

MINUTES OF THE MARGARETTA BOARD OF EDUCATION (BOE) REGULAR MEETING AND THE RECORDS COMMISSION MEETING OF JUNE 27, 2022.

Margaretta Board of Education met in regular session at 6:32 p.m. on Monday, June 27, 2022 at the Margaretta Board of Education, 305 S. Washington Street, Castalia, Ohio.

Records Commission Meeting

Mr. Sutorius called the Records Commission meeting to order and requesting roll call by Mrs. Keegan, with all five board members present. There was a review of the disposal and retention of records policy as presented.

Motion by Mr. Warner seconded by Mrs. Tucker, to approve the record retention schedule as presented; Roll Call: Mr. Schoenegge: aye, Mrs. Tucker: aye, Mr. Warner: aye, Mr. Hula: aye, and Mr. Sutorius: aye.

Motion by Mr. Hula, and seconded by Mr. Warner, to adjourn the Records Commission Meeting; Roll call: Mrs. Tucker: aye, Mr. Warner: aye, Mr. Hula: aye, Mr. Schoenegge: aye, and Mr. Sutorius: aye.

Regular Board Meeting

Mr. Sutorius, Board President, then called the regular meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. requesting roll call by Mrs. Keegan:

Mr. Hula:	Present.
Mr. Schoenegge:	Present
Mrs. Tucker:	Present
Mr. Warner:	Present
Mr. Sutorius:	Present

The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited after roll call.

Approval of the Minutes

Motion by Mr. Warner, and seconded by Mr. Schoenegge, to approve the minutes from the Special Board Meeting held on Wednesday, June 15, 2022; Roll Call: Mr. Schoenegge: aye, Mrs. Tucker: aye, Mr. Warner: aye, Mr. Hula: aye, and Mr. Sutorius: aye.

Board and Staff Reports

Townsend Community School's (TCS) Report and TCS Margaretta Sponsor's Report

Mr. Ryan Bohn, TCS Principal and Superintendent, reported that the current TCS student enrollment as of June 27th was 479 and they have had 101 graduates for this 2021-2022 school year. The final steps are being completed on the Sponsor Compliance Review that is due June 30th. Mr. Bohn also stated the they recently submitted TCS' Dropout Prevention and Recovery Report Card Request, and their Blended Learning Declaration Request that was due to ODE by July 1st. He also spoke of the added security for next school year with having they own dedicated School Resource Officer (SRO) and they will be utilizing a buzzer system next school year. Mr. Kurt also stated that Margaretta will have a dedicated SRO at our High School and another at our MES building for next school year. Mrs. Keegan also reminded the board that they will be voting on that later in the meeting. Mr. Bohn also stated that TCS will be open during the summer on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays for students. They have also been

running a new logo and branding contest for the school. They will be known as Townsend Community School Thunder. The students picked this given the student have weathered the many storms of life and are still forging ahead. Mr. Steve Keller, TCS Compliance Officer, was excused from the meeting and Mr. Kurt gave a quick update that we are continuing to work on the extensive uploads that are due into Epicenter for the Compliance upload due on June 30th.

Public Participation

Mr. Gary Smith stated that he has been substitute teaching and aiding this last school year and he emphasized that what he about to say is not a criticism but he is concerned about the discipline method of removing students to ISI (In School Isolation) and is concerned how that is in anyway helpful to the student. He asked what the school could do differently for discipline. He spoke of several examples of students that he talked to in ISI that were removed from the classroom learning environment. He admitted that he had no specific solution or alternative, but encouraged the board to get creative to find other discipline methods. Mr. Tim Tucker commented on his experiences with discipline situations and ISI when he was a teacher as well and his believe that it is needed to detour students from disruptive behavior in the classroom. Mrs. Tucker spoke of her experiences as a teacher as well, speaking about students needing consequences for their actions and behavior, and teachers needing to build strong rapport with their students helps too. Mrs. Tucker also stated that it is important to also not forget to reward the students that have good behavior. And Mr. Kurt stated that all schools have ISI as a method of discipline. He also stated that we do need to get to the root cause of the students behavior. To that end he stated that Mr. Steve Keller and Mr. Brian Ferber had begun a mentoring program with some of the students that we thought would benefit from the positive reinforcement and rewarding good behavior. The program generated some positive results this last school year.

Mr. Smith then reminded the board that he had asked at the March board meeting about eliminating Styrofoam and going back to washable dishware and silverware in the kitchens. Mr. Kurt stated that it is a labor issue and we have been short staffed the last few years. Mr. Kurt also mentioned that most of the kitchen equipment (aka dishwashers) are very old and not dependable. He stated given those two issues, it will not happen until we get into the new school.

Mr. Smith then questioned when people can ask questions about resolutions and voting items on the agenda. Mr. Warner stated that questions should be asked during public participation.

Mrs. Barbara Weyer then asked about the new facility costs and how we are going to be able to afford the cost of the construction if Nexus' tax payment projections that the company published only reflected \$24 million and the state is only paying us approximately \$15 million of the cost. She stated that the math would say that the district is short and will have to go back to the taxpayers. Mrs. Keegan stated with the knowledge and assumptions that are being made today, that should not happen. She walked the audience through a high-level analysis of the current state of the building costs. She first reviewed the amount of collected Nexus dollars that have been deposited and set aside into the new facility reserve account is approximately \$6.9 million and that we have paid bills of approximately \$2 million on the architectural work, traffic study, geo tech, construction testing, phase I environmental assessments, drawings, legal services and owners rep costs, etc. to date. She stated that even after the \$2 million of spending, that the district still has \$4.9 million in the facility reserve of cash on hand. She also explained that while Nexus original projections reflected approximately \$24 million, that was

just the first five years of collections after the pipeline start of production. Nexus will have to pay taxes on their pipeline as long as it is pumping natural gas. Therefore the money will continue past those first five years of projections. She explained that now that the original cost of the pipeline construction is been settled, the taxing authorities will go back retroactively to the start of production and revalue the tax base to the settlement amount and then that starting tax base amount will then be depreciated (aka reduced) by approximately 3-5% for depreciation annually and so the Nexus payments will decline for depreciation over time, but will stop declining and will then stay at a 15% of original value as the floor. She stated that we will get some amount of Nexus tax revenue as long as the pipeline is in production and pumping natural gas. Mrs. Keegan also stated that at the previous special board meeting, where we were trying to decide about beginning the site and utility work on the property, that she reviewed a current financial projection. With the assumptions of the current cost of the new facility, with receiving 38% of the project funding from the OFCC state, and at the current bond rates and assuming that Nexus would short pay us at a 66% of the original tax bill; that financial borrowing model reflects that we can build the building with no taxpayer bond.

Mrs. Keegan then went on to say, since that June 15th special board meeting, Nexus and the Tax Commissioner has settled the appeal and while not confirmed in writing, we are being told it is 68% of the original tax bill. The district has also been verbally told that the retro tax payment that is owed due to the short paid taxes for the first two and a half years plus interest, should be paid in full in the October/November timeframe. Based on all of the above information and assumption set, we currently believe that we will not need to go to the taxpayers for funding the new school.

Mrs. Keegan also mentioned that she was verbally told that ODE understands that Nexus school districts have been losing state funding due to the higher billed Nexus tax base valuation, which is increasing our local share percentage, which in turn reduces the state funding amount that the district receives. Now that we know the retroactive starting valuation and the depreciation of that over time, we are being told that ODE is looking into possibly adjusting the local share to the final settlement amount, thus increasing our state funding back up. She cautioned though that this was just a verbal comment that ODE is at least looking at it and understands the issue. She also informed the board that the last hurdle that we need to get past is the 13 county auditors that are impacted by Nexus pipeline, have the legal right to appeal this decision in the first 60 days after settlement.

Introduction of Additional Items to the Agenda

Mr. Kurt took the opportunity to introduce our new Middle School/High School Principal, Dr. Jennifer Theis to the District. He stated that she will be in the district a little in July and will be on board fulltime on August 1, 2022. Dr. Theis stated that she is excited to be at Margareta and is honor to serve this district.

The Financial Report and Schedule of Bills

Before Mrs. Keegan went over the standard financials, she informed the board that we had officially received our state payments for Catastrophic cost (this is high cost resident students, where we are asking to get some state relieve for the incremental cost above the standard state funding per pupil) and for Excess Cost (this is an open enrolled student into our district or open enrolled out, where the home district gets charged for costs incurred that are greater than the state funding formula amount). She was happy to report that we collected approximately \$146 thousand for Catastrophic Costs and we netted a favorable payment for excess open enrollment

students of \$196 thousand, for a total between the two of district incremental funds of approximately \$342 thousand for the District. Mrs. Keegan thanked the support and help from Mrs. Kathy Hall in compiling all the costs associated with our high cost students, so that we are able to apply for this reimbursement.

Mrs. Keegan presented the schedule of bills, bank reconciliations, fund balances, etc., that were included in the Board's packages for review. Mrs. Keegan reminded the board that we are reviewing May's Fiscal Year To Date (FYTD) results (the eleventh month of the 2022 fiscal year). She stated that the fiscal year to date revenue is a total of \$17.9M and expenses of \$18.0M resulting in a decrease to the general fund balance of \$(0.1)M. The beginning cash balance (excluding the General Fund Reserve that was created from the incremental Nexus dollars) on July 1, 2021 was \$0.6M and the first eleven months of the year generated a final General Fund cash balance of \$0.5M (without the general fund reserve of \$944K).

Treasurer's Report

New Business

Motion by Mr. Warner seconded by Mr. Hula, on Resolution number 21-22-86, to adopt a Temporary Appropriation measure as proposed for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year commencing with expenses incurred beginning July 1, 2022; Roll Call: Mrs. Tucker: aye, Mr. Warner: aye, Mr. Hula: aye, Mr. Schoenegge: aye, and Mr. Sutorius: aye.

Motion by Mrs. Tucker seconded by Mr. Warner, on Resolution number 21-22-87, to authorize the Treasurer to make the proposed budget modifications and supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year 2021-2022; Roll Call: Mr. Warner: aye, Mr. Hula: aye, Mr. Schoenegge: aye, Mrs. Tucker: aye, and Mr. Sutorius: aye.

Motion by Mr. Warner seconded by Mr. Schoenegge, on Resolution number 21-22-88, to approve the new lease agreement for the District copiers lease with ComDoc, Inc. for 5 years, effective upon delivery of the copiers; Roll Call: Mr. Hula: aye, Mr. Schoenegge: aye, Mrs. Tucker: aye, Mr. Warner: aye, and Mr. Sutorius: aye.

Superintendent's Report

Old Business

Second reading of the following 2022-2023 School Year Handbooks: Polar Cubs Preschool Parent Handbook, Margaretta Elementary School Student Handbook, Margaretta Elementary School Staff Handbook, Margaretta Middle School/High School Student Handbook, Margaretta Middle School/High School Staff Handbook, Margaretta Athletic Handbook.

Motion by Mr. Warner seconded by Mr. Hula, to approve the MODIFIED Calendar for the 2022-2023 school year (Changes are highlighted in yellow on the calendar to include Graduation moved to Sunday at 7 p.m., additional two-hour delays, October 28th no school for staff in-service day); Roll Call: Mr. Schoenegge: aye, Mrs. Tucker: aye, Mr. Warner: aye, Mr. Hula: aye, and Mr. Sutorius: aye.

Mr. Kurt introduced the first reading of calendars for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school calendars. It is currently assuming the same transportation schedule and start times for the schools as this year. Mr. Kurt stated that we will reevaluated the potential of going to two bus routes and staggered school starts when we go to the new facilities.

Motion by Mr. Hula seconded by Mr. Schoenegge, to approve the Strategic Plan for 2022-2027. Mr. Kurt stated that Dr. McIntosh was instrumental in facilitating the development of this strategic plan that was developed with the involvement of teachers, administrators, parents and community members. He also thanked Mrs. Tucker and Mr. Hula for also participated in developing the plan; Roll Call: Mrs. Tucker: aye, Mr. Warner: aye, Mr. Hula: aye, Mr. Schoenegge: aye, and Mr. Sutorius: aye.

Motion by Mr. Warner seconded by Mrs. Tucker, on Resolution number 21-22-89, to approve the consulting agreement with Pat Boogher to provide transition and work study services for the district students for the 2022-2023 school year; Roll Call: Mr. Warner: aye, Mr. Hula: aye, Mr. Schoenegge: aye, Mrs. Tucker: aye, and Mr. Sutorius: aye.

Motion by Mr. Hula seconded by Mr. Schoenegge, on Resolution number 21-22-90, to approve the contract with the Erie County Sheriff(s) to provide for SRO services during the 2022-2023 school year. Mr. Kurt stated, in an effort to protect our kids, we will be moving forward with a fulltime SRO in each building this next year. Mr. Schoenegge stated that we need to make sure that the SRO's police car visible at MES; Roll Call: Mr. Hula: aye, Mr. Schoenegge: aye, Mrs. Tucker: aye, Mr. Warner: aye, and Mr. Sutorius: aye.

Motion by Mr. Warner seconded by Mrs. Tucker, on Resolution number 21-22-91, to approve the contract with Ohio Developmental Supports Company, to provide special education transportation services on a temporary basis during the 2022-2023 School Year; Roll Call: Mr. Schoenegge: aye, Mrs. Tucker: aye, Mr. Warner: aye, Mr. Hula: aye, and Mr. Sutorius: aye.

Informational Items

Mr. Kurt stated that we have been informed that the Nexus Pipeline company has reached a settlement with the Tax Commission on June 23, 2022 and we are being verbally told that they settled at 68% of the original tax bill. He also informed the board that the 13 county auditors have the legal right to appeal the settlement within the first 60 days of settlement. Therefore, it will not be officially final until August 24, 2022. He then stated that we are having a Ground Breaking Ceremony for the new school on July 11, 2022 at 7 p.m. He also stated that we will have another community meeting after receiving the final Nexus settlement absolute numbers and run the financial modeling to review at the meeting. Mr. Kurt then reviewed several different scenarios of what we will be demoing of the existing buildings and what we may keep, where the board office may be located, etc.

Personnel Actions

Motion by Mr. Hula seconded by Mrs. Tucker, to approve the FMLA and unpaid leave requests, (list included in Board package for review); Roll Call: Mrs. Tucker: aye, Mr. Warner: aye, Mr. Hula: aye, Mr. Schoenegge: aye, and Mr. Sutorius: aye.

Certified:

Motion by Mr. Warner seconded by Mr. Schoenegge, to approve Steve Keller, Jr. for TCS Compliance stipend of \$4,080 for the 2022-2023 school year. Mr. Kurt stated that the communications between Mr. Keller and Mr. Bohn is very strong and TCS is in the best shape it has ever been; Roll Call: Mr. Warner: aye, Mr. Hula: aye, Mr. Schoenegge: aye, Mrs. Tucker: aye, and Mr. Sutorius: aye.

Motion by Mr. Hula seconded by Mr. Schoenegge, to re-hire of Kay Hartley, part time homebound tutor, for up to two days per week for the 2022-2023 school year; Roll Call: Mr. Hula: aye, Mr. Schoenegge: aye, Mrs. Tucker: aye, and Mr. Sutorius: aye.

Motion by Mrs. Tucker seconded by Mr. Warner, to approve Mykenzi Greenler - JH Cross Country Coach for the 2022-2023 school year, pending completion of all pre-employment and state and local requirements; Roll Call: Mr. Schoenegge: aye, Mrs. Tucker: aye, Mr. Warner: aye, Mr. Hula: aye, and Mr. Sutorius: aye.

Classified

Motion by Mr. Warner seconded by Mr. Hula, to approve Tiffany Thayer, Head Cheer Coach and Cori Wright, JV/Varsity Assistant Cheer Coach for the 2022-2023 school year, pending completion of all pre-employment and state and local requirements; Roll Call: Mrs. Tucker: aye, Mr. Warner: aye, Mr. Hula: aye, Mr. Schoenegge: aye, and Mr. Sutorius: aye.

Motion by Mr. Warner, seconded by Mr. Schoenegge, to approve the following volunteers for the 2022-2023 school year: Ava Keller - Volunteer Cheer Coach, Austin Spicer - Volunteer Boys Golf Coach, John Zang - Volunteer Cross Country Coach; Roll Call: Mr. Warner: aye, Mr. Hula: aye, Mr. Schoenegge: aye, Mrs. Tucker: aye, and Mr. Sutorius: aye.

Motion by Mr. Warner and seconded by Mrs. Tucker, to enter Executive Session to discuss the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion or compensation of public employees and contract discussion; Roll Call: Mr. Hula: aye, Mr. Schoenegge: aye, Mrs. Tucker: aye, Mr. Warner: aye, and Mr. Sutorius: aye.

The Board entered Executive Session at 7:52 p.m. with Mrs. Keegan, and Mr. Kurt remaining in the Executive Session.

Motion by Mrs. Tucker and seconded by Mr. Schoenegge, to return to open session; Roll Call: Mr. Schoenegge: aye, Mrs. Tucker: aye, Mr. Warner: aye, Mr. Hula: aye, and Mr. Sutorius: aye.

Motion by Mr. Warner seconded by Mr. Hula, to adjourn the meeting having no further business to come before the Board; Roll Call: Mrs. Tucker: aye, Mr. Warner: aye, Mr. Hula: aye, Mr. Schoenegge: aye, and Mr. Sutorius: aye.

Adjourning at 8:55 p.m.

The next regular BOE meeting will be Monday, July 11, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. at the Margaretta Board of Education, 305 S. Washington Street, Castalia, Ohio

Respectfully Submitted

Brian Sutorius
Board President

Diane Keegan
Treasurer