MEETING NOTES

Meeting Notes are not official until voted on by the Board of Education at its following Regular Meeting.

1. The meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Members present: Mrs. Crowley, Mrs. Long, Mrs. Murdoch, Mr. Perry, and Mr. Vorst

3. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

4. The Board of Education adopted the agenda as presented.

5. Presentation: Mr. Mark Bobo, OSBA, Membership Retention and Engagement Consultant

Mr. Bobo stated that this is school board appreciation month and thanked each board member for their service and dedication to the community. But, unfortunately, often, your work does not receive much gratitude.

The purpose of his presentation was to explain the value of being a member of OSBA. We are a nonprofit organization geared explicitly to serving public school boards. We provide training and resources to ensure your needs are met for leadership. We offer several statewide and local training opportunities to help board members develop leadership skills. We also provide legislative advocacy (local, state, and federal levels) and consulting services, including but not limited to strategic planning, superintendent/treasurer searches, and customized workshops. Membership also includes access to our legal assistance fund and legal assistance hotline. For more detailed information on our services and training opportunities, please visit our website at https://www.ohioschoolboards.org/.

Mrs. Murdoch asked Mr. Bobo to explain OSBA’s decision to withdraw from NSBA. Mr. Bobo said that NSBA made some decisions that did not align with OSBA’s values. Our board of trustees was concerned with advocating for federal government mandates versus local control. Therefore, we withdrew our membership from the NSBA. We are creating a new association that will continue Ohio’s national presence.

Mr. Vorst asked if “national presence” means lobbying in Washington, D.C. Mr. Bobo replied that “national presence” does include lobbying in D.C. We will make sure that congress will still hear from Ohio.

Mr. Vorst asked what kind of presence OSBA has at the statehouse. Mr. Bobo answered that they have three staff members in our legislative services department. They have a good relationship with the representatives and meet with them regularly. We believe it is also vital that the statehouse hears from local board members.
6. Tolles Update  
Doug Maggied, Board Member & Dr. Todd Hoadley, Superintendent

Mr. Maggied said that the board should have received their information packet, including financial information, 21/22 enrollment data, and 22/23 enrollment applications. We plan to have our treasurer explain career tech funding and our director explain our on-site and satellite program offerings for future presentations.

Dr. Hoadly congratulated the three new board members on their election and offered an open invitation for any board member to visit Tolles. Tolles is looking forward to hosting a Hilliard Board of Education meeting in March.

Since you provide mid-day transportation to/from Tolles, your students have the best of both worlds – great career-technical and academic opportunities. We appreciate your financial commitment to provide this opportunity to your students.

To date, we have received 634 enrollment applications for the 2022/2023 school year. This is an all-time high for us. I believe it shows the legitimacy of a career tech education. Our data shows that nursing and welding are two crazy in-demand jobs. We plan to expand staffing in these programs to serve as many applicants as possible.

Recently, three of your administrators met with us regarding this year’s juniors and their graduation requirements. This is the first “normal” school year of their high school career. As freshmen, their school year was upended by the COVID lockdown in March. As a result, their sophomore year was primarily remote and hybrid. We are working with all of our associate school districts on their senior programs with the new graduation requirements for the class of 2023.

Dr. Hoadly invited board members to attend their next Tolles Advocacy Town Hall (via Zoom) on Friday, February 4th at 8:30 AM and feature Ohio Speaker of the House, Representative Robert Cupp.

Mrs. Long asked how many of the 634 enrollment applications are Hilliard students. Dr. Hoadley’s response was 30% which is typical.

Mrs. Crowley asked if Tolles ever makes field trips for elementary students. Dr. Hoadley replied that they have field trips for middle and high school students but are contemplating a summer camp for...
elementary students. We are working on marketing our program to as many students and parents as possible.

Mrs. Crowley asked if Tolles’ diversity was the same as Hilliard’s. Dr. Hoadley said that no, their largest minority group is Hispanic students. Many ethnic groups have a lack of knowledge about a career technical education. For example, we don’t have many Asian or Middle Eastern students. We are working on a plan to reach out and serve those students.

7. Policies submitted for a second reading
   a. IKF – Graduation Requirements *(revised policy)*

8. Superintendent’s Update
   a. COVID-19 Update

   Last week, we had 495 total cases – 460 students and 35 adults. In mid-November, we were ranging between 30 and 50 cases per week. The week before winter break, we had 84 cases, which was considered a high rate of cases at that time. The two weeks following winter break, we had 587 and 680 cases, respectively. So, 495 is a “smaller” big number.

   Other issues to consider are staff absences. Last week we averaged 23 bus drivers absent every day. We said at the previous board meeting that we thought that 17 missing bus drivers would cause us to rethink how we operate. But, by including supervisors driving buses, our transportation department has done a tremendous job of keeping buses on the road.

   Our nursing staff is getting healthier and back to work. We averaged only 1.75 nurses absent per day last week.

   Mrs. Crowley asked how many bus drivers we have. Mr. McDonough replied that we have 123 routes.

   Our daily attendance rates for last week ranged from 85%-94% at the elementary level, 91% at the sixth-grade level, 85%-88% at the middle school level, and 85%-89% at the high school level. Our typical daily attendance rate across the district is 93%-94%.

   Mrs. Murdoch stated she has heard that 80%-85% is like a bad flu season and would need to consider taking some action. However, she is glad to see that many of our schools have a higher attendance rate. Mr. Stewart agreed that an 80% attendance rate would be a significant issue – meaning 3,000-3,500 absent students out of 16,000+ total enrollment.

   Although we have seen a significant drop in the number of cases (495 down from 680), we have not seen a significant drop in staff absences. Teacher absences continue to be 140-160 per day, with between 25 and 35 of those unfilled with a substitute. Our buildings are doing an excellent job of managing with support from the central office. However, this situation is just not sustainable over a long period. To remain unfilled at the 25-35, we have postponed all professional development and curriculum work, which is a significant part of our organization.
For January 5 – January 19, the Hilliard community case rate was 2,734 per 100,000. For reference purposes, November’s Hilliard community case rate was 340-360 per 100,000. But, it appears that we have hit the peak, and cases are on a downward trend. We are hoping to see sustained progress in this direction. As you can see below, our community’s case rate is still considered high transmission by the CDC, but cases are trending downward.

The following graph shows that we have a high rate of cases, but the good news is a high percentage of our population is vaccinated.
Mrs. Murdoch asked if it would be beneficial to provide another vaccination clinic for students. Mr. Stewart explained that we offered our clinics earlier this year when parents were struggling to find available vaccines. We are not currently in this same situation, but we could schedule another clinic should it become necessary.

20% of our community's case rate (per 100,000) has been in the 0-11 age group. The rate has fluctuated above and below this rate several times, and we are currently trending back up toward 20%. Although this is concerning, we believe our overall case rate is going down.

Mr. Perry asked if we have access to the number of COVID absences for each school district. He would like to compare our rates with other central Ohio school districts. Mr. Stewart replied that he hadn’t seen this information but would ask if it was available.

Mrs. Long noted that our preschool students are not required to wear masks. Can we get the case rate information for children ages 0-5 and 6-11? Again, Mr. Stewart replied to find out if this information was available.

Mr. Vorst asked if we could get the number of hospitalizations. Mr. Stewart said that he would request this information.

9. The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.