

# MAPLEWOOD CAREER CENTER

## Board Meeting Notes

### Regular Meeting

October 16, 2025

**Convened: 5:01 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 and Chelli Yoho were absent.

**Acceptance and approval of the Board meeting agenda for October 16, 2025, as presented on Community/Highbond.**

**Acceptance and approval of the minutes for the September 18, 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 OSBA Northeast Region Fall Conference. It was a very nice event.

**Legislative Liaison, Mary Kaley, reported on the following:**

- The Ohio House passed House Bill (HB) 129. This bill would do the following:
  - Require that current expense fixed-sum levies be included in the calculation of a school district's 20-mill floor or a joint vocational school district's 2-mill floor for property tax purposes. The following types of levies will be included in the 20-mill floor calculation: emergency, substitute, conversion, growth and fixed-sum tax coupled with an income tax levy.
  - Include fixed-sum levies in the first tax year, beginning in tax year 2026, in which a county in which the district has territory undergoes a reappraisal or triennial update.
  - Allow school districts to pursue fixed-sum levies in two cases: if the district levied an emergency levy approved by voters before 2026; or if it is in fiscal emergency, watch or caution or if a president or governor has declared an emergency in the district's territory.
  - In either circumstance, the levy must be labeled as a fixed-sum levy (not an emergency levy), must be for current operating expenses, may not be renewed and may only be levied for up to five years.
  - Clarify that the renewal of a fixed-sum levy that was first approved by voters before September 29, 2013, is still subject to the property tax rollbacks for nonbusiness property (10%) and owner-occupied residences (2.5%) after its renewal as a fixed-sum levy under the amendment. The bill now heads to the Senate for consideration.
- The Ohio House passed House Bill (HB) 309. This bill would do the following:
  - Allow county budget commissions to reduce millage on any voter-approved tax levy aside from a debt levy if it finds it necessary or prudent to do so.
  - Define "unnecessary" and "excessive" tax collections.
  - Only allow such actions after five years and require a commission to hold a hearing prior to reducing the amount or rate of any tax.
  - Limit county budget commissions authority to reduce levies collected for the use of majority-elected taxing units below what the levies collected in the prior year or, for school districts, below 20-mills except by request of the school district. The bill now moves to the Senate for consideration.

- House Bill (HB) 499 was recently introduced. It would modify the law governing county budget commissions and property taxation. The bill allows county budget commissions to reduce property tax collections to the prior year's level and protects school districts on the 20-mill floor from losing state funding under the bill.

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

- OSBA's *Student Success* in-depth – *Employers see industry credentials as a bonus for graduates*: A recent survey by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce gathered insights from 500 hiring managers across diverse industries representing small, medium, and large firms. More than 80% of employers are concerned about students' preparedness for the workforce immediately following high school graduation. The demand for industry-recognized credentials and strong soft skills continues to rise for entry-level candidates. Among trade school graduates, 90% of employers considered those with industry-recognized credentials to be career-ready, compared with just 76% for those without. For four-year college graduates, 89% of employers expressed confidence in candidates holding both a degree and credentials, versus 74% who relied solely on a degree. For high school graduates, 71% of employers said students with career seals were prepared for the workforce, while only 40% believed the same of those without credentials. Diplomas are no longer enough. Hiring managers indicated experience and demonstrated abilities outweigh formal education. Candidates who complete internships, showcased problem-solving capacity or communicated effectively were ranked higher than applicants who had prior leadership titles or even bachelor's degrees. Employers are increasingly valuing financial literacy. 61% of hiring managers cited budgeting, debt management and tax knowledge as desirable skills for entry-level workers. The College Board is expanding its Advanced Placement (AP) offerings. Beginning in the 2026-2027 academic year, students will have access to new AP courses in business, personal finance and cybersecurity.

**Superintendent, Randy Griffith, reported on the following:**

- Maplewood will have a college trade-school fair on December 3, 2025. It will be during the school day. All Senior students will attend during their English classes. Junior students who are interested may also attend during their labs.
- There have been issues with cars driving around the buses. There are signs in the parking lot stating that no one is to drive around the buses on Maplewood property. Recently, some of the bus drivers waived cars around the buses. Mr. Griffith spoke with each bus driver personally and asked them not to waive cars around. Some of the special needs students have to cross the road between the buses to access transportation vehicles, and could be hit by someone passing the buses. Mr. Griffith also contacted all of the associate school Superintendents to request that they inform their drivers not to waive students past the buses. Mr. Craig Morgan contacted all of the associate schools' bus garages to request the same.
- The new Welding instructor, Matthew Bourbon, is doing well. He has made good decisions, asks for help, and appears to be a worker. He also appears to have good relationships with the students to date.
- Mr. Griffith is looking for a new Intervention Specialist to replace Mrs. Laura Darby. Mrs. Darby's passing has been devastating to Maplewood's staff. Mrs. Darby was a great lady. She did a great job. She will be greatly missed.
- Maplewood's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary went well. There were a lot of compliments regarding the facilities' cleanliness and appearance. Previous staff members attending were very complimentary. Mr. Griffith thanked all of the staff who participated in the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. Without their help and commitment to what we do for students, we would not have been able to open our facilities to past students and the community. They volunteered and got the job done. The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event was another demonstration of Maplewood having a quality staff. Mr. Griffith said he was very proud of the Maplewood staff and he appreciated all of their efforts.
- Mr. Griffith reviewed the Board Packet: Maplewood Career Center October 2025 Directory; and Record Courier Article: "*Maplewood Career Center to celebrate 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary*".

**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 September, 2025

- The checks/expenditures were approved for the month of September, 2025.
- The investments were ratified for the month of September, 2025.
- The bank reconciliation was ratified for the month of September, 2025.
- Approved transfers and advances for FY2026.
- **Informational Items:** Fiscal Year 2025 GAAP Conversion and Fiscal Year 2025 Compliance Audit; OSBA Capital Conference, Greater Columbus Convention Center, November 16–18, 2025; COSSBA, Consortium of State School Boards Associations, National Conference, Louisville, Kentucky, March 13-15, 2026; Board Pay for Attendance at Approved Training Programs for 2025.

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

- Approved employment of part-time Adult Education instructors: Samantha Oberholtzer and Sandra Wegner.
- Approved hiring Matt Bourbon, Welding Instructor, for the 2025-2026 contract year.
- Employed Elizabeth Thompson, classified substitute, for the 2025-2026 school year.
- Approved employment of certified substitute Darby Musselman for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year.
- Approved the employment and contract for CJ Nalepa Devine as the Christmas in the Woods Coordinator.
- Employed security personnel for Christmas in the Woods, October 31-November 1, 2025.
- Accepted the resignation of Carol Gauntner-Earle, Business Office Secretary, after 35 years of service, effective December 31, 2025.
- Approved the grant application: Federal Revenue: E-Grant for Ohio SchoolNet.
- Accepted two donations.
- Commended staff who worked the Ravenna Balloon-A-Fair booth on September 27, 2025.

**New Business:**

- Authorized the Superintendent to advertise/solicit construction manager-at-risk 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. **(5:40 p.m. – 5:55 p.m.)**

**Adjourned: 5:55 p.m.**