



MEETING NOTES

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

- A1 President called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
- A2 Members present: Mrs. Crowley, Mrs. Long, Mrs. Murdoch, and Mr. Perry. Mr. Vorst attended via Zoom.
- A3 The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
- A4 The Board of Education approved the following resolution:

RESOLUTION SUSPENDING POLICY BD-SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

WHEREAS, The Ohio General Assembly enacted H. B. 51 and the law became effective on February 17, 2022;

WHEREAS, H. B. 51 allows a public body, including a board of education, to temporarily meet remotely until June 30, 2022;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Hilliard City Schools District Board of Education hereby temporarily suspends **the last sentence of** the policy BD-School Board Meetings and **the second to last** sentence in policy BDDF.

B PROGRAMS / PRESENTATIONS

- B1 Embrace, Empower, Inspire award winners

Mr. Warfield, Principal of Hilliard Bradley High School, congratulated Erin Broadhurst, Orchestra teacher, on her award. She embodies the characteristics of embracing, empowering, and inspiring. It only took a few minutes the first time I walked into her classroom to feel that something extraordinary was happening. We are lucky to have her.

Mrs. Salyer, Principal of Hoffman Trails Elementary, congratulated Laura Caito, Kindergarten teacher, on her award. She is one of the most phenomenal people you'll ever meet. She is always positive, loves her students, and is well-deserving of this award.

- B2 Summer School Overview – Cori Kindl, Executive Director of Curriculum

Mr. Tremayne and I are here to share the wonderful teaching and learning opportunities we will be providing students this summer. Our summer school program information launches on the district website on Monday, April 18. Our registration windows are:

Students in grades K-8:	April 18-29
High School Session 1:	April 18-May 31
High School Session 2:	April 18-June 13

Based on the number of staff who have signed up to teach this summer (110 teachers), we can enroll 675 students in grades K-5 and 225 students in grades 6-8 to receive intervention in reading or math. We are also offering interest-based "Explore" workshops and can enroll 640 students in this option. If registrations exceed capacity, a lottery will be used to determine who can register. We will email parents the week of

May 9th regarding their students' enrollment. Due to our ESSER funding, all summer school programs are free, and we will be able to provide transportation for K-8 students signing up for academic programs upon request.

Through our extended school year services, we will be able to serve some special student populations, such as English learners and students with disabilities. For students in grades K-5, we are offering reading and math intervention classes and exploration workshops. Students in grades 6-8 can sign up for reading or math intervention and exploration workshops. In addition, we are offering our full course catalog to high school students for first-time credit and credit recovery.

Academic Workshops (Busing available upon request.)

- Our extended school year services will be provided to eligible students identified through their IEP team. Classes will be held at Scioto Darby Elementary and Heritage Middle School from 8:30-11:30 a.m. (Monday-Thursday). Session 1 runs from June 6-16, and session 2 runs from July 11-21.
- Our EL summer school is for newcomers to the country, students who score as emerging on the OELPA assessment, and students who receive EL and ELA1. Classes will be held at JW Reason Elementary from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (Monday-Thursday). This session runs from June 6-23.
- The K-5 math and reading intervention class is available for open seats on a first-come, first-serve basis. Buildings will also personally invite students they feel would benefit from this program. This offering was a tremendous success last year, and we are fortunate to be able to offer it again this summer. These classes will be held at Scioto Darby Elementary and Hilliard Crossing Elementary from 8:30-11:30 a.m. (Monday-Thursday). This session runs from June 6-16.
- Students in grades 6-8 can enroll in a math or reading intervention workshop. Again, enrollment is accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis for open seats. Buildings will also personally invite students they feel would benefit from this program. These classes will be held at Heritage Middle School from 8:30-11:30 a.m. (Monday-Thursday), and the session runs from June 6-16.

Exploration Workshops (Busing is not available.)

These interest-based workshops are built around science, technology, art, and music that teachers are excited to share with students. We have a catalog of workshops that students can choose from based on their interests.

- Students in grades K-8, students can register for one or two sessions. Enrollment is on a first-come, first-serve basis. Classes will be held at Heritage Middle School from 8:30-11:30 a.m. (Monday-Thursday). Session 1 runs from June 20-23, and Session 2 runs from June 27-30.

High School Summer School Online (Busing is not available.)

These classes are for incoming 9th-grade through 12th-grade students. Our complete course catalog is available. Students can earn a whole year's credit. All courses are online, and students have some flexibility in the pace at which they complete the course. Teachers will hold office hours daily and be able

to Zoom with students as needed. Session 1 runs from May 31-June 10, and Session 2 runs from June 13-24.

For registration and information, please visit the district summer school website beginning April 18 at <https://www.hilliardschools.org/summerschool/>.

Mrs. Kindl thanked the entire curriculum team, technology department, transportation department, and Operations for creating this amazing experience for our students.

Mrs. Long asked if holding summer school in these specific schools would interfere with any planned summer work. Mrs. Kindl replied that meeting with Operations to determine the best site locations is the first thing she does. Mrs. Long then asked if these schools were different from the ones used last summer. Mrs. Kindl answered that summer school was held the previous year at Hilliard Crossing Elementary, JW Reason Elementary, Horizon Elementary, Heritage Middle School, and the HUB. Mrs. Long appreciates that we have moved the program around to different locations. Mrs. Kindl explained that we try to use our more centrally located buildings since we provide transportation.

B3 Innovation Update – Mark Tremayne, Director of Innovation & Extended Learning

I am happy to showcase some of the incredible teaching and learning in our district. We opened the McVey Innovative Learning Center in 2013 and served about 600 students at that location. Since then, the demand for innovative learning opportunities has taken off. As a result, we expanded in 2018 with the opening of the Innovative Learning Hub (formerly Hilliard Station Sixth Grade School). We are serving around 1,800 students on the campus with plans to serve over 2,200 students the next school year.

We have a variety of programming in our college jumpstart network. We will be issuing over 6,400 college credits through our different career pathway opportunities, such as Academy EDU, the Business Academy, and the Health Professions Academy. We are serving both middle school and high school students in these programs. In addition, we have STEM and STEAM-related programs for middle school students. Our enrollment is going through the roof. So, we are looking for creative ways to meet the needs of our students. The HUB has helped with being able to provide opportunities for more students.

We are adding a new core infusion program. We already have a robust middle school core infusion program that integrates English and science. The new program will infuse Math 7 with a program called “we build it better,” built in partnership with Airbus, Flat Works Alabama, Snap-on Tools, and Amazon Web Services.

Everything we do at the Innovation Campus is grounded in research. We want to highlight some of the things in our partnership with Project Zero – Harvard University. Project Zero has been around for a long time and is all about creativity helping students learn at high levels. We have also partnered with Stanford University’s d.School and implemented their design work when we opened the Innovative Learning Center. As a result, students are actively engaged in learning-by-doing and solving real-world problems that matter to them.

A professor and author, Tony Wagner, traveled across the country researching as he wrote the book “The Global Achievement Gap.” He worked with suburban schools and found that critical thinking, problem-solving, agility and adaptability, and the ability to collaborate across disciplines are essential for students.

We are also working to scale creativity and innovation in K-12. This year we launched the Innovation and Discovery Centers in grades K-6. We repurposed some positions to provide innovation and discovery specialists for each K-6 building. We used some grant money from Amazon Web Services to create zones of innovation and discovery. We have a science zone and a creation zone. We are working on creating a coding and robotics zone. Students can Zoom and connect with folks in the industry.

Mr. Tremayne wrote a grant to be part of the creative educator academy in partnership with Ohio State and Apple. We have a ten-person cohort with different districts throughout the state of Ohio. We are learning how to leverage technology and infuse creativity in classrooms throughout our district.

We are also repurposing and rebranding the ICT 21 and digital connections graduation requirement by developing a new course called future-ready. As part of the new graduation requirements, students must create a four-year plan. We are working with Stanford University d.School and Tulane University have created similar to help our students develop their plans. As a result, our students will be able to plan their next four years and beyond. They will be able to go through odyssey plans or pathway journeys, simulate various things, and understand the details. In rebranding and redesigning this program, we partnered with businesses and industry, including the Ohio Department of Education, Career Connections, One Columbus, and Dawson Careers. Next school year, we are shifting from Naviance to SchoolLinks. Students will be using SchoolLinks to navigate career interests and exploration.

We have a breakthrough program with women in engineering in partnership with JP Morgan Chase. We also have a coding initiative in partnership with Cardinal Health in our K-6 space and a partnership with Amazon Web Services to build these learning spaces like the Think Big Space. Before spring break, teachers had the opportunity to participate in a careers and STEM webinar series. They interviewed nine people who do different jobs within Amazon Web Services.

As part of our workforce innovation plan, we want to increase our 12 point credentials and accomplish this through apprenticeships. We started our workforce program with Worthington Industries, and it has grown to include partnerships with Rosati Windows, Eco Plumbers, and RT Moore. We hope to expand the program to eight partners to start next school year. In addition, other districts in Ohio are reaching out to us to see how we make this program work. We also are developing a partnership with the City of Hilliard. The City of Hilliard is working on an economic, strategic plan, and we are excited about the opportunity to work with them.

Mrs. Murdoch said she kind of wants to go back to high school now.

Mrs. Crowley thanked Mrs. Kindl and her team for all of the work in putting together the summer school program. She also noted that her children are always talking about innovative learning programs. Thank you for all of your efforts and work in these programs.

Mr. Perry also complimented and thanked Mr. Tremayne and Mrs. Kindl for their hard work.

C ROUTINES

- C1 The agenda is correct as presented.
- C2 The Board of Education adopted the agenda.

- C3 The Board of Education approved the March 2022 Treasurer’s Report.
- C4 The Board of Education approved the minutes from the following meetings:
- a. March 14, 2022 – Regular meeting
 - b. March 14, 2022 – Meeting notes
 - c. March 31, 2022 – Work session meeting
 - d. March 31, 2022 – Meeting notes

D PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Board of Education appreciates citizen interest in meetings of the board. This place on the agenda is set aside to hear comments from visitors. When called, please go to the microphone so that remarks may be clearly heard and recorded. You must give your name and limit comments to three minutes. Comments must be respectful and professional in nature. Board members may or may not ask questions or make comments. No board member has the power or authority to act for the board; therefore, no response from an individual board member should be interpreted as an official action of the board. Portions of this meeting are being recorded.

NOTE: The audio recording of the meeting was difficult to decipher due to background noise. You may see many unfinished sentences throughout the public participation.

Mr. Perry stated that the public participation forms had been separated into two sections – one is a group of students and parents who requested to speak as a group. He also noticed that several veterans were in attendance and asked them to stand and be recognized.

Jon Osmundson

My name is Jon Osmundson, and I’m the father of four students spread between grades 4-10. I was unable to attend last month but felt compelled to come today as a father, a pastor, and a veteran. Nationalism is defined as identifying with one's own nation and support for its interests. Patriotism is defined as love, loyalty, or enthusiasm for a person, activity, or cause, and I will add a nation to Merriam Webster’s dictionary. Love, loyalty, and enthusiasm are emotions and actions developed through relationships and can never be coerced or forced by anyone. As a veteran, I am proud of my service and proud of this country. As a father and a citizen of these United States, I am all for displaying our American Flag in every government building and public classroom.

I understand the district was seeking to do that while others were seeking some cheap political points in doing so. All of this to say, students saying the Pledge of Allegiance is a wonderful thing, but it’s nowhere near teaching love, loyalty, or enthusiasm for a great nation. When I was deployed, I said the Pledge of Allegiance every day while on duty and in special ceremonies and circumstances. I am all for fostering patriotism in our great school district. I want to suggest a curriculum exploring the addition of the JROTC programs in our high schools. Where students and instructors who are all veterans can recite the pledge daily by choosing such curriculum and learning about service to our nation while providing an avenue for direct access to our nation’s military academies and ROTC programs at universities across our state and nation. Another policy that I think would be wonderful and embraced by our school district would be working with veteran organizations like our VFW chapters to foster relationships with classrooms allowing elementary and middle school students to meet with veterans to talk about service to the country. This fosters love and loyalty. Patriotism can never be forced, but nationalism can. I learned patriotism through my own JROTC experience in my high school in Virginia. I learned about it through relationships with other

veterans. As my patriotism was developed, I wanted to serve and volunteered for deployment to Afghanistan in 2002. My patriotism didn't come because I said the Pledge of Allegiance in school every day but because someone regularly invested in a relationship with me. If we want to foster patriotism in our school district, we need to foster relationships with veterans and students. We need to create spaces for faculty, staff, administrators, and students to develop the love and loyalty for this country that we all want for our kids. I understand that the proposed policy won't force folks to participate, and I think that's an amazing adjustment to the policy. We are a diverse district with a diverse population. I think we can find ways to foster love, loyalty, and enthusiasm in our district.

By the way, please fix the potholes at Heritage Middle School. Thank you.

Mr. Stewart stated that the potholes would be fixed this summer.

Dawn Larsen

My name is Dawn Larsen, and I'm the parent of three Hilliard students – two that have graduated and one at Hilliard Station. My oldest will be commissioned with ROTC in a few weeks. He served in both the ROTC and National Guard. I definitely support patriotism, not nationalism, as that wonderful man who happens to be my pastor mentioned. I greatly appreciate him and his service. It sounds like the policy is passable and okay. My concern isn't so much about the policy but how it came to be. This board is meant to serve our students and this district, not a city councilman who has higher political aspirations. I don't appreciate someone trying to build a campaign on the backs of our kids. Again, I feel like the policy is passable and appreciate there is an opt-out. But I want you to be aware that we are not okay with the district being used as a pawn for political gain.

Mr. Vorst asked Mr. Stewart to clarify whether students being able to opt out of saying the pledge is new to the policy. He believed it has always been part of the policy. Mr. Stewart confirmed that the opt-out has always been in the policy.

Latricia Barker

My name is Latricia Barker. Thank you for your time tonight. I am here to talk about the pledge and other options. I'm a veteran – four years in the Marine Corps and eight years in the Ohio Army National Guard which included being called to active duty for Desert Storm. While in the Marine Corps, I served in Washington D. C. and was one of two Marines selected to serve on the President's Commission on the Bicentennial of the U. S. Constitution. So, I know something about the constitution. In my role, I was responsible for sending information about the constitution to the public. I sent hundreds of thousands of these pocket constitutions to school districts and congressional offices.

I have not seen the language on the policy regarding the pledge. I would like to discuss an alternative policy. Instead of reciting the pledge, that talks about nationalism, why don't we spend some time talking about our patriotism and rights? Instead of reciting the pledge, like the ABCs, let's talk about the articles of the constitution or the declaration of independence. If we spend five minutes every morning talking about one article, how much more informed would our student body be about their rights? Imagine teaching them from the beginning of their education about the documents giving us our freedoms and rights. I don't think this violates anything in Ohio Revised Code and allows our students to become better-informed citizens. Thank you.

Lysa Morris

My name is Lysa Morris, and I'm a 20+ year resident of Hilliard. I have two daughters who have graduated from Hilliard Darby and are about ready to graduate from Bowling Green and Cedarville. One of my daughters has come back to Darby as a coach. I also have two step-daughters and two grandchildren who attend Hilliard City Schools. I am also representing LifeWise Academy. I'm here to ask you to adopt a release time for religious instruction policy. We have nearly 500 signatures from Hilliard community members that want a release time program. We have smoothly and positively implemented programs in school districts across the state. Approximately 70% of school districts in Ohio have adopted a release time for religious instruction policy. I know there has been some speculation about students missing music or art. In the 34 schools, we currently serve, none of the students are missing music or art. We have an experienced team and are ready to work with school officials to develop win-win solutions for schools and families that wish to participate. Lastly, I know there have been questions regarding liability. From the time the students leave the school building, the liability belongs to the release time program. The school district merely needs to give parents the option. I respect your time and consideration. Thank you.

Mrs. Crowley asked what students are missing in the districts where they aren't missing music and art. Mrs. Morris replied that once a policy is adopted, they will have the opportunity to work with the school district. There are so many different options for scheduling. Mrs. Crowley asked what some of those options were. Mrs. Morris responded that in some communities, students miss library time. The schools usually find another pocket of time for these students to go to the library. Mrs. Crowley also asked for a copy of the list of signatures. Mrs. Morris will email the list.

John Kizer

My name is John Kizer. I'm the parent of a first-grader at Britton Elementary and a preschooler at the Hilliard City Schools Preschool. It's hard not to be affected by stories of kids who felt torn down rather than built up by their peers. I have two things I'd like to ask of the board and my fellow parents and neighbors. First, please think of something kind you could do for someone who isn't currently a friend. And, don't let up on the message that kindness is cool. At age 37, I needed to hear that message myself, and I guarantee many of our kids could use some reinforcement of that message regardless of their grade or age.

Mr. Perry commented that John is the coolest guy around because that was a very kind message. Thank you.

Sarah ?

My name is Sarah, and I have a kindergartener at JW Reason Elementary. It's really nice to see a lot of fellow parents wanting to know what's going on and advocating for their kids. I think that's really important. I've been trying since October to get answers to a few questions. I'm going to spare you that story because it would take me approximately an hour, but I would be happy to talk about it if you catch later. My questions...diversity, equity, and inclusion committee last Tuesday. If you haven't been to a meeting, I highly recommend going. It gives a global overview of what's going on in your kid's school. Before going, I want you to know that the agenda is hard to find and meetings are held at 4:00 p.m. It's a closed committee meaning you can attend and listen but will not be invited to speak, so I am here. Last week's meeting spent a lot of time finalizing the definition of inclusion for the 2022-2023 school year. In this definition, the committee was very concerned about students and staff. However, not once in this definition was a parent mentioned or included. So, my question is, why is this district comfortable moving forward with a definition that is excluding of the parents and the role that we play in our children's

education and in complete disregard for Hilliard City Schools' stated mission, vision, beliefs, and purpose?
Thank you.

Jesse Bower

Thank you for the chance to be recognized by the board this evening. As a veteran, I have a special relationship with this country. Our liberty is precious, and we must protect it even from the mistakes of past generations. Suppose you can get past your childhood indoctrination and look at the big picture. In that case, you might consider how disturbing and depressing it is that there is a political agenda to make every child submit to daily oral... There are so many reasons to disagree with the wording in the pledge, from the addition of "under God" despite the constitutional right of religious freedom to the presumption we have achieved "liberty and justice for all." We all need to recognize that there are dark pockets in this republic's history. If you prohibit students from altering the pledge, it infringes on their first amendment right. I suspect the unintended consequences of this policy change will negate its desired effects. Dissent can be far more patriotic than blind nationalism. Still, thoughtful students are fearful to dissent when they stand for an oath they disagree with and observe everyone else mindlessly complying. If they cave to social pressure, a piece of themselves dies, but they have to bravely face the intense pressure and possible social fallout every day if they don't participate. It's another thing to cause stress and hate about school. What about the teachers if you're making this policy mandatory for every classroom? If a teacher believes that an allegiance oath should be meaningful, solemn...only taken voluntarily by adults with full comprehension of what pledging. It would be unethical to lead a classroom and our children in daily allegiance. The pledge already happens in almost every classroom. Why mandate it? You can say it's not technically a mandate since you are not legally compelling people to participate. But when you change the policy language from encouraging to requiring, what else should we call it? The Supreme Court recently said America's public schools are the nurseries of democracy. Please take time to consider what you value as a patriotic American. Are you doing this because it's in the best interest of students and teachers, or are you doing this in the interest of politicians? Thank you.

Mr. Perry noted that the prohibition on altering the pledge comes directly from Ohio Revised Code. So it's required to be in the policy, but everyone has the right to opt-out of saying the pledge.

Mrs. Long mentioned receiving an email from Jesse and thanked him for coming and sharing his thoughts.

Bret Benack

My name is Bret Benack. I'm the father of a sophomore at Davidson and a seventh-grader at Weaver. To get to my point, I need to tell you a story. It's an Italian fable from 1634.

After the birth of a great lord's daughter, Talia, wise men and astrologers cast the child's horoscope and predicted that Talia would be endangered by a splinter of flax. To protect his daughter, the father commands that no flax would ever be brought into his house. However, years later, Talia saw an old woman spinning flax on a spindle and asked if she could stretch it out herself. As soon as she begins to spin, a splinter of flax went under her fingernail, and she dropped to the ground, apparently dead. Unable to stand the thought of burying his child, Talia's father put his daughter in one of his country estates.

Some time later, a king, hunting in nearby woods, follows his falcon into the house where she rested. He finds Talia and overcome by her beauty, he tries unsuccessfully to wake her. Crying aloud he beheld her charms and felt his blood course hotly through his veins. He lifted her in his arms and carried her to a bed where he gathered the first fruits of love. Afterwards he left and returned to his

city. Nine months later, still in deep sleep, Talia gave birth to twins (a boy and a girl). Later on the king returns to find Talia had been awakened by her children. Revealing to her that he is the father of her children, the two fell in love and married after the king dispatched his current queen.

If you've never heard of this story, you may recognize it by a later version such as "Sleeping Beauty," published by The Brothers Grimm in 1812. This time, the unconscious girl was kissed by a prince without her consent to bring her back to life.

My point is the stories we tell about ourselves are always changing because people and societies are always changing. The term divisiveness, as used by the proponents of HB 616 recently introduced in the Ohio House, is designed to give primacy to a heteronormative, white-focused society in hopes of imposing their outdated worldview on Ohio. This fear-mongering should have no place in our schools. I hope that when it's time to offer public testimony on this terrible legislation, our school board will speak in one voice strongly in opposition to HB 616.

Mr. Perry said that while he doesn't speak on behalf of the board, he will be the first to speak out against HB 616. Mrs. Crowley said she would as well.

Salma Khawam

My name is Salma, and I'm a sophomore at Hilliard Davidson. I'm a Muslim who celebrates Eid, which has recently come during the school year because it follows the lunar calendar. Eid al-Fitr is a holiday that marks the end of Ramadan, a month of fasting and prayer. Although you can take a religious absence for Eid, it will not stop the work from piling up, and there is a lot of work that will pile up in high school, especially during exams. When I was in the sixth grade, I missed a day of school to celebrate my holiday, but I remember thinking about my missing tests. It was a big thought that stayed in my head the whole day. When I came back to school, I had so much homework to do and new things to learn. If the state of New York is off on both Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha, why shouldn't Hilliard have the day off? Especially when 20% of the students in the Hilliard district are Muslim. This means 20% of students will be absent on Eid. That is why I think the day should be off and I know other students wouldn't mind. Thank you.

Randa Khawam

Hello, my name is Randa Khawam, and I go to Weaver Middle School. I'm a Muslim that celebrates Eid, and I think school should be off on Eid. I don't like to take a day off from school, especially when teachers give me so much work. If I miss school for one day, so much work will be piled up, and a great solution would be to let Hilliard City Schools have the day off for Eid. Thank you.

Nour Hafez

Hello, my name is Nour Hafez, and I attend Weaver Middle School as an eighth-grader. I am speaking on behalf of the 20% of students who celebrate Eid in the district. I would like to request that Eid be added to the school calendar as a day off. Eid follows the lunar calendar, and it used to fall in the summer, but now it occurs during finals and exams. So, it has been really hard to miss school. We hope you will take this into consideration. Thank you.

Ayan Azrak

Hi, my name is Ayan, and I want to reiterate what my friends have said. I think Hilliard should have the day off for Eid. Eid is a time of the year when families get together and celebrate and enjoy the end of Ramadan. We get to open presents and go out for breakfast. Now that I'm in high school, my classes are harder and more fast-paced. Missing one day of school to celebrate a religious holiday means spending

hours studying and catching up on work. Students shouldn't have to choose between celebrating one of the most important days of the year in our religion and going to school. Thank you.

Kanim Al Farra

My name is Kanim al Farra, and I'm a Muslim that celebrates Eid. As you may know, Ramadan and Eid happen to fall in our school calendar. Actually, me and my friends are fasting right now. As Ramadan and Eid move up the calendar, it gets more difficult to celebrate Eid in the school year. Other states such as Pennsylvania, New York, and more give students the day off for Eid. We want to see Hilliard City Schools be the first district in Ohio to have a day off for Eid. If Hilliard City Schools gives a day off, maybe other districts in Ohio will follow. In elementary, skipping a day of school for Eid was nothing, but it is hard for a middle or high school student due to the amount of work. I appreciate you looking into this and taking it seriously. Thank you.

Saja Mu'Ammor

My name is Saja Mu'Ammor, and I attend Memorial Middle School as an eighth-grader. As a teenage American girl, it is sometimes difficult to feel a sense of belonging, but it doesn't always have to be that way. Today, I am here with my friends and family in an effort to request....celebrate as a national holiday throughout the Hilliard Schools. Celebrating Eid is our right. If you look at other states like New York and New Jersey, Muslims get to take the day off to celebrate with their friends and family. It is our right to celebrate our holiday without having to miss assignments, take tests, or... It's important that we see a change in our community. Let's all strive to be advocates of acceptance and cultural diversity. We would love for you to consider this proposal, especially due to the amount of Muslims in Hilliard. Thank you for your time.

Tesneem Shabsigh

Hi, my name is Tesneem, and I'm a Muslim that celebrates Eid. I think school should be off on Eid because it is hard for us to do school, and the holiday should be recognized on the school calendar. I have cousins in New York and New Jersey who have the day off, and I think we should do the same here. Thank you.

Bushrah Alhyari

Good evening, my name is Bushrah Alhyari, and I'm a student at Dublin Coffman. I don't attend Hilliard Schools. I miss school on Eid, and it is really difficult when you miss school as a high school student because there is so much work to make up, like daily homework, tests, quizzes, and exams. We are kindly asking you to give the students of Hilliard City Schools the day off for Eid. Imagine the impact this decision could make. So many students and teachers would no longer be skipping school. You could be the first district in Ohio to recognize this holiday. You could be the start of a great wave of change, acceptance, inclusion, and cultural diversity. I would love to see your district initiate this so that my district and others can follow. Thank you for your time.

Layan Abu-Romeh

Hello, my name is Layan Abu-Romeh. I'm a fourteen-year-old American Muslim who celebrates the religious holiday Eid. Next year I will be a freshman at Davidson. Muslims celebrate Eid twice per year - Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha. This year we will be celebrating Eid al-Fitr on Monday, May 2. Eid al-Fitr is a celebration that marks the end of Ramadan, a month of fasting, prayer, and reflection. On Eid, we will have to skip school to attend the morning prayer celebration. Missing school, especially on a Monday, puts us behind in many ways. Hilliard City Schools should give students the day off on Eid...because missing school puts students behind.

Many school districts around the country give students the day off of school for Eid, such as schools in Minneapolis, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Minnesota; we should too. If Hilliard City Schools gives students the day off on Eid, they would be the first district in Ohio to do so. This would prove that Hilliard is a much more diverse district, and the administrators are doing what they can to accommodate everyone's needs and be more inclusive. If Hilliard students take the day off, other districts would follow and make life easier for Muslims everywhere. Students in Hilliard should be given the day off for Eid because there are other days off for other religious holidays. For example, this coming Friday is Good Friday, and students will not be attending school. We also don't have school on many other holidays, such as Christmas and Thanksgiving. In...schools, there are many Jewish students, and they take Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur as days off. In Hilliard, there are many Muslim students, so we should take Eid off. Another reason students should be given the day off on Eid is because missing school puts students behind. When we were in elementary school, missing a day meant nothing, but now in middle and high school, missing a day puts us behind. This year Eid is on a Monday, which means we will miss even more work. This situation could be avoided by giving us the day off for Eid.

All in all, Hilliard City Schools should give all students the day off for Eid because many other districts take Eid off, many other holidays cause students to take days off, and missing school puts students behind. Around 20% of students in Hilliard are Muslims who celebrate Eid. We should help them all by giving them the day off.

Sumaya Hamadmad

My name is Sumaya Hamadmad, and I'm the parent of three Hilliard kids. I want to start by saying this is intimidating for a forty-four-year-old. But imagine how much courage, bravery, and confidence these girls have to speak tonight. They initiated the conversation and even discussed whether to dress formally or not. They did all of this work, and we often talk of amplifying students' voices. So, I am only here to give them a shout-out. I was part of the diversity, equity, and inclusivity task force, and we have spoken so much about inclusion. I think this is an opportunity for us to be inclusive, not just talking about being inclusive. As my dear friend Janet Monseur-Durr once said, we need to think about belonging and inclusivity. This is what these students need to feel as though they belong. So, I acknowledge and honor their request and hope you take it seriously. Finally, I like to give credit where credit is due. These students prove that our education system produces responsible citizens who are civically engaged, actively involved, and proud of their identities. You are doing a great job. Thank you.

Menna Alkhafaji

My name is Menna Alkhafaji, and I'm a junior at Hilliard Bradley High School. Ever since I can remember, I've had to debate whether I should go to school or celebrate with my family and community. I believe that I have an AP test on Eid this year. So, not only is it my first day off from fasting for 30 days, but I also have to take an AP test. As an Honors student, it is hard for me to miss even one day of school and makeup all the work. So, I think it's a great opportunity for us as a community to be role models and an inspiration for change for other communities. Thank you.

Fathi Ramadan

Hello, my name is Fathi Ramadan, and I'm a seventh-grader at Weaver Middle School. I believe that we should get the day off school for Eid because Eid is a very important celebration. We just can't miss it. Every year I debate whether I should go to school or spend time with my family. Those who decide to miss school might miss a test or a lesson while they are gone. You don't get the same learning experience when doing the lesson at home as you would in school. In middle school, you have to make up a lot of work if

you miss a day of school, which is very stressful. I also don't feel as much of a sense of belonging in the community when we don't get the day off for Eid. I would like to feel like a larger part of and more included in the community. Giving us the day off for Eid would also make us a more diverse community. Thank you for your time, and have a good day.

Mr. Perry thanked the students for coming and speaking tonight. You are very courageous. He apologized for butchering the pronunciation of their names. However, people's names matter, so I attempted to announce you to my best ability. He also asked Mr. Stewart to add Eid to the next school calendar discussion.

Mrs. Long asked Mr. Stewart to follow up with Sarah.

E **CONSENT AGENDA**

- E1 Approved the following Certified Personnel actions – See attachment to the Minutes.
- E2 Approved the following Classified Personnel actions – See attachment to the Minutes.
- E3 Approved Contracts for Certificated Staff – See attachment to the Minutes.
- E4 Approved Contracts for Certificated Tutors – See attachment to the Minutes.

Employment – Summer School – effective June and July 2022:

The Board established the rate of pay for teachers paid through federal programs at \$55.00 per hour.

The Board established the rate of pay for classified staff paid through federal programs at \$5.00 per hour over their current hourly rate.

Calendars

Per SB11 passed March 10, 2022, and effective June 10, 2022, all 11 and 12-month nonteaching employees are now granted Juneteenth day (June 19) as a paid holiday and it will be incorporated into the school calendars.

The Board of Education approved item E1 through E4, including certified and classified personnel matters. You can find the complete list of personnel matters as an attachment to the Minutes.

Mr. Perry noted the two retiring staff members – Robert O'Brien and Gloria Young. Mr. O'Brien has been with Hilliard City Schools since 1999, and Mrs. Young has been with us since 2002. Thank you for your many years of service, and best wishes on your retirement.

Mr. Wilson added that Mrs. Young had been the lead payroll clerk for sixteen of my seventeen years in the district. I very much am going to miss Gloria.

Mr. Stewart stated that as part of the consent agenda you just approved, Jacob Grantier is our new Director of Secondary Education. Mr. Grantier is a long-time employee of the district. He has worked as a teacher and an instructional coach. We think so highly of him that we asked him to take on this new role.

Mr. Grantier thanked the superintendent and board for this opportunity to serve both students and staff of Hilliard City Schools. Curriculum and assessment are passions of mine. I look forward to working with all of our teachers and staff throughout the district to ensure we are providing meaningful and purposeful opportunities for our kids.

F ACTION AGENDA

- F1 The Board of Education authorized the Chief Operating Officer to award the following bid for the 2022 Heritage Middle School Paving Projects to the named Vendors for the following project:

Heritage Middle School – Complete General Construction awarded at a bid of \$956,096.50

Mr. Perry asked if the district had worked with the vendor before and the actual versus the project's projected cost. Mr. Hetzel replied that this vendor had done some paving work at Alton Darby, Darby Creek, and Hilliard Darby High School. We sent the bid to seven contractors, and four contractors submitted proposals for this project. The engineer estimated the project at approximately \$1,080,000. We weren't sure what to expect from the market with the price of oil and fuel rising. So, we are very pleased that the bid came in lower than the estimated cost. Mr. Perry commented that he knew the bid came in lower than the estimate and liked to allow highlighting it.

- F2 The Board of Education awarded Rumpke of Ohio, Inc. at three-year agreement for the collection, transportation and delivery for disposal or processing of solid waste and recyclable materials. The Collection Services shall commence on July 1, 2022, through June 20, 2025.

Mrs. Long asked if Mr. Hetzel had any information. Mr. Hetzel responded that this is a change in vendor for us. We worked with SWACO on the bid proposal, but we have not worked with Rumpke in the past. However, they have a strong presence in Central Ohio and are excited about the flexibility and scale they have offered. In addition, they are strong in conservation and recycling and are willing to invest in some of our composting initiatives.

- F3 The Board of Education adopted the following policies:

- a) BBA – School Board Powers and Duties
- b) BBF-E – Board Member Code of Ethics
- c) BDDDB – Agenda Format
- d) BDDC – Agenda Preparation and Dissemination
- e) IND/INDA – School Ceremonies and Observances/Patriotic Exercises

Mr. Perry stated the changes were discussed extensively at the last meeting. The changes to the first two policies establish that we will follow the code of ethics and board policies as part of our duties. The changes to BDDDB and BDDC rectify some inconsistencies in the timing, preparation, and dissemination of agendas. Finally, the changes to IND/INDA are a collaborative effort of the policy review committee. Mr. Perry thanked the committee for all their work, especially the last couple of months. He appreciates the open meeting format that allows the public to speak and witness the process. There were some concerns with consistency and first amendments rights regarding this policy. He reassured those concerned about their freedom of free speech that the revised policy prohibits intimidation of students, staff, and individuals making sure the first amendment rights are protected. Mrs. Crowley added that she doesn't have an issue with the pledge but does have an issue with how policy is developed and making sure we are not serving political agendas. She is happy that the time and manner of reciting the pledge have been left to the superintendent. Mrs. Long thanked her fellow board members for the discussion at the last board meeting. It was the best collaboration effort she has experienced in a long time. She appreciates everyone's professionalism. Mr. Vorst asked Mr. Stewart to explain how reciting the pledge would fit into

the school program. Mr. Stewart replied that he communicated with all building principals in anticipation of this policy being adopted tonight, and they will begin including the daily recitation of the pledge tomorrow.

F4 The Board of Education adopted the following resolution:

Authorized the Treasurer to Transfer \$50,000 from the General Fund #001 to the following Rotary #011 – District One2One Program Fund.

Mr. Wilson explained that this was an annual transfer. We use the One2One Program Fund to repair student iPads. \$50,000 is the amount we add to the fund to cover any repair costs for students approved for free or reduced lunch.

F5 The Board of Education adopted the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Hilliard City School District, Franklin County, Ohio, that to provide for current expenses and other expenditures of said Board of Education, during the fiscal year, ending June 30, 2022, the following sums be amended and the same are hereby set aside and appropriated for the several purposes for which expenditures are to be made and during said fiscal year as follows:

006	-	FOOD SERVICE	\$7,582,350
024	-	SELF INSURANCE	\$41,413,000
499	-	MISC STATE GRANT	\$263,500
527	-	TITLE I	\$2,168,000

Mr. Wilson explained the foodservice fund increased by \$1.5 million. The majority of this appropriation relates to this being the first full year we provide free lunch and breakfast to every student. The federal government is picking up the tab for this program this school year. This will not be the case for the next school year. We also have some inflationary items that will impact us in the following years. Like many other companies, we had some labor issues and needed to increase compensation for some lower-paid employees in the foodservice program. At 19%, this is a significant increase. We are also looking at a 7-8% increase in food.

We need to increase the medical benefits fund by \$4 million. Our self-insurance program costs are claims-based. This is a worst-case scenario, but the last thing I need is for a claim to come in late June, and I don't have sufficient funds to cover it.

We are increasing the Misc State Grant fund by \$222,500. This includes the \$88,000 state school safety grant and the \$135,000 school bus purchase grant (for our standard buses, not electric buses).

The Title I fund is increased by \$32,000 and is related to the timing of the Title I summer school program, which is different from what Mrs. Kindl discussed earlier.

Mrs. Long asked if Aramark would be providing a report to the board this summer. She also suggested informing parents of the changes regarding free lunch and breakfast as soon as possible. She would also like to know how the increased labor and food costs are being handled.

G REPORTS / INFORMATION / EXHIBIT ITEM

G1 Committee Reports

Mrs. Crowley attended DEI this past month. We updated some handbook revisions and the hiring process, which has been slowed this year with the absorption of some Online Academy staff. We discussed the definition of inclusion and how we could make this a measurable goal. We also discussed some options for this summer's book club.

Mrs. Crowley also attended her first HEF meeting. They are a fun group. They've received many grant proposals and are in the process of communicating decisions to teachers.

Mr. Vorst reported that the insurance committee met to talk about a new front-line provider and possibly lower our employee healthcare plan costs.

He also attended the superintendent's advisory council, where staff got to ask Mr. Stewart lots of questions. Again, it is an intriguing and informative meeting.

Mr. Perry reported that OSBA's legislative platform proposal deadline is May 31.

Mrs. Murdoch reported that ISPTO is wrapping things up and getting ready for summer. They have a lot of great projects going on. Hopefully, many of you in the room are involved in your building PTO and learning what they do for your school. They also played "Q & A" with the superintendent.

Mrs. Long reminded board members that Wednesday is our RSVP date for the Tolles dinner on April 27.

G2 Superintendent's Update

- a. The district will be undergoing a strategic planning process next year. We are currently in the planning phase. This is most likely a two-phase process where we start with envisioning what we want for our graduates, followed by a traditional strategic planning process. It will be a community-driven process beginning next fall with community members, students, and educators participating. I hope to roll out plans and timelines in May or June.

H EXECUTIVE SESSION / ADJOURNMENT

- H1** The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.