



MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
NORTHWEST LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Monday, August 19, 2024 (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

Nicole Taulbee
Mark Gilbert
Jim Detzel
Chris Heather
Nancy Slattery

Number in Attendance: 3

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 High School Cell Phone Update

Director of Student Services, Jake Kuhnline along with Colerain High School principal, Erin Davis, and Northwest High School principal, Alex Shrewsberry, presented an update on the use of Yondr bags in the high schools as follows:

Both District and high school administrators continue to engage the community about the changes to cell phone usage in the high schools. The first communication went out to families on July 30th explaining the changes, and a second letter addressing frequently asked questions was sent on August 9th. Community members were encouraged to give feedback and ask questions using a QR code included in the letters. We received over 100 submissions with questions and comments. The district is also monitoring social media to gather additional feedback and to see what community members are asking and commenting on Facebook and other platforms. Tables were set up at each school's open house to demonstrate the Yondr bags for families and to address any concerns they may have.

Erin Davis explained how the Yondr bags will be used by students and demonstrated how to lock and unlock the pouch. There will be handheld unlocking devices and wall mounted or mobile devices near exits so students can unlock their pouch as they leave the building. Students and parents were able to try the locking/unlocking process during the open houses last week.

In the event of an emergency, all students should follow the direction of the adult in charge and the school will aim to communicate to all families within the first 10-15 minutes of an event. Once safety is established, the teachers and staff will open the pouches. If the emergency requires evacuation from the building, the pouches can be unlocked on their way out the door or at a designated rally point. If the building is in lockdown, an unlocking device will be brought around to each classroom. Now that school has started, we can conduct drills and practice unlocking the pouches in each of these scenarios. The drills will provide valuable information and help optimize the

locations of unlocking devices. If needed, we will purchase additional magnets to ensure the process is clear and efficient.

Communication and safety across the district remains a priority. If a family member calls the school to contact a student we must ensure that they are able to contact that child quickly and efficiently. We also want to streamline the process and make sure that if a student needs to contact their family, they can do so via a counselor's office, an administrator's office or another safe space where they're able to speak privately. We know it's going to be difficult for students to go from summer, where they were probably on their phones a lot, to school where we want them to be engaged in learning. We will continue to answer parent questions and continue to ask families to reach out so that we can hear their feedback and continue to improve our processes.

Safety professionals have stated that having students focused on the direction of an adult in an emergency will help ensure safety. We want them focused on the directions being given to them by our staff. It makes the school safer when we can move through our safety protocols more efficiently and effectively. Safety professionals also point out that limiting the use of cell phones during the school day will assist with other safety incidents such as bullying, harassment and physical confrontations.

Students with special medical needs can be provided with a velcro pouch so they can access their phone for medical reasons while still maintaining program consistency. The need for this will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Teachers and staff will not be required to use a Yondr bag. During an emergency they need to have access to emergency management software on their phones. There will, however, be consistent expectations about phones being put away and not visible during instruction and supervision duties. Teachers need to be leaders and model appropriate behavior to their students.

Students will get information, support and practice prior to the launch of the program. They will be expected to put their phone into the Yondr bag on their way into school and have it locked by the start of first bell. The code of conduct continues to allow us to address the misuse of personal communication devices.

The success of the program will be measured by several different factors. Administrators will conduct walkthroughs and track the number of visible cell phones. Teachers will provide feedback throughout the school year about what they're seeing and how the program is working. We will monitor the academic indicators and the number of discipline referrals over time.

Discussion:

- **Mr. Detzel**: What are you going to do when there are 150 students in line to unlock their phones during an emergency?

Mrs. Davis: In the event of a rapid release, staff will have handheld and other mobile unlocking devices to unlock student's pouches at their rally location.

- **Mrs. Taulbee**: Will the pouch have the student's name or student ID on it?

Mrs. Davis: Yes, we plan to write student ID numbers on the pouches so they can be returned if lost.

- **Mrs. Taulbee**: How will we stop kids from using the wall mounted unlocking devices in between classes?

Mrs. Davis: The magnet portion of the unlocking device unscrews and can be removed during the school day and replaced at dismissal.

- **Mr. Heather**: When are we getting the pouches?

Mr. Kuhnline: The Yondr bags will ship on August 26th. Since the last Board meeting we have learned from other schools that have implemented the Yondr bags and they actually recommend delaying the launch of the bags until a few weeks into the school year to give more time to address questions, reduce student anxiety and test the location of the unlocking magnets. We plan to run some drills to ensure that our timing is fast and that the unlocking devices are where they need to be.

- **Mr. Gilbert**: What happens when the phone is locked in the pouch and it starts ringing in the middle of class?

Mrs. Davis: Students are instructed to power down their phones before placing them in the pouch. In the event that one rings during class, the procedure is to call an administrator or dean and we'd treat it as we do now, according to policy and the code of conduct.

- **Mr. Gilbert**: How are the teachers buying into this so far?

Mrs. Davis: We've had a lot of positive feedback from staff so far. I'm sure there will be more questions once they have the pouches in their hands, but so far they're liking the idea of having this as a resource for students in making the school a cell free zone. Middle school staff have expressed a desire to look into this in the future.

Mr. Shrewsberry: During our in-service week, a lot of teachers mentioned that they were very excited about having these bags and us doing something to help address the cell phone issues. I think those that may be hesitant will start to buy in once they see us follow up with students who aren't using the bags appropriately. Overall the response has been very positive.

- **Mrs. Taulbee**: If a student comes to school late, is it the office’s responsibility to ensure the phone is locked in the bag?

Mrs. Davis: Yes, when the student checks-in to school the office will ensure their device is locked before they head to their classroom.

- **Mr. Gilbert**: What happens if a student leaves school without unlocking their bag?

Mrs. Davis: We don’t anticipate that happening often but, there is someone on-site 24/7 and in theory that person would be able to unlock a bag if needed.

Mr. Taulbee: So if a student goes home without unlocking their bag and is unable to get a hold of someone to unlock it afterhours and they break into their bag because they need to make a call, are they then responsible for the replacement cost?

Mrs. Davis: We would address circumstances like that on a case-by-case basis.

- **Mr. Gilbert**: Have there been conversations about building the cost of the pouch into the student fees?

Mr. Kuhnline: There have been preliminary discussions about it but no decision has been made about next school year. For the first year we wanted to use the federal grant money in order to get this program launched.

- **Mrs. Taulbee**: Can you talk about the new bathroom hall pass system?

Mr. Shrewsberry: Yes, it’s a digital pass system where students or teachers use a chromebook in the classroom to print out a hall pass to go to the restroom. It also gives staff the ability to go into “hall monitor” mode and see everyone with a current hall pass, where they’re going, where they’re coming from and how much time is left on that pass. If necessary, staff can limit the number of passes available to certain students throughout the week, set specific periods where passes are allowed, and prevent certain students from having hall passes at the same time as another student.

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:

Back to School Health and Safety Fair

On August 7th the District held its annual Back to School Health and Safety Fair at Northwest High School. Over 700 students and family members attended the event. Over 500 backpacks stuffed with essential school supplies were distributed to our students. The generosity of our 45 community partners made this event possible. Our community healthcare partner, The HealthCare Connection was able to provide medical and dental screenings to 107 students at no cost. Colerain Township Police and Fire brought vehicles and engaged with students. Side By Side distributed a significant number of books to our students and families. The event was 100% funded through donations and partnerships with our local community.

Northwest High School's Back to School Bash

The event was held on August 12th in conjunction with the parent meeting for fall sports teams. Over 150 students and families attended the event. Parents were given multiple opportunities to ask questions about various topics including the new Yondr pouches. Food trucks, games and fun activities helped to make this event fun for everyone.

School Open Houses

School open houses provide a great opportunity for students and families to visit their schools and interact with teachers and staff. Nine schools held open houses last week for students and families. Northwest High School will hold its open house on August 21st.

First Day of School

Today was the first day of school for students in grades 1, 3, 5, 6 and 9. Tomorrow is the first day for kindergarten students and for students in grades 2,4,7,8 as well as all of high school. Preschool students will be welcomed back in two phases based on their last name with all preschool students in attendance on Friday. Phase-in days allow more opportunities for staff to support students in learning or re-learning building procedures and focusing on developing stronger relationships. Thank you to the Colerain Township Police Department for assisting us with welcoming our students back into the buildings this week.

B) Butler Tech Update

6.2 Butler Technology Update by Board Representative

Board Member Jim Detzel presented Butler Tech updates as follows:

The beginning of the school year has gone well and everyone is moving forward. Jon Graft, Butler Tech Superintendent, plans to attend a September Board meeting to provide a full update on Butler Tech and their building projects.

C) Legislative Update

6.3 Legislative Update by Board Representative

Board Member Chris Heather presented legislative updates as follows:

No update was given.

7.0 PUBLIC PRESENTATION

A) Report from Any Employee Organization

7.1 Employee Comments

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 Community members were 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**

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

Gazaway, Dawn - CHS - MD Assistant Effective: 8/9/2024	(Personal)
Gilmore, Alexis - NWHS - Office Personnel 4 Effective: 7/29/2024	(Personal)
Baldrick, Sara - TRANSP - Bus Driver Effective: 8/1/2024	(Personal)
Clark, Cherry - TRANSP - Casual Sub Bus Driver Effective: 8/1/2024	(Personal)
Demu, Ganiat - PRE - MD Assistant Effective: 8/14/2024	(Position Elsewhere)

Godfrey, Je'Sean - WOMS - SSA Effective: 8/9/2024	(Personal)
Handley, Jennifer - TE - MD Assistant Effective: 8/9/2024	(Personal)
Henderson, Martin - MHE - MD Assistant Effective: 8/22/2024	(Position Elsewhere)
Kinne, Amanda - TRANSP - Bus Driver Effective: 8/1/2024	(Personal)
Mason, Edward - TRANSP - Driver in Training Effective: 8/1/2024	(Personal)
Parks, Estelle - TRANSP - Casual Sub Bus Driver Effective: 8/1/2024	(Personal)
Partridge, Candice - TRANSP - Guaranteed Sub Bus Driver Effective: 8/1/2024	(Personal)
Rush, Susan - CHS - Cafe Assistant Effective: 8/8/2024	(Position Elsewhere)
Smith-Schneider, Michelle - Cafe Assistant Effective: 8/12/2024	(Cafe Assistant)

Acceptance of Certified Resignation and Retirement

Anderson, Jeff - PRE - 5th Grade Effective: 6/1/2025	(Retirement)
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Approval of Extra Duty Resignations

Gibfried, Evelyn - CHS - Diversity Appreciation Club Advisor (½), Step 3 Effective: 6/30/2024	
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Hosley, Tiffany - CHS - Diversity Appreciation Club Advisor (½), Step 3 Effective: 6/30/2024	
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Kinstler, Christy - CHS - Student Senate Coordinator (½), Step 6 Effective: 6/30/2024	
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Lachman, Paul - CHS - Athletic Event Worker Effective: 8/1/2024	
Sauser, Molly - CHS - Junior Class Sponsor (½), Step 1 Effective: 6/30/2024	

Schwaeble, Amy - CHS - Athletic Event Worker
Effective: 8/1/2024

Wagner, Nicole - CHS - Junior Class Sponsor (½), Step 3
Effective: 6/30/2024

Approval of Classified Changes in Status

Benton, Ciara - from Bus Driver, Step 7 to Casual Sub Bus Driver, Step 1 at
Transportation

Warman, Aubrie - from MD Assistant, Step 2 to ALP, Step 1 at Taylor Elementary

Approval of Guaranteed Bus Driver at \$23.41 per hour – Effective 8/19/2024

Turnbow, Natalie

Approval of Initial Classified Appointment

Beske, Jamie

Salary: Non-Licensed Health Assistant, Step 5
Effective: 8/7/2024

(REVISED DATE)

Busken, Rachel

Salary: Cafe Assistant, Step 2
Effective: 8/1/2024

(REVISED DATE)

Carter, Jessica

Salary: Non-Licensed Health Assistant, Step 5
Effective: 8/7/2024

(Replacement)

Cassidy, Steven

Salary: Custodian II, Step 2
Effective: 8/5/2024

(Replacement)

Chapagain, Yanuka

Salary: Bus Assistant, Step 1
Effective: 8/13/2024

(Replacement)

Creekmore, Ralph

Salary: Cafe Assistant, Step 2
Effective: 8/19/2024

(Replacement)

Creed, Lori

Salary: Intervention Assistant, Step 5
Effective: 8/5/2024

(Replacement)

Dubs Ralph Salary: Bus Driver, Step 1 Effective: 8/13/2024	(Replacement)
Ebert, Crystal Salary: MD Assistant, Step 5 Effective: 8/12/2024	(Replacement)
Epperhart, Bryant Salary: Cafeteria Manager, Step 5 Effective: 7/30/2021	(REVISED DATE)
Gilbert, Deborah Salary: Bus Driver, Step 8 Effective: 8/13/2024	(Replacement)
Ginandt, Samantha Salary: MD Assistant, Step 6 Effective: 8/12/2024	(Replacement)
Gladden, Joyce Salary: Cafe Assistant, Step 2 Effective: 8/7/2024	(Replacement)
Glore, Shylee Salary: Preschool MD Assistant, Step 1 Effective: 8/12/2024	(Replacement)
Henry, Vicki Salary: Bus Driver, Step 1 Effective: 8/13/2024	(Replacement)
Hensler, Suzanne Salary: Cafe Assistant, Step 2 Effective: 8/1/2024	(REVISED DATE)
Johnson, Esther Salary: Cafe Assistant, Step 2 Effective: 8/7/2024	(Replacement)
Lachmann, Nicki Salary: Office Personnel 3, Step 5 Effective: 8/7/2024	(Replacement)
Lee, Annette Salary: Bus Driver, Step 8 Effective: 8/13/2024	(Replacement)

Morton, Eric Salary: ED Assistant, Step 2 Effective: 8/12/2024	(Replacement)
Murphy, Eric Salary: Custodian II, Step 3 Effective: 8/19/2024	(Replacement)
Neal, Lisa Salary: Cafe Assistant, Step 2 Effective: 8/1/2024	(REVISED DATE)
Norton, Judy Salary: Bus Driver, Step 8 Effective: 8/13/2024	(Replacement)
Rice, Lucille Salary: Bus Assistant, Step 4 Effective: 8/13/2024	(Replacement)
Rudd, Kathy Salary: Cafe Assistant, Step 2 Effective: 8/1/2024	(REVISED DATE)
Rusher, Shayvonne Salary: Bus Driver, Step 1 Effective: 8/13/2024	(Replacement)
Rust, Lynda Salary: Cafe Assistant, Step 2 Effective: 8/1/2024	(REVISED DATE)
Sheckles, Krystal Salary: Cafe Assistant, Step 2 Effective: 8/1/2024	(REVISED DATE)
Skinner, Sheila Salary: Cafe Assistant, Step 2 Effective: 8/19/2024	(Replacement)
Smith, Sabrina Salary: Office Personnel 4, Step 1 Effective: 8/19/2024	(Replacement)
Standifer, Chaz Salary: Van Driver, Step 1 Effective: 8/13/2024	(Replacement)

Tyler, Sharon
Salary: ED Assistant, Step 5
Effective: 8/12/2024 (Replacement)

Washington, Adolphus
Salary: ED Assistant, Step 3
Effective: 8/12/2024 (Replacement)

Wrenn, Jeron
Salary: Custodian II, Step 2
Effective: 8/5/2024 (Replacement)

Zidane, Hassan
Salary: Bus Driver, Step 8
Effective: 8/13/2024 (Replacement)

Approval of Classified Leave of Absence

Abbott, Linda - WOMS - Cafe Manager
Effective: 7/22/2024 (Intermittent)

Enderle, Sherry - CHS - Office Personnel 5
Effective: 8/1/2024 (Intermittent)

Hatchell, Pamela - Transportation - Bus Driver
Effective: 8/12/2024 (Intermittent)

Redmon, Debbie - CHS - MD Assistant
Effective: 7/29/2024 (Intermittent)

Reichle, Barbara - CHS - Office Personnel 4
Effective: 8/1/2024 (Intermittent)

Shockley, Amy - CMS - MD Assistant
Effective: 7/28/2024 (Intermittent)

Stenger, Amanda - TE - ELL Teacher
Effective: 7/31/2024 (Intermittent)

Approval of Certified Leave of Absence

Alford, Kimberly - WOMS - Teacher
Effective: 8/7/2024 (Intermittent)

Bevis, Taryn - CE - 1st Grade Teacher
Effective: 8/12/2024 - 9/9/2024 (Medical)

Gunther, Jennifer - CHS - Teacher
Effective: 11/10/2024 (Continuous)

King, Carrie - CE - Teacher
Effective: 9/16/2024 (Continuous)

Strouble, Margaret - CHS - Teacher
Effective: 9/22/2024 (Continuous)

Tranter, Katie - SE - Teacher
Effective: 8/1/2024 (Intermittent)

Wright, Rebecca - SE - Teacher
Effective: 5/23/2024 (Intermittent)

Approval of Initial Administrative Appointment

Kurt, Layla - CSO - Interim Special Education Supervisor III
Salary: XC2-01, Step 1, (202 days)
Effective: 8/15/2024 (Replacement)

Approval of Initial Certified Appointments

Hasty, Zania (Replacement)
Salary: Teacher, Bachelor's with 1 year of experience, Step 3 (half-time)
Effective: 8/6/2024

McKinley, Arlinda (Replacement)
Salary: Teacher, Master's + 45 with 10 years of experience, Step 11
Effective: 8/6/2024

Tevis, Shannon (Replacement)
Salary: Teacher, Bachelor's with 2 years of experience, Step 3
Effective: 8/6/2024

Approval of Temporary Substitute Teacher

Johnson, Catherine - NWHS - \$200.00 a day
Effective: 8/23/2024

Approval of ESL Tutor Effective 8/19/2024

Dailey, Patricia - Retired Teacher

Approval of Certified Changes in Status

Blair, Abigail - from Applied Math to Long Term Substitute Applied Math Teacher at White Oak Middle School
Effective: 8/12/2024 (Licensure)

Kummer, Kathryn - from Bachelor's with 0 years of experience, Step 3, to Bachelor's with 150 Semester hours, Step 3
Effective: 8/1/2024 (Transcripts Verified)

McBeath, Dalton - from Bachelor's with 150 semester hours and 0 years of experience, Step 3, to Master's with 0 years of experience, Step 3
Effective: 8/1/2024 (Transcripts Verified)

Newton, Joseph - from Bachelor's with 0 years of experience, Step 3, to Bachelor's with 150 Semester hours, Step 3
Effective: 8/1/2024 (Transcripts Verified)

Approval of Tutor Change in Status

Kresyman, Lauren - from Bachelor's with 9 years of experience, Step 10 to Bachelor's with 150 semester hours and 9 years of experience, Step 10
Effective: 8/1/2024 (Transcripts Verified)

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

Colerain Elementary School

Elementary Building Leadership Team Member - Alyssa Jahn, Step 1

Colerain High School

Academic Competition (Academic Team) - Greg Weaver, Step 1

College Credit Plus Facilitator - Anthony Broxterman, Step 3

College Credit Plus Facilitator - Sugandh Chaturvedi, Step 1

College Credit Plus Facilitator - Barbra Gilker, Step 3

College Credit Plus Facilitator - Kerry Martini, Step 5

College Credit Plus Facilitator - Emily Schwaeble, Step 1

Diversity Appreciation Club Sponsor - Elizabeth Drews, Step 1

Junior Class Sponsor (1/2) - Rachel Rothan, Step 1

Senior Class Sponsor - Phyllis Hafer, Step 1

Student Senate Coordinator - Christy Kinstler, Step 6

Winter Winds Instructor - Elizabeth Larson, Step 1

Northwest High School

Freshman Class Sponsor - Alundra Childs, Step 1
Assistant Varsity Volleyball Coach - Melanie Jenkins, Step 1
Head Varsity Boys Golf Coach - Gabriel Warner, Step 4
Head Varsity Girls Golf Coach - Mark Tedesco, Step 4
Yearbook Sponsor - Devan O'Toole, Step 1

Pleasant Run Middle School

Secondary Building Leadership Team Member - Jana Lewis, Step 2
7/8th Grade Volleyball Coach - Robin Stephens, Step 4

White Oak Middle School

7/8th Grade Football Coach - Shamone Spikes, Step 1

Approval of Summer Music Specialist for 2024-25

Murden, Ethan - CHS

Approval of Athletic Event Workers for 2024-25

Atkinson, Crystal	Dohme, Rebecca	Iacobucci,
Barkalow, Zackary	Enderle, Sherry	Jeannetta
Bennett, Rafeal	Engleman, Lanyia	Jacknewitz, Emily
Bergquist, Merwyn	Evans, Sarah	Jackson, Dionna
Blassingame,	Fields, Deborah	Jackson, Katherine
Romearl	Flack, Julie	Jewell, Chuck
Bliss, Gail	Garrow, Raymond	Johnson, Terrence
Bordicks, Katie	Gazaway, Dawn	Johnson, Tracy
Bowling, Shannon	Gilker, Barbra	Jung, Annella
Brausch, Jo Ann	Grafft, Rochelle	Kaufman, Miranda
Brown, DeShanda	Gray, Rachel	Keller, Philip
Brown, Thomas	Hammond, Edward	Kelley, Joseph
Bushnell, Cristin	Hardewig, Amanda	Kesse, Andrew
Butz, Maria	Harmon, Richard	Kiger, Patrick
Byrne, Brian	Heinrich, Pamela	King, Jeffrey
Cain, Kevin	Hess, Brittany	Klein, Leslie
Carraher, Jessica	Hirtle, Tristan	Kremer, Matthew
Clark, Sterling	Hogan, Patrick	Krumpack, Mark
Cooper, Jessica	Holloway, Kayla	Lachmann, Nicki
Cummings, Lauren	Hudson, Samantha	Lawrence, Joyce
Dallas, Courtney	Huneke, Janet	LeCount, Steve

Lehman, Chelsea
Leonard, Brittany
Lindley, Clayton
Lonaker, Terri
Long, Michael
Ludmann, Amy
Mackzum, Erin
Mahon,
Christopher
Martin, Avery
Martini, Kerry
Mason, Kimberly
May, Rachael
McCurry, Kristi
Merchant, Kenneth
Merkle, Cheryl
Miller, Brian
(WOMS)
Miller, Brian
(CHS)
Mitchell, Tera
Mitchell, Whitney
Monday, Mariah

Moore, Jennifer
Muckenfuhs,
Thomas
Nairne, Jeffrey
Nairne, Megan
Ooten, Shannon
Otte, James
Page, Seth
Ponting, Tanya
Rave, Mark
Reid, Darnell
Rias, Ruby
Roebel, Susan
Sauerbeck, Heather
Saylor, Cindy
Schneider, Clare
Schon, Brandon
Schroder, Julia
Schroeder, August
Schumacher, Elaine
Schwaeble, Emily
Seger, Abigail
Seger, Timothy

Smith, Eron
Spranger, Sherry
Staarmann, Brian
Stephens, Kiarra
Stoinoff, Molly
Strader, Kendall
Sutherland, Katelyn
Tabar, Paula
Tapogna, Stephen
Thompson, Nora
Tobias, Michael
Van Gaasbeek,
Brett
Walker, Dennis
Watkins, Bryan
Weingart, Chad
Welsh, Hailey
West, Cathy
West, Garrick
Wilhelm, Kevin
Willett, Julie
Williams, George
Woltz, Jeffrey
Yeary, Justin

Approval of Volunteers for 2024-2025

Beyer, Lauri - NWHS
Johnson, Darrius - NWHS
Jones, Dovontae - CHS
Schwaeble, Ron - CHS
Shelton, James - NWHS

Resolution (#2438) to Hire for Non-Licensed Coaches Effective 7/1/2024

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists in the positions of:

Yearbook Sponsor - PRMS
9th Grade Football Coach - NWHS
Assistant Varsity Football Coach (½) - CHS
Assistant Varsity Volleyball 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 has 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,

Chambers, Keontae - NWHS - 9th Grade Football Coach, Step 5
Crooks, Brandon - CHS - Assistant Varsity Football Coach (1/2), Step 6
Hooker, Sally - NWHS - Assistant Varsity Volleyball Coach, Step 2
Lonaker, Terri - PRMS - Yearbook Sponsor, 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 he/she is 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.

Approval of Substitute Rates of Pay through The Center for Collaborative Solutions for 2024-25

Certified

Substitute Teacher - \$120 daily
Building Substitute Teacher - \$140 daily
Long-term Substitute Teacher - \$120 daily rising to \$200 on Day 41+

Classified

Assistant Substitute - \$14.60 (90% of step 1)
Assistant MD/ED Substitute - \$15.07 (90% of step 1)
Health Assistant Substitute - \$19.44 (83% of step 1)

Custodian Substitute - \$15.82 (83% of step 1)
Food Service Substitute - \$11.87 (83% of step 1)
Office Personnel Substitute - \$15.60 (83% of step 1)

Long Term – Classified

Food Service Substitute (Mary Fights/Sherry Kalous/Judy Ogle) - \$14.59 hourly

Approval of Transportation Handbook 2024-25

Handbook can be viewed as an attachment in ESB.

Discussion

- **Mrs. Taulbee:** Do we have an agreement in place that transportation will return calls or emails within 24 or 48 hours?

Mr. Chris McKee (Business Director): Yes, it should be the same day or next day but I know that's not happening right now with the high volume of calls and emails they're receiving.

- **Mrs. Taulbee:** How many open routes do we have right now?

Mr. McKee: Right now the routes are all filled but we do not have any guaranteed subs in place yet. We have three employees that will be going through the certification class on August 26th, but we need to continue to hire and look for additional drivers.

Mr. Yater: A guaranteed sub is like a building sub. They show up everyday and drive any open route. They're not someone we call in as needed. They come everyday.

- **Mrs. Taulbee:** What happened with the mis-print of the bus passes?

Mr. McKee: Unfortunately the vendor was allowed to do the import of information this year but that will not happen again in the future. We will control the import of information going forward and that will allow us to clean up our database before anything goes out. Some of the information we received from other schools came in very late this year and that further complicated things.

B) General Business

8.3 Resolution (#2433) to Accept Bus Stops

BE IT RESOLVED that the Northwest Local School District approves all bus stops assigned and maintained in the transportation office, as attached.

The attachment containing the full list of bus stops can be viewed as an online attachment in ESB.

8.4 Donations to Northwest Local School District

Name of Donor	Donation Description	Building	Donation Amount
Debbie Miller	School supplies	MHE	\$200
Mt. Healthy Eagles	Monetary donation	CHS	\$2,000
Greater Cincinnati Foundation	Monetary donation for PBIS store	CHS	\$1,250
Peerless Printing	Discounted printing services	MHE	\$540
Ohio State Eagles	Mt. Healthy Eagles	CHS	\$2,000

8.5 Vendor Contracts

In compliance with ORC 3313.33; the following vendor contracts were presented for Board approval.

Vendor	Description	Length	Amount
Finneytown Local School District	Title I services provided by NWLSD to Finneytown students attending OLG -- They pay us	1 year	\$2,198.36
NewPath Child & Family Solutions	Tuition	1 year	\$221 per day per student
Maxim Healthcare Services	1:1 nurse for student(s)	Ongoing	LPN-\$60.00 per hour RN-\$65.00 per hour
Infinite Campus	Infinite Campus - SIS Solution (License and Implementation)	2 years	\$51,350.00 (Implementation - Due Year 1) / \$177,572.92 (Due Year 2)
Truist Arena	Graduation venue	1 day	\$9,000
Hamilton County Educational Service Center	2024-25 Annual Service Contract for St. Ignatius School	1 year	\$163,944.57
Hamilton County	2024-25 Annual Service	1 year	\$56,561.50

Educational Service Center	Contract for St. Bernard's		
Hamilton County Educational Service Center	2024-25 Annual Service Contract for Our Lady of Grace School	1 year	\$274,443.60
Hamilton County Educational Service Center	2024-25 Annual Service Contract for St. John Dry Ridge	1 year	\$292,146.80
Hamilton County Educational Service Center	2024-25 Annual Service Contract for LaSalle High School	1 year	\$454,478.40
Hamilton County Educational Service Center	2024-25 Annual Service Contract for St. James White Oak	1 year	\$282,185.00
Mt. Healthy City Schools	Title I services provided by NWLSD to Mt. Healthy students attending OLG & St. John schools -- They pay us	1 year	OLG - \$68,030.25 / St. John - \$16,745.91 -- TOTAL \$84,776.16
Cincinnati Center for Autism	1:1 assistant	1 year	\$94,976.40
Flash Photo Booth	Homecoming photo booth	1 day	\$550.00
Heart Breaker Entertainment	DJ for Homecoming	1 day	\$3,400.00
V.C.M. Resources and Services	Transportation of students with special needs.	1 year	Van = \$25.00 first five miles then + \$2.00/mile Wheelchair Van = \$35.00 first five miles then + \$2.50/mile
SWOCA	Addition of SameGoal PRO software to existing master contract	1 year	\$2,927.64

Additional cost to the current fiscal year's July 1st budget.

Paid for Auxiliary or Federal Non-Public grant monies.

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

9.2 Minutes - Regular Board Meeting - July 29, 2024

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

9.3 Financial Reports of the Treasurer

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 2025.

Monthly Finance and Investment Report - July 2024

All Funds Balance - \$110,945,015
General Fund Unreserved Balance - \$31,947,852

	FYTD Actual	Estimate	%
Revenues	\$27,312,495	\$112,772,916	24%
Expenditures	\$ 7,660,067	\$107,624,633	7%

Investment weighted average return – 4.41%

List of monthly bills - routine, as well as, legal services, student/staff software, annual Kid Whisperer conference, severance, student screenings, summer permanent improvement projects: all gym floor repairs, CHS flagpole project, transportation sewer project, CM repairs, parking lot pole replacement at CHS Career Center and auxiliary/grant fund payments.

The July 2024 financial reports may be viewed on the ESB online attachment with today's date.

9.4 Then & Now Certificates over \$3,000

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

Vendor	Invoice Date	Amount	Location	Description
Maxim Home	6/5/24	\$6,696.50	Special Education	Nursing Services

10.0 APPROVAL OF OTHER ITEMS

10.1 VHO Voucher Joinder Resolution (#3435)

The Voucher Joinder Resolution, which authorizes and directs the School District's joinder of the Ohio Coalition for Equity and Adequacy of School Funding (Coalition) and directs the District Treasurer to pay annual Coalition dues as set forth in Section 3, was presented to the Board of Education for approval.

WHEREAS, EdChoice Vouchers are funded by the State from designated appropriation line-items 200-550, 200-604, 200-612 and payment to private schools diminishes the amount of funding and levels of educational opportunities in school districts; and

WHEREAS, the deduction of school voucher funds from funds available to the school districts further reduces the funding available to support the additional needs of district minority pupils, pupils in poverty and pupils with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the deduction of school voucher funds from the appropriations that fund school districts increases reliance on local tax revenue to maintain school operations in violation of the Ohio Constitution and clear directives of the Ohio Supreme Court.

Section 1. Now, Therefore, The Board of Education finds and determines that the deduction of school voucher funds from school districts is harmful to the districts, its pupils, taxpayers, voters and staff.

Section 2. The Board of Education authorizes and directs the continual School District's joinder of the Ohio Coalition for Equity and Adequacy of School Funding (Coalition) as entered March of 2022 and directs the District Treasurer to pay annual Coalition dues as set forth in Section 3.

Section 3. Annual Coalition dues are the sum of \$2.00 per district pupil (enrollment listed on most recent report card). Dues shall be allocated by the Coalition as follows: 1) \$.50 per pupil shall be initially allocated to the payment of Coalition operating expenses, and, 2) \$1.50 per pupil shall be allocated to the support of the Coalition's efforts in opposition to the deduction of school voucher funds from this, and other school districts. Annual Coalition Dues (a total of \$2 per pupil) are payable upon passage of this resolution for the duration of the litigation until such time as a final resolution is reached or the litigation is otherwise concluded.

Discussion

- **Mr. Heather:** I've been updating the Board on the money spent on these vouchers. I don't think we're at the tipping point yet. Maybe someday we'll get to the point where it will really damage public education. I believe competition is a good thing and money is not the answer to success in schools. If it were, Cleveland would have the best test scores because they spend the most money. At this point, I think the intent of the voucher program is good and we need to give it some more time to play out.

Mrs. Slattery: I think the voucher program has definitely veered from its original intention, but when I look through the lawsuit they make some allegations without facts to back them up. They allege that most of the private schools are parochial schools and that they're funding the expansion of these private schools using EdChoice money. I'm not aware of any private or parochial schools in the Northwest Local School District that are building new buildings. I go by St. James and St. Ignatius all the time and I don't see any new buildings. I don't know how that applies across the state but I think in our district, that's not a proper statement.

They're saying that people are taking this money to pay for their child's private school education even though they could afford to pay it previously. I don't think some people realize that private education doesn't equal being rich. There are people who sacrifice money, vacations, all kinds of things to send their kids to private school. I know that because I'm a product of private schools. My parents had nine kids that they had to send through private school. They paid for tuition from second grade through eighth grade. Once we hit high school, the boys had to go to LaSalle, the girls had to go to McCauley and we all had to pay for our own education. We (as kids) sacrificed too and I worked two part-time jobs to pay for my tuition. Private doesn't equal rich.

Also, the economy has been awful these past three or four years and I didn't see in there that they looked into anybody's bank account to see that these people are just greedy and taking money that they didn't need. Maybe the economy has affected these people to the point where they would have to uproot their child and send them to a different school because their financial situation has changed. A lot of the parishes and parochial high schools do have scholarship funds that they allow parishioners and members of the schools to donate to but that may not cover everybody.

The lawsuit alleges that private schools discriminate and segregate. I can tell you that in my experience as a student at private school and in my daughter's experience at private school that I did not ever see any discrimination against the LGBTQ Community. There were teachers at my daughter's private high school that fall into that category and there are students and friends of hers that follow into that category so I think that's, again, a broad statement made without fact. I can also say that at my daughter's grade school, St. Ignatius, and at her high school, St. Ursula Academy, there were intervention specialists, there were kids that are on the spectrum, there were kids with ADHD, sensory issues, and mental health problems. It's obviously not the same as what's available here in the district and not the same number of students with those problems versus what we have in the district but again, I think that's a widespread allegation made without any facts given.

The lawsuit states that private schools all have smaller class sizes, they have newer facilities, and they have a plethora of extracurricular activities. I can also say that I have not seen that in my experience. St Ignatius has softball, baseball, basketball, volleyball, and soccer. They never had a theater program until my daughter was in seventh grade. Every activity they have, you pay a fee for. It's not given to you, it's not part of your tuition fee. It's an extra fee.

They say that private schools practice corporal punishment. I can say that I have never seen corporal punishment during my time there or my daughter's time there. I can certainly tell you that I had two brothers that would have been prime candidates for corporal punishment and it never happened to them. I can also tell you it's never happened during my daughter's school years in a private school. So, those are things that bother me about this whole lawsuit. I do agree, to some degree, that the voucher program has totally veered off course, but I don't like these allegations that they make and that they don't support with facts.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Mark Gilbert**) Moved, Member (**Jim Detzel**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent and Treasurer recommends Board of Education approve the Voucher Joinder Resolution, which authorizes and directs the School District's joinder of the Ohio Coalition for Equity and Adequacy of School Funding (Coalition) and directs the District Treasurer to pay annual Coalition dues as set forth in Section 3'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **3** Nay: **2**. The motion **Carried 3 - 2**

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

10.2 Other Personnel Item

Approval of Volunteer for 2024-25

Heather, Christopher – CHS – Athletic Event Worker

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Mark Gilbert**) Moved, Member (**Nancy Slattery**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Treasurer recommends the Board of Education approve the personnel item as listed'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **4** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried 4 - 0**

Nicole Taulbeet	Yes
Mark Gilbert	Yes
Jim Detzel	Yes
Chris Heather	Abstained
Nancy Slattery	Yes

10.3 Other Personnel Item

Approval of Volunteer for 2024-25

Gilbert, Mark – CHS – Athletic Event Worker

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Chris Heather**) Moved, Member (**Jim Detzel**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Treasurer recommends the Board of Education approve the personnel item as listed'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **4** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried 4 - 0**

Nicole Taulbeet	Yes
Mark Gilbert	Abstained
Jim Detzel	Yes
Chris Heather	Yes
Nancy Slattery	Yes

11.0 SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

11.1 Superintendent's Update

The Superintendent's Update was presented by Darrell Yater as follow:

Thank you to our Colerain Township first responders. They've been at the schools welcoming our students back on their first day with waves, high fives and a friendly face. We really appreciate their partnership.

Thank you to all the custodians, maintenance staff, office personnel and administrators who worked through the summer to make sure we have a smooth start to the new year. The rest of the staff came back last week and there was a lot of excitement and enthusiasm surrounding the new school year.

I'd like to remind our families that if you are a returning family to Northwest we need you to go in and update your information. Under the enrollment tab of our website there's a place where you can, as a returning family, go in and update all of your contact information. This is how we stay up to speed with where you're living and what your contact information is. Currently, only 30% of our families have done that so we really need everyone else to get in there and update their information so that we have the most accurate information.

Also, even though our elementaries and middle schools are part of the community eligibility program where all of our students in those buildings are getting a free breakfast and free lunch, we still need our families to go in and fill out the financial assistance forms and check the box that allows that information to be shared. That's what helps students qualify for other benefits like fee waivers, and without that information, although they are receiving the benefits of the free breakfast and free lunch, those other benefits aren't applicable. We want to make sure our families understand the importance of filling out and reading through all those forms.

Lastly, attendance is so important and there's a real focus this year on making sure that our families and students understand that being at school is extremely important and the attendance of our students matters. We need them in school because our teachers can't teach kids who aren't there. Just a few days of absences can add up and be detrimental to a student's academic growth and their ability to achieve their goals. We need to make sure that attendance is a priority and our families are working with our schools to make sure that students are there as often as possible. Of course, if a student is really sick we need them to stay home, but we also need them back as soon as possible. The in-person instruction from our teachers is what really makes a difference. You'll see a lot of communication coming from buildings ensuring that families understand that attendance is important. If students do start to miss school, families should expect some

outreach from our schools to make sure that they know we miss them and we want to make sure that they know that if there are barriers we can help.

Discussion:

- **Mrs. Taulbee:** I've seen a spike in families leaving the District this year. What analysis have we done to find out why they're leaving? Do we do exit interviews or reach out to those families?

Mr. Yater: We do monitor our enrollment. Last year our enrollment was pretty stable, this year we're still finalizing our enrollment. There's still a wait list to get an appointment at the enrollment office. Once we get through the enrollment season and we analyze where we've landed then yes, we do look at who's leaving and why they're leaving. We have done exit surveys with families in the past and we've called them to get different information from specific groups that have left. We'll continue to do that on an annual basis, but right now we don't have final numbers. We will continue to monitor that.

Mrs. Taulbee: Once we have that I'd like to see it, especially as it relates to the elementary and middle school levels. This year I've seen a tremendous spike in people I know and people on social media leaving with EdChoice vouchers.

- **Mrs. Slattery:** In your report for the EdChoice voucher program I thought there was a statement in there that said enrollment was pretty stable over the last three years and the 3.2% decline was expected due to lower birth rates.

Mr. Yater: Our enrollment was steady last year. We had a 3% decrease but we expected that with the enrollment trends that we monitor over time. This year's numbers aren't final yet so I'm not going to comment on exactly where we landed but we do monitor that on an annual basis.

Mrs. Taulbee: My question wasn't around enrollment as much as asking why are these people leaving and what can we do to stop it. I think we need to understand why these people are leaving just as we would want to understand why a staff member leaves.

- **Mrs. Taulbee:** Colerain Elementary and Colerain Middle both look really good. Thank you for pushing those projects along. The concession project at Colerain High School sat for weeks without being touched then all of the sudden they were working 24/7 over the weekend. Why the rush at the end and why did we wait until the last second?

Mr. McKee: Most of the delays revolved around permitting by the Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) and waterworks. They were able to perform some of the work but there were delays in getting the final tap permit, that's why it sat idle for a couple of weeks. The water is back on today, the sewer line was completed, the hole was backfilled and we replaced the asphalt.

- **Mrs. Taulbee:** Looking forward to next year, it would be nice if we could have a bus at the elementary school open houses and have a driver there to review bus safety and emphasize the importance of having a parent at the bus stop for younger kids.

Mr. Yater: I think we could try to do it at both the elementary and middle schools because bus safety is important at both.

- **Mrs. Taulbee:** A lot of the parochial schools do open houses in the fall. Is that something we can consider doing as well?

Mr. Yater: We've talked to the high schools about holding open houses or other promotions to mirror the private school cycle so that we can capture some of those families that might be considering their options.

Mrs. Taulbee: Is that something we can look forward to this year?

Mr. Yater: We're having conversations, there's nothing definitive yet but the conversations are happening. We hope to do something this year.

Mrs. Taulbee: Even at the elementary level? People are always looking for kindergartens, is that something we could consider?

Mr. Yater: Yes, we've talked about making sure that we can celebrate the people who are choosing us with some yard signs or different things to draw attention to all the great families we already have.

Mrs. Taulbee: But can we have an open house for those families that are looking at options where they can come and tour the facilities, talk to the staff and walk around the building?

Mr. Yater: Yes, right now we do that by appointment but we can try to do some more organized promotional events.

12.0 OTHER BOARD ITEMS

12.1 OSBA 2024 Appointment of Delegate and Alternate for Annual Business Meeting

The Board appointed a delegate and alternative for the OSBA 2024 Annual Business Meeting on November 11th, 2024.

The Northwest Local School District Board of Education of Hamilton County hereby appoints Nicole Taulbee as the delegate to the 2024 OSBA Annual Business Meeting, and in the event the delegate cannot serve, Jim Detzel has been appointed as alternate. The delegate and alternate were appointed at the meeting of the Board of Education on August 19, 2024.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Mark Gilbert**) Moved, Member (**Jim Detzel**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'The Superintendent recommends the Board of Education appoint the delegate and alternate for the OSBA annual meeting 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

12.2 Board Members' Comments

Mr. Heather: Thank you for a very good presentation tonight and the effort going into the Yondr pouches. Cincinnati Public Schools is using them as well so this isn't just isolated to our District. It's going to be a good thing. Everything I've read indicates that it does improve engagement and reduces cell phone usage by 90%. There are going to be cheaters out there who bring in two phones, there's no way you can completely stop it.

Mr. Detzel: Thank you for the Yondr presentation. A reminder to everyone that on Thursday, August 22, from 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm the Community Partners for Education is having their annual night at Stricker's Grove. Everybody in the District is invited. Admission is \$5 for kids or \$20 per family.

Ms. Slattery: I'm very excited for the new school year. My hope and prayers for the district are that we have a year of phenomenal growth. I think last year we took a beating in the media, both on social media and in the news media, where they highlighted our failures. I hope that we put everybody on notice that that's not what we're celebrating this year. We're celebrating our successes and we are changing the narrative. I think we also need to realize that success doesn't mean perfection, it means improvement and growth. If we have a student who increases their math average from 68 to 72, that's a success. If we have a football team that executes a new play perfectly but loses the game, that's still a success. And if we have students that decrease their absences, maybe not to zero but a decrease, that is still a success. I really believe that positivity breeds positivity and brings good results, and negativity breeds negativity and yields poor results. We can't let our image be shaped by the negative.

We need to live in the present, learn from our past, and prepare for our future. We won't sweep our shortcomings under the rug. We need to work tirelessly together to find solutions and we need to work as a team to accomplish that task. We can disagree without inciting a civil war or a cold war. We are all here for the same purpose, to

educate our students and to prepare them for the next stage of life. Nothing supersedes that purpose. So, I hope that we can all be supportive of each other, that includes the students, the staff, the teachers, the administrators and the Board of Education. When this unity happens, the District's light will surely shine bright and when united we are an unstoppable powerhouse. I hope we have a great year.

Mr. Gilbert: Thank you to the staff for getting everything ready. I'll be praying for our students, our staff and our educators.

Mrs. Taulbee: Thank you to the first responders for being here this week to welcome all of our students back to school. I'm praying that everyone has a safe and successful school year. I'm glad to hear that the first day at the high schools went well and hope tomorrow is the same. I also want to remind everyone to follow the school social media pages including the PTA pages. Join the PTAs, they do so much for our students. Join the boosters at both high schools. Try to get involved and find a place where you can give back because there are so many opportunities to be in the schools and meet the staff and see what your kids are doing every day.

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

1.1 Board President Called for Adjournment

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

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member (**Jim Detzel**) 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 7:36 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