



# MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NORTHWEST LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
**Monday, February 26, 2024 (6:30 PM)**

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## 1.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### 1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

Request 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  
Nancy Slattery

**Number in Attendance: 18 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 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
Nancy Slattery	Yes

## 5.0 SPECIAL PRESENTATION

### 5.1 RISE Award Recognition

Struble Elementary's intervention specialist, Diana Israel, received the 2024 Ohio RISE Award. The RISE Award (Recognizing Inspirational School Employees) honors classified school employees who provide exemplary service to their school communities. Each state picks a RISE Award winner who then moves on to the national contest. The award was created by the United States Congress in 2019 and overseen by the US Department of Education.

Karen Hood, principal of Struble Elementary, read Diana Israel's nomination aloud and outlined all of her excellent accomplishments and contributions to the school including being a leader within the building, starting multiple clubs and supporting students in grades four and five inside the classroom and in small groups. Mrs. Israel thanked Mr. Yater, Mrs. Hood and the district for all of their support. Adriayana Nance, Ruby Praechter, and Santino Strader (three members of Mrs. Israel's Multi-cultural Club) spoke about their experience in the club and the importance of Mrs. Israel to the Struble Elementary community.

#### Discussion:

- **Mrs. Taulbee:** Can you tell us about the art auction and what that is?

**Miss. Nance:** The art auction is normally after school and our parents can come in and we make a whole bunch of different art pieces that are from our culture. Like if you're Mexican you can make a Mexican art piece or Mexican bowl. So with the different cultures you can search up different art pieces and you can make them. Then, during the school days when we're being good we'll get money tickets that our parents can use at our art auction. It's an auction so you have to bid against other people.

- **Mrs. Taulbee:** What about food? Have you guys gotten to try foods from other countries?

**Mrs. Israel:** Usually during the art auction we ask families to make cultural dishes for students to try.

**Mrs. Taulbee:** Thank you guys for being good leaders and for coming tonight and presenting. You guys did awesome. Very good job, thank you.

**Mr. Yater:** Thank you Mrs. Israel and thank you Mrs. Hood for being here. Part of that inspirational quality is bringing out the best in people as evidenced by these amazing students, so thank you.

**Mr. Gilbert:** We got to meet Mrs. Israel's family at the presentation at the school, and what an amazing family you have by the way, beautiful family.

## **5.2 Recognition of Chip Bergquist**

The Superintendent recognized Chip Bergquist, the retired Executive Director of Waycross Community Media, for his many years of service to the community. Mr. Bergquist is the man behind the camera recording countless events and Board meetings for Northwest Local Schools. Mr. Bergquist's hard work and dedication kept the public informed and helped amplify the positive things going on within the District. Mr. Bergquist thanked the Board and expressed his desire to remain involved with the District as a sports announcer for Colerain High School.

## **6.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

### **A) Student Achievement Liaison Report**

#### **6.1 Student Achievement Liaison Report by Board Representative**

Board Member Nancy Slattery presented the Student Achievement Liaison report as follows:

##### **Struble Elementary**

- Mrs. Yeager's first graders at Struble Elementary recently celebrated that they have completed over 36,000 IXL questions and have mastered 1,000 skills on IXL this year.
- 41 Struble Elementary students were recognized for their good citizenship on February 2 at the monthly Blue Jay Breakfast. Students enjoyed a breakfast with their parent/guardian and received a T-shirt and an award.
- The school distributed over 80 care packs to students in need through the Struble Care Cabinet, which distributes requested personal care and hygiene items to 4th and 5th graders at Struble Elementary.

##### **Colerain High School**

- The following students qualified for the State DECA Competition.

Maayaa Nevis	Dakota Sutton	Sara Garvey
Chloe Craig	Kidus Abebe	Madi Meyer
Ashley Heibel	Madi Bratfish	Gracie Angelo

- The following students qualified for the Business Professionals of America (BPA) state competition.

Dylan King	Loralee Alen	Alejandro Camarena
Mykel Carter	Kayla Helmke	Quentin Trappe
Matthew Kohler	Evan Phelps	Ethan Cooper
Phillip Roberts	Prasan Limbu	Trace Godwin
Tanner Williams	Rachel Keller	Harrison Boettcher
Camron Hamilton	Elijah Thompson	Jmari Jackson
Kaleb Mitchell	Ashley Heibel	Elise Maynus
Madison Bratfish	Madison Meyer	Sara Garvey
Brielle Sifri	Gracie Angelo	David Gonzalez
Hayden Danielson	William Frey	Harrison Boettcher
Tae Love	Molly Greene	Sandra Bowes
Enyonam Nevis	Rebecca Woods	Alayna Jones
Miore Cunningham	Lynkin Ryan	Griffin Meyer
Niko Suggs	Olivia Woodson	Shaylyn Gray
David Lane	Lily Diebold	Molly Greene
Cameron Hamilton	Elijah Thompson	Jmari Jackson
Kaleb Mitchell		

- Maayaa Nevis received the Student of the Month award from the Northwest Exchange Club.

- Kevin Gonzalez and Noah Denson received the Business Student of the Year award from the Colerain Chamber of Commerce.

### **Monfort Heights Elementary**

- Twenty students joined the Chess Club (led by 5th grade teacher Lisa Lorta, IT support Eric Lorta, and parent Rion Blanchard) and just completed their in school tournament. Students will have the opportunity to participate in a city wide tournament in March at PayCor Stadium courtesy of the MHE PTA.
- MHE students collected 1,871 canned goods for the community from the PTA sponsored Super Bowl Canned Food Drive.

## **B) Butler Tech Update**

### **6.2 Butler Technology Update by Board Representative**

Board Member Jim Detzel presented Butler Tech updates as follows:

Applications have closed for next year's programs. Over 2,800 students applied for 1,250 openings. The Butler Tech Board is working on three building projects to help increase capacity and hopes to add an additional 600 spots for the 2025-2026 school year.

#### **Discussion:**

- **Mrs. Taulbee:** What's been the most popular category?

**Mr. Detzel:** Right now welding because there's such a need for welding. Precision machining is right up there, and IT. It's right across the board. Every class, everything is full to the max.

- **Mr. Detzel:** Wednesdays and Thursdays Cafe Lee, run by the culinary program, is serving lunch and you can make reservations. A student is the manager so they have to put a menu out, they have to go out and buy the food. They have to get the kids in the class to be the servers and the cooks. The manager has to set that up for the whole week and run through it and it's pretty cool. And they have different cuisines, like Mexican one week, French the next week and German.

## **C) Legislative Update**

### **6.3 Legislative Update by Board Representative**

Board Member Chris Heather presented legislative updates as follows:

In 2022 Ohio passed the Fair School Funding Plan to be phased in over six years beginning in fiscal year 2022. This new funding plan takes both property value and income into account when allocating state funding. The change has resulted in Northwest Local School District being considered a high income district. The plan also raises the average state contribution from \$6,000 per student to \$7,200 over six years.

**Discussion:**

- **Mr. Heather:** Any can you add anything to this?

**Mrs. Amy Wells (Treasurer):** Yes, we're currently phased in at 50% and the plan actually made us a wealthier school district. We went from being 40% funded by the state to 32% and we're on a trajectory of being 25% funded by the state.

- **Mr. Heather:** How could it make us wealthier?

**Mrs. Wells:** We have pockets of extreme wealth so between our property values and including the wealth from the 1040s that are filed it makes us a wealthy suburban school district. It's who lives within our district boundaries.

## **7.0 PUBLIC PRESENTATION**

### **A) 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**

#### **7.1 Community Comments**

The Board President asked if there were any community members who wished to speak.

No community members present wished to speak.

## **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 the superintendent's consent items as listed.

**ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member (**Jim Detzel**) Moved, Member (**Mark Gilbert**) 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
Nancy Slattery	Yes

**A) Personnel**

**8.2 Personnel Items**

Acceptance of Classified Resignations and Retirements

Baron, Holidea – SE – MD Assistant  
Effective: 2/15/2024 (Personal)

Clark, David – Transportation – Bus Driver  
Effective: 1/30/2024 (Personal)

Erhardt, Maria – CE – Office Personnel 4  
Effective: 3/1/2024 (Personal)

Givens, Christopher – NWHS – Custodian II  
Effective: 1/18/2024 (Personal)

Messinger, Jeffrey – CSO – Technician  
Effective: 3/29/2024 (Personal)

Approval of Extra Duty Resignation

Strader, Kendall – WOMS – 7/8th Grade Track Coach, Step 2  
Effective: 6/30/2023

Approval of Initial Classified Appointments

Bonilla, Jessica

Salary: Café Assistant, Step 2  
Effective: 2/20/2024 (Replacement)

Dennis, Charles Jr.  
Salary: Custodian II, Step 5  
Effective: 2/26/2024 (Replacement)

Gremon, Michelle  
Salary: MD Assistant, Step 3  
Effective: 2/7/2024 (Replacement)

Approval of Guaranteed Substitute Bus Driver at \$21.00 per hour – Effective 2/27/2024

Dubs, Ralph

Approval of Classified Changes in Status

Byrne, Brian – PRE- from ALP Assistant, Step 13, 7.5 hours per day, 181 days to ED Assistant, Step 20, 7.5 hours per day, 181 days.  
Effective: 2/27/2024

Evans, Sarah – PRE – from ED Assistant, Step 5, 6.5 hours per day, 181 days to ALP Assistant, Step 3, 7.5 hours per day, 181 days.  
Effective: 8/14/2023

Henry, Vicki – Transportation – from Driver in Training, Step 1, 179-days, to Guaranteed Sub Bus Driver, Step 1, 179 days  
Effective: 2/13/2024

Approval of Substitute Computer Technician at \$23.00 an hour Effective – 4/8/2024

Messinger, Jeffrey

Approval of Certified Leaves of Absence

Barton, Helen – PRE – Reading Specialist  
Effective: 1/15/2024 (Family & Medical Leave)

Chaney, Stephanie – PRE – 5th Grade ELA  
Effective: 1/27/2024 (Family & Medical Leave)

Fonner, Alicia – CMS – Intervention Specialist



Effective: 2/8/2024 (Family & Medical Leave)

Fox, Vanessa – PRE – Intervention Specialist  
Effective: 2/1/2024 (Family & Medical Leave)

Hufstader, Morgan – MHE – 5th Grade Math  
Effective: 2/9/2024 (Family & Medical Leave)

Leary, Paige – NWHS – Intervention Specialist  
Effective: 1/29/2024 (Family & Medical Leave)

McMullen, Sarah – NWHS – Assistant Principal  
Effective: 2/9/2024 (Family & Medical Leave)

Approval of Classified Leaves of Absence

Conner, Lenora – PRMS – Food Service  
Effective: 2/1/2024 (Family & Medical Leave)

Jones, Susan – Transportation – Bus Assistant  
Effective: 2/1/2024 (Family & Medical Leave)

Redmon, Debbie – CHS – MD Assistant  
Effective: 1/7/2024 (Family & Medical Leave)

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

**Colerain High School**

Assistant Varsity Boys Tennis Coach – Krista Athmer, Step 2  
College Credit Plus Facilitator – Barbra Gilker, Step 2 (Revised)  
College Credit Plus Facilitator – Kerry Martini, Step 4 (Revised)

**Northwest High School**

Assistant Varsity Softball Coach – Taylor Steinke, Step 2  
Assistant Varsity Boys Tennis Coach – Emma Campbell, Step 2  
Assistant Varsity Track Coach – Bryan Flickinger, Step 3  
Assistant Varsity Track Coach – Michael Shawn Gilliland, Step 6  
Assistant Varsity Track Coach – Calvin Hester, Step 6  
Assistant Varsity Track Coach – Lori Spence, Step 6  
Assistant Varsity Track Coach – Whitney Mitchell, Step 2  
Head Varsity Boys Tennis Coach – Steven Knull, Step 6

Pleasant Run Middle School 7/8th Grade Track Coach – Abigail Seger, Step 5

Approval of Spring Music Assistants for 2023-24

Mechley, Regina – NWHS

Wright, Peyton – CHS

Approval of Spring Music Leader for 2023-24

Stevens, Jett – NWHS

Approval of Spring Music Specialists for 2023-24

Page, Jacob – CHS

Marratta, Matthew – NWHS

McKinney, Davis – CHS

Resolution (#2410) to Hire for Non-Licensed Coaches Effective 7/1/2023

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists in the positions of:

7/8th Grade Track Coach – WOMS

9th Grade Baseball Coach – CHS

Assistant Varsity Baseball Coaches – NWHS

Assistant Varsity Softball Coach – NWHS

Head Varsity Baseball 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 has applied for and accepted the positions; and

WHEREAS,

Hooker, Sally – NWHS – Assistant Varsity Softball Coach, Step 2

Johnson, Tristen – NWHS – Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach, Step 2

Murray, Patrick – CHS – 9th Grade Baseball Coach, Step 2 (Revised)

Phillips, Nicklaus – NWHS – Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach, Step 5

Reid, Darnell – WOMS – 7/8th Grade Track Coach, Step 4  
Wolstenholm, Jason – NWHS – Head Varsity Baseball Coach, Step 6

who does not hold a license issued pursuant to Section 3319.22 of the Ohio Revised Code, has applied for the position, and the Board of Education has determined that he/she is qualified for the position.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that he/she 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.

Approval of Volunteers / Chaperones for 2023-2024

Alcorn, Melissa – CHS  
Baah-Yeboah, Irene – CHS  
Fout, John – CHS  
Geers, Dyan – CHS  
Geers, Ronald – CHS  
Hassinger, Angeline – CHS  
Hoeh, Jennifer – CHS  
Jordan, Tina – CHS  
Knosp, Blair – CHS  
Mahar, Gabrielle – NWHS  
Mitiska, Melissa – CHS  
Page, Halee – CHS  
Peters, Maribeth – CHS  
Smith, Erin – CHS  
Smith, Jason – CHS  
Thornicroft, Jennifer – CHS  
Thornicroft, Timothy – CHS  
Wilson, Melissa – CHS  
Zapf, Caroline – CHS

Approval of Substitute Rates of Pay through The Center for Collaborative Solutions for 2023-24

Certified

Building Substitute Teacher - \$125 daily  
 Long-term Substitute Teacher - \$100 daily rising to \$200 on Day 41+  
 Substitute Teacher - \$100 daily

Classified

Assistant Substitute - \$14.18  
 Assistant MD/ED Substitute - \$14.63  
 Custodian Substitute - \$15.36  
 Food Service Substitute - \$11.52  
 Office Personnel Substitute - \$15.15

Long Term – Classified

MD Assistant Substitute (Amigilla Marie Taylor) - \$16.25 hourly  
 MD Assistant Substitute (Sarah Glenn) - \$16.91 hourly  
 MD Assistant Substitute (Ganiat Demu) - \$17.60 hourly  
 MD Assistant Substitute (Jessica Mack) - \$16.25 hourly  
 MD Assistant Substitute (Grace Holt) - \$16.25 hourly  
 Food Service Substitute (Judy Ogle) - \$13.88 hourly  
 Food Service Substitute (Mary Fights/Sherry Kalous) - \$14.16 hourly  
 Study Hall Assistant Substitute (Adolphus Washington) - \$14.75 hourly

**B) General Business**

**8.3 Donations to Northwest Local School District**

Attached is a list of donations for Board approval.

<u>Donations</u>				
<u>Donor Name</u>	<u>Recipient Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Description</u>
Colerain Womens Club	Monfort Heights Elementary library	1/31/2024	\$339	Books (approved by curriculum)

**8.4 Vendor Contracts**

Attached is a list of vendor contracts for Board approval.

<u>Vendor Contracts</u>			
<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Timeframe</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Description</u>



Ohio Valley Voices	remainder of SY 23-24	\$15,400.00	tuition - preschool
Paid to NWLSD by Three Rivers Local	SY 23-24	\$1,300.17	Title I Services at St. Bernard
Paid to NWLSD by Three Rivers Local	SY 23-24	\$1,300.17	Title I Services at St. Ignatius
NWLSD Providing Services to Oak Hills	SY 23-24	\$6,088.34	Title I Services at St. Ignatius
CPS	SY 23-24	\$4,042.89	Title I services to NWLSD student attending Cincinnati Hills Otto Armleder
CPS	SY 23-24	\$1,010.72	Title I services to NWLSD student attending Correyville Catholic
CPS	SY 23-24	\$7,075.05	Title I services provided to NWLSD student attending NewPath Child & Family Solutions
CPS	SY 23-24	\$2,021.44	Title I services to NWLSD student attending St. Catherine of Siena
CPS	SY 23-24	\$1,010.72	Title I services to NWLSD student attending St. Cecilia
CPS	SY 23-24	\$1,010.72	Title I services to NWLSD student attending St. Mary
CPS	SY 23-24	\$5,053.61	Title I service to NWLSD student attending The Children's Home
Finneytown LSD	SY 23-24	\$2,021.44	Title I services to NWLSD student attending St. Vivian School
Princeton City Schools	SY 23-24	\$4,042.89	Title I services to NWLSD student attending St. Gabriel consolidated
Winton Woods City Schools	SY 23-24	\$1,010.72	Title I services to NWLSD stud
Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities Services	SY 24-25	-\$50,000/student -additional \$34/hour if student requires 1:1 assistance -\$800/student for ESY	Educational Services (tuition). Students to be served at Fairfax or Rost School.

\* *Paid for with Auxiliary or Federal Non-Public grant monies.  
Additional cost to the current fiscal year's July 1st budget.*



## 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
Nancy Slattery	Yes

### 9.2 Minutes - Special Work Session - January 29, 2024

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

### 9.3 Minutes - Regular Meeting - February 5, 2024

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

### 9.4 Financial Reports of the Treasurer - January 2024

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 - January*

All Funds Balance - \$72,714,189  
General Fund Unreserved Balance - \$29,896,269

	FYTD Actual	Estimate	%
Revenues	\$56,096,375	\$108,736,254	52%
Expenditures	\$65,982,599	\$116,403,343	56%

Investment weighted average return – 4.10%

List of monthly bills - routine, as well as, insurance consultant. Waycross, building cameras, counseling services, professional development, coaching, gym floor repair, software licenses, track maintenance, baseball & softball scoreboards, and auxiliary/grant fund payments.

**1.1 Accept, Approve Fund, and/or Appropriate Fund**

Accept, Approve Fund and/or Appropriate Fund.

FUND/SCC	FUND NAME AND AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION/PURPOSE OF THE FUND
019 9405	FY24 NWHS SPORTS MATTER \$1,000.00	The DICK's Sporting Goods Foundation is donating funds for the Sports Matter Community Grants Program. The funds will be used to update athletic department equipment.

**10.0 APPROVAL OF OTHER ITEMS**

**10.1 Update of the Master Facility Plan for OFCC Records**

The Superintendent reviewed the final Master Facility Plan. The recommendations in the final plan are as follows: New Colerain Elementary/Preschool at the current Houston Early Learning Center site, new central high school combining both high schools at the current Colerain High School site, new Colerain Middle School on the current Colerain Elementary School site (combining Colerain Middle and White Oak Middle), new Pleasant Run Middle School on the current Northwest High School site.

The final plan is the result of recommendations from the Master Facility Plan committee, multiple work sessions with the Board as well as community input. If approved, it will be submitted to the Ohio School Facilities Commission.

The full Master Facility Plan - Recommendation presentation may be viewed on the ESB online attachment with today's date.

**Discussion:**

- **Mr. Heather:** For the record, the total as I recall was somewhere like \$420,000,000 but the state will pay 45% of that?

**Mr. Yater:** Currently we are in the state program with Ohio School Facilities Commission around ELPP (Expedited Local Partnership Program) that currently has us earning credits for our current projects until we get to the point where the state co-funds a project. So while you're building, leading up to that you can earn credits that then get applied later. When we entered the program our first phase was around 22%. They calculate that percentage differently than they calculate the Fair School Funding formula percent so they don't match, which is confusing. We currently would qualify for a larger percent on current/future projects. There are some logistics that we're trying to work through with our state legislators that would allow us to capitalize on the new percent because right now the rules would prohibit us from maximizing that without foregoing the credits we already have. We're trying to work through some processes to make sure we can maintain our current credits that we earned in phase one and can maximize our funding opportunities moving forward. Then, it would be more of a 45% / 55% split between the state and the community.

- **Mr. Heather:** If everything goes according to plan, when do you foresee the first ballot issue being run? The bond issue to help fund this.

**Mr. Yater:** Once we have the plan on file with the state, then there can be ongoing conversations with the Board about when we'd like to have that put on the ballot for another ballot initiative and we can actually talk about what that phasing would look like. Obviously, with this plan needing to vacate sites before we build, we would need to build Colerain Elementary and/or Colerain High School in that next phase in order to be able to vacate the Northwest High School Site and Colerain Elementary site. So there are some inherent phasing designs in here but once we get confirmation from the state in terms of the ELPP credits and/or waiting to see when our number would come up it gives us a starting point where we have to go, but until that point there's a bigger option for the Board in terms of when. Once our number is called and we go into that co-funded phase we only have a certain period of time to secure funding through a bond issue before they move beyond us to the next school district on their list.

**Mr. Heather:** If you had to guess right now, when would that be?

**Mr. Yater:** Because of the timing of when we would have to pass resolutions. The first opportunity that we would have would be this fall for the November election. But then we would have to have resolutions passed by early summer so it would be aggressive to think we could do it before the fall. Other than that we're looking at next year, so it's really when the Board feels comfortable, that we have a plan and that we have the funding opportunities from the state ironed out and we have a clear message that we can share with the community about what the next step is.

- **Mrs. Taulbee:** I just want to thank the whole team. The community members, parents, everybody here. The teachers and the principals that participated. I know you guys have

been meeting for almost a year, maybe more, and I appreciate everybody's time and you coming up with all the options. For people who weren't there, we'd meet, do a work session and then you guys would take the feedback and come back with different ideas.

A few things that I think are pluses to this plan: being financially responsible enough to know that we need to go from three to two middle schools and from two to one high school. I know that going to one high school will present a lot of challenges that we'll have to be very careful how we handle. I think that those things will come and I would ask the community for further input at that time on how we would handle those things. But for me it's important that we have equity amongst all of our high school students for educational offerings, music and athletics. I think this is a great opportunity for us to do that. I also think having the alternative programming building possibly using the career center at the Northwest High School site is a big win for those students that maybe is not a right fit to be in a 2,500 student school building. I think that will give our students an opportunity to maybe have the smaller learning environment that they need.

Thank you again. There's a lot of positives to this. I know it's potentially a long way down the road but I think this is the right way to go.

- **Mrs. Taulbee:** If this plan is approved tonight will the principals be sending this out to their (students') families so they can look at it and get a better view of it?

**Mr. Yater:** We'll do some district wide communication on that because this is really a district message around how we're moving forward as a district. Then we'll work with the buildings that are impacted on customized messages as a followup to make sure that people who are impacted understand what this will look like whenever it does happen down the road.

#### **ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member (**Jim Detzel**) Moved, Member (**Mark Gilbert**) 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: 4 Nay: 1. The motion **Carried 4 - 1**

Nicole Taulbee	Yes
Mark Gilbert	Yes
Jim Detzel	Yes
Chris Heather	Yes
Nancy Slattery	No

## **11.0 APPROVAL OF FISCAL ITEMS**

### **11.1 Transfer from General Fund to the Master Facilities Fund**

Treasurer Amy Wells recommended the Board approve a one-time transfer of \$20,000,000 in carryover funds from the General Fund to the Master Facilities Fund (00496). The move will help offset the costs of the Master Facility Plan for our community with funds already received. The carry-over funds were built up as a result of pandemic shutdown, staffing shortages and the net increase in tax revenue due to the County's property value reappraisals.

**ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member (**Chris Heather**) 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
Nancy Slattery	Yes

**11.2 Revised Five Year Forecast and Related Assumptions**

Treasurer Amy Wells recommended the Board approve a revised five year forecast and related assumptions that incorporates the one-time \$20,000,000 transfer from the General Fund to the Master Facilities Fund and the net increased revenue due to the County's property value reappraisals. If approved the revised forecast will be recorded with The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce.

**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
Nancy Slattery	Yes

**12.0 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION**



## 12.1 2023-24 Fight Child Abuse Resource Adoptions, Grades K-6

The Curriculum Department presented their recommendation to adopt the Fight Child Abuse program to meet Ohio's Erin's Law requirements.

Beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, Ohio schools are required to provide developmentally appropriate instruction in child sexual abuse prevention to students in grades K through 6. Instruction is to occur annually and include information on available counseling and resources for children who are sexually abused. The Fight Child Abuse program is split into two levels, grades K through 3 and grades 4 through 6. Grades 7 through 12 are already provided developmentally appropriate instruction delivered through Health Course using a previously adopted curriculum (Edgenuity-Healthy Living). District staff are required to complete online training through Public School Works by April 15, 2024.

Fight Child Abuse is a resource provided by the Barbara Sinatra Children's Center Foundation. The program was developed and scripted by child advocates, therapists, and national scholars. It consists of developmentally-appropriate videos on child sexual abuse topics such as safe and unsafe touch. Resources can be previewed by parents and the Board at: <https://fightchildabuse.org/about-us/>. The program is on Ohio's recommended resource list and there is no cost associated with this curriculum. Following approval, communication will be sent to parents and families about the components of this legislative requirement and the selected instructional resource. In the communication we will include an option for parents to opt their child out of this instruction, which we anticipate will occur during the month of May.

The full Erin's Law Fight Child Abuse presentation may be viewed on the ESB online attachment with today's date.

### Discussion:

- **Mr. Detzel:** So the counselors are the ones who are going to be asking these questions to the children? And how much training are they going to have?

**Mrs. Lori Riehle (Asst. Director of Curriculum):** Yes, they obviously have their counselor training and they will also have the additional hour of training. We will walk them through the program.

**Mr. Detzel:** Do you think one hour of training, does that make them qualified to do this?

**Mrs. Riehle:** The questions are not that deep. There's not that much of a discussion around it, especially in the K-3 realm. It's two questions, maybe three about what "would you do?" or "let's practice saying no really loud". Those are the types of activities that they're doing in K-3. Remember, kindergarten and third grade all have the same lesson based upon this

program and 4-6 all have the same lessons. So, obviously we would look to see if there's a way we can differentiate it for kindergarten versus third grade. There's activities in kindergarten where they can draw pictures of things. I don't think that would be appropriate for our third grade, so there's opportunities where we would need to sit down and kind of make sure we're all on the same page. I also trust our counselors to give some input on what would be appropriate based on the lesson plan options that they provide.

- **Mr. Detzel:** What are the parent's rights?

**Mrs. Riehle:** They can opt out. We'll be very transparent.

**Mr. Detzel:** When you're questioning my kid, am I allowed to sit down while you question my kid?

**Mrs. Riehle:** It's a class period. It's during a class period.

**Mr. Yater:** It's not one-on-one and they're not getting into trying to elicit who has and or has not been abused.

**Mr. Detzel:** I'm just saying, there's going to be a whole lot of parents who are not going to fly with this.

**Mrs. Riehle:** We anticipate that there will probably be a lot of opt outs.

**Mrs. Taulbee:** I want to say, thank you for bringing this before and asking for us to review. I appreciate all of the work that you've done so any frustration is not geared towards you. That video gave me the creeps. No kindergartener knows what the word abuse means. For 20 years I've been teaching pre-K at church and if you ask those kids what they're afraid of, one day it's the dark, the next day it's mom. You're going to have hundreds of kids making up, maybe, that they've had something. Are we going to be looking into false situations constantly? I know this is mandated, everybody needs to have a form that they sign that they've received the opt out and that they've watched the video and they know what their kids are about to be subjected to. This is home teaching, not something that should be taught in the school building and I do not mean that in any way towards either of you. Please do not take it like that at all. I know there are kids that don't have the same home situation as mine so I'm sure it may save someone but this really is frustrating.

**Mrs. Riehle:** So as Brenda (Miller, Director of Curriculum) said, we would try to get the opt outs at the end of April so that we have a plan moving forward before, well in advance.

**Mr. Heather:** And it's required this year?

**Mrs. Riehle:** Yes, it's required this year.

- **Mrs. Taulbee:** Along with the opt out I would ask that a form goes home that says that you watched the video at home and know what your child is going to be subjected to at school. I think that both need to go home if it's possible.

- **Mr. Gilbert:** What happens if we don't do this?

**Mr. Yater:** One of the things that happens when legislators pass a law like this is if we opt out of this then there could be consequences in terms of funding.

**Mr. Gilbert:** Could be. Second question is, can this be something that we offer but it be after school that a parent can come with their child? Because I'll be honest, I would not want my kindergartner having this conversation with people- I mean, like Nicole (Taulbee) said, this isn't geared towards you, but you guys are strangers so my kid starts generating these questions I don't want strangers answering these questions for my children - that is what mom and dad are for.

**Mr. Yater:** I don't mean to jump in, but that is why we would do the opt-out. And that's one of the benefits of this program. If a parent says, I want to have this conversation, they can opt out and then they have access to these videos at home so they can watch them at home. They can say, "fine school, you do it" or they can say "nope, I don't want my kid to have access to this information at all". Or, they can do it at home because they can log on to the website and get the same things we can.

**Mr. Gilbert:** I understand that and the opt out is great but it's hair, teeth and eyeballs when a kid brings something home from school that somebody has to fill out and bring back to school. It was like where's your bag, what got sent home today? There's going to be a decent percentage of students that the parents are never going to see this opt out and they're going to see it (the videos) and their parents could very easily not want them to see it but the logistics of them opting out...

**Mrs. Taulbee:** That part of it too, I mean you have to check your kid's backpack.

**Mr. Gilbert:** Oh I understand that but...

- **Mrs. Slattery:** Can it be changed to an opt in rather than an opt out?

**Mrs. Riehle:** I believe that the way that the law was written was an opt out.

**Mr. Yater:** It's an opt out.

**Mr. Slattery:** Because I watched the videos and looked at the coloring papers and the activities and it's all very simplistic, very straightforward. But I agree that it's a home conversation rather than a school conversation. I don't know why a parent wouldn't be willing to look at that with their kid at home and explain it to them and explain any words they don't know. I think it's good for them to know these things at whatever age they are.

**Mrs. Taulbee:** I do worry about the false...

**Mrs. Slattery:** Right, and that's why I think it's better to watch it with your kid at home and explain it to your kid.

**Mr. Yater:** There will be multiple methods and times that we communicate before this happens. It's not going to be, goes home in your bag once and if it comes back great and if not - there will be text messages that go out, email communication, paper communication. So we'll do multiple methods of trying to make sure every parent has this in the amount of time to be able to make a decision.

- **Mr. Gilbert:** Can they do a text opt out? Electronically?

**Mr. Yater:** Our texting system doesn't allow replies, but we would accept an email from a parent, or a phone call. There are multiple ways that we'd be able to get the information from the parents.

**Mr. Gilbert:** I like the text.

**Mrs. Riehle:** I wonder if there can be a Google form that they can opt out on.

- **Mr. Detzel:** Will these videos be on our website? "Hey this is for parents K-3, this is for parents 4-6. You need to look at this, this is something that your child's going to be taught. You can opt out if you don't want them to". Is that something we can do?

**Mrs. Riehle:** We plan on being very transparent.

**Mr. Detzel:** I'm just saying I think that the more we can say "here it is, what do you think?" Because I kind of worry about a kindergartener or a first grader coming in and making something up, not that that hasn't happened before.

**Mrs. Taulbee:** Or the amount of parents that are going to say, and again, they should check this, it's not on the building. But if a kid comes home and says I learned about this or this and then the phone calls that the principals are going to have to deal with. Which again, the parents need to read what is sent home. But again, thank you. This is not the responsibility of a school. It's the responsibility of the parents. I understand to be able to see this in the middle school and high school to be able to pick up on those things I'm sure of that but to be teaching what it is to those young kids is really disheartening to me. Just in every way possible that we can come up with to give people the opportunity to opt out of this I think would be best.

- **Mrs. Riehle:** If you have any other thoughts or questions or ideas I'm always open.

**Mrs. Taulbee:** Thank you, I appreciate you guys sharing so much information with us.

## **13.0 SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

### **13.1 Superintendent's Update**

Superintendent Darrell Yater presented the Superintendent's Update as follows:

Nancy Slattery mentioned in her update that there were a couple of Colerain High School students who were awarded the Business Student of the Year award by the Colerain Chamber of Commerce. The District was also up for the Community Impact award at that same event. We appreciated being nominated for that.

I wanted to take a moment to acknowledge that this week is Public Schools Week. One week a year there's a themed Public School Week to highlight and celebrate the benefits of public education. We have a lot to celebrate with the amount of growth the students have shown in reading and the opportunities people like (RISE Award winner) Mrs. Israel give our students outside to round out their educational experience. They have athletic opportunities, career courses and the partnership with Butler Tech - all things to be proud of. I encourage everyone to take a moment this week and reflect on the benefits of public schools.

## 14.0 OTHER BOARD ITEMS

### 14.1 Board Members' Comments

**Mr. Heather:** A reminder to Colerain High School graduates of the Booster's Gala on Saturday March 16. I'm under the impression that there are about 20 tickets left of the 400. It's going to be a fun evening. It starts at 7:30 pm and goes to 11:00 pm. I think there's a DJ and food and champagne and all kinds of fun stuff. I believe Nicole (Taulbee) is giving a testimony.

Ticket sales are down to the wire so if you want to go you can go to [WeAreColerain.com](http://WeAreColerain.com) and on the Booster's website there's information and you can buy your tickets online. It's \$75/person or \$140/couple.

**Mr. Detzel:** Thanks to Diane Israel for all of the hard work she does at Struble. It's a great award that she got. The kids who presented were fabulous, really good speakers. And thanks for the information on Erin's Law.

**Ms. Slattery:** The highlight of the meeting for me was Adriayana, Ruby and Santino. They were adorable children and very well spoken, very poised. And you can obviously see the impact that Mrs. Israel has on them and the respect they have for her.

**Mr. Gilbert:** Diane Israel, what an amazing lady. I've spoken with a few people that work in the district whose children she's had and they said the impact she's had on their kids is just amazing. I got to meet her family and you can tell what she's about has been embedded into her children and her family.

I want to thank Chip (Bergquist) again. I can remember the first time I met Chip was after the Waycross Board Member candidate presentation and I was horrendous and he was so encouraging. He said, "Everybody's bad the first time, don't worry about it".



He's a very quiet guy so for him to do that you know he has such a great heart. Whenever you see him up in the bleachers or wherever he's filming he's always got a smile on his face. I was really glad we got the opportunity to acknowledge that.

I just want to say one thing about the Erin's Law. It just jumps right into it, doesn't it? There's no introduction, it just jumps right into what they want to do. So, we'll see what happens.

**Ms. Taulbee:** Thank you to the students and again congratulations to Chip and Mrs. Israel. Thanks again to the entire team for the Master Facility Plan and all the planning that's gone into that. Thank you again to Lori (Riehle) and Brenda (Miller) for coming and speaking.

## **15.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION**

### **15.1 Executive Session**

The Superintendent recommended the Board of Education approve the motion to move into executive session to consider the employment of a public employee and to discuss the evaluation of the Superintendent.

#### **ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member (**Mark Gilbert**) Moved, Member (**Chris Heather**) 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
Nancy Slattery	Yes

The Board approved a motion to move into executive session at 7:42 PM.

### **15.2 Return from Executive Session**

The Board returned from executive session at 8:39 PM.

## **16.0 ADJOURNMENT**

### **16.1 Board President Called for Adjournment**

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

**ORIGINAL - Motion**

Member (**Mark Gilbert**) Moved, Member (**Nancy Slattery**) 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
Nancy Slattery	Yes

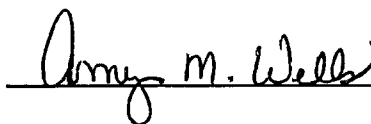
**The meeting ended at 8:40 PM.**

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](http://www.waycross.tv)



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**President**

**Attest**



\_\_\_\_\_  
**Treasurer**