXECUTIVE SESSION / ADJOURNMENT

H1 At 6:48 p.m., the Board of Education caucused to executive session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of a public employee or official.