

MAPLEWOOD CAREER CENTER

Board Meeting Notes

Regular Meeting April 16, 2026

Convened: 5:01 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Board President, Roger Boltz.

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

Roll call: Patricia Brett was absent.

Featured Program: Superintendent, Mr. Randy Griffith, reviewed Mr. Mark Hamilton's history, qualifications, and comments. Mr. Griffith escorted the Board to the Applied Engineering & Machining lab where he introduced Mr. Hamilton. Mr. Hamilton gave a presentation highlighting the Applied Engineering & Machining program.

The meeting recessed at 5:03 p.m. and reconvened at 5:17 p.m.

Acceptance and approval of Board meeting agenda for April 16, 2026, as presented on CivicPlus.

Acceptance and approval of the minutes of the March 19, 2026, regular meeting and policy committee meeting as presented.

The following visitors were received: Ms. McKenna Gessford, and Ms. Julie Erickson from the Summiteer.

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

Board President, Mary Kaley, had nothing to report.

Legislative Liaison, Mary Kaley, reported on the following:

- The Ohio Legislature typically passes a capital budget bill in the second year of the General Assembly. Occasionally, the legislature will delay introducing or decline to introduce a capital budget bill if there are state fiscal concerns. The leaders of the 136th General Assembly have indicated that the bill will occur. This budget bill, unlike the operating budget, is usually a speedy and simple process. State agencies will submit capital project requests and communities can also submit projects to their state senator or representative. The legislature will then compile the requests and introduce a bill that indicates agency project funding and community project funding. One important note that pertains to agencies: the creation of the state's six-year Capital Improvements Plan is developed simultaneously with the capital budget. Ohio public schools can receive community project funding. A community project must meet certain criteria to be considered for funding, but the main source of capital budget funds for public schools comes from the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC). The OFCC was established in 2012 when the legislature merged the Ohio School Facilities Commission and the Office of the State Architect to create one agency responsible for the oversight of capital projects throughout the state. The commission manages various K-12 public school facility programs, including the planning, development and construction of new and renovated facilities. The Rebuilding Ohio Schools Program contains many initiatives to help school districts with their facility needs:
 - Alternative Facilities Assistance Program
 - Classroom Facilities Assistance Program
 - Expedited Local Partnership Program
 - Exceptional Needs Program
 - Vocational Facilities Assistance Program
 - Vocational Facilities Assistance Expedited Local Partnership Program
 - Corrective Action Program
 - Emergency Assistance Program
 - Hardship Loan Program
 - STEM Public Schools
 - Facilities Assessment Program

The Ohio Revised Code requires that the state legislature allocate \$300 million per year for public school facilities. The capital budget allocates funding for two years, so public schools receive a minimum of \$600 million. The funding that the OFCC receives for public schools will be distributed to schools based on a variety of factors, but the main indicator is the district equity list or the joint vocational equity list. Due to the limited funds, the OFCC can only select a few schools each year. Those determinations are not made within the capital budget itself. The OFCC announces the school districts receiving facility funds at a different time.

- The Ohio Legislature is on break until after the May primary election and will be working until mid-to late June. They will then take a longer break and won't return to Columbus until after the November general election. During the short time the legislature is back, the legislative agenda remains mostly hazy. The one clear issue that is expected to pass is the yet-to-be-introduced capital budget.

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

- OSBA's *Student Success* research brief – *Spring tests show modest math gains and stagnating reading scores*: The University of Chicago Consortium on School Research examined student attendance patterns in middle and high school following the COVID-19 pandemic in Chicago Public Schools. They found the rates of chronic absenteeism rose significantly, and there is a clear connection between attendance and achievement. Chronic absenteeism rates in middle schools were 10% prior to the pandemic. They rose to 33% in 2022. Chronic absenteeism rates in high schools were 27% to 37% prior to the pandemic. They rose to 49% to 57% in 2022. Schools play a vital role in student attendance but they cannot be solely blamed. Student's attendance can be affected by factors outside the school environment, but schools need to better understand where they can have the most impact on increasing student attendance and achievement. The study found that student's views of feeling safe at school and safe from bullying and teasing were associated with higher rates of attendance. Communicating about the importance of being in school, having a welcoming environment and providing engaging classroom environments support student attendance.
- OSBA's *Student Success* article – *Interactive activities for student increase thanks to cellphone ban*: Ontario Schools in Ohio brought ping pong tables, foosball tables, and a Nintendo Switch on a giant screen with chairs for students during lunch. Instead of looking at cellphones, like they had done in the past, students are now talking to each other, interacting, playing games, and laughing.

Superintendent, Randy Griffith, reported on the following:

- The construction project is moving along. Mr. Griffith has been meeting with the architects every Tuesday for a significant amount of time. Designing a welding lab is not something the architects have experience doing. Metal booths are being considered. They will take up less floor space and will allow for a more open instructional area. Two different kinds of welding machines are also being considered as it will allow students additional learning opportunities.
- The Senior Awards Ceremony will take place on May 27, 2026, at the Kent State MAC Center.
- National Honor Society inductions are this evening, The ceremony begins at 6:00 p.m. The Board members are welcome to attend.
- Mr. Griffith reviewed the Board Packet: Day School Report, April 16, 2026, Mr. Craig Morgan; National Honor Society New Inductees April 2026; Honor Roll 3rd Quarter; Student Program Fees 2026-2027; and Overall 5-Star Award Letter, Mr. Stephen Dackin, Director of Department of Education and Workforce.

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 March, 2026.
- The expenditures were approved for the month of March, 2026.
- The investments were ratified for the month of March, 2026 and calendar year 2026.
- The bank reconciliations were ratified for the month of March, 2026.
- Approved the Amended Certificate of Estimated Resources and Amended Appropriations Resolutions for FY2026.
- Informational Items: Fiscal Year 2025 Financial Audit, 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.
- Retires/Rehires.

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

- Approved employment of Benjamin Swope, Mathematics Instructor, Theresa Combs, Mathematics Instructor, Shelby Kaminski, Intervention Specialist, McKenna Gessford, Guidance Counselor, and Tyler McClellan, Guidance Counselor, for the 2026-2027 school year.
- Accepted the resignations of Jill DeRamo, Guidance Counselor, effective March 27, 2026, Brian McCombs, Mathematics Instructor, effective June 3, 2026, Ted Slankard, Supervisor, effective June 30, 2026, Jennifer Smith, Technology Coordinator, effective June 30, 2026, and Michelle Seckman, Treasurer, effective July 31, 2026.
- Approved employment of certificated substitute Wendy Paul-Mikulski, Guidance Counselor, for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year.
- Accepted two donations.
- Adopted the 2026-2027 Student Handbook.
- Approved **“Staff Appreciation Week,”** May 4-8, 2026.
- Reviewed the student program fees for the 2026-2027 school year.
- Approved an overnight field trip for SkillsUSA students and advisors to attend the SkillsUSA State competition in Columbus, Ohio, May 5-6, 2026.
- Reviewed the Maplewood Preschool Parent Handbook.

New Business:

- Conducted the first reading and review of policies.

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. (5:40 p.m. - 5:48 p.m.)

Adjourned: 5:52 p.m.