

**MINUTES OF THE MARGARETTA BOARD OF EDUCATION (BOE) REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 16, 2019.**

Then the Margaretta Board of Education met in regular session at 5:30 p.m. on Monday December 16, 2019 at the Board Office.

Mr. Warner called the regular meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. requesting roll call by Mrs. Keegan:

Mr. Miller:	Present
Mr. Schoenegge:	Present
Mr. Sutorius:	Present
Mrs. Yetter:	Present
Mr. Warner:	Present.

**Approval of the Minutes**

Motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Yetter, to approve the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held on November 18, 2019; Roll call: Mr. Schoenegge: aye, Mr. Sutorius: aye, Mrs. Yetter: aye, Mr. Miller: aye, Mr. Warner: aye.

**Board and Staff Reports**

**Townsend Community School's (TCS) Report**

Mr. Pete Bartkowiak, TCS Superintendent, reported out the current statistics of enrollment numbers (1,451 as of 12/13/19), graduates this school year (46), 32,961 exams taken this school year to date, etc. He discussed special education enrollment numbers and he mentioned that there are new minimum requirements for ITR and IEP's that not all schools are aware of yet. Mr. Bartkowiak also mentioned that 70% of the TCS students have 2 or more at risk identifiers and that both the TCS students' teen pregnancy and homelessness seems to be increasing. He also spoke about the Dropout Prevention and Recovery Work Group committee that he is a part of and their progress to date and he passed out the Report and Recommendations of the Work Group. He stated the committee is scheduled to give their recommendation to the State Board of Education on January 14<sup>th</sup>. He also stated that at the state school board meeting, the board made their selection to Legislative DORP study group. They choose a person from community school administration and a superintendent from a public school district; he and Ed Kurt were selected to be a part of the leadership team.

**TCS Margaretta Sponsor's Report**

Mr. Dennis Mock, Margaretta Superintendent, gave the TCS update, given Mr. Steve Keller having a conflict. He stated that Mrs. Keegan reviewed the TCS financials and emailed the analysis to all the board members for their review. He then reviewed the information that was covered at the monthly Sponsor meeting with TCS on December 5<sup>th</sup>. He covered the Epicenter submissions and new tasks. He also mentioned that Mr. Brian Sutorius, Mr. Mock, Mrs.

Keegan, and our counsel will be having a meeting with TCS and a representative of their governing board on Wednesday December 18<sup>th</sup> to review the 3 year financial projections and proposals for the settlement agreement.

### **Public Participation**

Mr. John Zang wanted to remind us with the 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sandy Hook Tragedy that school safety should always be on our minds. Mr. Zang commended the District for having the foresight to have the sheriff's substation at the elementary building and hiring the Castalia Police for the SRO at the High School. He also reminded us to make sure, as we build new buildings that we need to keep the safety and security of our children in mind. He also thanked the School Board and Treasurer to have the foresight to set aside 75% of the pipeline moneys for the new buildings that is needed in the District.

Mr. Jason Brake then raised a concern and questioned why the Board meeting wasn't moved from the 16<sup>th</sup>, given the Choir and Band concert was that night. As an aside, that is why the Board had moved the meeting from 6:30 pm to 5:30 pm. Mr. Brake also asked if the board was aware of a swimming pool concern that he had heard about. The board was not.

Mrs. Cindy Patrick discussed her concerns as it relates to the previous issue raised to the Board and her daughter not getting into the National Honor Society (NHS) based on an advance placement class requirement. There was dialogue between Mrs. Patrick and Mr. Mock as to who her main contact should be and Mr. Mock questioning about Mrs. Patrick's documentation of previous board presentations that had been requested. Mr. Mock and Mr. Warner stated that she needed to take her concerns up with Mr. Rod Smith as he is the schools contact in this matter. Mrs. Patrick stated that she is looking for resolution to the situation and for someone to get back to her.

Mr. Gary Borchardt stated that he had concerns about the community's perception of the board. He also stated that he was on the Board for 12 years and they always kept the Board meetings on the third Monday of the month at 7:00 pm. He feels that the time and date should not be changed to make it convenient for the families and community to make it to the meetings.

### **Introduction of Additional Agenda Items**

No additional items added.

### **New Business**

Motion by Mr. Schoenegge and seconded by Mr. Miller, to approve the hiring and 3 year contract of Edward Kurt, Superintendent, effective August 1, 2020; Roll Call: Mr. Sutorius: aye, Mrs.

Yetter: aye, Mr. Miller: aye, Mr. Schoenegge: aye, Mr. Warner: aye.

Motion by Mr. Sutorius, and seconded by Mr. Schoenegge, to accept the consulting contract with Edward Kurt; Roll Call: Mrs. Yetter: aye, Mr. Miller: aye, Mr. Schoenegge: aye, Mr. Sutorius: aye, Mr. Warner: aye.

### **The Financial Report and Schedule of Bills**

Mrs. Keegan asked if there were any questions on the schedule of bills, bank reconciliations, or fund balances. She then reviewed the financial report that compares this year-to-date results to last year for the same period. This report reflects the fifth month of the fiscal year (July 1, 2019 through November 30, 2019). Mrs. Keegan stated that the District's General Fund revenue exceeded the expenditures for the first five months by \$193 thousand, which was primarily driven by additional taxes that were received as a tax advance of \$165 thousand. The wages and benefits are favorable to last year at the same time period by approximately \$57 thousand and purchased services that are favorable by approximately \$66 thousand, due to budgetary cuts that occurred in June 2019. Those savings were offset by higher spending on supplies and materials of \$17 thousand and the timing of our debt repayment on December 1<sup>st</sup> of \$168 thousand. The District's beginning General Fund cash balance was \$787,201 and with the current year improvement of \$0.2 million, leaves the ending November cash balance \$981 thousand. Mrs. Keegan also highlighted as reflected on the utility cost report in the financial package, that the fiscal year to date savings from the sale of Townsend has been \$4,400. She also stated that a full year utility costs for Townsend was approximately \$27 thousand in the past.

### **Treasurer's Report**

#### **New Business**

Motion by Mrs. Yetter seconded by Mr. Miller, on Resolution number 19-20-29, to set the date and time of the Board's Organizational meeting and budget hearing, which needs to occur prior to January 15<sup>th</sup>. The Board tabled it and then later circled back to set it for January 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.; Roll Call: Mr. Miller: aye, Mr. Schoenegge: aye, Mr. Sutorius: aye, Mrs. Yetter: aye, Mr. Warner: aye.

Motion by Mr. Miller seconded by Mr. Sutorius on Resolution number 19-20-30, to accept the renewal of the five year Huntington Depository Agreement effective 2/17/20 through 2/16/25; Roll Call: Mr. Schoenegge: aye, Mr. Sutorius: aye, Mrs. Yetter: aye, Mr. Miller: aye, Mr. Warner: aye.

Motion by Mr. Sutorius seconded by Mr. Schoenegge, on resolution number 19-20-31, to accept the Electric Audit Project Agreement

that will audit our electric bills for potential errors. Mrs. Keegan mentioned that as a member of Ohio School Counsel, we can utilize the company that is performing the utility audits and finding errors and refunds to school districts at no cost to the district. However there is a cost sharing of 50% of the savings found; Roll Call: Mr. Sutorius: aye, Mrs. Yetter: aye, Mr. Miller: aye, Mr. Schoenegge: aye, Mr. Warner: aye.

Mrs. Keegan commented that the US GAAP Margareta Audited Financial Statements were emailed to the Board and as of the board date, there were no findings or issues from the audit process.

Mrs. Keegan also gave an update on the NEXUS pipeline evaluation. Initially, years ago before the pipeline access was granted, NEXUS projected a year one received tax revenue of \$6.3 million. The tax valuation would generate \$8.1 million in tax revenue for the district. However, NEXUS is now appealing the valuation down to the annual tax revenue of \$5.2 million. She mentioned that the difficulty in this appeal is that neither the county nor the school boards have a say in the appeal. The appeal is a confidential negotiation between the state department of taxation and NEXUS. Also given our one Emergency Levy is set at a fixed amount and the tax bills have already assessed and mailed, we will lose a portion of that amount if NEXUS pays at the lower appealed valuation level.

### **Superintendent's Report**

#### **New Business**

Motion was made by Mr. Miller seconded by Mrs. Yetter on resolution number 19-20-32, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Bayshore Counseling Services and Margareta Schools to address the needs of participating students; Roll Call: Mrs. Yetter: aye, Mr. Miller: aye, Mr. Schoenegge: aye, Mr. Sutorius: aye, Mr. Warner: aye.

Motion by Mr. Sutorius, seconded by Mr. Miller on resolution number 19-20-33, to approve the Bricker and Eckler Engagement Letter for the potential new facility construction counsel services; Roll Call: Mr. Miller: aye, Mr. Schoenegge: aye, Mr. Sutorius: aye, Mrs. Yetter: aye, Mr. Warner: aye.

### **Personnel Actions**

#### **Classified**

Motion by Mrs. Yetter, seconded by Mr. Sutorius to approve the hiring of Robin Cramer, Amber Diebold, Heather Elliott, Audra Rooker, and Connie Weyer for Substitute Kitchen during the 2019/20 School Year; Roll Call: Mr. Schoenegge: aye, Mr. Sutorius: aye, Mrs. Yetter: aye, Mr. Miller: aye, Mr. Warner: aye.

Motion by Mr. Schoenegge, seconded by Mrs. Yetter to approve the hiring of Nicole Blair and Jason Gearheart for the elementary after school reading program for the 2019/20 School Year; Roll Call: Mr. Sutorius: aye, Mrs. Yetter: aye, Mr. Miller: aye, Mr. Schoenegge: aye, Mr. Warner: aye.

Motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Sutorius to approve the hiring of Patrick Freeh as a scoreboard operator/event worker for the remainder of the 2019/2020 school year; Roll Call: Mrs. Yetter: aye, Mr. Miller: aye, Mr. Schoenegge: aye, Mr. Sutorius: aye, Mr. Warner: aye.

Motion by Mr. Schoenegge, seconded by Mr. Sutorius to approve the reinstatement of the elementary dishwasher position for 1 hour per day [Reduction-In-Force dishwasher position was eliminated at the June 24, 2019 regular Board meeting]; Roll Call: Mr. Miller: aye, Mr. Schoenegge: aye, Mr. Sutorius: aye, Mrs. Yetter: aye, Mr. Warner: aye.

Motion was made by Mrs. Yetter, seconded by Mr. Sutorius, to approve the hiring Kristi Puckrin for the Cook Position for the 2019/2020 School Year, effective 1/6/20; Roll Call: Mr. Schoenegge: aye, Mr. Sutorius: aye, Mrs. Yetter: aye, Mr. Miller: aye, Mr. Warner: aye.

#### Certified

Motion by Mr. Schoenegge, seconded by Mrs. Yetter, to approve the hiring of Alyssa Fitz, Katie Kurt and Ashley Williams for the elementary after school reading program for the 2019/20 School Year; Roll Call: Mr. Sutorius: aye, Mrs. Yetter: aye, Mr. Miller: aye, Mr. Schoenegge: aye, Mr. Warner: aye.

Mr. Mock then presented the second reading of Board Policy 1310 - Employment of Treasurer; 1340 - Non Re-employment of the Treasurer; 1615 - Use of Tobacco by Administrators; 1630.01 - FMLA Leave; 2431 - Interscholastic Athletes; 3215 - Use of Tobacco by Professional Staff; 4215 - Use of Tobacco by Classified Staff; 4430.01 - FMLA Leave; 5113.02 - School Choice Options; 5200 - Attendance; 5350 - Student Suicide; 5512 - Use of Tobacco; 7230 - Gifts, Grants, and Bequests; 7300 - Disposition of Real Property/Personal Property; 7434 - Use of Tobacco on School Premises; 7440.03 - Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems; 8462 - Student Abuse and Neglect; 8500 - Food Services and Therapy Dog Board Policy.

Motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Sutorius, to approve the Board Policy: 2413 - Career Advising; Academic Acceleration Policy; Roll Call: Mrs. Yetter: aye, Mr. Miller: aye, Mr. Schoenegge: aye, Mr. Sutorius: aye, Mr. Warner: aye.

### Informational Items/Correspondence

Mr. Mock discussed the substitute teacher constraints that the District has been experiencing for our absenteeism. Mr. Mock stated that he believes the substitutes will wait to see if they get called to other districts that have a higher daily rate of pay. Mr. Mock passed out a comparison sheet that he put together for the neighboring districts rate of pay, which reflects that Margareta is one of the lower daily rates.

Mr. Mock also reviewed an opportunity that was brought to the district by Mr. Rick Hogrefe to participate in the grant, Driving for a Better Future Grant. This grant will help to subsidize the economically disadvantaged student drivers' education costs. This grant was established with the goal that the students will then have the ability to drive and have greater opportunities for obtaining a job, etc. This grant has been applied for and used at neighboring schools with good success.

Mr. Mock then gave a new facility update. The OFCC enrollment projections should be internally approved by OFCC with the next week and then forwarded for the District's approval as well. He then informed the Board that the ELPP Master Plan approval is tentatively scheduled to be reviewed and approved at the February OFCC Commission meeting. The Margareta Board will need to approve the master plan and an additional resolution by January 27<sup>th</sup> to make the February OFCC Commission meeting cycle. He also informed the Board that we have approved and issued a purchase order to ESA, Engineers, Surveyors, and Associates, LLC to perform the boundary and topographical surveys that are needed for the new facility site location.

Mr. Mock also mentioned that we could have a working session in January 2020.

Motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Yetter to enter Executive Session to discuss a property/real estate issue; Roll Call: Mr. Miller: aye, Mr. Schoenegge: aye, Mr. Sutorius: aye, Mrs. Yetter: aye, Mr. Warner: aye.

The Board entered Executive Session at 6:25 p.m. with Mrs. Keegan and Mr. Mock remaining in the Executive Session.

Motion by Mrs. Yetter, seconded by Mr. Miller, to return to open public session; Roll Call: Mr. Schoenegge: aye, Mr. Sutorius: aye, Mrs. Yetter: aye, Mr. Miller: aye, Mr. Warner: aye.

Motion by Mr. Schoenegge, seconded by Mrs. Yetter to adjourn the meeting having no further business to come before the Board; Roll Call: Mr. Sutorius: abstain, Mrs. Yetter: aye, Mr. Miller:

aye, Mr. Schoenegge: aye, Mr. Warner: aye. The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

The next BOE meeting for the annual Organizational meeting has been scheduled for Monday January 6, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. at the Board Office.

Respectfully Submitted

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Andrew Warner  
Board President

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Diane Keegan  
Treasurer