

**Kirtland Board of Education
Regular Meeting
October 26, 2015**

The Regular Meeting of the Kirtland Board of Education was held at the Middle School Cafeteria on October 26, 2015. Mr. Meyer called the meeting to order at 7:0 p.m. President Tom Meyer led the Pledge of Allegiance. The following members answered the roll: Mr. Mr. Cosgrove, Meyer, Mr. Solnosky, Mr. Stepanovic and Mrs. Torok. Superintendent Steve Barrett and Treasurer Daniel L. Wilson were also in attendance.

At this time President Mr. Meyer opened the floor for any public comments regarding the agenda items. There were none.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Barrett reported that there has been a great deal of professional development over the past few weeks. Use of technology in the classroom has been at the forefront, and the district is moving in the right direction. A Google App is being used that can be customized for each class. Grammar workshops have been held at KES related to teaching within the context of students' own work. The "Responsive Classroom" initiative is going well, and may be expanded to other grades next year.

Mr. Barrett attended a safety awareness meeting at Lakeland last Saturday presented by a group called the Sandy Hook Promise, which centered around identifying problems in advance and being alert to the characteristics of people on our campus who may pose a threat.

The PTA has engaged in a national survey, in which 40 people have participated thus far. The goal is for Kirtland to be nationally recognized as "Excellent". Tomorrow there will be 7 p.m. workshop related to concussions at the High School. Becky Malinas and Marina Ergun met with parents last Thursday concerning the evaluation of students with special needs.

Tomorrow at Mentor's Performing Arts Center there will be a showing of the film "Most Likely to Succeed," a study of innovative teaching and learning featuring a California school engaged in project based learning.

Schools involved in the Innovative Lab Network have applied for an additional grant, which would give Kirtland about \$25,000 to be spent on technology professional development for our teachers. They have embraced the idea of using the laptops, and Mr. Barrett is proud of their achievements thus far. We are making an effort this year to see how students are responding, and Dr. Campbell has formed a student committee to gain feedback about the online platforms and curriculum.

BOARD PRESIDENT – SUPERINTENDENT PERFORMANCE REVIEW- Mr. Meyer moved this agenda item to the end of the meeting.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Solnosky reported on the meeting held in September. There was a presentation by Treasurer Daniel L. Wilson regarding the 5 year forecast he prepared. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the budget and refinancing of a portion of the 2006 bonds. A review of Food Service operations shows that sales are slow but improving. There was an additional discussion about facilities expenditures.

Mr. Meyer reported on the meeting held October 21st. The group was given a financial update, and the matter of extending the lease of the cell tower was discussed. No decision has been made yet, but we have an offer for an additional 15 years. The group was updated

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on the refinancing of a portion of the bonds, and they are approaching the finish line. There will be an approximate \$236,000 benefit to taxpayers.

Our permanent improvement levy is due to be on the ballot next year and is a 1.1 mill levy, enabling collection of about \$350,000. The Committee will discuss the proposed term of the renewal levy and will present a recommendation to the Board on this in November.

The Committee discussed "Ohio Checkbook," implemented by the State Treasurer, enabling public entities to make district financial records available online. Other issues discussed were the carryover of Straight A Grant funds for professional development and the retirement and replacement of Technology Department staff. The 5 year forecast was also discussed.

STUDENT LEARNING AND ACHIEVMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. Stepanovic thanked Mr. Barrett for his foresight in examining the efficacy and quantity of state testing in our schools. The issue is now drawing national attention and was formally addressed by President Obama last week.

Mr. Stepanovic reported that the October meeting of the Committee included a demonstration by Dr. Campbell of the Apex online Health course our 9th Graders are taking, our only online course offered thus far for graduation credit. Dr. Campbell demonstrated a module. Dr. Campbell discussed the formation of his student advisory committee, which is evaluating the outcome of block scheduling, the use of laptops and the rollout of online learning. Students enjoy the block scheduling. There is less disruption, hallways are quieter, and students feel it breaks up the routine of the week. Related to the online course, some students struggle to keep up with it, and need to be monitored for progress. The students seem to love the laptops and are more engaged, according to an anonymous survey of students.

There was a discussion of "College Credit Plus" the new program which allows students to earn college credit while Kirtland students. This replaces the "Post Secondary Enrollment Option," and we have about 40 students participating. College credit earned must be accepted by 4 year colleges, and some students have even earned Associate Degrees while participating. There is a concern about class ranking related to the weighting of courses. The advantages are that many courses are offered that would not be available here and which may be academically challenging, allowing kids to explore career options at a lower cost than in college. The program is good for high achieving kids, but we should be mindful of the need for social interaction and the value of the high school experience.

There will be no November meeting of the SLA Committee, but it will resume in December.

It was moved by Mrs. Torok and seconded by Mr. Stepanovic that the following resolution be adopted:

Resolution #55-2015

Recommendation to Approve Consent Agenda:

A. Minutes of Prior Meetings

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B. Superintendent Recommendations:

Julie Dicillo	Kindergarten Aide	6 1/2 hrs/day, 32.5 hrs/week. Eff. 10-2-15	Temp. Position Hired through LCESC \$12.37/hour
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Greg Willis	JV Boys BB Coach	Resigned from position	Effective 10/12/2015
Zach Williamson	Middle School Wrestling Coach	Resigned from position	Effective 10/20/2015
Eric Richmond	JV Boys BB Coach	2015-20106	Effective 11-9-2015
Dan Cosimi	Middle School Wrestling Coach	2015-2016	Effective 11-9-2015
Brittany Thompson	Substitute Nurse	As needed	Effective 10-19-2015
Kelly Richards	Substitute Nurse	As needed	Effective 10-19-2015
Desiree Pierson	Substitute Nurse	As needed	Effective 10-19-2015

Activity	Last	First	Amount	District Employee
Student Learning Objectives Committee	Gallo	Carly	\$ 825.00	yes
KMS Cheerleaders - Fall Season	Arcaro	Ashley	\$ 1,266.77	no

Roll Call: Ayes: Mr. Cosgrove, Mr. Meyer, Mr. Solnosky, Mr. Stepanovic, Mrs. Torok

TREASURER RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Wilson used 3-10 years of historical data to compile the 5 year forecast, and recommends it for adoption. The Board and audience members were given copies of the extensive document prepared by Mr. Wilson, which include helpful graphs, tables, and department-specific data. He noted that all decisions are made within the context of the assumptions noted in the document and that all spending should reflect our ultimate goal of student achievement. Consistency year to year is important, and assumptions must be reasonable.

Inflationary rates in health insurance and fluctuation in the student population are key issues which impact the budget. Our student population level is fairly constant, and as staff leave we will review and make a management decision about replacement.

The most challenging expectation is an increase of about \$281,000 in health insurance premiums. We should expect an 18% effective rate increase next year, as we will not enjoy a premium holiday as we are doing in 2015-2016, and we should expect an overall increase of about 8% per year. Overall, while revenues are expected to be steady, expenses are projected to increase in 2016-2017, when deficit spending begins.

Our expenses are tracking very close to last year, but as we move forward we need to make every effort to flatten out the year to year change without affecting student learning and achievement. Salaries normally have a target range of 80-85% of the budget, and ours are at the lower end of the range, which indicates we have a sound budget.

Our Food Service subsidy is expected to be \$20,000 per year, and we have adequate cash reserves through 2018. A bit of good news is that our ratio of the cost to educate a student to the amount contributed by taxpayers indicates we are effective in managing expenses and giving our taxpayers a good value for their investment.

Mr. Cosgrove thanked Mr. Wilson for the in depth explanation of the budget and for providing us with a detailed financial roadmap.

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It was moved by Mr. Stepanovic and seconded by Mr. Cosgrove that the following resolution be adopted:

Resolution #56-2015

1. Recommendation to Approve the 5 Year Financial Forecast

WHEREAS, the Kirtland Local School District Board of Education has committed itself to long range fiscal planning; and

WHEREAS, the previously adopted Fiscal Forecast has been updated to include data for current fiscal year 2015-2016 and updated for projected fiscal year 2016-2017 through 2019-2020; and

WHEREAS, The Kirtland Local School District Board of Education adopted the 2015-2016 budget on September 28, 2015;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that in accordance with H.B. 412, the Board of Education adopts the Fiscal Forecast for 2015-2016 through 2019-2020 fiscal years;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Treasurer be authorized and directed to file this resolution, the Updated Budget Estimate and Fiscal Projections and the written assumption with the Ohio Department of Education on or before the October 31, 2015 filing deadline.

Roll Call: Ayes: Mr. Cosgrove, Mr. Meyer, Mr. Solnosky, Mr. Stepanovic, Mrs. Torok

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Barrett addressed the matter of the second reading of the policies. Mr. Cosgrove asked if people renting our facilities do provide liability insurance as the board policy indicates. Mr. Barrett said that he would check on this, and asked that the recommendation be set aside and addressed at the next board meeting.

Mr. Barrett recommended that the board waive the requirement of a bidding process for repairs to the KES parking lot related to a sink hole that needed to be repaired urgently. This was a plumbing issue, in which a pipe was not tied in properly, and water built up and flooded part of our building when there was heavy rain. The paving cost was in our budget at an expected \$15,000, but the total repair amount is now expected to be over \$25,000. Our attorney has been contacted related to vendor liability.

It was moved by Mr. Stepanovic and seconded by Mr. Solnosky that the following resolution be adopted:

Resolution #57-2015

1. Recommendation to approve a resolution in accordance with 3313.46 of Ohio Revised Code the Board of Education which declares an urgent necessity and waves competitive bidding for repairs to the parking lot of Kirtland Elementary School. This declaration is made based upon safety and access to the parking and entry to the school building.

Resolution for Urgent Necessity for Kirtland Elementary Parking Lot:

WHEREAS, the Kirtland Board of Education seeks to maintain the safety of its staff and students

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kirtland Board of Education declares urgent necessity regarding needed repairs to the Kirtland Elementary Parking lot and waves competitive bidding in accordance with 3313.46 of Ohio Revised Code and authorize the Superintendent to proceed with necessary repairs.

Roll Call: Ayes: Mr. Cosgrove, Mr. Meyer, Mr. Solnosky, Mr. Stepanovic, Mrs. Torok

Mr. Barrett requested a reaffirmation of the LCESC contract to employ individuals. We have primarily replaced some individuals who worked for us last year with new employees. Mr. Barrett was asked to expand the ESC reporting, so that the board can see all detail in the future.

It was moved by Mr. Cosgrove and seconded by Mr. Stepanovic that the following resolution be adopted:

Resolution #58-2015

2. Recommendation to Approve Updated LCESC Agreement

Roll Call: Ayes: Mr. Cosgrove, Mr. Meyer, Mr. Solnosky, Mr. Stepanovic, Mrs. Torok

BOARD PRESIDENT – SUPERINTENDENT PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Mr. Meyer indicated that at the close of last month's meeting, the Board moved to accept the performance evaluation of Superintendent Steve Barrett as "Accomplished." He noted that Mr. Barrett's focus is exactly where the Board wants it to be, on teaching and learning. He has managed to train teachers while avoiding initiative fatigue, and his passion and vision is commendable. The Board appreciates Mr. Barrett's efforts to refine the hiring process and the evaluation system.

Mr. Cosgrove added that we are extraordinarily fortunate to have Mr. Barrett here.

Mr. Stepanovic said he echoes that sentiment and wishes our whole community could see what goes on here on a day to day basis, because it is extraordinary.

Mr. Meyer added that Mr. Barrett cares more about students than most of the other administrators he has known.

There being no further business before the board it was moved by Mr. Stepanovic and seconded by Mr. Solnosky that the meeting be adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

We, the undersigned, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and exact copy of the proceedings that were held on the above aforementioned date.

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Signed this _____ Day of _____, 2015.

President

Treasurer