Avery Elementary began their “morning meetings” this year to work with students on taking care of themselves, their classmates and their school. Third grade students in Sarah Schawll’s class attended the meeting to share their experiences and how the morning meetings are their favorite part of the day. Morning meetings are from 9:10 am – 9:30 am every morning. Everyone sits in a circle on the carpet and shares their thoughts, feelings and experiences on the topic of the day. Topic examples are conversation day, way-to-go Wednesdays and friendly Fridays. The students genuinely love and support each other and have formed meaningful relationships.

The students who attended the meeting introduced themselves and shared why they like morning meetings.

The winter guard is an opportunity for members of the fall color guard to continue to develop their skills and perform and compete during the winter. This is the fourth consecutive year for the Hilliard Bradley High School Winter Guard. The Winter Guard is composed of 16 students from Bradley and 5 students from Davidson high schools. They won their State Championship this year! The Winter Guard directors are Cynthia Long, and Melissa Watts and the show designer is Andy Rice, band director at Bradley.

Hilliard Parents United is a 501(c)(3) organization created to advocate, support and educate families of students with special learners. They presented a $4,000 check to HCS to help with the cost of sending teachers to be trained on the Orton-Gillingham approach to teaching literacy when reading, writing and spelling does not come easily to students, such as those with dyslexia. This contribution represents HPU’s recognition of all the district has done and will do going forward for the education of all special learners. This donation is made possible by the parents in HPU and local small business Pulp Juice and Smoothie Bar.

Representatives from Ameresco presented an executive summary of the facilities database that will aid the district in determining the priority of projects and budget requirements to maintain all district facilities. Ameresco, with information provided by the Operations staff, has (1) configured an asset management database, (2) developed a comprehensive capital plan, (3) established an asset sustainability target, (4) prioritized capital funding, and (5) financial solutions.

The Board of Education praised the Operations Department team on their hard work in maintaining the almost half a billion dollars in district assets. This new tool will help the board and administration on identifying what needs to be addressed and how soon it needs to be addressed before it affects teaching and learning. Once these factors have been determined, the board and administration will be better able to identify an appropriate funding amount needed to maintain our facilities before they would negatively affect the education of our students.

Joyce Brickley, principal at Hilliard Darby High School, shared a story about an incident to a softball player that took place during their team’s time in Coco Beach, FL during spring break. Erin Last Name, a sophomore at Darby HS, began choking on a shrimp tail during dinner one evening. Coach Crawford performed the Heimlich maneuver and saved her life. Dr. Marschhausen presented a Superintendent’s Excellence Award to Coach Crawford for going above and beyond and for saving a life.

The Board of Education approved the addition of a couple of personnel changes to the agenda.

The Board of Education approved adopting the agenda.

The Board of Education approved the March 2019 Treasurer’s Report.

The Board of Education approved the minutes from the March 11, 2019 regular meeting.
Public Participation? Name, a 1999 graduate of Hilliard Davidson High School, introduced himself. He is a local sculptor residing in Grandview. He specializes in doing custom sculptures and art work. In an effort to support art in schools, he offered his services should the Board ever have a need for a sculptor or a demonstration for a school.

Consent agenda items E1 – E 5, all personnel matters, were approved by the Board. The Board recognized the retirees and their service to education. Debbie Cochran introduced Mindy Colburn, a district educator for the past 18 years, who will become a Special Education Coordinator next school year. Dawn Sayre introduced Scott Snyder, also an educator for the past 18 years, who will become the Assistant Principal at Hilliard Station Sixth Grade School next year. Mark Tremayne introduced Stacy Carter, a district educator for 5 years, who will become the first Assistant Principal of the Innovation Campus next school year.

Per Ohio Revised Code Chapter 135, a board of education must approve any financial institution to as a public depository for interim and active funds. JP Morgan Chase Bank has expressed such an interest.

The Board of Education approved increasing the permanent improvement fund by $157,000 from the sale of iPads. These funds will be used to purchase new iPads.

The increase of “other grants” is a grant from SWACO that will be used by the Director of business.

The Board of Education approved increasing the substitute bus driver rate by $1.00 to $18.00 per hour. This increased pay rate puts HCS in the middle of the rates offered by surrounding districts and will help us to attract, hire and retain drivers.

The Board of Education approved revising the adopted 2019-2020 school calendar by moving the Professional Learning Waiver Day from May 5 to March 10 to coincide with the 2020 Presidential primary election day.

The Board of Education approved the Access Easement Agreement for Ingress and Egress for 4810-4832 Cemetery Center, LLC. They are building a Swenson’s drive-in restaurant in front of J.W. Reason Elementary. There will be access into the restaurant property from both Cemetery Road and the school driveway. The entrances from the school driveway will be closed (with gates) during student arrival and dismissal times. Swenson’s is also adding a sidewalk and fence between the restaurant and school properties. Their grand opening will take place during the summer while school is not in session.

The Board of Education authorized our 2019-2020 Membership in the Ohio High School Athletic Association. This is routine, annual authorization.

The Board of Education approved Scioto Darby Elementary as the district’s selection for the 2019-2020 Teachers of Critical Language Program. This program has provided foreign language instruction at Ridgewood and J. W. Reason Elementary schools. It adds value to bring a teacher in from another country to serve as a guest teacher for a year. They teach here for only one year and then return to their home country to continue teaching there.

The Policy Review Committee submitted several policies for a first reading. The recommended changes are highlighted in each policy. In order to better track when a policy is reviewed, a new section has been added to the Summary document – Policies/Regulations/Exhibits Reviewed but No Action Recommended.

Revisions for the 2019-2020 Student Handbooks were submitted for a first reading.

There were no committee reports.
G4  Acknowledged receipt of the district enrollment as of April 1, 2019.

G5  Norwich/Britton Timeframe – Have invited parents who expressed an interest in participating and will meet through the next school year to prepare and define a transition for combining the Britton and Norwich schools into one campus.

NSBA Review – the Board members who attended had a positive experience at the conference. They received some good information that affirmed much of what we are already doing and built some new relationships. Well worth the time spent at the conference.

Graduation and End of Year Activities are on your pages. Recently honored the top 25 students at each high school. Had wonderful sponsors. Thank you to John Bandow and Karen Muse for putting the event together. It’s amazing to see and hear from those top 75 students every year. If you have doubts about what we’re doing or where the world’s going, they are the hope for the future.

The annual retirement celebration will be held following the Board work session on April 22.

Our Gatekeeper interviews are going extremely well. It is a lot of work on the front end for the Human Resource department, but I think we’re going to be able to get the high-quality candidates quicker. I am confident we are not only identifying who will be the best teachers on August 20, 2019, but also identifying who will be the best teachers on August 20, 2025.

Although difficult and challenging, our team is doing the work to implement the DMG report at the secondary level. We are with the right firm when it comes to having an outside firm take a look at and audit what we are doing.

WOSU selected the Hilliard City School District for their Distinguished School District award. Honorees were chosen based on excellence and innovation by implementing technology in their schools.