

MAPLEWOOD CAREER CENTER
Board Meeting Notes
Regular Meeting
December 21, 2023

Convened: 5:07 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Board President, Mr. Brian Violi.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board Vice President, Roger Boltz, and followed by a moment of silence.

Roll call: Patricia Brett and Chelli Yoho were absent.

Acceptance and approval of Board meeting agenda for December 21, 2023, as presented on BoardPaq.

Acceptance and approval of the minutes of the November 16, 2023 policy committee meeting and the November 16, 2023 regular meeting, as presented.

No visitors were present.

Present: Mr. Randy Griffith, Superintendent; Mrs. Michelle Seckman, Treasurer.

Board President, Brian Violi, reported on the following:

- Mr. Violi thanked his fellow Board members for allowing him to be the 2023 Board President. He said he appreciated their support and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Legislative Liaison, Mary Kaley, reported on the following:

- The Senate unanimously passed Senate Bill (SB) 162. It would require public schools to provide certain academic intervention services to each student who demonstrates a limited level in Math and/or English language arts.
- The Senate unanimously passed House Bill (HB) 101. It would modify the law regarding village dissolution and makes several education-related budget corrections. Some corrections include: For preschool/school age childcare licensing, clarifying budget language that the new agency for Children and Youth will administer; Fixing a JVSD budget engrossing error to make the minimum state share percentage for joint vocational school districts 10% from 5%; Clarifying the Autism Scholarship application process to make sure that students can apply in the first year they are eligible, as the budget language is not clear; Clarifying that the State Board of Education is responsible for RAPBACK and criminal record checks, and making other corrective changes for the implementation of the new Department of Education and Workforce; and Clarifying that preservice teacher permits are under STRS not SERS.
- The Senate passed Senate Bill (SB) 168. It would make several regulatory changes, including: Allows school districts to develop and use their own frameworks for teacher evaluation, instead of using a framework developed by the State Board of Education; Clarifies that a school district is not required to hold a separate, individual public hearing on a proposed school calendar, but that the calendar may be addressed as part of another public hearing or meeting; Modifies license or certificate qualifications for senior or lead professional educators, holders of professional administrator or alternative superintendent licenses, and nonteachers employed as teachers; Eliminates seniority as a preference when making reductions in nonteaching staff positions; and Clarifies when non-licensed individuals working in a school must be entered into the RAPback system and clarifies that the RAPback provision will be overseen by the State Board of Education (SBOE).
- The House passed House Bill (HB) 147. It would make changes to teacher licensure revocation; teacher hiring practices and conduct unbecoming to the teaching profession.
- The House Primary and Secondary Education Committee amended and passed House Bill (HB) 312. It would establish the Regional Partnerships Program. The program would require the Department of Education and Workforce and the Department of Higher Education to create, administer and oversee the prenatal-to-five early childhood to post-secondary regional partnerships program; and to make an appropriation. The amendment makes it clear that participation in the program is not mandated.

- The House Primary and Secondary Education Committee held a second hearing on House Bill (HB) 171. It would modify the revised code to include instruction on the migration, experiences, and contributions of a range of communities in the social studies model curriculum.
- The House Primary and Secondary Education Committee held sponsor testimony on House Bill (HB) 266. It would require school districts and schools to update emergency management plans to include evacuation procedures for individuals with disabilities.
- The Senate Education Committee held a second hearing on House Bill (HB) 8. It would enact the Parents Bill of Rights, requiring public schools to adopt a policy on parental notification regarding student health and well-being and instructional materials with sexuality content.
- The Senate Education Committee held a second hearing on Senate Bill (SB) 112. It would require school buildings to comply with national life safety standards and names this act the Ohio Childhood Safety Act.
- The House Ways and Means Committee held a third hearing on House Bill (HB) 274. It would authorize an enhanced property tax homestead exemption of \$50,000 for long-term homeowners who meet certain eligibility requirements.
- The House Ways and Means Committee held sponsor testimony on House Bill (HB) 344. It would eliminate replacement property tax levies and would make changes to the laws regarding property tax valuation complaints, counter-complaints and appeals.
- The Senate Ways and Means Committee held sponsor testimony on Senate Bill (SB) 186. It would require payment of property taxes and assessments when a lot is split or transferred and generally prohibit tax-delinquent property owners from purchasing tax-foreclosed property.
- The State Board of Education voted to appoint Paul Craft, superintendent of Buckeye Valley Local (Delaware), as the next state superintendent of public instruction. Craft will begin his new post on Jan. 1, 2024.
- House Bill (HB) 361 was introduced. It would expand eligibility for a 40-hour teaching permit.
- Senate Bill (SB) 205 was introduced. It would require the Department of Education and Workforce and the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to develop a list of evidence-based curricula, materials, and instruction in the harmful effects of and legal restrictions against drug abuse, alcoholic beverages, marijuana, and tobacco in schools.

Student Achievement Liaison, Joan Seman, reported on the following:

- OSBA's *Student Success* in-depth – *Proposed study on how cellphones affect students*: A bipartisan Senate bill, the Focus On Learning Act, introduced in mid-November proposes a U.S. study led by the U.S. Department of Education on the effects of cellphone use in K-12 classrooms related to students' mental health and academic performance. The pilot program would provide participating schools with secure containers to store students' phones during school hours. National research would be conducted on elementary and secondary student cellphone use and the impact on learning, academic achievement, educational outcomes, engagement, classroom instruction, school climate and student behavior. Senator Tom Cotton (R-Arkansas) said in a statement, "Widespread use of cellphones in schools are at best a distraction for young Americans; at worst, they expose schoolchildren to content that is harmful and addictive. Our legislation will make schools remain centers of learning." To participate in the pilot program, a school would be required to have a communication system in place to allow teachers, administrators, and staff to communicate with local emergency responders.

Superintendent, Randy Griffith, reported on the following:

- Mr. Griffith said he is looking at replacing portions of the asphalt this summer. He is also considering some potential building additions to create more high-bay space that will allow for new programming.
- The Helping Hand raised quite a bit of money this year. The money raised is predominantly from staff contributions. We were able to aid 19 students/families with \$300 gift cards.
- Mr. Griffith thanked the Maplewood staff for their dedication to the students and for the work they do to help students succeed. The custodial, maintenance, cafeteria, administrative personnel, administration, instructional, and adult education staffs are committed and hard-working. Maplewood is blessed to have them. Mr. Griffith thanked them all and wished them a Happy Holiday season and a Happy New Year.

- Mr. Griffith thanked the Maplewood Board of Education. Their work often goes unrecognized. Maplewood Career Center would not have an outstanding staff and high enrollment without a longstanding, cohesive Board of Education that focuses on quality instruction and “hands-on” experiences which lead to employment.
- Mr. Griffith thanked Mr. Roger Boltz for his more than 27 years of service on the Maplewood Board of Education. Mr. Boltz’s dedicated support of Maplewood’s students and staff is appreciated and will be greatly missed.
- Mr. Griffith reviewed the Day School Report and Board Packet: Important upcoming dates; Senior Awards Ceremony at the Kent State University MAC Center on Tuesday, May 28, 2024; November Students of the Month – Senior, Trinity Ivory, Cosmetology-East, Streetsboro, and Junior, Ava Grace, Welding, Rootstown; and Nutrition Standards for Food and Beverages sold on Maplewood’s school premises.

The following recommendations were made by the Treasurer and motions were acted on by the Board:

- The District Financial Report was approved and filed for the month of November, 2023.
- The expenditures were approved for the month of November, 2023.
- The investments were ratified for the month of November, 2023 and total investment earnings for the 2023 calendar year.
- The bank reconciliations were ratified for the month of November, 2023.
- Informational Items: Approved Fiscal Year 2024 Amended Certificate of Estimated Resources; approved a Then and Now Certification for Linde Gas & Equipment, Inc.; Fiscal Year 2023 Audit; Fiscal Year 2025 Alternative Tax Budget, Pepple and Waggoner School Negotiations Workshop, Holiday Inn, Independence, Ohio, January 25, 2024; COSSBA, Consortium of State School Boards Associations, National Conference, Dallas, Texas, February 22 – 25, 2024; NSBA, National School Boards Associations, National Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana, April 6 – 8, 2024.

The following recommendations were made by the Superintendent and motions were acted on by the Board:

- Authorized and directed the Board President and the Treasurer to give written notice of contract expiration to the following administrators: Joseph Hinton, Cafeteria Supervisor, Michael Lenzo, Supervisor of Business Affairs, and Rachel Simone, Supervisor.
- Approved employment of part-time Adult Education instructors and ASPIRE personnel.
- Approved the grant applications: Ohio Bureau of Workers’ Compensation Intervention Grant and Ohio Department of Higher Education Work Ready Grant Program.
- Accepted one donation.

New Business:

- Appointed Brian Violi, Board President, to serve as president pro tem for the Organizational Meeting on Thursday, January 18, 2024.
- Adopted the proclamation to name January 2024 as “School Board Recognition Month”.
- Conducted the first reading and review of policies.
- Approved contract extension with NEONET as the bundled Internet Access Services provider.

Unfinished Business:

- Approved a Compensation Agreement between the Board of Education of the Ravenna City School District, Board of Education of the Maplewood Career Center, and MCSM LLC and Springseal, Inc.

Executive Session: Discuss employment or appointment of public employees, matters required to be kept confidential by federal law or regulations or state statutes, and, safety and security. **(5:40 p.m. – 5:47 p.m.)**

Adjourned: 5:47 p.m.