



MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
NORTHWEST LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Monday, February 24, 2025 (6:30 PM)

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

Nancy Slattery

Chris Heather

Jim Detzel

Mark Gilbert

Nicole Taulbee

Number in Attendance: 120 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**

Nancy Slattery	Yes
Chris Heather	Yes
Jim Detzel	Yes
Mark Gilbert	Yes
Nicole Taulbee	Yes

5.0 SPECIAL PRESENTATION

5.1 Student Presentation - Pleasant Run Elementary Math Bee

Principal Jemel Weathers along with Assistant Principal David Berry and Math Specialist Kristie Flannery spoke about PRE's first ever Math Bee. The Math Bee was organized to promote basic math skills and bring fun to the classroom. Students were given flashcards to practice over winter break. They were seeded into brackets and competed against classmates of a similar skill level. The students loved the competition and were very encouraging of one another. The Math Bee was a huge success and students have already been asking to do it again next year. There were winners at every grade level and the student with the most correct answers throughout the entire competition was fifth grader Rojer Biswa.

6.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

A) Student Achievement Liaison Report

6.1 Student Achievement Liaison Report by Board Representative

Colerain High School

- Three student athletes were recognized for their outstanding achievements. Sophomore Makayla Greer was named GMC Bowler of the Year, Junior DeMarco Kates was named GMC Wrestler of the year and Senior girls basketball player Alana Miller was nominated for the McDonald's/Dr. Pepper Player of the Week.

Colerain Middle School

- 25 of the top 8th grade students will be inducted into the National Junior Honor Society during a ceremony on March 20th at 7pm in the CMS gymnasium.

Pleasant Run Middle School

- 6th grader Khaleesi Pride was recognized for embodiment of excellence, consistently achieving straight As and her unwavering dedication and resilience.

She is a friend to everyone, always uplifting those around her with words of encouragement and support. She leads by example with her positive attitude, respect for others, honesty, reliability, and her commitment to achieving her personal best in everything she undertakes.

White Oak Middle School

- 31 students were recognized as the January Warriors of the Month and celebrated with Pizza with the Principal sponsored by Monfort Heights United Methodist Church.

Colerain Elementary

- Students focused on their behavior during the month of January. As a building, CE decreased their referrals by 50% from last month and will hold a “Super Hero Day” where students and staff will be encouraged to wear their favorite superhero shirts to school to celebrate this “heroic” accomplishment.

Monfort Heights Elementary

- Seven students had their artwork displayed in the Rotunda at the Colerain Administrative Building. Congratulations to William Lorenz, Junior Early, Harper Leary, Audrey Birkmeyer, Rosie Siwa, Prince Rai, and Beatrice Ezekiya. MHE thanked Art Teacher Kellie Goff for all of her efforts to promote our talented students.

Pleasant Run Elementary

- The Student Council initiated a Kindness Challenge for grades 3 through 5 during the first part of February. Students submitted moments of kindness that they witnessed in their classmates. The following winners were recognized and appreciated for their commitment to kindness: Adam Gajmal, Aniyah Phillips, Apsana Rai, Egypt Hines, Journi Denson, Kelsey McNamee, Madison Wisecarver, Raymond Magar, Hannah Sweet, Samara Noble, Zoe Usuani, Emery Williamson.

B) Butler Tech Update

6.2 Butler Technology Update by Board Representative

Jim Detzel gave the Butler Technology update as follows:

The Butler Tech Board of Education voted unanimously to hire Dr. William Sprankles as the next superintendent, beginning July 1. He currently serves as the assistant superintendent.

The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program recognizes the nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors. Interviews with the finalists were held in Columbus and three of the five students who received the award were Butler Tech students.

Three Butler Tech students, Sara Garvey (CHS), Lily McFarland (NWHS) and Enyonam Nevis (CHS) were honored as Business Students of the Year at last week's Colerain Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet.

C) Legislative Update

6.3 Legislative Update by Board Representative

Mark Gilbert gave the legislative update as follows:

Governor DeWine has presented his executive budget for K-12 funding. Of the five types of schools the state recognizes, only traditional schools (such as NWLSD) are seeing reduced funding. Over 83% of traditional schools will see their state share of funding decreased while funding for the voucher program will increase. This will have a substantial impact on public schools. As the state reduces funding, the burden is shifted to the community to cover the reductions and continue to offer the services we have today. We will keep following this as it develops.

Discussion:

- **Mr. Yater:** Under the state funding formula we are treated as a wealthy suburban district and will receive the state minimum (10%) while neighboring districts like Oak Hills will receive a larger share from the state.

Ms. Slattery: How do we combat this? Do we do a letter writing campaign? Ask our representatives to come and speak to our community?

Mr. Yater: Amy (Wells) and I have been meeting with our state legislators. Now that the bill has been introduced and is moving through the budget process, we're going to be working with them and with the community to write letters and develop talking points

around the things we need to advocate for. Property tax reform is another issue that is being discussed at the state level but the formula as it is now is shifting the burden to the community, who are already carrying a heavy burden. The two issues are intertwined.

- **Mr. Detzel:** Northern Ohio representative Matt Huffman is the one leading this charge. I don't know why he's doing this and I don't understand why our representative, Sen. Blessing, who is like number two in the senate, can't do something about this.

Mr. Yater: Our representatives have been very supportive and understanding of how this budget cycle and the budget impacts our district. We've met with them individually, we've met with them with groups of area superintendents and treasurers and we're making sure that they know how this budget impacts, not just us, but the entire region. We want to co-exist with the private schools around us, it's not an either or. We need to make sure that they're continuing to fund public education because the majority of students in the State of Ohio are coming out of a public education system. The public education system is a very large component of building a viable workforce that can meet the demands of new businesses.

- **Mr. Heather:** How did we get labeled as a wealthy school district?

Mrs. Wells: The state's formula looks at property valuations and the income levels of our local community. When you compare our district to the 600+ districts around the state we have significant pockets of wealth and it skews our numbers extremely high.

7.0 PUBLIC PRESENTATION

A) Report from Any Employee Organization

7.1 Report from Any Employee Organization

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

No employees were present to speak.

B) Community Communications

7.2 Community Comments

The 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.

No one was present 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 (**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**

Nancy Slattery	Yes
Chris Heather	Yes
Jim Detzel	Yes
Mark Gilbert	Yes
Nicole Taulbee	Yes

A) Personnel

8.2 Superintendent Consent Items

Acceptance of Classified Resignations and Retirements

Murray, Patrick - CHS - MD Assistant
Effective: 2/13/2025 (Personal)

Parkinson, Donna - Enrollment - Office Personnel
Effective: 6/30/2025 (Retirement)

Approval of Certified Resignation and Retirement

Hahn, Abbie - CMS - CC Unit Teacher
Effective: 5/23/2025 (Relocating)

Acceptance of Extra Duty Resignation

Reid, Darnell - WOMS - 7/8th Grade Track Coach, Step 4
Effective: 6/30/2024

Approval of Guaranteed Sub Bus Driver at \$21.63 per hour - Effective 2/18/2025

Benz, Roger

Approval of Initial Classified Appointment

Ortiz, Ariel
Salary: MD Assistant, Step 5
Effective: 2/18/2025
(Replacement)

Approval of Classified Leaves of Absence

Brackett, Jo Ann - MHE - Cafe Assistant
Effective: 2/18/2025
(Continuous)

Dabadi, Charlie - CMS - Custodian II
Effective: 5/19/2025
(Continuous)

Dunn, Bernadette - TE - Intervention Assistant
Effective: 2/21/2025
(Continuous)

Jones, Susan - TRANSP - Bus Assistant
Effective: 2/7/2025
(Intermittent)

Metz, Cynthia - CHS - Café Assistant
Effective: 1/7/2025
(Continuous)

Washington, Adolphus - CHS - ED Assistant
Effective: 2/13/2025
(Intermittent)

Approval of Certified Change of Status

Saunders, Corey - from Temporary Substitute Teacher, \$286.04 per day (121 days) to Teacher, Bachelor's with 150 semester hours, years of experience, Step 3, (64 days)
Effective: 2/18/2025
(License Issued)

Approval of Extra Duty Contracts for 2024-25 Effective 7/1/2024

Northwest High School

Assistant Varsity Track Coach - Bryan Flickinger, Step 4
Assistant Varsity Track Coach - Shawn Gilliland, Step 6

Resolution (#2517) to Hire for Non-Licensed Coaches Effective 7/1/2024

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists in the positions of:

Assistant Varsity Track Coach - CHS
Assistant Varsity Track Coaches - NWHS
Kids in School Rule! Tutors - SE

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,

Cooper, Solange - NWHS - Assistant Varsity Track Coach, Step 2
Cotton, Bruce - NWHS - Assistant Varsity Track Coach, Step 4
Glore, Amy - SE - Kids in School Rule! Tutor, Step 1

Montgomery, Isaiah - CHS - Assistant Varsity Track Coach, Step 1
 Sublett, Jazminne - NWHS - Assistant Varsity Track Coach, Step 1
 Weber, Karen - SE - Kids in School Rule! Tutor, Step 1

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 2024-2025 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.

B) General Business

8.3 Vendor Contracts

In compliance with ORC 3313.33; attached is a list of vendor contracts for Board approval.

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Total</u>
Enrollment Management Services	Business Associate Agreement	Ongoing	N/A
Three Rivers Local School District	REVISED - Title I services provided to Three Rivers students attending St. Bernard School	1 year	\$2,231.83
Finneytown Local School District	REVISED Title I services provided to Finneytown students attending OLG	1 year	\$2,288.68
Longworth Hall	Rental for Prom 2026	1 year	\$4,000.00
Professional Service Contracts for New Colerain Elementary: SHP Leading Design Graybach LLC	Contracts as approved by the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission for the New Colerain Elementary School Project:	Project Completion: August 2027	Per OFCC Approved Fee Schedule: \$2,852,440.00 \$1,782,032.16 (Not to Exceed cost of work

Four Seasons Environmental, Inc. Clearstage Consulting, LLC	Architectural/Engineering Construction Manager at Risk Commissioning Neutral Facilitator		plus a maximum 2.25% contingency) \$94,021.15 \$18,480.00
<i>Paid for Auxiliary or Federal Non-Public grant monies.</i>			
<i>Additional cost to the current fiscal year's July 1st budget.</i>			

8.4 Donations to Northwest Local School District

Below is a list of donations for Board approval.

<u>Donor Name</u>	<u>Recipient Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Description</u>
Nate's Toy Box and Side by Side	One new book for each NWLSD 2nd and 3rd students	All Elementary Schools	\$3,657.00
Mr & Mrs Kiehborth	Monetary	White Oak Middle	\$25.00
Mrs. Margaret Lopez	Monfort Heights Elementary	\$25,000	Cash donation from a community member

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 (**Mark Gilbert**) 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**

- Nancy Slattery Yes
- Chris Heather Yes
- Jim Detzel Yes
- Mark Gilbert Yes
- Nicole Taulbee Yes

9.2 Minutes - Regular Meeting - February 10, 2025

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

10.0 APPROVAL OF OTHER ITEMS

10.1 Resolution to Permanently Exclude

The superintendent presented to the Board a request for the permanent exclusion of a pupil.

ORIGINAL - Motion

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

Nancy Slattery	Yes
Chris Heather	Yes
Jim Detzel	Yes
Mark Gilbert	Yes
Nicole Taulbee	Yes

10.2 Colerain Boosters License and Donation Agreement

The Superintendent presented the License and Donation Agreement with Colerain Boosters for approval. This agreement would allow the Boosters to fund and build a new fieldhouse at Colerain High School.

Discussion:

- **Mr. Heather:** This is going to be the first step in the rebirth of Colerain Athletics. I want to congratulate Matt (Stoinoff, CHS Athletic Director) for sticking with it. We've been talking about this for several years and we're finally going to get an updated facility at Colerain High School. Congratulations to all involved. I've been assured that this project will be completed by the summer.

Mr. Detzel: Do we have any pictures or renderings of what this is going to look like?

Mr. Heather: It's on facebook, I will send it to you.

Mr. Gilbert: I want to thank both Colerain Boosters and Northwest Boosters for all the work that they do. We don't have the money in our budget to do a lot of the things they do

and they have really stepped up. I encourage everyone to participate in and support the booster organizations.

Mr. Detzel: Who is the general contractor?

Mr. Yater: That hasn't been finalized yet. Once the board approves this agreement, Chris McKee will be the boosters point of contact as they finalize their funding and plans. He'll help them work with the township on approvals and make sure they're following this agreement.

Mrs. Taulbee: I reached out to the CHS Boosters to see if they wanted to be here tonight and the booster president provided me with the following statement:

Good evening Northwest Board, administrators, and guests. My name is Sandi Petrou, I am the proud president of the Colerain Boosters. I'm excited to talk about a vision that would create a lasting impact on our community, building a new fieldhouse. One that will serve our athletes, marching band, cheerleaders and host numerous events, all without using taxpayer funds. This facility will be a hub of activity for students, families, and visitors alike. Our athletes will have a dedicated space to train and compete, improving performance and fostering school pride. The marching band and cheerleading squads will have a home to practice and perfect their craft creating more opportunities to showcase their talents at sporting events and pep rallies. But it doesn't stop there, this fieldhouse will also serve as a venue for community events, from local festivals to concerts to indoor sporting leagues. giving everyone access to a multi-purpose space that can accommodate a wide variety of needs. The best part is that we are committed to raising private funds, meaning no taxpayer dollars will be used. By securing sponsorships, donations and partnerships with local businesses, we can bring this dream to life in a way that benefits us all. This fieldhouse will be more than just a building, it will be a symbol of our community's commitment to supporting youth, celebrating achievements, and creating shared spaces for people to connect. Together we are making it happen.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Mark Gilbert**) Moved, Member (**Nicole Taulbee**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the license and donation agreement as listed'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **5** Nay: **0**.

The motion **Carried 5 - 0**

Nancy Slattery	Yes
Chris Heather	Yes
Jim Detzel	Yes
Mark Gilbert	Yes
Nicole Taulbee	Yes

10.3 Donations to Northwest Local School District

Below is a donation for Board approval

<u>Donations</u>			
<u>Donor Name</u>	<u>Recipient Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Description</u>
Nancy Slattery	Books for school library	PRMS & PRE	PRM \$472.54 PRE \$439.47

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (Mark Gilbert) Moved, Member (Nicole Taulbee) Seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'The Superintendent recommends the Board of Education accept the donation to Northwest Local School District as listed.'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 4 Nay: 0. The motion Carried 4 - 0

Nancy Slattery	Abstain
Chris Heather	Yes
Jim Detzel	Yes
Mark Gilbert	Yes
Nicole Taulbee	Yes

11.0 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND OR DISCUSSION

11.1 Open Enrollment Policy

The inter-district open enrollment policy was presented for information. It will be presented for approval at a future regular board meeting.

Superintendent Yater addressed some initial questions from the Board as he presented the policy:

Question: Will students/families meet with the superintendent or a district administrator/principal during the enrollment process?

Answer: No, that is not allowed. No meetings can occur prior to a student’s acceptance. After a student is accepted we are permitted to hold a meeting with the family to set expectations and schedule classes.

Question: Is there a timeline for accepting a spot once it’s offered to a student?

Answer: Yes, there's a timeline for when families can apply for open enrollment, typically April or May, when they would be notified and when they would need to accept.

Question: Are there standards that must be met for open enrollment such as GPA, discipline, etc?

Answer: If the district allows open enrollment, the only legally acceptable disqualifying factor for a family to be denied open enrollment would be a 10-day consecutive suspension or expulsion in the current semester or immediately preceding semester, or if there's no space in the specific program/service they need. Once they start the school year with us, there is no way to remove that student or revoke their open enrollment.

Question: Are we required to take students with disabilities?

Answer: If a student on an IEP or with a disability applies via open enrollment we would not disqualify them based solely on that. However, if a student has a very specific need that requires a service we don't currently offer the district does not have to add the service or hire additional staff to accommodate the student so they can be denied.

Question: Will open enrollment help reduce the number of residency investigations?

Answer: We would now have a way for students who move out of the district to legally stay in the district. It wouldn't eliminate the need for investigations but it would give people a path towards enrolling even if they're out of district.

Question: What are the pros and cons of open enrollment?

Answer: It's hard to say because there are some unknowns. We staff our buildings at the level we think they'll need but without knowing who would open enroll we don't know what kinds of resources and supports they may need.

The draft policy and guidelines can be viewed online as an ESB attachment.

Discussion:

- **Mr. Heather:** Can we do this on a one-year trial basis and see how it goes?

Mr. Yater: Once the policy is in place there's not really a way to do a trial period but it is something the board can review annually and decide if they want to keep it for the following school year.

Mr. Detzel: Would that info be coming from you as the superintendent? Would you say to us that it's not working out and here's why?

Mr. Yater: We could share information about the number of students who were admitted into the district and any feedback as to whether it was well received or not.

- **Mrs. Taulbee:** Will we have a specific timeline and dates before this is approved? I don't see that in what's being presented tonight.

Mr. Yater: Yes, those dates are revised annually and not part of the policy approved by the board. We would have a timeline set and it would be publicized if this is approved.

- **Mr. Detzel:** If we have 50 kids who want to open enroll in the district, does their funding come with them or do we admit them with no additional funding?

Mr. Yater: We would receive the state's share of funding. As we heard in tonight's legislative update, if they reduce state funding the amount we would get as the state's share would go down as well.

Mr. Detzel: How much do we get per student for those who live in the district?

Mrs. Wells: We get around \$2,000 per student from the state.

- **Mr. Detzel:** Do the open enrollees get to choose which school to go to? What if one sibling wants to go to Colerain HS and the other wants to go to Northwest?

Mr. Yater: Families can indicate a school preference but admission is based on the space available in that grade level of each school.

- **Mrs. Taulbee:** Seven out of ten GMC schools have open enrollment and most of their guidelines look similar to this.

Mr. Detzel: What are the other two schools that don't have open enrollment?

Mrs. Taulbee: Oak Hills and Sycamore.

- **Mr. Detzel:** As we sit here today, at our current staffing level, do we know about how many students we can accept at each level?

Mr. Yater: It's a moving target and with our district being around 15% mobility it's hard to say. While our enrollment tends to stay pretty flat there's a lot of movement in the background.

- **Ms. Slattery:** My understanding is that open enrollment has been on the decline since the new state formula has been put into place, is that correct? At this point it's more of a money losing proposition than a money gaining proposition.

Mrs. Wells: Those who started open enrollment prior to the new funding formula have probably kept it because you used to get the full funding per student (both state and local share). But with the new formula they fund students where they are attending so we'd only get the state share.

- **Mr. Detzel:** Are we going to vote on this at the next meeting?

Mrs. Taulbee: Do we have to decide now? I'd suggest we do it at the next meeting.

Mr. Heather: I agree with Nicole.

Mr. Detzel: Ok, let's do it at the next meeting.

12.0 SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

12.1 Superintendent's Update

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

A reminder that next Friday, March 7th is an in-service day and there will be no students. Congratulations to the three students that were recognized at the Colerain Chamber Awards Banquet. They are an amazing example to others and it was wonderful to see them recognized for their accomplishments.

The band program was here last meeting speaking about the Band Try-It nights and it sounds like they were a huge success. Over 100 families attended and they continue to see the program numbers grow.

Discussion:

- **Mrs. Taulbee:** Any update on bus cancellations?

Mr. McKee: We've had a wave of sickness go through our drivers. Being in close quarters to so many students everyday exposes them to a lot of illnesses.

Mrs. Taulbee: So we don't think it's caused by resignations?

Mr. McKee: We're going to continue to hire, that never stops. But so far, as of today it looks like those cancellations are starting to decrease.

- **Mrs. Taulbee:** Last week an incorrect cancellation notice was sent or sometimes only part of a route is cancelled but people only read the initial part of the email where it says bus 38 is cancelled. Can we find a way to make it more clear when only part of the route is cancelled?

Mr. McKee: I've spoken to the transportation department and we're going to try to make it more clear in the future.

13.0 OTHER BOARD ITEMS

13.1 Board of Education Handbook Service Contract

The Board president asked the board to approve the vendor contract with the Ohio School Board Association to develop and draft a new Board handbook.

Discussion:

- **Mrs. Taulbee:** Our Board fund is \$20,000 and right now we've spent \$15,000 of that. This will cost \$3,250. I found a template from OSBA for \$700-\$800 that we could add our things to that would be more cost effective.

Ms. Slattery: It's a matter of whether or not people have the time. This is a project that will probably take 40-80 hours to complete and we need someone with the technical skills to do it and I can tell you that I don't have those technical skills. They produce a very complete, professional product that we'll get to review. They do an excellent job. It's a one-time fee. That money is designated for board development and I think this would be great for board development.

Mrs. Taulbee: I am very technical and the information that I've seen in the manuals can be found online. I would be willing to help work on it. To me, spending \$3,200 of taxpayer money for a manual that may or may not get looked at is too much.

Ms. Slattery: I think it will get looked at. Each year we would do a board work session after the organizational meeting where everyone would look at it and sign-off on it. That way everyone would be aware of the rules and regulations. I talked to multiple people while I was in Columbus for the OSBA Capital Conference and the districts who have used this service have been overwhelmingly pleased with it and have found it to be most beneficial to their boards. You do it once, you know it's done correctly.

Mr. Heather: I think it's a great idea, it just comes down to sometimes in a district that's going to possibly be headed into some financial difficulty then maybe it's not the right time. If it was \$500 then I'd be all for it. I think the OSBA program for new school board members covers most of what's in this book and, like Nicole said, so much of this stuff is out there already. I don't think it's a bad idea, it's just the optics of it.

Ms. Slattery: This is money that is set aside for the Board, it can't be used for other things.

Mr. Detzel: In the majority of years do we use the full amount allocated?

Mrs. Taulbee: Yes, we're almost to the full amount already.

Mr. Gilbert: We looked at the Toledo template and it was 35-40 pages. I'm not opposed to doing this at all but it'll also have to go to our legal counsel for review and that costs an additional \$250/hr.

Mrs. Taulbee: I would think if we follow the OSBA template then it shouldn't require much from our legal counsel. I think we pay them so much already, we pay over \$9,000 to join each year, so for them to charge us another \$3,300 to create a document that we can easily do based on information we have...I don't think the document is a bad idea, I just think paying someone that much money to do it is a bad idea.

Ms. Slattery: I think if it was so easy to do, it would be done by now. Mark (Gilbert) tried to get this going in the past and it didn't happen.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Nancy Slattery**) Moved, Member (**Mark Gilbert**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Board President recommends the Board approve the contract as listed'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **3** Nay: **2**. The motion **Carried 3 - 2**

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

13.2 Board Members' Comments

Mr. Detzel: Thank you to the students who came tonight. Thank you to Matt Stoinoff and Erin Davis at Colerain High School for all the time you've put into the fieldhouse project and good luck with that moving forward.

Mr. Heather: Again, thank you to Matt, Erin and the Colerain Boosters for your work on the new fieldhouse. I want to remind everyone of the Colerain Boosters Gala on March 15th, tickets are \$75. It's a fundraiser and a lot of the money will go towards the fieldhouse project.

Mrs. Taublee: Thank you to Jemel Weathers and her team, it was great to hear about the Math Bee and see all the students and their families. Thank you to (IT Supervisor) Matt Fischer and his group for getting the meeting set up, it can't be easy now with the meetings being held in the schools. As Chris said, I hope everyone joins us at the CHS Gala on March 15. And thank you to Side by Side. They're behind the scenes donating to all of our schools and in the community every day. I was there last week and it was great to see everyone hard at work and serving our community.

Mr. Gilbert: Thank you to Principal Weathers for hosting us. I really like that we're going to all the different schools for our meetings. Congratulations to Matt and Erin at CHS for finally getting this fieldhouse project off the ground after being talked about for

years. Thank you to the boosters and also to Side by Side. There's a lot going on behind the scenes that people don't see.

Mrs. Slattery: The Math Bee was such a great idea, thank you for sharing it with us. I got to attend the Colerain Chamber Awards Banquet and was very impressed by the three students who were recognized. I recently toured the transportation department and met with the supervisors and mechanics over there and was very impressed by their operation. I hope they can give us a presentation here soon showing all the work that they do. The work they do every morning just to get the buses out on the road - I don't know how they do it. Kudos to them, thank you very much to them.

14.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

14.1 Executive Session

The Superintendent recommended the Board of Education approve the motion to move into executive session to discuss the evaluation of the Treasurer.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Chris Heather**) 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**

Nancy Slattery	Yes
Chris Heather	Yes
Jim Detzel	Yes
Mark Gilbert	Yes
Nicole Taulbee	Yes

The Board approved a motion to move into executive session at 7:40 PM.

14.2 Return from Executive Session

The Board returned from executive session at 8:45 PM.

15.0 ADJOURNMENT

15.1 Board President Called for Adjournment

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

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Chris Heather**) Moved, Member (**Nicole Taulbee**) 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**

Nancy Slattery	Yes
Chris Heather	Yes
Jim Detzel	Yes
Mark Gilbert	Yes
Nicole Taulbee	Yes

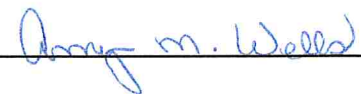
The meeting ended at 8:46 PM.

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