



MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION NORTHWEST LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Monday, August 21, 2023 (6:30 PM)

1.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

Requested all to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance

2.0 Roll Call

2.1 Call of the Roll

BOARD MEMBERS

Nicole Taulbee

Mark Gilbert

Jim Detzel

Chris Heather

Matt Tietsort

Number in Attendance: 6 Guests

3.0 MISSION STATEMENT

3.1 Mission Statement

The Board President read the mission statement.

The Northwest Local School District will create a responsive learning community where all students are valued, challenged, and guided along a pathway to success.

4.0 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

4.1 Motion to Adopt the Agenda

The Board President recommended to adopt the agenda as presented.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Chris Heather**) Moved, Member (**Jim Detzel**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Board President recommends to adopt the agenda as presented'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **5** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 5 - 0**

Nicole Taulbee Yes

Mark Gilbert Yes

Jim Detzel Yes

Chris Heather	Yes
Matt Tietzsort	Yes

5.0 SPECIAL PRESENTATION

5.1 Annual Budget Document Presentation

Treasurer/CFO Amy Wells and Superintendent Darrell Yater presented the Annual Budget Document to the Board of Education.

The Annual Budget Document is a project that has been over a year in the making. It's been a long process to get to this point where the District can share it and offer this amount of transparency to the community. The journey began in 2017, when the District joined the Government Finance Office of Accountabilities process for best practice and school budgeting. There has been a lot of internal work to learn, reflect, and grow around these areas since 2017. Part of this is how we align our fiscal resources to our instructional priorities, and align everything to our Strategic Plan, so we can begin to measure our return on investment.

The Annual Budget Document that was previewed and will be launched in the next couple of weeks is a policy document that outlines, for the community, a lot of our fiscal policies that guide and give us our sandbox around what we can and can't do with the money. It's an operations guide that really shows how we operationalize the policy into the day-to-day operations of the District. Our financial plan and its communication tool show how we're communicating, not just the finances of the District, but the alignment of the finances to our instructional priorities and the academic outcomes from that alignment.

As part of our Strategic Plan, financial stability is one of our key pillars. In our Strategic Plan, our goal statement says we want to create a stronger foundation of financial stability that ensures an optimal learning experience for all. In our Strategic Plan we have specific objects that we want to achieve. The first is the two-way communications to help our community understand how our schools are funded, how we utilize our funds, what we're spending our funds on, and the needs of our school district, as well as how we're aligning our financial resources to our instructional priorities. Then we continue to partner with our community to develop a transparent funding cycle. This Annual Budget Document also outlines our instructional priorities, in that it tells our community not only where we've been, but where we currently are, and where we are going because we believe that what is measured gets achieved. Some key takeaways that we want our community to have as they're reading through this document and to understand is, again, how we allocate our funding and how we spend the allocation that we receive on our instructional priorities; that we do make sure that at least 70 percent of our budget is spent on our instruction, and no more than 10 percent spent on Administration; that we have long-term financial health goals; and we have that ongoing operating levy cycle that

we do monitor; and that we do measure to improve three key areas in our District for instructional priorities.

As a District we have a plan that is submitted to the state every three years. We are in that three-year-cycle; we're going into our third year of this plan that was submitted the year prior to that third year. We have three areas that are our high level District area goals, and then all buildings feed into that with how they build on those goals. They play their part to make sure that the bigger goals are met, so it's a hierarchy. The first one is about graduation rate and aiming for 95 percent graduation rate. That is not just a responsibility at the high schools, but our elementary and middle schools see pathways for them to be part of that solution to make sure that we attain that 95 percent graduation rate. We have one around proficiency that would be 70 percent benchmark for all of our state tests, and looking at our progress measure on our report card with a four-star rating or higher. There are other parts of the report card that we will talk about when it is released this fall, but these are two key areas that have been part of our three-year plan. The last part is culture and climate around discipline – that we make sure we are enforcing our Code of Conduct to ensure that students are following that, and that through proactive strategies, we're going to see a reduction in the out-of-school discipline occurrences to make sure that students are in school learning. This does not mean that we are reducing our expectations, but we are increasing our expectations to make sure that students are meeting that, and therefore are not having a need to have a discipline occurrence. Every building will have their own section of this document and it will look a little bit like this as an intro. It will share what the building is going to do in order to meet their goals, so that the District can meet their goals, and in this our community will be able to see the specific goals each building has made. It will show their progress from 21-22, 22-23, and 23-24. This is a planning document, so this is meant to be brought out in June as budgets are finalized for the upcoming year. Data for our report card is not out until September-October, so there's always going to be a lag between what we're planning for and what the data says when we get to that point. That's why we have a cycle of this document coming out as a planning document. We have our State of the District about where we were for that previous year. We have our Five-Year Forecast that we share. We have our CAFR and PAFR that we send out that shows the actual expenditures of the District. We have a pattern of communication that shows planning through execution, so this will be part of the document to outline for the community; every building's responsibility and commitment to their growth measures as well.

Because it is an Annual Budget Document, this budget document will be for fiscal year 24, which is what we're currently in. Ideally we would release this around June, so it's before the fiscal year starts in July, and it will indicate our priorities, as well as our expenses based on building and department, all the way up to District level. 80 percent of our budget is in personnel costs, so our District Staffing Plan is part of this report. It'll list the positions that we have, it will also show the average salaries by position, as well as the fringe benefits on those salaries, and the weighted benefit average costs, so insurance costs related to each position. It's not by person, but by positions. There's also a table of

contents within the document that is hyperlinked that can take anybody to any section of the document that they wish to go. This is an example of what the budget page will look like per building or department. At the top it lists the staffing plan: administrative, instructional, support services, operational. At the bottom is the additional budgets in addition to, not only the personnel, but also the building budget. The District budgets for that building or department and General Funds related to also servicing that building or department, with the total cost at the bottom of the projected budget for each building and department throughout the District. We do recognize that strong schools are built on a stable financial foundation, and the financial stability shows us to have stronger academic programs.

Our commitment is to continue to focus on that strong financial foundation through strategic planning, through alignment, to make sure we not only create optimal learning experiences for all kids, but make sure that we do that through a very strategic, long-term, and cohesive plan.

As mentioned, we have been working on this document since 2017, internally working through our processes and procedures, and getting everything aligned and looking forward into the future; and having long-term vision and plans. Now we're ready to release it to our community. This is where we are, this is where we're going, and this is how we monitor and measure.

Discussion:

- **Mrs. Taulbee:** Is this a document that the state requires or that you would upload anywhere in the state to be compared to other districts?

Mrs. Wells: No, it's not a state document. It's actually nationally through GFOA, and very few schools, even cities, townships, and villages, utilize this document or provide this information to their public. We are trying to be transparent and make sure that we address our commitment and have that transparency and communication with our community, so they do understand how we are funded, how we utilize our funds, and what our new needs are to operate our District. There's nowhere to load it into there. There is GFOA, where we can send it to be graded, but what we did was we didn't go like the CAFR where it's in detail of just numbers, we tried to bring it back down to operational, and for our community that we could build on going forward. Maybe we can make it more technical and in depth, but we wanted to start lower level and more basic with, here's our staffing plan, this is where our dollars go, and keep it from the CAFR, which comes out at the end of the year, which is just financial related in notes and maybe not user friendly.

Mr. Yater: We also wanted to make sure that we could communicate that we do have goals that we are tracking and monitoring on an ongoing basis, and we are aligning, so a lot of the processes we have in place around data that parents might see kids taking assessments, while the assessments feed into a system that helps us track whether or not we are on track or not to meet our goals. We've worked really hard to streamline and be strategic, to make

sure data points connect, so that we can be proactive, and have the data that aligns, that measures, and that is predictable. This is a way to show our community that we do have goals, we do track those goals, we do monitor progress, and we do align it, not only to our progress, but to our finances.

- **Mrs. Taulbee:** It's this year and then would it be three years before the next one, or just each year annually?

Mrs. Wells: Annually. The budget report would come out annually. As a Board, you would approve our budget in May and we would want to release this in June.

- **Mrs. Taulbee:** What about the goals?

Mr. Yater: The goals are three-year goals because those are required by the state. Then we will update those because we're in year three of our plan. We'll be updating that this year and then submitting a new plan to the state for the next three years.

- **Mrs. Taulbee:** Are there going to be comparisons from the previous year of this document, like you've done with the report cards?

Mr. Yater: Yes, the charts in here will show the three years, so you'll be able to see data from year one, year two, and then eventually year three. It'll all be there so you can see the progression.

- **Mrs. Taulbee:** The building goals that you talked about, will each building be assisting with developing what their goals are?

Mr. Yater: Yes, they're already developed and they're in there in the documents. We have District goals and then the buildings develop their goals to feed into the District goals, so it's all aligned. That's what each building is reported here on their specific progress, on the goal that lead into the District goal, so it's all in that one document.

- **Mr. Gilbert:** How will this be communicated to the public? Obviously the website, but is there more?

Mr. Yater: It'll be a hyperlink document. We'll share it through our communication processes with our staff and our parents, and then through a press release, and our website for people who may not be connected to our communication.

Mrs. Wells: And our Community Newsletter.

- **Mr. Gilbert:** Is there any thought about, maybe, having a forum where you can walk community members through that, so that they can ask questions about what's going on?

Mr. Yater: Duly noted. To comment on that, I hope we get to the point where we do have people that are looking at it and asking questions, and having that level of engagement and that those meetings would be well attended. Definitely something to work towards.

5.2 Transportation Update

Superintendent Darrell Yater introduced Transportation Supervisor Yolanda Palmer, Transportation Assistant Supervisor Brian Redden, and Transportation Assistant Supervisor Taunya Henry who all provided an update on transportation to the Board of Education.

Through the engagement process, the community was engaged to look at options in order to reduce the number of routes needed, which more closely match the current staffing levels; and to reduce and eliminate bus cancellations. We all hate bus cancellations. Option one was to make no changes and continue with any cancellations. It just wasn't going to happen. Now option two was to extend the non-eligible zone up to two miles – it's currently one mile. Option three was to create a four-tier system to help reduce routes, however, this option drastically changed school times. Option four was to route as efficiently as possible and consolidate bus stops, which requires some students to walk further to their bus stops. This option also kept school times very close to the previous years. Option four was created in response to the other three options.

Board of Education Policy 8600 states we transport students outside of a one-mile distance from the school of residence for K-8 students. This is above and beyond the state allowable distance of two-miles. Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 3301-83-13 for school bus routes and stops states that designation of school bus stops are Board approved on a yearly basis. The school bus stops location's pupil's grades kindergarten through eighth may be required to walk up one half of a mile to their designated stop. We've looked at a lot of our stops that we have now and I don't think any of them are even more than a quarter of a mile. There may be one or two. OAC also states that school bus stop locations shall provide the maximum safety for pupils, considering the distance from residents, traffic volume, physical characteristics, visibility, and weather conditions. Each pupil shall be assigned a designated place of safety on a resident's side of the road, in which the vehicle is scheduled to stop.

Some changes that occurred for 23-24 school year were provided by Mrs. Palmer. School start and end times changed. In order to more closely match the current staffing, the student walkout distance was increased to state maximum of half-a-mile. Routes were reduced this year. We went from 73 to 58 routes. There's 45 regular, 13 Special Ed., and seven van routes. We travel over 5,706 miles per day. That's 411 bus stops; and we transport over 5,000 students daily. Chapter 3301-83 of the OAC contains operation and safety rules for the student's transportation while on the bus. These are rules that we

have placed on the bus, and these are ones we enforce as well. Each student is assigned a bus stop location. They are expected to be there five minutes before their scheduled arrival time of the bus. By the state of Ohio law, kindergarten through eighth grade may be required to travel up to a half-a-mile to a bus stop. This is for us to ensure that their safety is maximized. The distance from the residents, and the traffic volume, and the visibility, and the physical characteristics of the bus stop is observed into the safety of it. All students are required to sit in a seat. We ask that they keep their feet on the floor, their back to the back, bottom on the bottom because that seat in front of them acts as a barrier. The place of safety – this is one of the biggest issues that we have and we ask parents to assist us with helping us to ensure that your child is safe. In the mornings, they are at the place of safety where the bus driver has deemed or designed, which is away from the bus stop. Their place of safety falls into place, more or less, in the afternoons when they get off the bus. The bus driver has designated a place. We ask that they remain there until the bus has passed them. We ask parents not to ask the little kids to come across the street because this is putting them in danger. The place of safety is in place for their protection and we just ask for cooperation. It's new to people, even though it's been in place for many years. It's supposed to be something that every bus driver instills, which is a place of safety, and it's just for each student's safety. That's why we ask that they remain there and that parents don't interfere with that.

Mr. Yater added that the Board will remember that Place of Safety was added to the Student Code of Conduct, so it's one of the things that, when a bus driver is writing a student up, they can choose that as a violation, so that we can track the things that are specific to Transportation, instead of just general codes. That was added to our Code of Conduct this year so we can more clearly communicate the issues that we may be having. Ms. Palmer agreed and continued, adding that drivers provide hand signals for the students to board the bus or get off the bus. That is where parents are asked to allow the bus drivers to do their job and safely get the kids on and off the bus.

The danger zone is 10 feet around the bus and that's why it's so important for students to be in their place of safety, not running to the bus when the bus gets there, because of the 10 feet radius around the bus, which creates danger. Most of the accidents and fatalities that have occurred, have happened within 10 feet of the bus in the danger zone, so that's why the place of safety is so important for students to be in.

Building administrators will be boarding the bus at least once a week to enforce the expectations. The drivers are required to notify building administration of misconduct, and they are to use bus referrals, which is done online. The student bus discipline, which is also inside of the Student Code of Conduct, has been changed. Schools are looking at discipline a lot closer. Suspension of bus and riding transportation privileges could be revoked if there is a continual pattern, and that is not something that the Transportation Department issues out. This is done through the school.

Some changes have been made to a lot of bus stops this year and this is one of the examples where we placed the bus stop where we thought was best, but after we got a

few calls from parents, we went out and physically looked at the bus stop. Examples of bus stop changes were provided.

Transportation worked all summer long and enlisted professional assistants with developing new routes based on safety and efficiency. New neighborhood bus stops were created. Students may have to travel up to half-a-mile to their new bus stop location. We took some of the neighborhoods and condensed some of the stops down. Our drivers were used to drive and provide feedback on routes. They came in for a week. All of them drove. We gave them different routes, not the routes they were used to driving. We wanted a new look on things, so they drove around. They gave us their feedback. The only issue we had with that was they can see the stop, but don't know what other houses are coming to that stop. That's what made that stop a little bit dangerous, but overall, we were able to get a good feel on what were the best stops. Once they picked their routes, they all came in for a day, where they all drove their current routes that they picked and bid on. They gave us some feedback on them. If they needed anything, we modified things to make things safer. That is still being done today. Being the first day of school, they will still give us feedback for the next couple of weeks, until we nail down their routes for them.

We've had four hiring fairs over the summer. Brian and Taunya came in on a Saturday just to do a Hiring Fair. We tried to put it out on social media, Facebook, and television, to get more applicants in from all over, not just bus drivers, we need bus aides. We did fill our van drivers, but we still need everybody. We still need some mechanics; we still need guaranteed sub drivers. Our substitute drivers are what helps us run every single day. There will be a Hiring Fair on August 23, 2023 at the District's Central Support Offices from 2pm – 4pm.

We are looking forward to a great year. We've got a positive outlook. We're really wanting to have a great year. We don't want cancellations. We're trying to get morale back in our department. We had our District in-service and a department in-service meeting provided before the District one. We did some games; tried to get everybody to come together as a team. We've seen so many smiles. It was just a great feeling to see everybody come together. We can do this. As a district, as a department, it takes all of us to make it run.

Discussion:

- **Mrs. Taulbee:** First, thank you. Back when we had the meetings with the options laid out for transportation, the community was heard with all of the feedback around school start times changing. Thank you for thinking outside the box and trying to come up with other solutions, and all of the Hiring Fairs, and the routes changing. The amount of routes that we're able to save, I see it every day walking my son to the bus stop. Driving the routes and trying to fix that, I really appreciate your guy's efforts, and I am also hopeful for a great year. I appreciate the feedback that I've seen from the changes and the suggestions that

people have put out there.

- **Mr. Gilbert:** I believe we did a presentation a couple of years ago, and I think the total mileage for our Transportation Department for a school year was over 1.1 million miles, something like that. That has to be incredibly commended – that our kids are that safe for a million miles. I mean, there's a numbers game associated, statistics that things could happen, and so the safety of our kids a million miles a year and we hear virtually nothing. A mailbox here, there, or you know, things that aren't that concerning obviously. Thank you for that. We are looking forward to a really good year. I've heard many people say that there's just a different feel, a different vibe. I think last year you guys took a beating and we appreciate you for hanging in there. Last week I turned on the Today Show and the very first report they did was the national shortage of bus drivers, and I believe it was Central Kentucky where there were five major school districts that cancelled school the first four days because they didn't have transportation. The fact that we're trying to be out of the box and come up with areas of operation is outstanding. Thank you.
- **Mrs. Taulbee:** I think one thing that will be a positive is having that support from the schools on the behavioral issues. I'm very hopeful this year that, that is a positive direction.
- **Mr. Gilbert:** One of your bullet points was the building administration jumping on the bus. Did that happen last year or is that new this year?

Mrs. Palmer: It's new this year.

- **Mr. Heather:** We have a small subdivision near my house off of West Fork on Brierly Creek. We've gotten several emails. I know that area well because my best friend's dad was born in Brierly Manor, that big old house at the corner of Gaines and Brierly Creek, and owned all that property; and I used to fish in that Lake where Pond View overlooks, so I know that area well, and it's extremely hilly. When we would fish there, it was extremely hard to get down to the lake. There's two lakes – ponds if you want to call them. I'm very concerned. I drove that on Saturday and counted 25 houses from Brierly Creek Road to the end of Brierly Ridge Drive. It's approximately 0.35 miles. I know it's under the two, or the half-mile mandate, but it's extremely hilly and long. At the bottom of the hill there's a big grassy foyer before you get to the first house, so it's an awful walk, and it's my opinion that we should make an exception here and put a second stop, and move it from down at the bottom to maybe where the L is, or up to the corner where Brierly Ridge Drive and Pond View Court are, just for safety reasons. It's an awful long walk and it's hilly. It's probably the second biggest hill in our district, next to Springdale Hill.

Mrs. Taulbee: I have driven it myself. I'm not a professional, so I don't know the stops or the timing of getting a bus to the school, but I would agree. I think there should be one stop in the neighborhood.

Mr. Gilbert: I drove it today and I didn't realize, when you come down Gaines, that they don't stop, so I almost lost my life right there. As I went up into the neighborhood, and again I'm not a professional, but I worry because I don't want to slide down that hill in the winter. I don't know if that's Green Township or if that's Colerain Township, hopefully they clear that. In a situation, I guess this is more of a question, if a kid had to walk from the cul-de-sac all the way at the very far end in the winter, that's a treacherous walk to get down to the bottom. I could almost see if the elementary kids have to have somebody there with them, then we would have a group of cars that are built up down at the bottom, which could be an issue.

Mr. Yater: We've all been looking at this; we've all driven that area. Transportation has looked at it and it meets the half-mile, and the stop as is, allows for the bus to pick up on the residential side, so the students are gathered at the bottom of the hill. It is a steep hill, but they're gathered there. Going up into the community requires the bus to do a three-point turnaround, which means they're backing up and it not only moves that bus, but all other buses that go into that subdivision now go up there. We've looked at that, we've looked at the mileage, we've looked at the different parts of the law around safety, and we've primarily left it at the bottom of the hill. It's something that we can continue to look at, but it meets all the requirements at that point of safety at the bottom of the hill more than it does at the top because of that three-point turnaround.

Mrs. Palmer: Along with the three-point turnaround, it increases the danger of accidents anytime you back up, the danger is increased, as well as the thought of it in winter. If that bus is coming down the hill and they haven't cleared it well, that could create an accident. If that bus continues to go down toward Brierly Creek, across the driveway or across the street is a guard rail. The bus can take the guard rail out and then it's a creek. I would feel safer for the kids being on a flat level versus coming down that hill, and it opposes an accident with a bus full of kids, so we have to look into all of those issues as well.

- **Mrs. Taulbee:** Has there been any incidents in the past four or five years that we've driven up there with our buses that you're aware of.

Mrs. Palmer: I don't think so, but you can never say what the weather's going to do.

Mr. Redden: I actually did drive the route last year for one of the schools, for a diver that was out for about a week, and there was a day where we had snow come about bus time. It's a little scary because I'm a driver, and our biggest fear really is backing up. We prefer, in the whole entire District if we could, that we would never have to back up a bus. For every child that's killed inside of a bus, there's 15 killed outside of a bus. That's the statistic and I don't want to be the one, and I don't want any of my drivers, or anyone, to ever face that. Coming down that hill in the afternoon, when you're around running, and there is a creek over there, that's scary. You're in a 26,000-pound vehicle. There's nothing you can do once

that thing starts to go. It's gone.

Mr. Yater: That is one that we spend a lot of extra time doing our due diligence on. We actually collaborated with the Ohio Department of Education's Transportation Office, looking at all the factors to make sure there was another set of eyes outside of just our department on what the best way to go about that one specific stop. There are a lot of factors at play with the hill and everything else.

Mrs. Taulbee: I would just ask that we continue to look into it from the standpoint of students. I understand they are the parent's responsibility until the bus takes them, but from a parent's perspective if my son had to walk all the way down there, even if I had to drive him down, there's the safety concern of having multiple cars piled up. If there's any way to continue to look through that one, it is a very long distance from the back end of their neighborhood.

Mr. Yater: As Taunya mentioned, the drivers are continuing to drive their routes every day and we're in a phase-in right now where we have half the kids today, half the kid's tomorrow. By Wednesday and later this week, all the kids will be on the bus, so as the driver's continue to drive the routes and get familiar with it, they'll continue to collaborate with Transportation about any updates that might need to be made, and that is one that we're keeping our eye on.

- **Mr. Gilbert:** Brian, when you drove that, do you pass Pond View and then back onto Pond View, and then go back down? Is that how you do the three-pointer?

Mr. Redden: Yes.

Mr. Gilbert: It would be nice if, when they consider building a neighborhood, they think about it. I didn't really think about that until today when I was back there. I'm like, well we need to make the cul-de-sac a little larger.

- **Mr. Heather:** Could the bus turn around in the circle at the end?

Mr. Redden: We would still have to back up.

- **Mr. Heather:** I've had trouble going up Gaines Road, up to West Fork when it's snowy, so I know what that can be, and I'm not in a 26,000-pound vehicle. It seemed like an awful long drive. I've been up there before, but for a five-year-old to walk that, I don't know. It just doesn't leave a good taste in my mouth. I suspect that if we don't do anything now, nothing will ever change.

Mr. Yater: We'll continue to look into it. I know we're going to hear from some people tonight. Their voice matters and we want to hear them, and then we'll continue to talk. It's on our radar to continue to look at.

6.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

A) Student Achievement Liaison Report

6.1 Student Achievement Liaison Report by Board Representative

No report was available.

B) Butler Tech Update

6.2 Butler Technology Update by Board Representative

Board member Jim Detzel presented the Butler Tech update as follows:

With it being the first day of school, we can't have anybody here to tell us what's going on in the classes for Butler Tech. However, an agreement was signed with Miami University in Hamilton. For the 24-25 school year, they're going to have Machining, Welding, and I.T. that will take in another 150 students. The same thing with Aviation, another 150 spots will be available, so it'll be 300 students. We turned away about 1,500 students that wanted to get into Butler Tech, so they're trying to make headway and get everybody that wants to get into Butler Tech and take a particular program. This is a fresh start and 300 students will be able to get into the programs.

C) Legislative Update

6.3 Legislative Update by Board Representative

No update was available.

7.0 PUBLIC PRESENTATION

A) Report from Any Employee Organization

7.1 Report from Any Employee Organization

Board President asked if there was a representative from any employee organization who wished to speak.

No one was present to speak.

B) Community Communications

7.2 Community Comments

Board President acknowledged audience members who completed a “Request to Address the Board” card and read the NWLSD Board Policy, *Public Participation at Board Meetings* (169.1) which can be viewed through the following link:

<http://go.boarddocs.com/oh/nwlsdhamiltonoh/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=CJML8T555E8F>

The Northwest Board of Education welcomes the opportunity to listen to Northwest Local School District resident’s comments, suggestions, and concerns on educational issues. It is important to remember that the Board conducts the meetings in public but the meetings are not public forums. The intent of the meetings is to allow the Board to complete needed business. Per board policy (169.1), each submission will be given three (3) minutes to speak on agenda items of any topic during “Community Comments”. However, no more than fifteen (15) minutes will be devoted to public participation unless the Board votes unanimously to continue the discussion. No response to this submission will occur from any Board member or district administration during this time. Once the fifteen (15) minutes’ time frame is over, appropriate follow up by the district administration may occur at a later time if warranted.

Abby Mathews (parent): Hello, I am Abby Mathews and we live in the cul-de-sac of Pond View Court. We have three kids: Madeline in seventh grade, Nathan in sixth grade, and Ellison in fourth grade. Coming from a household of two full-time, working parents, we utilize the bus services every day. The bus has always been at the bottom of Pond View Court for the past eight years that our oldest has started school. This year we received their bus passes saying the stop had been moved to the entrance of the neighborhood at Brierly Ridge and Brierly Creek. According to Ohio law, which we’ve gone over, this school bus stop locations shall provide the maximum safety of pupils given the distance from residents, traffic volume, physical characteristics, visibility, and weather conditions. Out of this description, the new bus stop does not appear to consider four out of the five qualifications. This falls within the 0.5-mile maximum distance to walk from our house, however, if my kids are to remain on the sidewalk, not cross the street, and walk around the perimeter of the neighborhood, it actually comes out to 0.6 miles. Our kids will also have to walk up and down hills with a grade of 120 feet, which is approximately 12 stories from the bottom of the street to our house, all while carrying backpacks half their weight. I challenge each of you to walk this with heavy backpacks, twice a day. The bus stop itself is on a blind curve, at the entrance, with minimal sidewalk room, no place to park for parents that will now have to drive to the bus stop. We are also familiar with the Ohio weather creating slick walking conditions on the hills. We received an email saying that you maximized routes and decreased from 73 to 58 routes, which you talked about. This tells me that, since you have made so many cuts, that you can

continue to take the two to three minutes to drive the neighborhood and keep our kids safe. I ask for your help to protect my children, your students, and move the bus stop back to the bottom of Pond View Court. This would maintain safety. As a school district, I would hope you would not just meet the bare minimum of standards, but strive to surpass them, and make safety a priority. As stated in an email from Chris McKee from 2018, when this was already attempted, "I drove out and visited the area. I agree, it is not a good stop." And he put in parentheses, acknowledging this. I'll read what he said, "Even though the bus depicted in the picture was not following their route sheet and was not to be crossing students." In this he acknowledges that the bus was supposed to be going on the same side of the street, and still said it was not a safe spot. Then he said, "I have notified the Transportation Department and they have created two new spots in lieu of this one." So he already acknowledged that it was an unsafe route and stop, and to Mr. Gilbert's point, he said they've drive over a million miles and have not had many accidents, minus hitting the mailboxes. To the snow point, I can acknowledge that, yes, that is a safety risk, but perhaps maybe on snow days, we could come to an agreement that we would not get busing that day, but for the rest of the days when it is in safe driving conditions, that the bus should run as it always has from the past eight years that, at least, my child has been going.

Jonathan Kissell (*parent*): Members of the Board, thank you for your service to our community and the Northwest Local School District. My name is Johnathan Kissell and I live at 6023 Pond View Court in the Brierly Ridge Estates subdivision in Green Township. I'm a lifelong resident of Green Township, a lifelong resident of Northwest Local School District, and I've worked my entire career in Colerain Township. I'm a proud product of Monfort Heights Elementary for preschool and kindergarten, Saint Ignatius Elementary, and LaSalle High School. My wife and I have three young kids at St. Ignatius. They're in fifth grade, second grade, and kindergarten, well at least in a week-and-a-half they will be. Earlier this month, our subdivision received bus passes for the school year. In our subdivision, there's a bus for St. James and a bus for St. Ignatius for a total of about 18 children. Since the inception of our neighborhood in the mid-2000's, the bus stops have always been within the subdivision from my house at Pond View. We have always walked about 0.1 to 0.2 miles to the corner of Pond View and Brierly Ridge. This year, however, the bus stop was moved to the front entrance of the subdivision at Brierly Creek and Brierly Ridge, which is nearly 0.5 miles from my doorstep in the Pond View cul-de-sac. If we allow our kids to cross the street, but again as my neighbor has mentioned, if they walk around the perimeter it is closer to 0.6 miles. As mentioned in the previous presentation, there were one or two stops that are more than 0.25 miles. My children are the ones who are one of those one or two stops. I'm here today to appeal to the Board to reconsider an adjusted location of the bus to its previous location from the past 15 plus years. As I understand, several members of this Board, as you've mentioned, have visited our neighborhood to assess the matter. We greatly appreciate your due diligence. I also heard that the St. James bus today came into the

subdivision this morning and this afternoon, but that the bus stops are still listed at the entrance. Not sure what's going on there. A bus stop at the entrance of Brierly Creek and Brierly Ridge is unsafe and inappropriate. I would like to submit to the Board an email exchange that our subdivision collectively sent to the Board and the members of the Transportation Department, authored by Marielle Schmidt, a St. James parent. This memo outlines at least six primary reasons to justify moving the bus stop to locations within the neighborhood, including blind spots on a curvy road, lack of adequate gathering space for the kids, and the extreme steep grade of the hills. I would also like to submit an email exchange from 2018 about this very same situation between Mr. McKee and myself. In this email Mr. McKee states, "In regards to the bus stop at Brierly Creek and Brierly Ridge, I drove out and visited the area Friday afternoon and agree that it is not a good stop. I have notified the Transportation Department and they have created two new stops in lieu of this new one." I'm here for my kids, especially my five-year-old son Dominic. This is who's walking that half-a-mile from Pond View Court every day to get to the bus stop. Anyone who has walked Brierly Ridge knows and would attest that the steep hills and terrain are too extreme for my five-year-old son to walk. These children will climb the equivalent of 10 stories with backpacks just to get home after school. Would you want your five-year-old walking that long every day? Think about days like today, nearly 100 degrees of heat. In the winter time, when the snow is coming down and the sidewalks haven't been cleared. My request of the Board is simple. Please do the right thing. We're not asking for anything that hasn't been in place for the past 15 plus years in our neighborhood. Our children are willing to walk a short distance to the bus stop, but we're not willing to compromise their safety. Please move our bus stop.

The bus stop in 2018 referred to above was changed due to students having to cross the street.

8.0 APPROVAL OF SUPERINTENDENT'S CONSENT ITEMS

8.1 Adoption of Superintendent's Consent Items

The Superintendent recommended the Board of Education approve the adoption of Superintendent's consent items as listed.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Mark Gilbert**) Moved, Member (**Jim Detzel**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends the Board of Education approve the adoption of Superintendent's consent items as listed'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **5** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 5 - 0**

Nicole Taulbee	Yes
Mark Gilbert	Yes
Jim Detzel	Yes

Chris Heather	Yes
Matt Tietzsort	Yes

A) Personnel

8.2 Personnel Items

Acceptance of Classified Resignations and Retirements

Burton-Hunter, Tonya – CMS – ED Assistant
Effective: 8/10/2023 (Declined Position)

Collins, Cynthia – Transportation – Bus Driver
Effective: 8/9/2023 (Personal)

DuBose, Valerie – SE – MD Assistant
Effective: 8/15/2023 (Correction: Resignation)

Edmonson, Melba – CMS – Café Assistant
Effective: 8/14/2023 (Other Position in District)

Green, LaShay – CE – MD Assistant
Effective: 8/11/2023 (Personal)

Lachmann, Nicki – CHS – Study Hall Assistant
Effective: 9/15/2023 (Personal)

Mattan, Therese – CMS – Café Assistant
Effective: 8/14/2023 (Other Position in District)

Wynn, Kris – PRMS – Café Assistant
Effective: 8/8/2023 (Personal)

Acceptance of Extra Duty Resignation

Gilliand, Michael – NWHS – Yearbook Sponsor, Step 6
Effective: 6/30/2023

Kokenge, Christopher – WOMS – 7/8th Grade Wrestling Coach, Step 2
Effective: 6/30/2023

Schon, Brandon – NWHS – Assistant Varsity Football Coach, Step 5
Effective: 6/30/2023

Approval of Certified Leaves of Absence

Collins, Stephanie – TE – Teacher
Effective: 2023-2024 School Year (Medical Leave)

Flickinger, Joe – NWHS – Teacher
Effective 8/14/2023 (Intermittent Family & Medical Leave)

Parker, Larissa – SE – Intervention Specialist
Effective: 2023-2024 School Year (Medical Leave)

Approval of Initial Classified Appointments

Baldwin, Nakeshia
Salary: Preschool Assistant, Step 5
Effective: 8/14/2023 (Replacement)

Eisele, Daniel
Salary: MD Assistant, Step 2
Effective: 8/21/2023 (Replacement)

Fromme, Ashley
Salary: MD Assistant, Step 5
Effective: 8/28/2023 (Replacement)

Givens, Christopher
Salary: Custodian II, Step 1
Effective: 8/21/2023 (Replacement)

Greene, Stephanie
Salary: Preschool MD Assistant, Step 5
Effective: 8/21/2023 (Replacement)

Henson, Kya
Salary: Bus Assistant, Step 1
Effective: 8/21/2023 (Replacement)

Johnson, Monica
Salary: MD Assistant, Step 5
Effective: 8/14/2023 (Replacement)

Jones, Eda

Salary: Café Assistant, Step 2

Effective: 8/14/2023 (Replacement)

Kirkland, Tarris

Salary: Café Assistant, Step 2

Effective: 8/14/2023 (Replacement)

Lopez, Ashley

Salary: MD Assistant, Step 4

Effective: 8/14/2023 (Replacement)

McHam, Melissa

Salary: ED Assistant, Step 5

Effective: 8/14/2023 (Replacement)

Mack, Jessica

Salary: MD Assistant, Step 1

Effective: 8/21/2023 (Replacement)

Marshall, Molly

Salary: MD Assistant, Step 8

Effective: 8/14/2023 (Replacement)

Meyer, Maria

Salary: MD Assistant, Step 5

Effective: 8/14/2023 (Replacement)

Miller, Nicholas

Salary: Mechanic, Step 13

Effective: 8/11/2023 (Replacement)

Rush, Susan

Salary: Preschool Assistant, Step 1

Effective: 8/14/2023 (Replacement)

Sander, Michele

Salary: Bus Assistant, Step 1

Effective: 8/11/2023 (Replacement)

Wolff, Lindsey

Salary: MD Assistant, Step 5

Effective: 8/14/2023 (Replacement)

Approval of Initial Certified Appointments

Gottis, Matthew

(Replacement)

Salary: Teacher, Master's with 2 years of experience, Step 3

Effective: 8/14/2023

Hinegardner, Michelle

(Replacement)

Salary: Teacher, Master's with 10 years of experience, Step 11

Effective: 8/21/2023

Approval of Temporary Substitute Teacher

Scott, Jeremy – NWHS - \$237.53 per day

Effective: 8/14/2023

Approval of Certified Change in Status

Tidjani, Ismael – from Master's with 1 year of experience, Step 2 to Master's with 2 years of experience, Step 3

Effective: 8/14/2023 (Verification of Employment)

Approval of Classified Leaves of Absence

Amshoff, Vicki – WOMS – MD Assistant

Effective: 8/14/2023 (Intermittent Family & Medical Leave)

Hatchell, Pam – Transportation – Bus Driver

Effective: 5/12/2023 – 8/14/2023 (Medical Leave)

Hatchell, Pam – Transportation – Bus Driver

Effective: 8/14/2023 – 8/21/2023 (Medical Leave)

Murphy, Helen – District – Custodian

Effective: 2023 – 2024 School Year (Medical Leave)

Reed, William – CE/CMS – Custodian

Effective: 8/14/2023 – 11/27/2023 (Medical Leave)

Reichle, Barbara – CHS – OP4

Effective: 8/14/2023 (Intermittent Family & Medical Leave)

Ruff, Karen – TE – Technology Assistant
Effective: 2023-2024 School Year (Medical Leave)

Saylor, Cindy – CHS – OP3
Effective: 8/14/2023 (Intermittent Family & Medical Leave)

Approval of Classified Rescinded Leave of Absence

McCarren, Christina – Transportation – Bus Driver
Effective: 5/15/2023 (Family & Medical Leave)

Approval of Classified Changes in Status

Alexander, Jaime – from Bus Driver, Step 6, \$22.72 per hour to Bus Driver, Step 3, \$21.85 per hour.
Effective: 8/10/2023 (Could not Verify Experience)

Greene, Myron – from Guaranteed Sub Bus Driver, Step 1, \$20.85 per hour to Bus Driver, Step 1, \$21.00 per hour
Effective: 8/10/2023 (District Needs)

Mapps, Charleida - from Bus Driver, Step 6, \$22.72 per hour to Bus Driver, Step 8, \$24.12 per hour
Effective: 8/10/2023 (Verified Experience)

McCullough, Ivy - from Bus Driver, Step 3, \$21.15 per hour to Bus Driver, Step 4, \$22.29 Effective: 8/10/2023 (Verified Experience)

Willis, Felicia – from MD Assistant, 6.5 hours per day, Step 6 at Struble Elementary – to – ALP Assistant, 7.5 hours per day, Step 4 at Struble Elementary
Effective: 8/14/2023 (Replacement)

Williams, Wesley - from Bus Driver, Step 5, \$22.32 to Bus Driver, Step 8, \$24.12 Effective: 8/10/2023 (Verified Experience)

Approval of Extra Duty Contracts for 2023-24 Effective 7/1/2023

Colerain High School

Academic Competition – Kari Vaughn, Step 1
College Credit Plus Facilitator – Anthony Broxterman, Step 2
College Credit Plus Facilitator – Barbra Gilker, Step 3
College Credit Plus Facilitator – Kerry Martini, Step 5

College Credit Plus Facilitator – Kari Vaughn, Step 6
Assistant Varsity Girls Soccer – Ellen Johnson, Step 1

Northwest High School

Student Senate Coordinator (½) – Emma Campbell, Step 1
Yearbook Sponsor – Maggie Bierman, Step 2

White Oak Middle School

Academic Competition – Olivia Wakefield, Step 1
Social Media and Instructional Technology Building Liaison – Deana Enderle,
Step 2

Approval of Summer Music Leader for 2023-24

Susco, William – CHS

Approval of Athletic Event Workers for 2023-24

Bliss, Gail	Lehman, Chelsea	Roebel, Susan
Enderle, Sherry	Ludmann, Amy	Schwaeble, Amy
Flack, Julie	Mason, Kimberly	Stephens, Kiarra
Garrow, Raymond	McCurry, Kristi	Strader, Kendall
Gilker, Barbra	Miller, Brian	Tobias, Mike
Hess, Brittany	Monday, Mariah	Walker, Dennis
Hirtle, Tristan	Ooten, Shannon	Welsh, Hailey
Jones, Ellen	Page, Seth	Wesselman, Brenda
Jung, Annella	Potzner, Deborah	Wildt, William
Keller, Philip	Reid, Darnell	

Approval of Volunteer for 2023-2024

Colburn, Marissa – TE

Resolution to Hire for Non-Licensed Coaches Effective 7/1/2023

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists in the positions of:

9th Grade Football Coach – NWHS
Assistant Varsity Football Coach – NWHS
Interim Head Varsity Football Coach – NWHS

WHEREAS, the positions have been offered to the current employees of the Northwest Local School District who have a license issued under Section 3319.22 of the Ohio Revised Code and no such person whom the Board of Education considers to be qualified for the positions have applied for and accepted the positions; and

WHEREAS, the positions have been advertised as available to any individual not employed by the Northwest Local School District who has a license issued under Section 3319.22 of the Ohio Revised Code, and no such person whom the Board of Education considers to be qualified for the positions have applied for and accepted the positions; and

WHEREAS,

Johnson, Anthony – NWHS – 9th Grade Football Coach, Step 2

Lumpkin, Chaz – NWHS – Assistant Varsity Football Coach, Step 2

Schon, Brandon – NWHS – Interim Head Varsity Football Coach, Step 5

who do not hold licenses issued pursuant to Section 3319.22 of the Ohio Revised Code, have applied for the positions, and the Board of Education has determined that they are qualified for the positions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that they be employed in the positions for the 2023-2024 school year in accordance with the pupil activity contract attached hereto and incorporated herein.

IT IS FOUND AND DETERMINED that all formal action of this Board concerning or related to the adoption of this Resolution was adopted in an open meeting of this Board, and all deliberations of this Board and any of its committees that resulted in such formal actions were adopted in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all applicable requirements of the Ohio Revised Code.

Resolution of Job Abandonment

Resolution recognizing that Kristen Anticoli has abandoned her position with the Northwest Local School District Board of Education effective August 16, 2023. The District has attempted to be in contact with Ms. Anticoli to have her fulfill her contractual duties to the Board. However, Ms. Anticoli has refused to fulfill such contractual duties. This job abandonment is not done with the consent of the Board of Education, and this resolution should not be seen as "consent" under RC 3319.15. This resolution is passed only to recognize the job abandonment so that the District administrative offices can do what is necessary to remove Ms. Anticoli from the District's employment rosters and other systems.

B) General Business

8.3 Donations

Donations for Board of Education Approval				
<u>Donor Name</u>	<u>Recipient Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Description of what was donated</u>
LaSalle High	Sharon Feth	8/16/2023	\$100.00	Ivory House Restaurant GC – will be used for business partner meetings.
Meijer	Lori Riehle	8/10/2023	\$100.00	Meijer GC – staff events

8.4 Vendor Contracts

In compliance with ORC 3313.33; following is a list of vendor contracts requiring Board approval.

Vendor Contracts			
<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Timeframe</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Description</u>
Learning Ctr @ North Norwood	SY 23-24	\$57,534.00	Tuition for 6 students
United Hearts health Care	SY 23-24	\$45.00/hour	LPN – Nursing Services
Target Health Care	SY 23-24	\$37.00 - \$43.00/hour	1:1 Nurse for 2 students
Calvin Fackrell	SY 23-24	\$3,000	Marching Band Drill Design
HCESC	SY 23-24	\$9700.00 maximum	Deaf & Hearing Assistive Tech @ St. James
HCESC	8/14/23 – 5/17/24	\$18,700	MAP Coaching Support
ABS Transitions	SY 23-24	N/A	Early Intensive Behavior Intervention
Maxim Healthcare Services	SY 23-24	\$70-\$75/hours	1:1 Nursing Services
New Path Child & Family Solutions	SY 23-24	\$214.00/day	Tuition for 5 students
PRCC Child Development Ctr	SY 23-24	\$1750/annual	Bus transportation from PRE to center for childcare

<i>* Paid for with Auxiliary or Federal Non-Public grant monies.</i>
<i>Addition cost to the current fiscal year's July 1st budget.</i>

C) Curriculum and Instruction

8.5 2023-24 HS Instructional Fee Revisions – AP and PSAT

The Curriculum Department requested approval for revisions to the HS Instructional Fees for 2023-24 to reflect recently released price increases for the AP Exam (\$98 per test) and the PSAT Exam (\$18 per test).

The proposed high school fees for 2023-24 can be viewed online as an ESB attachment.

9.0 APPROVAL OF FISCAL CONSENT ITEMS

9.1 Adoption of Fiscal Consent Items

The Treasurer recommended the Board of Education approve the adoption of fiscal consent items as listed.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Chris Heather**) Moved, Member (**Jim Detzel**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Treasurer recommends the Board of Education approve the adoption of fiscal consent items as listed'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **5** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 5 - 0**

Nicole Taulbee	Yes
Mark Gilbert	Yes
Jim Detzel	Yes
Chris Heather	Yes
Matt Tietsort	Yes

9.2 Minutes – Regular Meeting – August 07, 2023

The minutes may be viewed on the ESB online attachment with today's date.

9.3 Financial Reports of the Treasurer – July 2023

In accordance with Section 3313.29 of the Revised Code of the State of Ohio, record needs to be made that the Treasurer submitted a financial statement of receipts, expenditures, balances and investments in the regular funds of the Board of Education for the period of the fiscal year 2024.

Monthly Finance and Investment Report – July

All Fund Balance - \$99,459,448

General Fund Unreserved balance - \$60,862,137

	FYTD Actual	Estimate	%
Revenues	\$29,001,694	\$99,637,321	29%
Expenditures	\$6,732,907	\$101,463,950	07%

Investment weighted average return – 4.21%

List of monthly bills - routine, as well as, Chromebooks, textbooks, district radios, student/staff software, café refrigerator, and auxiliary/grant fund payments.

9.4 Then & Now Certificates over \$3000

Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.41(D) states in part that no subdivision shall make any contract or give any order involving the expenditure of money unless there is attached thereto a certificate by the Treasurer. Then and Now Certificates by the Treasurer issued over \$3,000 must be authorized by the Board of Education.

Then and Now Certificates over \$3000.00				
<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Invoice Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Description</u>
Cincinnati Floor	6/19/2023	\$3,525.00	Business Office	Gym Floor Refurb.
Arab Termite	6/14/2023	\$1,492.24	Business Office	Pest Control May and June
Constellation	5/1/2023	\$9,492.24	Business Office	Electric June
Rumpke	4/1/2023	\$17,531.73	Business Office	Trash Removal Services April - June
Verizon	4/1/2023	\$1,141.08	Business Office	District Cell Phones April – June
Rush Trucks	4/1/2023	\$69,204.75	Business Office	Bus Material and Supplies – April – June
Cincinnati Lawnmaster	6/1/2023	\$25,670.00	Business Office	District Wide Lawn Services – June
Millenium Business	4/1/2023	\$24,429.00	Business Office	District Wide Copier Usage – April –June

Discussion:

- **Mr. Tietzort:** The Then and Now's that came up, that was due to a carryover from the last fiscal year?

Mrs. Wells: Those were due to invoices from last fiscal year that have not been paid yet.

10.0 SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

10.1 Superintendent's Update

Superintendent Darrell Yater provided an update as follows:

I wanted to reiterate what Transportation has already said around the Hiring Event. We do have another Hiring Event on Wednesday of this week from 2:00 to 4:30 here at our main office. We are still looking for more drivers. We need to build our bank of sub pools, so that when we do have drivers who are off, we have an adequate number of people who can come in and drive those routes. We do offer paid training, so if you don't have your CDL, no worries. We'll get you through that training with payment. We actually do have – and it's not just a regular casual sub where you only get paid when you show up – we have guaranteed a minimum number of hours to be there every day to cover the routes and pick up some of the extra things that might happen if we're fully staffed that day. We do encourage people to consider that as an option if they have time in their day and they're willing to come out and get their CDL and drive.

We are in the process of opening, so today we had our staggered opening with our Freshman Only first day at the high school, our sixth grade at the middle school, and our grade three and five at the elementary. We continue our phase in tomorrow with the other half of elementary, our seventh and eighth graders, and then our high schools are full bore. Today was an exciting day. It's always exciting and hopeful in the beginning of the school. Kids are coming in with their bags, they're excited, it's the first day; it's a great day. I want to give a special thanks to our Colerain Township Fire and EMS. Our police and fire were at all of our elementary school this morning welcoming kids, encouraging them, giving them high fives, shaking hands. We had them at PRE, Taylor, Colerain El., and Struble, so we appreciate that their presence was there to really get our kids off and running on a good start.

We do have, this week, temperatures that are projected to go up close to 100, if not, over 100 if you look at the actual heat index on the real feel. We are sending out information to all of our families with some general information to make sure that students are bringing a water bottle, staying hydrated, wearing appropriate clothing, sunscreen, different things like that. Also on that Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday when it gets extreme, we will not be sending kids outside for recess. We'll be keeping them inside because of that. We have three buildings that are not adequately air-conditioned: Houston Learning Center, Colerain El., Colerain Middle. They have the

window units and those, in those kinds of temperatures, can struggle to keep up. We, as a district, have instructed our buildings to leave their window units on 24 hours a day, pull the shades down to make sure that we keep some of that ambient heat out, and closing the doors to make sure that the rooms stay cool. We will be continuing to monitor the temperatures in those buildings to see if those strategies are keeping it at an adequate level. If not, if it gets to an unhealthy level, we may have to look at alternative options for those three buildings for the end of the week, which would be possible calamity days if we cannot keep them adequately cooled with the resources that we have. That's something that we're continuing to monitor, and we will keep our community updated about and notify as early as possible, if a decision like that has to be made.

Discussion:

- **Mr. Detzel:** How about starting school after Labor Day? Has anybody ever thought of that?

Mr. Yater: The start times for schools have typically moved into August because we do have hot days in June, but we are also trying to maximize our instructional calendars, so that we can prepare kids because state assessments are typically in March, April, and May. We're trying to maximize that instructional time prior to those state assessments, so they can be adequately prepared for them.

Mr. Detzel: I would challenge people that it's hotter in August than it is in June here in Cincinnati. I just think you would alleviate all these problems starting school after September first, after Labor Day.

Mrs. Taulbee: My son played outside from 9am to 9pm from June 8th through yesterday. He can make it Thursday and Friday. I think we're good. He'll be fine in a little heat. He played outside all summer and never complained. He can survive two days in a warm classroom.

- **Mr. Tietzort:** With the three schools that you mentioned, with Houston Early Learning, and Colerain El., and Colerain Middle – what about communicating to parents basically what you just told us?

Mr. Yater: That is going out this evening, if it hasn't gone out. It was going out tonight, so that they were ready.

11.0 OTHER BOARD ITEMS

11.1 Board Member' Comments

Mr. Heather: No comment.

Mr. Detzel: I just want to wish everybody a happy beginning of the year. Thank you Transportation for your presentation. I think a lot of people just take it for granted, “oh we’re getting the bus,” and not have to go through what you guys have to do through different subdivisions and hilly roads. There’s a lot more than just jumping on the bus and getting us to school, so I appreciate that information. Amy and Darrell, thank you for your presentation.

Mr. Tietzsort: Thank you to Transportation for your presentation. Thank you to the parents for coming and speaking your concerns this evening. Back to school, looking forward to a great year with the students, and safety with our athletics.

Mr. Gilbert: We appreciate you guys coming this evening. Yolanda drove my daughter to school. There’s a lot of years of experience sitting there, so we really appreciate you guys, and please let your staff know that we appreciate them as well. We appreciate the community coming. This is open for you to come and share your concerns, and we’ll be following up with you on that. I’ve heard good stuff, like everybody says, there’s just a different feel to the school year. It’s always exciting, this time of year, just to see what’s going to happen, and I’m really glad to see that we’re getting some support with you guys on the buses at the building level. Not that they didn’t support, but we got a new initiative. I like to see that. Hopefully this year goes a little bit smoother from the disciplined side. We’ll certainly be keeping our eye on that. If you need our help or anything, don’t hesitate to let us know.

Mrs. Taulbee: I appreciate the presentation for the budget. I’m excited to dig into that. Transportation – thank you guys. I’m very hopeful and just pray that you guys can do your regular day jobs, and maybe take a breath and a break from doing double duty. I appreciate you. I heard today was a great day. My son said it was wonderful and he was glad to be back, so it’s exciting to see the little ones and how excited they get about seeing their friends they don’t see for three months. Thank you to all the staff and I’m looking forward to a great year. Thank you guys from the community for coming to speak as well.

12.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

12.1 Executive Session

The Board of Education approved a motion to move into executive session to consider the employment or discipline of a public employee.

The Superintendent recommended that the Board of Education approve the motion to move into executive session as listed.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Matt Tietzsort**) Moved, Member (**Jim Detzel**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends that the Board of Education approve the motion to

move into executive session as listed'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 5
Nay: 0. The motion **Carried. 5 - 0**

Nicole Taulbee	Yes
Mark Gilbert	Yes
Jim Detzel	Yes
Chris Heather	Yes
Matt Tietosrt	Yes

The Board moved into executive session at 7:35 PM.

12.2 Return from Executive Session

The Board returned from executive session at 8:15 PM.

13.0 ADJORNMENT

13.1 Board President Called for Adjournment

The Board President asked for a motion and second for adjournment.

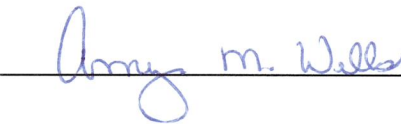
The meeting ended at 8:15 PM.

Agenda item attachments are saved in PDF format and are viewable by the public. Waycross community media video tapes Board meetings. Taped meetings are available on-line at www.waycross.tv



President

Attest



Treasurer