

Held February 252025

COPLEY-FAIRLAWN CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Special Meeting/Work Session
Copley High School Main Office Conference Room
February 25, 2025 3:00 p.m.

Beth Hertz, President called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

John Wheadon, Treasurer, called the roll and the following were present:

Jim Borchik
Trevor Chuna
Steve Doss
Beth Hertz
Paula Lynn

2025-13

A. Agenda

It was moved by Mrs. Lynn, seconded by Mr. Doss, to adopt the agenda for the February 25, 2025 special meeting/work session, as presented.

AYES: Lynn, Doss, Chuna, Borchik, Hertz
NAYS: None

B. Topics

1. Construction Update

Mr. Wheadon, Treasurer, and Mr. Robinson, Business Manager, discussed multiple change orders that will be recommended for approval at the March 18, 2025 regular board meeting. The change orders in many cases have already been verbally approved with the contractor in order to not delay the construction at the buildings; however, the contractor and architect took a while to get them typed up and signed. The total change orders are about \$250,000. In the near future we are hoping to have change orders which are deductions from work originally planned.

Mrs. Kirsch, Superintendent, Mr. Wheadon, and Mr. Robinson shared with the board that they attended a meeting held on Monday February 24, 2025 with representatives from Fanning Howey, architect, and Infinity Construction. The goal of the meeting was to get a more definitive timeline for the completion of the projects since the previous timeline was not met. Also, it was to discuss open items which the construction company and architect appeared to have disagreements on. Infinity said they would provide a new timeline by the next day; however, as of this board meeting, no new timeline has been received. The administration will reach out to Infinity.

2. Community Development

Mr. Wheadon and Mrs. Kirsch met with City of Fairlawn Mayor Sharnsky and Assistant Finance Director Kaufman regarding a potential development in Rosemont. The mixed-use building would include a four floor building with 59 apartment units and retail space. The project is going through a due diligence process by the Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (OAQDA). By utilizing the process, the project would qualify for a larger tax advantage to the developer. Completion of the project would be 2026 and include a 30 year tax benefit (abatement).

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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Minutes of

Special/Work Session

Meeting

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Mr. Wheadon and Mr. Borchik spoke with a representative from Pride One regarding a potential project on Cleveland-Massillon Road that includes 203 units (95% single story and 5% two-story townhomes). The location is South of the Metropolitan Veterinary Hospital and extends to behind the Cleveland Clinic Akron General Hospice Center off Ridgewood Road. Pride One has rented the high school on March 19, 2025 to hold a public forum regarding the project. The land is in the Copley-Akron JEDD so the only residential permitted use is multi-family (for rent).

3. Staff Appreciation

A pullover shirt will be offered to all staff during staff appreciation month.

4. Policies

Diversity, equity and inclusion - On February 14, 2025 the United States Department of Education Office of Civil Rights issued a letter stating in part that all educational institutions are advised to ensure that their policies and actions comply with existing civil rights laws. Failure to comply with the federal law could jeopardize federal funding. Mrs. Kirsch said that the district will comply with the federal law and changes will be forthcoming.

Cell phone policy – The State of Ohio is requiring all districts to approve a cell phone policy by July 1, 2025. Feedback from parents, students, and staff was shared and much discussion occurred about cell phone use during the school day along with other personal communication devices (PCD). Since each student is issued a Chromebook, it was determined by the Board that a policy should be written to eliminate all Personal Communication Devices (PCDs), including cell phones, during the school day. PCDs use would be permissible during class change times and lunch for high school students. Mrs. Kirsch will draft a policy based on the discussion and plans to recommend it for approval at the March 18, 2025 regular board meeting. Ohio Governor Dewine's proposed budget states that a district cell phone policy must prohibit all phone use by all students during the instructional day unless the student has an IEP or 504 plan and needs access for learning or to monitor and address health issues.

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C. Executive Session

It was moved by Mrs. Lynn, seconded by Mr. Chuna to go into executive session pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(1). The board shall consider the compensation of a public employee at 4:44 p.m.

AYES: Lynn, Chuna, Borchik, Doss, Hertz

NAYS: None

The board returned to public session at 5:21 p.m.

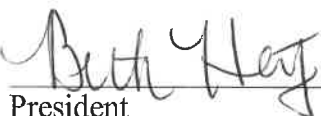
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D. Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Doss, seconded by Mr. Borchik, to adjourn the meeting (5:21 p.m.)

AYES: Doss, Borchik, Lynn, Doss, Hertz

NAYS: None


President


Treasurer