

MAPLEWOOD CAREER CENTER
Board Meeting Notes
Regular Meeting
July 20, 2023

Convened: 5:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Board President, 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, Lori Calcei, and Jay Kelsey were absent.

Acceptance and approval of the Board meeting agenda for July 20, 2023, as presented on BoardPaq.

Acceptance and approval of the minutes for the June 15, 2023, personnel committee meeting, the June 15, 2023, finance and audit committee meeting, the June 15, 2023, regular meeting, and the June 23, 2023, special meeting, as presented.

The following visitors were received: Ms. Jennifer Case; Ms. Renee Romine, Portage County NAACP President; Mrs. Laure Gauntner, Maplewood Adult Education Director; and Officer Andrew Wert. Diane Smith, Record-Courier reporter, arrived at 5:05 p.m.

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

Public Participation: Jennifer Case, 315 E. Grant Street, Kent, Ohio 44240.

Ms. Jennifer Case read from a prepared statement. She spoke about her actions leading up to and the night of the GED graduation on June 15, 2023, and subsequent events that followed. Ms. Case said Maplewood Career Center is in violation of Ohio Sunshine Laws and the Open Meetings Act because the doors are locked and guests are asked to scan their IDs. Ms. Case requested a resignation.

Board President, Brian Violi, had nothing to report.

Legislative Liaison, Mary Kaley, reported on the following:

- Governor Mike DeWine signed House Bill (HB) 33. The bill makes operating appropriations for the fiscal years (FY) 2024 and 2025. The biennium budget continues to roll out the Fair School Funding Plan by using the FY2022 data for base cost inputs; increases the minimum state share percentage; maintains the capacity calculation as designed; and includes the comprehensive economically disadvantaged cost study funding. Universal EdChoice voucher expansion was kept in the final budget. Families with income below 450% of the federal poverty level will be eligible for a full voucher while those 450%-750% of the federal poverty level will be means-tested based on their family income. Those who are above 750% of the federal poverty level will receive \$650 for K-8 students and \$950 for high school students. Senate Bill (SB) 1, which restructures the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), strips the partially elected State Board of Education of all but its regulatory powers and gives power to a cabinet-level agency called the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (DEW), was included in the budget too.
- The Ohio House passed Senate Bill (SB) 43, which would modify the homestead exemption for the surviving spouse of a disabled veteran to enact a seven-day interim budget and to make an appropriation. It will now be sent to Governor Mike DeWine for his signature.
- House Bill (HB) 219 was introduced. It would make changes to the College Credit Plus Program.
- House Bill (HB) 235 was introduced. It would make changes regarding membership and election of the State Board of Education members and the State Board's public meetings.

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

- OSBA's Student Success in-depth – Math, reading scores of 13-year-olds plummet on NAEP: The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) released the "nation's report card". It revealed a significant drop in the math and reading scores of 13-year-olds, marking the largest drop in math scores in the past 50 years. The long-term trend assessment given in math and reading is focused on basic skills. It has remained

relatively unchanged since the 1970's. Between 2020 and 2023, reading scores declined four points, and math scores declined nine points. When measured going back to 2012, the declines are greater with seven points in reading and thirteen in math. The pandemic made things worse, but the troubling trends date back a decade. The math score comparisons for the past decade show a decline of fourteen points for low performing students and a decline of six points in high performing students.

Superintendent, Randy Griffith, reported on the following:

- Mr. Urchek contacted Mr. Griffith. He would like to offer students the opportunity to be signed out for lunch. He would take the students to the Maplewood Church for conversation. It would be voluntary and would require parental consent. Other Portage County Superintendents have reported positive results from Mr. Urchek's program.
- The window project is moving along. The incorrectly installed brick has been replaced with split faced block.
- The sign on the front of the building needs repaired. The Alucobond panels were originally installed correctly. They carry a nineteen-year warranty. The company who came to install the sign used a template and adhesive and marred the panels. The sign company would like to remove the marred panels and install new ones. Mr. Griffith is concerned that having non-Alucobond installers would void the warranty. He would prefer having Alucobond certified installers complete the work.
- Summer work being done includes painting, installation of epoxy floors, electrical upgrades, and equipment installation.
- The Calcom emergency system has been having issues for the past month. Calcom is sending their best technician tomorrow to attempt to fix it.
- Sarah Penix placed first in the Medical Assisting competition at the National SkillsUSA Competition in Atlanta, Georgia. She is the best in the Nation. Mr. Griffith congratulated Sarah Penix and her instructor, Alexis Rutledge. They both did fantastic jobs. Mr. Griffith has contacted the Record Courier regarding publishing an article on Sarah.
- Maplewood is looking for an aide for Early Childhood Education. Mrs. Cathy Frances retired this summer. Cathy has been at Maplewood for seven years and has done a great job.
- Maplewood is continuing the "Your Choice" program for the coming school year. Students volunteer for the program. They undergo an initial drug screening and then random drug testing throughout the year. Those that complete the program receive a certificate that they are drug free.
- The health clinic was very successful last year and will be continued this school year. Maplewood was able to offer medical services and immunizations to students who do not have health care, with parental permission.
- The Board packet included the following: Magnetic School Calendar; Student Handbooks; and Honor Roll – 4th Quarter, 2nd Semester, and year.

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 June, 2023.
- The expenditures were approved for the month of June, 2023.
- The investments were ratified for the month of June, 2023, and calendar year 2023.
- The bank reconciliation was ratified for the month of June, 2023.
- Approved the Set-Aside for FY2024 for Capital Outlay and Maintenance.
- Authorized the payment of the balance of unused leave for Craig Morgan, Career Technical Director.
- **Informational Items:** Fiscal Year 2023 Financial Recap; Fiscal Year 2023 GAAP Conversion; Fiscal Year 2023 Audit; Ohio ACTE Annual Innovation & Impact Conference, July 24-26, 2023, Hilton Columbus/Easton; OSBA Capital Conference, Columbus Convention Center, November 12 – 14, 2023.

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

- Accepted the resignation of Cathy Frances, Child Care Aide, effective June 30, 2023.
- Approved employment of certificated substitute, Thomas Hedington, for the 2023-2024 school year.

- Approved a revised salary notice for Blake Collins, Special Education Teacher.
- Employed certificated/licensed teacher Colton Scheall, Mechanical, Groundskeeping and Construction instructor, for the 2023-2024 school year.
- Approved employment of part-time Adult Education instructors and ASPIRE personnel.
- Approved payment of Andrew Wert, Security Personnel, for July 20, 2023, Board of Education Meeting.
- Approved three donations.
- Reviewed the 2023-2024 Teacher Handbook.
- Reviewed the Adult Education Faculty Handbook.
- Approved the following applications: National School Lunch Program, Government Donated Food Program, and School Breakfast Program.

New Business:

- Authorized an agreement to sell surplus items that are no longer in use by the district through an online or in person auction. The company is Edinburg Auction Sales, Inc., 4029 State Route 14, Rootstown, OH 44272.

Unfinished Business:

- Conducted the second reading and adoption of policies.

Executive Session: Employment or appointment of public employees, security arrangements and emergency response protocols. **(5:29 p.m. – 5:51 p.m.)**

Adjourned: 5:51 p.m.