



Minutes of the Board of Education Regular Meeting of the Berea City School District held on Monday, April 17, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the Berea-Midpark High School, ATLAS Room, 165 E. Bagley Rd., Berea, OH 44017, and shown remotely on YouTube at the following address:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2eDqel9zE2CFfmt6DakRiA/videos?view_as=subscriber

A. Opening Meeting

Members present: Farris Chapman Mack Postel Zirke
Time in: 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call A-1
[Minute 2:27](#)

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Pledge of
Allegiance A-2
[Minute 2:37](#)

B. Special Recognition

None

C. Public Participation

The names and topics of participating community members are as listed: Bruna Galati, Ohio Coalition of Equity And Adequacy; David Yakimow, Enterprise Fleet Management; James Grosh, School Choice, Vouchers; Warren Tuck, Ohio Coalition for Equity and Adequacy of School Funding; Dave Ceccarelle, HB-11

Public Part.
C-1
[Minute 3:04](#)

D. Presentation

Briana Cates presented updates and goals from the Nutrition Services Department.

Presentation
D-1
[Minute 17:28](#)

E. Superintendent Recommendations

Grindstone and Big Creek both were designated as Purple Star Schools. Continuation from the previous meeting Voucher lawsuit. Bill Willis and two others from the Ohio Coalition presented information regarding the lawsuit.

Supt.
Recommend.
E-1
[Minute 27:14](#)

Zirke moved and Mack seconded the recommendation to approve items E3-E20 as part of the consent agenda.

Ayes: Farris Chapman Mack Postel Zirke
Nayes: None

Consent
Agenda E-2
23-0417-1892
[Minute 1:03:27](#)

Postel moved and Zirke seconded the recommendation to approve the individuals listed to sell tickets/ Work athletic events for the 2022-2023 school year.

Ayes: Farris Chapman Mack Postel Zirke
Nayes: None

Ticket Sellers/
Workers E-21
23-0417-1893
[Minute 1:09:03](#)

Postel moved and Zirke seconded the recommendation to adopt the job description for the Coordinator of Mental Health Services as outlined on the agenda.

Ayes: Farris Chapman Mack Postel Zirke

Coor. Mental
Health Srvcs
E-22
23-0417-1894
[Minute 1:09:36](#)

Zirke moved and Mack seconded the recommendation to approve items E24-E26 as part of the consent Agenda. Ayes: Farris ☒ Chapman ☒ Mack ☒ Postel ☒ Zirke ☒ Nayes: None	Consent Agenda E-23 23-0417-1895 Minute 1:15:04
Postel moved and Mack seconded the recommendation to approve the contract with LLA Therapy for Services for BCSD students attending Educational Alternatives as shown on the agenda. Ayes: Farris ☒ Chapman ☒ Mack ☒ Postel ☒ Zirke ☒ Nayes: None	LLA Therapy E-27 23-0417-1896 Minute 1:15:38
Postel moved and Zirke seconded the recommendation that the Board of Education approve the Non-Public School Transportation Payment-In Lieu for the 2022-2023 school year as shown on the agenda. Ayes: Farris ☒ Chapman ☒ Mack ☒ Postel ☒ Zirke ☒ Nayes: None	Transportation Payment E-28 23-0417-1897 Minute 1:16:17
Zirke moved and Postel seconded the recommendation to approve the agreements with Enterprise Fleet Management for leasing of the District vehicles and vans as shown on the agenda. Ayes: Farris ☒ Chapman ☒ Mack ☒ Postel ☒ Zirke ☒ Nayes: None	Enterprise Fleet E-29 23-0417-1898 Minute 1:17:07
Chapman motioned and Zirke seconded the recommendation to approve a five-year lease agreement with Solutions America for district copier leases as shown on the agenda. The annual amount for this agreement is \$77,079.60. Ayes: Farris ☒ Chapman ☒ Mack ☒ Postel ☒ Zirke ☒ Nayes: None	Canon Lease Agreement E-30 23-0313-1899 Minute 1:20:29
Postel moved and Zirke seconded the recommendation to approve the agreement for the purchase of a Telephone software system from the Business Communication Specialists as shown on the agenda. Ayes: Farris ☒ Chapman ☒ Mack ☒ Postel ☒ Zirke ☒ Nayes: None	BCS Support Mitel E-31 23-0417-1900 Minute 1:21:19
Zirke moved and Mack seconded the recommendation to approve the purchase of 352 Lenovo 100e 3rd Gen Chromebooks and Google Chrome Management Licenses from Royal Business Equipment in the amount Of \$90,000 as shown on the agenda. Ayes: Farris ☒ Chapman ☒ Mack ☒ Postel ☒ Zirke ☒ Nayes: None	Chromebook Purchase E-32 23-0417-1901 Minute 1:22:17
Mack moved and Chapman seconded the recommendation to approve the purchase of chemistry equipment for For BMHS chemistry classrooms from Flinn Scientific with ESSER funds as shown on the agenda. Ayes: Farris ☒ Chapman ☒ Mack ☒ Postel ☒ Zirke ☒ Nayes: None	Chemistry Equipment E-33 23-0417-1902 Minute 1:22:55
Chapman moved and Postel seconded the recommendation to approve the district-sponsored overnight field Trip, taking place April 2-5, 2024, to New York City, for students to perform and attend a Broadway Musical Workshop as shown on the agenda. Ayes: Farris ☒ Chapman ☒ Mack ☒ Postel ☒ Zirke ☒ Nayes: None	Overnight Field Trip E-34 23-0417-1903 Minute 1:23:49

Zirke moved and Postel seconded the recommendation to approve the revised 2023-2024 District Academic Calendar as shown on the agenda.

District
Calendar
E-35
23-0417-1904
[Minute 1:24:37](#)

Ayes: Farris Chapman Mack Postel Zirke
Nayes: None

Postel moved and Mack seconded the recommendation to approve the revised 2023 Board of Education Meeting Calendar as shown on the agenda.

Revised BOE
Calendar
E-36
23-0417-1905
[Minute 1:29:03](#)

Ayes: Farris Chapman Mack Postel Zirke
Nayes: None

Mr. Draves presented the first read of District Policy Revisions Vol. 14, No. 2 - January 2023.

Policy Disc.
E-37
[Minute 1:30:19](#)

F. Treasurer's Recommendations

Mrs. Rowe presented the February and March financial reports.

Treasurer's
Update F-1
[Minute 1:42:59](#)

Mack moved and Postel seconded the recommendation to approve F3-F8 be approved as part of the consent agenda.

Consent
Agenda
F-2
23-0417-1906
[Minute 1:46:12](#)

Ayes: Farris Chapman Mack Postel Zirke
Nayes: None

Postel moved and Zirke seconded NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, under the provisions of ORC 3313.36, the Board hereby declares that acceptance of these gifts does not at this time remove any portion of the public schools from the control of the Board; and BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Board appreciates the generosity of these gifts and the remembrance of this school district and the students, and designates the Treasurer to express the Board's appreciation for these thoughtful gifts.

Gifts and
Donations
F-9
23-0417-1907
[Minute 1:47:45](#)

DONOR	DESCRIPTION OF GIFT/DONATION	VALUE	PURPOSE/USE
Board of Education	Monetary Donation	\$100.00	Berea City School District Hall of Fame

Ayes: Farris Chapman Mack Postel Zirke
Nayes: None

Mack moved and Zirke seconded the recommendation to approve the contract between St. Mary's Catholic School and the Summit County ESC for SLD/Remedial Teaching services in the 2023-2024 school year as Shown on the agenda.

St. Mary's
ESC Contract
F-10
23-0417-1908
[Minute 1:48:21](#)

Ayes: Farris Chapman Mack Postel Zirke
Nayes: None

Postel moved and Zirke seconded the recommendation to approve the resolution accepting the amounts and Rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them To the Couty Fiscal Officer for the 2023-2024 school year as shown on the agenda.
Ayes: Farris ☒ Chapman ☒ Mack ☒ Postel ☒ Zirke ☒
Nayes: None

2023-2024
School Tax
F-11
23-0417-1909
[Minute 1:48:43](#)

Zirke moved and Mack seconded the recommendation to approve the quotes for the purchase of Chromebooks, IMacs, IPads, and Smartboards for the Academy of St. Bartholomew as shown in the agenda.
Ayes: Farris ☒ Chapman ☒ Mack ☒ Postel ☒ Zirke ☒
Nayes: None

Tech. Purchase
St. Bartholomew
F-12
23-0417-1910
[Minute 1:49:39](#)

G. Regular Business

Three hearings occurring this week: SB-83, HB-12, and HB-6. The House Primary and Secondary Education Committee is meeting to discuss HB-12, HB-8, and HB-117.

Legislative
Update G-1
[Minute 1:50:17](#)

None

Committee
Reports G-2

Mr. Mack recognizes the Titans Customs won first place at Auto-Rama; money is to be donated back into the art Program.
Mrs. Farris opened up a discussion regarding going back to one Public Participation per meeting set-up. She Thinks it could streamline meeting a little more, and it would be a more efficient use of time. Mr. Postel agrees That one section would be adequate. Mrs. Zirke also agrees, for the sake of efficiency. Mrs. Chapman prefers The two. It would continue to be at the start of the meeting so Board would hear comments before voting. Mr. Mack Can see both sides. Going back to one will continue to be streamed online, but would limit it to three minutes per Speaker. Mrs. Wheeler notified the board it does not need to be voted on the Board of Education sets the agenda. It can be changed in the next agenda. The majority agrees on one portion.

Comments
G-3
[Minute 1:52:39](#)

Postel moved and Zirke seconded the recommendation to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2023, Be A Titan/Regular Meeting, as well as the March 22, 2023, Special Meeting as shown on the agenda.
Ayes: Farris ☒ Chapman ☒ Mack ☒ Postel ☒ Zirke ☒
Nayes: None

Minutes
Approval
G-4
23-0417-1911
[Minute 1:56:00](#)

H. Public Participation

Nusrat Mehdii of Berea. She thanked the board for opposition to the expansion of vouchers that are being proposed in the Ohio Legislature. She explained the expansion of the voucher program is an attempt to defund and destroy public education under the guise of parental choice and believes it is a direct attack on democracy. She stated, our public schools welcome everyone, unlike private schools that pick and choose their students. Public schools are built on this ideal, that every child has the right to a good education, regardless of who they are. Although imperfect as they are, our public schools need more support and funding instead of defunding. Passage of universal vouchers would blow a hole in the state budget and undercut the ability to fully and fairly fund Ohio's public schools. The fiscal note on HB-11 estimates an annual cost of 1.1 billion dollars a year, just to pay for vouchers for students who currently attend private schools. The fiscal note on SB-11 estimates an annual cost of 536 million dollars a year to pay for vouchers for students who currently attend private schools. More importantly, HB-11 would

extend vouchers to homeschool students, and non-chartered private schools, which provide no state oversight. Unlike public school districts, charter and private schools are subject to fewer state regulations and have greater discretion to determine which students are accepted. Because of that parents, who use vouchers to send a child to a non-public school, could be forfeiting some of their rights. As William Phillis, a former assistant superintendent of public instruction in Ohio said, "We don't know what they do with the voucher money, some school systems are owned by the bishops, there is no public ownership, no public accountability, and no public transparency." She stated vouchers not only siphon taxpayer dollars for private and charter schools, that otherwise would have gone to public schools, but there is little evidence pointing to higher academic achievement in non-public districts. Students who attend vouchers to attend a private school, tend to fare worse on state standardized tests, than their public school peers. According to a 2020 Cincinnati Inquiry investigation, 88% of the 150 cities analyzed in the report, a public school district achieved better test results than a private school. Vouchers will lead to defunded public schools and will direct public money to institutions that are not answerable to the public that funds them. She also made a shout out to Mr. Rivera at the middle school, because her son hated math in elementary and loves math right now.

Nicholas Titus of Berea. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak. He appreciates the debate going on about the voucher system. He thinks a more equitable or positive approach would be the idea of open enrollment so that the public schools have competition, but with other public schools. He's heard a lot of debates about apples and apples, and oranges and oranges, so let's keep the apples and apples, which are the public schools, and the private schools, which are oranges and oranges, separated. If we have open enrollment, then you have fair competition that can be applied and not a monopoly. Thank you for your time.

David Yakimow, Berea, a union rep for 24 yrs, in transit, 42. He has an issue with student discipline/behavior. He's the president of the bus driver's union. He has drivers who don't understand what they can or can't do. They write kids up - nothing happens, not all the time nothing happens, but it does. When he tried to explain this, someone told him that the state laws are weak. He's looking at policy, and policy mirrors a lot of the state laws. 5600 - Student Discipline, the board believes the best discipline is self-imposed and the student should learn, and assume responsibility for their behavior, and the consequences of their actions. The board has zero tolerance for the violent, disruptive, or inappropriate behavior of the students.

- A. Conform to reasonable standards, and socially acceptable behavior, respect the person and property of others, and respect the rights of others. Teach your school bus drivers and other employees of the board, to have the authority over the students to take such actions as necessary to control the disorderly conduct of students in all situations and places, where such students are within the jurisdiction of the board. Discipline on board vehicles shall be the responsibility of the drivers.

He went on to speak of Policy 5630.01; part of the behavior, intervention, limited use of restraint and seclusion - it also says, this is your policy. It says physical strength does not include brief physical contact for the following purposes, breaking up a fight, preventing the risk of injury to self and others. Also have on this, that a lot of the drivers want to know, what kind of training do we have on this. We can't get rid of students like some of the teachers can, send them down the hall, go to the board office. We got the kids that are on the bus, we don't have a right to get them off, so what happens? I'm going to tell you what happened. A kid was coming out of the bus, and he screamed in my ear. My ear rang for a day. I brought that up, we talked about it. Then, all of a sudden, I was asking some of the other drivers, we have an aide, she got kicked in the face two times. Writes the kid up, still on the bus.

Mr. Yakimow added, "One more thing, if you let me, is we had a guy that just today, had the kids who were unruly on the bus at the middle school, and he sat there, wanting to get all the names of the kids, so they sit in the right seats. They wouldn't tell him, so he just sat there. This driver in Amherst said what happened... everyone seen that video? That's how a lot of the drivers feel. I hope we can get this corrected."

Lastly, Mr. Warren Tuck of Berea. He finished up the portion that was started before. He said, with the lawsuit, if you choose to join in, it won't really make a difference one way or the other, except where the money goes. He stated there are already several lawsuits the school district has been facing, and recommends using it otherwise rather than adding more to the legal issues involved with the school district.

Second, he spoke of the eclipse, and how some schools would be closing on that day, next year. He would recommend since it's not really a calamity day, not closing the school district, but to use it to incorporate as an aide to teaching natural science.

I. Executive Session

Zirke moved and Mack seconded the motion to move into Executive Session for the purpose of the appointment, Executive Employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of an employee or official. Session

Ayes: Chapman Farris Mack Postel Zirke

Nays: None

I-1

23-0417-1912

J. Adjournment

Postel moved and Zirke seconded the recommendation to adjourn the meeting. Adjournment

Ayes: Chapman Farris Mack Postel Zirke

Nays: None

J-1

23-0417-1913

Time adjourned: 9:27 p.m.

Date of Approval: May 16, 2023

Approved: *Corinne A. Farris*

Attest: *Julia Lowe*