

MAPLEWOOD CAREER CENTER

Board Meeting Notes

Regular Meeting May 21, 2026

Convened: 5:00 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 Mrs. Stephanie Wilfong's history, qualifications, and comments. Mr. Griffith escorted the Board to the Early Childhood Education lab where he introduced Mrs. Wilfong. Mrs. Wilfong gave a presentation highlighting the Early Childhood Education program.

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

Acceptance and approval of Board meeting agenda for May 21, 2026, as presented on CivicPlus.

Acceptance and approval of the minutes of the April 16, 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 attended the OSBA Board Leadership Institute earlier in the month with some of his fellow Board members. He said many of the breakout sessions were very interesting. Ms. Minnick reported that she especially enjoyed the AI session that was presented by students on literacy data. The students are graduating this year and selling subscriptions to other districts.

Legislative Liaison, Mary Kaley, reported on the following:

- The overall May 5, 2026, primary school levy results were not great. Only 25.8% of school district income tax operating levies passed. Renewal levies did the best with 75% passing. Only 24% of new school levies passed.
- The Ohio Legislature is working on passing a capital budget bill. They are expected to work until mid to late June.
- The Senate Education Committee adopted a substitute version of Senate Bill (SB) 311. It was sponsored by Senator Andrew Brenner. This omnibus bill would make changes to the law regarding the operation of public and chartered nonpublic schools. It makes several changes, including:
 - Clarifies that an individual applying for the one-year nonrenewable out-of-state educator license who passes the foundation of reading exam on the first attempt is exempt from the 12 hours of coursework.
 - Allows parents and schools to determine the best form of testing, either in person or remote, for students who attend an online school.
 - Modifies the timeline that school boards must fill a board vacancy to 45 days.
 - Modifies the bill provisions regarding a superintendent's qualified immunity to state that it can only be revoked for intentionally violating the law regarding education.
 - Adds educational service centers (ESCs) to the list of entities that a school district may sell a building to under the automatic disposition laws.
- House Bill (HB) 833 has recently been introduced. It would make changes regarding investment options for state retirement system defined contribution plans.
- House Bill (HB) 847 has recently been introduced. It would enact the "Return to Learn Act" regarding return-to-school support policies after a traumatic brain injury.
- House Bill (HB) 859 has recently been introduced. It would prohibit civil immigration-related arrests in certain locations, including public schools.

- House Bill (HB) 868 has recently been introduced. It regards high school instruction on proper in-person interactions with peace officers.
- House Bill (HB) 874 has recently been introduced. It would enact the “Charter School Sponsor and Operator Rating Act” regarding report cards for community school sponsors and operators.
- House Bill (HB) 875 has recently been introduced. It would prohibit for-profit operators of community schools.
- House Bill (HB) 877 has recently been introduced. It would change existing limits on the purchase of retirement service credit based on employment with the U.S. government, a state or a political subdivision.
- House Bill (HB) 880 has recently been introduced. It would make an appropriation to fully reimburse the stipends paid to teachers to complete the science of reading professional development.
- House Bill (HB) 881 has recently been introduced. This "Ohio Homeowner Relief Act” would modify property tax reductions for nonbusiness and owner-occupied property and authorize a refundable income tax credit for renters.
- House Bill (HB) 882 has recently been introduced. It would allow local governments to request unclaimed funds to temporarily cover the revenue lost from delinquent property taxes and makes an appropriation.
- House Bill (HB) 884 has recently been introduced. It would amend Sections 265.10, 265.150, 265.190, and 265.450 of House Bill (HB) 96 of the 136th General Assembly regarding base cost calculation and its use in the public school financing system, express the General Assembly's intent to secure a thorough and efficient system of common schools, and make an appropriation.
- House Bill (HB) 887 has recently been introduced. It would prohibit public officials and employees from using prediction markets.
- House Bill (HB) 907 has recently been introduced. It would enact the “Food Literacy and Nutrition Education Act” to require that the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce adopt food literacy standards for grades kindergarten through 12.

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

- OSBA’s *Student Success* article – *How career-technical education led to opportunity*: An Eastland-Fairfield Career and Technical School student is working as a pre-apprentice to renovate a former Kroger store into a human services hub to house an OSU health clinic and free grocery market. She is very proud of the work she has been doing and is excited that she will be able to go inside the completed building she has been helping to renovate and point out her work. She is set to graduate this May.
- OSBA’s *Student Success* article – *Community partnerships build local career readiness*: 69 manufacturing companies and large health care providers in Knox County are anticipating needing more than 3,000 new workers in manufacturing and over 2,500 in health care by 2032 due to expected growth and retiring employees. The highest needs are jobs that do not require education after high school. In health care, only one out of the top five most-needed positions requires a four-year degree and the others need no certification or just a two-year degree. The Knox County Business Advisory Council is connecting businesses with schools so both can benefit. Educators are working to prepare students to meet expectations. Training focused on soft skills like social awareness and accountability help students to develop better intuitive time management and pacing skills. Faithful attendance is the most important employability trait for local employers. A positive change has been the number of seniors who do not know what they want to do when they graduate is shrinking.

Superintendent, Randy Griffith, reported on the following:

- Mr. Griffith reviewed the Board Packet and the Day School Report: SkillsUSA State Competition Results; SkillsUSA National Competition – Maplewood Automotive Technology, Medical Assisting, and Industrial Motor Control students are National Qualifiers and will be competing; Incoming Junior Enrollment; Attendance Incentive Program; April Students of the Month Junior, Ryland Hodge, MGC, James A. Garfield, and Senior, Ava Reynolds, Animal Science, Waterloo; *The Weekly Villager* article, “Maplewood Career Center electrical students lay foundation for Windham Township’s street clock”; Electricity Thank You Letter, Ms. Lynnea St. John, Windham Historical Society, Founder and President; and Power Equipment Mechanics Thank You Letter, Mr. Thom Tauche, Martin L. Davey-IWLA Chapter President.
- Maplewood Career Center Senior Awards Ceremony will take place on Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the Kent State University MAC Center.

- The construction project continues to move along. Mr. Griffith has been meeting with the architects every Tuesday for two hours. It has been very arduous.
- Field Day was Friday, May 15, 2026. The students had a great time. There were many outdoor activities including pickleball, volleyball, basketball, and karaoke.
- Mr. Griffith and two administrators met with a juvenile court representative and discussed the new student attendance requirements. The juvenile court representative suggested putting in place incentives for students to come to school. Maplewood currently has student attendance incentives. Mr. Griffith does not anticipate the new attendance law requirements significantly decreasing student absenteeism.
- Mr. Griffith is working on the curriculum for the EMT and Firefighter program.

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 April, 2026.
- The expenditures were approved for the month of April, 2026.
- The investments were ratified for the month of April, 2026 and calendar year 2026.
- The bank reconciliations were ratified for the month of April, 2026.
- Approved Student Activity Fund Transfers, Customer Service Fund Transfers, and Other Services Rotary Fund Transfers.
- Informational Items: Fiscal Year 2025 Financial Audit, Portage County Real Estate Appraisal Fund Distribution, Records Commission Meeting, May 21, 2026, 4:45 p.m., Special Meeting, June 3, 2026, 5:00 p.m. for Public Hearing and Personnel, Personnel Committee Meeting, June 18, 2026, 4:30 p.m., Finance & Audit Committee Meeting, June 18, 2026, 4:45 p.m., 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 part-time Adult Education Instructors.
- Approved the course/program/position/personnel list per the Maplewood Career Center Education Association Negotiated Agreement.
- Re-employed certificated/licensed teachers on one-year contracts for the 2026-2027 school year.
- Re-employed Michael Lenzo and Erin Zabloutny on a two-year contract for the 2026-2028 school year.
- Re-employed certificated/licensed tutors on one-year contracts for the 2026-2027 school year.
- Granted certificated/licensed teachers' supplemental contracts for the 2026-2027 school year.
- Re-employed certificated/licensed substitute teachers for the 2026-2027 school year.
- Employed Sara McMahan and Jennifer Mejia as classified substitutes for the remainder of the 2025-2026 contract year.
- Employed classified substitutes for the 2026-2027 contract year.
- Re-employed classified personnel on a two-year contract: Emily Ferrell, Director's Secretary, Vanessa Jennings, Preschool Program Aide, Sara McMahan, Cafeteria, Gary Phile, 3rd Shift Custodian, Rachel Raatz, Attendance Secretary, Whitney Robinson, Adult Education Secretary/Receptionist, and Selena Tate, Receptionist.
- Re-employed classified personnel on a continuing contract: Luke Chilson, 3rd Shift Custodian.
- Approved personnel salary notices for the 2026-2027 school/contract year.
- Approved employment of Anita Binegar, Substitute Secretary/Receptionist for the 2026-2027 school year, on an as needed basis.
- Approved the resignation of Nicole Landmesser, 2nd Shift Custodian, effective May 8, 2026.
- Approved employment of Elijah Roth, Seasonal Help-Technology Department for the remainder of the 2025-2026 contract year and for the 2026-2027 contract year.
- Approved an ASPIRE Grant – Ohio Work Ready Grant Scholarship for Adults: FY2026-FY2027.
- Approved five donations.
- Adopted the 2026-2027 Maplewood Preschool Handbook.
- Approved the student program fees for the 2026-2027 school year.
- Reviewed the textbook list for the 2026-2027 school year.
- Reviewed Courses of Study for Animal Science and Carpentry.
- Approved an overnight field trip for three Maplewood Career Center Students and three Instructors to attend

SkillsUSA National Competition, in Atlanta, Georgia, June 1-6, 2026.

New Business:

- Adopted a cybersecurity program that safeguards data, information technology, and information resources to ensure availability, confidentiality, and integrity, required by ORC 9.64.

Unfinished Business:

- Conducted the second reading and approval 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. (5:50 p.m. – 6:03 p.m.)

Adjourned: 6:04 p.m.