

MAPLEWOOD CAREER CENTER

Board Meeting Notes

Regular Meeting

September 18, 2025

Convened: 5:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Board President, Mary Kaley.

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

Roll call: Heather Hakin was absent.

Featured Program: Superintendent, Mr. Randy Griffith, reviewed Mrs. Chrystal Valentine's history, qualifications, and comments. Mr. Griffith escorted the Board down to the Cosmetology lab where he introduced Mrs. Valentine and Mrs. Giarrano. Mrs. Valentine and Mrs. Giarrano, along with students Alexandria Biggin and Lena Ross, gave a presentation highlighting the Cosmetology programs.

The meeting recessed at 5:03 p.m. and reconvened at 5:32 p.m.

Acceptance and approval of the Board meeting agenda for September 18, 2025, as presented on Community/Highbond.

Acceptance and approval of the minutes for the August 21, 2025, regular meeting as presented.

No visitors were present.

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

Board President, Mary Kaley, reported on the following:

- Mrs. Kaley and five other Board members attended the Pepple and Waggoner School Law Update Seminar earlier in the day. They all thought it was very good. They discussed information presented at the seminar regarding budget bill changes and cellphone policy verbiage.

Legislative Liaison, Mary Kaley, reported on the following:

- The Ohio legislature included several property tax items in House Bill (HB) 96, the biennial budget bill. Governor, Mike DeWine, vetoed most of those items and created a property tax workgroup to study the issue and develop recommendations. The Ohio House returned on July 21, 2025, and voted to override one of DeWine's veto items. DeWine had vetoed language in House Bill (HB) 96 that would eliminate the ability of local subdivisions to place several types of levies on the ballot, including emergency, substitute, replacement, and renewal with an increase levy. The Ohio Senate has indicated that it has the votes for an override and will consider that issue upon its return. Governor DeWine's property tax workgroup has been meeting weekly since late July and has studied and reviewed the property tax items that were vetoed. The co-chairs of the group are trying to find issues of consensus and will include those items in the final report due September 30, 2025. Additionally, the workgroup has discussed other property tax bills that have already been introduced in the legislature. One bill that has been discussed the most is House Bill (HB) 186, which authorizes a property tax credit for the owners of property that is located in a school district on the 20-mill floor, with the goal of limiting a district's total property tax revenue growth from the floor to the rate of inflation. Workgroup members have also talked about including inside millage and will continue to discuss this bill as they finalize their work. The workgroup is focused on both short-term relief and long-term solutions. An area that would provide some relief and has had considerable discussion is deferment programs, expansion of the homestead exemption and circuit breakers. However, all of these would require that the legislature allocate money, and since House Bill (HB) 96 is already signed, it is unlikely that the

legislature will allocate these types of funds this fall. Both the House and Senate will continue to work on property tax bills and may try to override DeWine's vetoes. This will be an important topic discussed this fall. Also unknown are the property tax workgroup recommendations and legislators' reaction to the final report. Lastly, it is unclear how involved DeWine will be in the property discussion once the report is released. Any stand-alone bill will need DeWine's signature, so if the legislature passes any additional property tax bills, it will need DeWine's support.

- Every year, the legislature introduces an education deregulation bill that includes mostly noncontroversial items and aims to update the Ohio Revised Code. Both the Ohio House and Ohio Senate have started developing bills that should be introduced in the near future. These bills will likely move quickly and see multiple amendments. Other education bills could be amended into the deregulation bill, essentially turning it into an omnibus bill.
- The Ohio Congressional map will expire at the end of 2026 because the map has not received bipartisan support. The state legislature is the entity tasked with drawing the new lines, which need to be finalized by September 30, 2025. If the legislature does not finalize the map by that date, the Ohio Redistricting Commission will take over as the entity to draw the congressional lines. The maps need to be completed ahead of the 2026 elections. The redistricting discussion will be one of the biggest and most important topics this fall and could impact other bill negotiations at the Statehouse.

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

- OSBA's *Student Success* article – *New Richmond EV launches school-based health clinic*: New Richmond Exempted Village schools recently partnered with Cincinnati Children's Hospital to open a school-based health clinic. Maplewood does something similar.
- OSBA's *Student Success* article – *Columbus City students building house through construction program*: High school students at Columbus City's Fort Hayes Career Center have taken the initiative to construct a home in partnership with Habitat for Humanity Mid-Ohio. Maplewood does something similar.
- OSBA's *Student Success* in-depth – *Postpandemic student achievement levels still lower than prepandemic*: In a report created by Curriculum Associates, a firm for classroom testing and curriculum, the nation's students are lagging the academic achievement levels of the pre-pandemic era. Overall academic achievement trends are largely unchanged from the 2021-2022 school year. The report draws on data from 11 million K-8 students in reading and 13 million in math. The share of students meeting grade-level benchmarks has been flat since spring 2023, with only a slight uptick in spring 2025. Schools have been grappling with increased rates of chronic absenteeism and student mental health issues. Schools received \$190 billion in federal COVID-19 relief aid to help catch students up. Research shows the relief did lead to some improved academic outcomes, but experts conclude that it wasn't enough to get students fully back on track. The pandemic acted as a "reset" moment, prompting educators to rethink how they help students rebuild skills. We need to flip how we are educating students to get them back on track sooner than later.

Superintendent, Randy Griffith, reported on the following:

- Mr. Griffith reviewed the Day School Report: Junior and Senior Enrollment; District and Program Enrollment; Junior Orientation; and Cosmetology East and West student rosters.
- Mr. Griffith is planning an addition on the southwest portion of the building. The plan is to build two high bay labs and four classrooms in the green space between the loading dock and the south parking lot. There will be two overhead doors on the southwest end for the high bay labs. There will be a hallway between the Cosmetology lab and the four classrooms followed by the two high bay labs to the west. There will be a hall going from Cosmetology West to the end of the new structure with students entering into their labs via the man doors like the rest of the facility. The project will take the better part of two years to complete. The addition will be approximately 14,000 square feet and the preliminary cost estimate is \$14 million. Tentatively, Mr. Griffith plans to start a Fire/EMT program and another welding program. However, programs will ultimately depend on student interest and the ability to obtain an instructor. Mr. Griffith has been approached by the Suffield Fire Department about starting both adult and day school fire programs. They have suggested having different instructors on different days. Mr. Griffith said the teacher will need to be certified and one teacher would provide a steady

presence in the classroom. Maplewood should be able to support two welding programs. Seventy students signed up for welding this school year.

- Maplewood will hold its 50th Anniversary Celebration on October 8, 2025, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Mr. Griffith commended the many staff members for signing up to volunteer for the evening. 100% of the Career Technical instructors volunteered. All programs will be open for the event. Mr. Griffith said he was very pleased that the staff is stepping up for the event.
- The start of the school year has been smooth except for some changes that are coming in the Welding program.
- Student discipline is down this year. Mr. Griffith believes this may be due to the random selection process and possibly students being accustomed to new cellphone policies.

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 August, 2025.
- The expenditures were approved for the month of August, 2025.
- The investments were ratified for the month of August, 2025 and the calendar year, 2025.
- The bank reconciliation was ratified for the month of August, 2025.
- Approved the "Set A-Sides" for FY2026.
- Approved the Amended Certificate of Estimated Resources and Permanent Appropriations Resolutions for FY2026.
- Approved the FY2026 Financial Forecast and Assumptions.
- Approved a resolution to establish Fund 535 as a special revenue fund for the Basic PELL Grant Program.
- **Informational Items:** Fiscal Year 2025 GAAP Conversion; Fiscal Year 2025 Audit; OSBA Northeast Region Fall Conferences: Wadsworth, Wednesday, October 1, 2025; OSBA Capital Conference, Greater Columbus Convention Center, November 16-18, 2025.

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

- Moved certificated/licensed instructors on the teachers' salary schedule as stipulated in the Master Agreement between the Board and Maplewood Career Center Education Association; Ryan Jadwin, Monica McAtee, and Katherine Stuver.
- Approved employment of certified substitute instructor, Tristan Tracy, for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year.
- Accepted the resignation of Benjamin Davis, Welding Instructor, effective September 19, 2025.
- Approved one donation.
- Commended the cafeteria, secretarial, maintenance, custodial, Adult Education, and technology staff for their preparations and hard work leading to a smooth start of the new school year.
- Commended the instructional staff and day school administrators for an excellent start to the new school year.
- Commended the staff who manned Maplewood's Portage County Randolph Fair booth from August 19-24, 2025.
- Approved an overnight field trip for the Mechanical, Groundskeeping and Construction and Hospitality Service Careers students and advisors. The event will be held in Carrollton, Ohio, October 6-8, 2025.

New Business:

- Approved Maplewood Career Center joining the HPS Committed Purchasing Program, during the 2025-2026 school year.
- Approved USDA Foods Member Agreement for the 2026-2027 school year.
- Authorized the Superintendent to advertise/solicit for design/build services.

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. **(6:15 p.m. - 6:23 p.m.)**

Adjourned: 6:24 p.m.