

MAPLEWOOD CAREER CENTER
Board Meeting Notes
Regular Meeting March 19, 2026

Convened: 5:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Board Vice President, Bonnie Lovejoy.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board Member, Jay Kelsey, and was followed by a moment of silence.

Roll call: Patricia Brett was absent. Mr. Boltz arrived at 5:08 p.m. and took over the duties of the Board President.

Featured Program: Superintendent, Mr. Randy Griffith, reviewed Mr. Michael Lovejoy's history, qualifications, and comments. Mr. Griffith escorted the Board to the Auto Service Technology lab where he introduced Mr. Lovejoy. Mr. Lovejoy and three of his students, Emma Marshall, Ryeligh Small, and Logan Stalker, gave a presentation highlighting the Auto Service Technology program.

The meeting recessed at 5:02 p.m. and reconvened at 5:19 p.m.

Acceptance and approval of Board meeting agenda for March 19, 2026, as presented on CivicPlus.

Acceptance and approval of the minutes of the February 19, 2026 regular meeting as presented.

No visitors were present.

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

Board President, Roger Boltz reported on the following:

- Mr. Boltz and Mr. Kelsey attended the COSSBA National Conference in Louisville, Kentucky, last weekend. Attendees at the conference were given water bottles at registration and were encouraged to use the reusable bottles. Each refill was scanned by using an app on their phones. Because the attendees attained more than 1,000 bottle refills, a donation was made to "No Kid Hungry". Phylcia Rashad, known for portraying Claire Huxtable on The Cosby Show, was a keynote speaker. Mark Bobo, from the Ohio School Boards Association, gave a presentation where he spoke about his days at The Ohio State University.

Legislative Liaison, Mary Kaley, reported on the following:

- The House Education Committee held its fifth hearing on House Bill (HB) 125. This bill would expand the law on excused absences from school. The committee amended the bill to:
 - Require a school district to count a student who participates in a district-approved, school-sponsored or workforce preparation activity during school hours as being present at school. Students will be given the opportunity to make up any school work missed during participation in an approved activity and an educator affiliated with the activity or the student's parent will submit written documentation as proof of student participation.
 - Require a district to approve, at minimum, 4-H and FFA activities or programs, athletic tournaments, field trips, internships and shadowing opportunities.
 - Prohibit a student's class grades or the chronic absenteeism calculation for the district or school from being adversely affected by the student participating in an approved activity.
 - Requires a school principal to consider a student absent if the student's participation in an approved activity occurs during the scheduled administration of state assessments or any period of time for which the student has been disciplined, suspended or expelled, if the terms of such punishment would preclude the student from otherwise participating in an educational field trip or extracurricular activity.
- The Senate Education Committee held its second hearing on House Bill (HB) 455. This bill would make changes to the operation of public schools and Ohio Department of Education and Workforce and eliminate obsolete provisions of education law.
- The Senate Education Committee held its second hearing on Senate Bill (SB) 326. This bill would require school districts to offer, and students to complete, at least one high school computer science course.

- The Senate Education Committee held its second hearing on Senate Bill (SB) 328. This bill would create the Education and Workforce Return on Investment Initiative, a middle school career exploration course requirement with student academic and career plans.
- The Senate Education Committee held its third hearing on Senate Bill (SB) 318. This bill would authorize a law enforcement agency to provide school resource officer services to a chartered nonpublic school.
- The House Ways and Means Committee held its third hearing on House Bill (HB) 504. This bill would authorize counties to temporarily exempt a portion of a property's increased value from taxation following a reappraisal and name this act the “Calculated Adjustments for Property Surges (CAPS) Act.”
- The House Ways and Means Committee amended House Bill (HB) 443. This bill would prohibit enforcement of delinquent property tax liens against certain owner-occupied homesteads. The amendment modifies the amount each owner must pay to avoid property tax foreclosure to an amount equivalent to at least 100% of the taxes due for the last year that taxes were paid in full.
- The House Ways and Means Committee amended House Bill (HB) 540. This bill would make changes to the law regarding conservation organizations with significant holdings of tax-exempt land. The amendment reduces the percentage of the taxable value of land that shall be exempt from taxation.
- The Senate Ways and Means Committee held sponsor testimony on Senate Bill (SB) 481. This bill would modify tax enforcement authorities, among other provisions.

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

- Mrs. Seman reviewed a Columbus Dispatch article, *As career tech becomes cool in Ohio, can the state meet the demand?*, published on January 11, 2026. Interest is growing among students for workforce skills and career technical education. Enrollment in joint vocational schools has increased 18.4% over the last five years. During the 2023-2024 school year, 91,015 Ohio students were in a career technical education workforce development pathway. This number is included in the total 141,503 Ohio students participating in at least one CTE course in grades 7-12. The growth in workforce and trades students reflects attitudes shifting away from a stigma against students pursuing a trades education. For years, going into a trade has been seen as something lesser than a four-year degree. Now, going into a trade is seen as a pathway to earning stability without the burden of college debt.

Superintendent: Mr. Griffith reported on the following items:

- Mr. Griffith reviewed the Day School Report: Student Youth Organization Competitions; February Students of the Month, Junior, Benjamin Phillip, Hospitality Service Careers, Waterloo, and Senior, Benna Kearns, Animal Science, Field; and Maplewood End of Year Events.
- Mr. Griffith reviewed the remainder of the Board Packet: Student Handbook 2026 – 2027; Maplewood Career Center February 2026 Directory; and Nutrition Standards for Food and Beverages sold on Maplewood’s school premises.
- Mr. Griffith gave an update on the new addition project and additional parking lots. With the additional two programs, there will be a need for additional parking. An additional sewage line will also be needed for the project.
- Mr. Griffith and another administrator will be visiting the Tri-C campus to view their Firefighting and EMT labs. Mr. Slankard and Mr. Bourbon will be visiting Portage Lakes to view their welding lab. Maplewood’s current welding lab has tight cubicles and the machines are on fixed stands. Mr. Griffith would like to modernize the lab and make it more efficient.

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 February, 2026.
- The expenditures were approved for the month of February, 2026.
- The investments were ratified for the month of February, 2026 and calendar year 2026.
- The bank reconciliations were ratified for the month of February, 2026.
- Approved Amended Certificate of Estimated Resources and Amended Appropriations for FY2026.
- Approved the Ohio Deferred Compensation Roth 457 Option Employer Adoption for FY2026.
- Approved participation in the Ohio Schools Council Workers’ Compensation Group Retrospective Rating for the rating period of January 1, 2027, through December 31, 2027.

- Informational Items: Fiscal Year 2025 Financial Audit, OSBA Northeast Region Spring Conference, Polaris Career Center in Middleburg Heights, March 25, 2026, OSBA Board Leadership Institute 2026, Hilton Columbus – Polaris, May 8-9, 2026, Ohio ACTE 2026 All Ohio Conference, Hilton Columbus – Easton, July 20-22, 2026.

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

- Approved employment of Nathan Cain, Industrial Maintenance Adult Education Instructor, effective March 23, 2026 – June 30, 2026.
- Accepted one donation.
- Reviewed the 2026-2027 Student Handbook.
- Approved “*Bring Your Child to Work Day*” for Thursday, April 23, 2026.
- Approved an overnight field trip for Early Childhood Education students and advisor to attend the FCCLA state competition in Columbus, Ohio, April 16-17, 2026.

New Business:

- Approved an agreement regarding the Electricity Purchase Program of the Ohio Schools Council.

Executive Session: Employment or appointment of public employees, and matters required to be kept confidential by federal law or regulations or state statutes, and safety, and security. (5:43 p.m. – 6:03 p.m.)

Adjourned: 6:03 p.m.