



---

# 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, Mr. Perry, and Mr. Vorst
- A3 The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

## **B PROGRAMS / PRESENTATIONS**

- B1 No presentations

## **C ROUTINES**

- C1 The agenda is correct with late-breaking action items.
- C2 The Board of Education adopted the agenda.
- C3 The Board of Education approved the June 2022 Treasurer's Report.

Mr. Vorst noted a \$10 million difference in our balance on page 2. He asked Mr. Wilson to explain. Mr. Wilson said we expected to continue to have a surplus year, but there were timing issues on some expenditures, such as items that weren't received before year-end. As a result, we finished the year with more than \$4 million in encumbrances. Usually, we have around \$1.5 million in encumbrances. Therefore, approximately \$2m million in expenditures took place in FY 2022 and were encumbered in FY 2021. Also, our surplus was better than anticipated. Mr. Vorst asked if this was driven by revenue or expenses, and Mr. Wilson said it was a combination of both. After negotiations with various commercial entities, due to HB 126 (challenging taxable values), we generated more than \$3 million in FY 2022, which is the most we've ever done. Unfortunately, we will not get any of these dollars in FY 2023.

Mrs. Murdoch noted that even though we were over on salaries, wages, and benefits by more than \$611,000, we made it up in purchased services, supplies, and materials. She asked if there was anything significant there or just a bunch of little savings that washed that out and came out to the good. Mr. Wilson explained that we expect most of our expenditures to be more expensive a year later. The decrease in the amount of purchased services is due to the change in the school funding formula. The charter school students used to be run through our books (revenue and expenditures). The savings in supplies and materials is just a timing issue.

- C4 The Board of Education approved the minutes from the following meetings:
  - a. June 13, 2022 – Regular meeting
  - b. June 13, 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.

### Autumn Cash Rose

Hello, my name is Autumn Cash Rose, as mentioned. I've been a Hilliard resident for twelve years. My son, Zander, will be attending Tharp middle school as a sixth-grader during the next school year. I'm here to ask for an exception to the district's current transportation policy. Zander lives 1.5 miles from Tharp middle school, so he is ineligible for bus transportation and needs to walk down Davidson Road to get to school. For the past few months, there has been ongoing construction on Davidson Road in preparation for a new data center. The hydro excavation involved with this work has already caused a complete road closure due to a water main break making use of Davidson Road an impossibility for drivers and pedestrians alike. The next available route to school would be 2.6 miles in distance. There is no guarantee that a similar incident would not occur, closing the road for weeks during the school year.

Additionally, the nature of high-pressure hydro excavation poses a risk of injury not just to children but any pedestrian walking through the construction zone on the sidewalk along Davidson Road. I was seeking before and after school care for Zander so we could drop him off and have care through the ACE program. However, we were wait-listed along with eight other children. For this reason, I am requesting an exception to the district's transportation policy so that Zander can be safely bused to and from school. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak before the Hilliard City School Board of Education.

Mrs. Long asked the superintendent to follow up with Ms. Rose. Mr. Stewart said that he will. He added that the "wait-listing" is a hiring issue, and we hope to resolve this before school starts.

Mr. Vorst commented that it sounds like Davidson Road will not be open before school starts. He asked if we would have to make any changes to district transportation in general. Mr. Stewart replied that we don't know how long Davidson Road will be under construction, but we are monitoring the situation. Mr. Vorst asked if we had any contingency plans. Mr. Stewart said it would become a routing issue that Cliff and Andi would work through. We will contact the City for more information on this project.

Mrs. Long asked that Feder Road be monitored too. She has heard that this project is way behind schedule. Mr. Stewart said that we would watch that project as well.

Mrs. Crowley asked if we would consider the safety of walkers and bus riders. Mr. Stewart said yes.

Xiaoqing Claire Rong-Mullins

Good evening everyone. My name is Xiaoqing Clair Rong-Mullins, and I have two kids that will be in first grade and kindergarten this fall. I want to propose changes to Policy EEAA, Eligibility Zones for Pupil Transportation. The original policy states that the board provides transportation for resident elementary students in grades kindergarten through eight, who live more than two miles from school, and for all students with physical or mental disabilities that make walking impossible or unsafe. I propose that this portion of the policy be changed to the board provides transportation for

1<sup>st</sup> – resident elementary students in grades kindergarten through eight, who live more than two miles from school

2<sup>nd</sup> – resident elementary students in grades kindergarten through three, who live more than one mile from school

3<sup>rd</sup> – for all students with physical or mental disabilities that make walking impossible or unsafe.

I also propose adding the distance between a student’s home and school should be measured as safe walking distance, which excludes any road without sidewalks and a speed limit greater than 25 mph.

With these changes, we can provide bus transportation for a lot of students who are too young to walk more than one mile to school. This will save a lot of parents hardship to and from school and reduce traffic congestion.

I understand the board should be financially responsible and that these changes would require additional buses and drivers. However, based on an analysis presented at the board meeting on April 25, the bus route optimization will reduce the cost of bus operation, and the savings may cover the additional costs of my proposed policy changes. I would be happy to work with the policy review committee and the board on this. I simply request that I be allowed to participate in dialogue before this proposal is possibly denied. I am always open to suggestions and adjustments to make sure the policy changes meet students’ needs and are financially responsible.

Just as a side note, my kids are with their grandparents this week. Instead of enjoying my vacation, I came here to speak because this is important. Again, I’m more than happy to work with everyone on this.

Mr. Perry asked Ms. Rong-Mullins to repeat the policy letters. She responded with policy EEAA.

Mrs. Murdoch remarked that Cliff did that analysis to reduce the walking distance to one mile. Still, she likes her proposal of considering sidewalks and speed limits when determining a safe walking distance. Mr. Stewart replied that we could prepare an analysis of a one-mile walk zone and have a set of criteria to assess walk zones. However, the route optimization impact won’t be felt until a year from now. We have the study, and it will take us a year to do the work. We can’t complete this before the start of the 2022-2023 school year.

Latricia Barker

Hi, my name is Latricia Barker. Thank you for your time. Many boards of education around the state made statements again HB 99, the bill that allows teachers and staff to carry weapons on school property with reduced training. I want to thank Hilliard City Schools for announcing it will continue to prohibit the carrying of weapons on all district property by staff, students, and members of the public. I am a veteran with twelve years of service. I was trained and required to requalify annually on my weapons. I have

carried a loaded weapon on a humanitarian aid mission in Honduras around civilians, including small children. When we went into town, I was amongst the security force for my leadership.

Many children would come up to us and pat our pockets, looking for pens, pencils, money, or whatever we had. I was very uncomfortable with children coming up to me while I held a loaded weapon over my shoulder. But, again, I had extensive training over many years on how to handle a weapon. Arming educators is not a solution to gun violence. Educators and staff are already doing much more beyond their job of educating and providing for our children. There are nurses and counselors secretly funding students' needs amongst many of their other duties. The job of school professionals is to educate and take care of students. Our teachers and staff do not enter this profession to carry firearms. The responsibility of public safety is that of our city, county, state, and federal officials. Let's move the accountability back to those elected officials who have asked our educators and staff to be brave when they have not. Once again, thank you for keeping the current policy intact and taking the time to make that statement. Thank you.

Mr. Perry stated that some of them had spoken with law enforcement. Thank you for your insight.

Kemmily Kwok

Good evening everyone. I'm Kemmily, and I have two kids in Hilliard. I have talked in front of you before. I just want to say that I'm thankful the board issued a statement saying they are not going to follow HB 99. It makes me feel safe knowing that teachers are not going to be carrying guns on school property. There's one thing I want to mention regarding safety in the buildings. During the school year, when I had to pick up my daughter before the end of the school day...I would call the school and say I was going to be there in ten minutes, and when I arrived, no one checked my identity. I hit the buzzer, and they just let me in or sent her out. I feel like if we are going to be picking up our children, the school should verify who I am because anyone can call and say I'm going to pick up my kid. For example, in Dublin Schools, they actually check your I.D. when picking up your children. I'm wondering if there is something better we can do to ensure the safety of our children when they are being picked up by a visitor at school. My suggestion is to ask for an I.D. and verify the visitor is the parent. It would make me feel a lot better. Thank you.

Mr. Perry asked Jill Abraham (who formerly worked at Dublin City Schools) if she was familiar with that practice. She replied that she doesn't remember the system's name, but you show your I.D. as you come in.

Mrs. Murdoch asked if the system we heard about in a meeting or two ago includes showing I.D. Mr. McDonough replied that they are in the process of working on this issue. They have applied for a few grants to help with the funding.

Mrs. Crowley thanked Kemmily for speaking and noted that she had had a similar experience. Therefore, verifying the correct person is picking up the kids makes sense.

Mr. Vorst asked for an explanation of our current policy. Mr. Stewart said that generally, there is a process to ensure we match the child with the correct parent. However, as the year progresses and parents become known quantities, we may become lax on those verifications. We will review the process with our building principals and staff.

**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 the following student trip requests:

- a. Davidson Girls Cross Country, Springfield, OH – August 1, 2022
- b. Bradley Cross Country, Camp Wesley – August 8, 2022
- c. Davidson Girls Cross Country, East Lansing, MI – September 15, 2022
- d. Davidson Girls Cross Country, Centerville, OH – October 1, 2022
- e. Davidson Girls Cross Country, Terre Haute, IN – November 12, 2022
- f. Bradley Leadership Retreat, Bellefontaine, OH – November 19, 2022

The Board of Education approved items E1 through E3, including certified and classified personnel matters. You can find the complete list of personnel matters as an attachment to the Minutes.

Mr. Perry noted that we have one retirement – Kathy Ryan, bus driver, who has been with the district since 2013.

Mr. Vorst stated they had received a long list of personnel items that he briefly skimmed to see if he recognized any names. We are approving large lists of people. I understand everyone has had a background check and their education verified. Would you explain the hiring process so we feel more comfortable voting on such an extensive list of people? Mr. Stewart said he would schedule a presentation for the board, but our application process generally runs through AppleTrack. Next is a screening process, and we bring candidates in for a group interview that includes two administrators. The administrators, trained to run those interviews, then rate the applicants as very strong or less. Then as we have job openings, the building principals get the names of the best applicants for their open position.

Mr. Perry commented that he has a few questions about the Gatekeeper interview process. However, he will save his questions for the night of the presentation.

Mr. Stewart explained that part of the reason we have our meeting on July 7 is a law in Ohio about teacher contracts and a July 10<sup>th</sup> date. Keep in mind that with our number of employees, these lists are not just hiring or resigning. We have a lot of supplemental and activity contracts as well. So these lists will always be extensive.

Mrs. Murdoch asked for an explanation about the July 10<sup>th</sup> date. Does it mean we have to vote by July 10<sup>th</sup> or do they have to provide their resignation by July 10<sup>th</sup>? Mr. Stewart replied that teachers with a contract are obligated to resign before July 10<sup>th</sup>. However, if they do not resign prior to July 10<sup>th</sup>, a school district has the option to report it to the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) Office of Educator Misconduct. Mr. Walker added that ODE could pull their license for a year. So, they would be no good to us or their current employer. Mrs. Murdoch then said there isn't a problem with the August 1 effective dates because they gave notice before July 10<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Walker said that the board would take action tonight, and they would resign tomorrow from their current district. Mr. Stewart added that we don't always report them to ODE. Sometimes it's better for the district or the employee, depending on particular circumstances. So, we only report them to ODE in unique situations.

**F ACTION AGENDA**

- F1 The Board of Education approved the following financial institutions to act as public depositories for interim and active funds for the period expiring August 21, 2027, per Ohio Revised Code Chapter 135: Huntington Bank, Key Bank, PNC Bank, J.P. Morgan Chase Bank, and Premier Bank.

Mrs. Murdoch asked if these are all the institutions we typically use. Mr. Wilson said that he removed a couple of institutions from the list since we hadn't had any activity with them. Per Ohio Revised Code, you must designate financial institutions to act as public depositories every five years. The financial institutions have to show they are on sound financial footing. Most of our activity is with Huntington Bank and PNC Bank. I recently made an investment with Premier Bank. Key Bank and J.P. Morgan Chase Bank have expressed interest in working with us, so they are on the list to keep our options open. Mrs. Murdoch said Premier was the only one she didn't recognize on the list. Mr. Wilson said it is a small local bank.

Mr. Vorst noted that we do business with two but approve five if we have an issue and need to work with a different bank. Mr. Wilson replied yes. He added that back in 2008 and 2009, he was sweating bullets...Mrs. Murdoch said that "we all were."

- F2 The Board of Education approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code §3.061, the Board of Education adopted Policy DH authorizing the purchase of an employee dishonesty and faithful performance of duty policy (the "Policy") in lieu of requiring its Treasurer to acquire an individual surety bond at the time of appointment or reappointment to the position, or during the individual's term or employment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Treasurer to be covered by the Policy, effective August 1, 2022, in lieu of a surety bond, in conformance with Board Policy DH.

Mr. Wilson explained a change in Ohio Revised Code permits districts to purchase an employee dishonesty insurance policy instead of an individual surety bond. As a result, our insurance policy provides \$100,000 of coverage versus the \$50,000 of coverage provided by the surety bond. Since the coverage is part of the district's insurance plan, the board must pass this resolution so we don't have to continue paying for the dishonesty surety bond. Mrs. Murdoch asked if this was a cost savings. Mr. Wilson said it is a slight cost savings. Mrs. Murdoch stated she'll take whatever she could get.

**G REPORTS / INFORMATION / EXHIBIT ITEM**

- G1 Policies submitted for a second reading
- a. ACB-E (Also IGBA-E) – Procedural Safeguards Notice
  - b. ACB-R – Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability
  - c. BDDH (Also KD) – Public Participation at Board Meetings
  - d. BF – Board Policy Development and Adoption
  - e. BFB – Preliminary Development of Policies (**Rescind**)
  - f. BFB-E – Preliminary Development of Policies (**Rescind**)
  - g. BFC – Policy Adoption (**Rescind**)
  - h. DBDA – Cash Balance Reserve

- i. EEACC (Also JFCC) – Student Conduct on District Managed Transportation
- j. GCB-2 – Professional and Certificated Staff Contracts and Compensation Plans (Administrators)
- k. GCB-2-R – Professional and Certificated Staff Contracts and Compensation Plans (Administrators)
- l. IGBA-E (Also ACB-E) – Procedural Safeguards Notice
- m. IGCD (Also LEB) – Educational Options
- n. IGCD-R (Also LEB-R) – Educational Options
- o. IGCH-R (Also LEC-R) – College Credit Plus
- p. IGCK – Blended Learning
- q. JB-R – Equal Educational Opportunities (Non-Discrimination Statement)
- r. JFCC (Also EEACC) – Student Conduct on District Managed Transportation
- s. JFI – Student Demonstrations and Strikes
- t. KD (Also BDDH) – Public Participation at Board Meetings
- u. LEB (Also IGCD) – Educational Options
- v. LEB-R (Also IGCD-R) – Educational Options
- w. LEC-R (Also IGCH-R) – College Credit Plus

Mr. Vorst said it looks like a few of these policies require changes due to changes in Ohio law. The language has been provided by Ohio Schools Boards Association (OSBA) or policy review service. Mr. Stewart said that most of all policy changes would be recommended or required changes submitted to us by OSBA. We pay them to monitor changes in law and to propose policies and changes to keep us compliant with state and federal law. Typically, there's not much wiggle room since these are changes required by law. There may also be a few policy recommendations based on issues in our district.

Mrs. Long asked from which policy review committee meeting are these recommendations. Mr. Stewart and Mr. McDonough replied they are from the May 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mrs. Long said that if you pull the notes up on the web, I think it breaks out by each one of what it is. So what's on our agenda is just the modified version, but the notes say whether it's required or not. It looks like Julie Martin attended the policy meeting.

Mr. Vorst asked if we have ever had an issue with OSBA's policy recommendations. Mr. Perry noted that most of the recommendations are required by law. Mr. Vorst said it feels like we are rubber-stamping their recommendations. Mr. Stewart pointed out it is a service we pay for to keep us in compliance. Mr. Perry added that if their recommendations are not required, we sometimes decide not to include those changes. However, if the changes are required, we must make them per state law. Do you delineate what comes out of policy by what's required and recommended? Mr. Stewart said that information is in the summary notes sent to board members.

Mrs. Long asked if all of the committee members listed on the notes were present at the committee every meeting. Do you keep track of who's attending? Mr. McDonough said yes. Mr. Stewart added that all committee members are usually at the meeting unless there is an unforeseen conflict. However, there are sometimes no policies on the agenda that impact their world, and they are excused from attending. Nevertheless, they are on the committee because they have different perspectives.

Mr. Vorst noted that one of the policies (DBDA) recommends changing our cash balance reserve from 10% to 20%. He asked Mr. Wilson to explain. Mr. Wilson answered the policy was originally adopted in 2006 when we had a hard time getting to a 10% cash reserve. The credit rating agencies say a 10% reserve is too low, and the industry-standard is 16%-25%. We have discussed increasing our cash reserve over the last several years. Mrs. Long commented that we'd had more than a 20% reserve for a while. Mr. Wilson said

the ESSER funds had helped significantly over the last two years. We had a significant cash reserve when the pandemic started, allowing us to operate without RIFs (reduction in force). This is an example of the benefit of a 20% versus 10% cash reserve. Mr. Vorst confirmed that there's no penalty for not meeting the 20%. It just requires the treasurer to inform the board.

Mr. McDonough explained that the changes to ACB-E and ACB-R are simply updating position titles. This update does not change the intent of the policy. Mrs. Murdoch asked if the 504 compliance officer could be something handled by someone with a different title from year to year. Mr. McDonough said yes. These changes broaden the policy, so it doesn't have to be updated yearly. The student handbooks include the position title and are updated every year.

#### BDDH (Also KD) – Public Participation at Board Meetings

Mr. McDonough highlighted the changes - moving a sentence from the third paragraph to the second paragraph and adding a topic of discussion per Mr. Perry's request. Mr. Perry explained that we ask for the participant's name, date, address, email (optional), and topic on our current form. My proposed change requires that the participant include the topic they wish to discuss. He believes it will help administratively to keep track of issues.

Mrs. Long said the form shows the email address is optional and returns the form to the treasurer. She wonders if the form just needs to be more clear. Mr. Perry stated that policy does not require the topic to be put on the form. Instead, he proposes to make it required. Mrs. Crowley asked if a participant doesn't include their topic on the form, will you return it to them? Mr. Perry said he would ask the participant to complete the form. Mrs. Long asked if a participant doesn't complete the form entirely (does not include name, address, and topic) that, we won't let them speak during public participation. Mr. Perry said we would ask them to complete the form, and if they refused, we don't let them talk. Mrs. Long asked what do you want to do if a participant went off-topic. Mr. Perry said we could ask them to stay on topic. Mr. Perry said that a participant previously listed a topic but spoke about something entirely different. He wants participants to be honest about what they plan to discuss. Mr. Vorst said that as long as the participant is respectful and the topic is relevant, it's okay to let them speak. Mrs. Murdoch said she couldn't think of a topic that we would say we don't want you to talk about it. It would be easy enough for us to write the actual or additional topic on the participant's form. Mr. Perry said participants could talk about any topic they wanted if they wrote it on the form. Mrs. Crowley added that she understands both points of view. Mrs. Crowley suggested reformatting the form so that the "optional" email address info is the last part of the form, implying that everything else is required. All agreed the following would not be added to the policy: "and present the topic listed on their formal request form." Mr. Vorst asked if participants were required to state their names and address. Participants must put their address on the form but are not required to state it when speaking.

BF – Board Policy Development and Adoption

BFB – Preliminary Development of Policies (**Rescind**)

BFB-E – Preliminary Development of Policies (**Rescind**)

BFC – Policy Adoption (**Rescind**)

Mrs. Murdoch said this is her favorite policy – policy about policy. Mr. Perry stated this is the crowning achievement. Mr. Perry suggested that in the second "green" paragraph that "board" should be changed to "board president," where it talks about appointing members to the policy committee. All agreed.



Mr. Vorst asked a question about the path of getting a policy discussed by the board. Does it have to be the two board members on the policy review committee?

**The agenda for the Policy Review Committee will be set by the Superintendent/designee in consultation with the Board members on the Policy Review Committee. A proposal will automatically be placed on the agenda at the written request of any two Board members or when the proposal has been made by the Board's policy service provider.**

Mr. Perry said that a policy issue could be added to the policy review committee agenda by any two board members, not just those on the review committee. Mrs. Murdoch agreed that was their intention. They discussed adding the word “any” to the policy.

The updates to policy BF consolidates and rescinds three other policies.

#### EEACC (Also JFCC) – Student Conduct on District Managed Transportation

Mr. Vorst asked what warranted this update. Mr. McDonough answered this is a recommendation (not a requirement) by OSBA. He further explained that it is what we do. Mrs. Murdoch doesn't see a problem with it.

#### GCB-2 – Professional and Certificated Staff Contracts and Compensation Plans (Administrators) GCB-2-R – Professional and Certificated Staff Contracts and Compensation Plans (Administrators)

Mr. McDonough said the update to this policy is adding language about who a board may request an alternative license. Mrs. Murdoch said this is due to a change in Ohio Revised Code.

#### IGCD (Also LEB) – Educational Options IGCD-R (Also LEB-R) – Educational Options IGCH-R (Also LEC-R) – College Credit Plus

Mr. McDonough explained the updates to this policy are a result of a change in legislation, but it does not change anything we are currently doing.

#### IGCK – Blended Learning

Mr. McDonough said the updates to this policy simply further define blended learning.

#### JB-R – Equal Educational Opportunities (Non-Discrimination Statement)

Mr. McDonough stated the updates to this policy are a few grammatical corrections and titles.

#### JFI – Student Demonstrations and Strikes

Mrs. Murdoch stated that after the last walkout and the things that went wrong, she reviewed this policy and doesn't like the line about suspension: “The Superintendent, assistant superintendent or a building principal shall be authorized to suspend from school...” This was the first thing she noticed. So, she wrote the preamble thinking it's important we say we support first amendment rights and talk about time, place, and manner for when students can express their first amendment rights. This draft doesn't capture everything she was trying to do because she also wanted to add something about consequences if a

student expresses their first amendment right at a wrong time, place, or manner. She thinks we might need to make some additional changes.

Mr. Perry said this policy could go back to the review committee. Mrs. Long asked what came out of policy. Mr. Perry replied that the last two paragraphs are directly from NEOLA language, a modification from an earlier review. Mrs. Crowley asked if things come straight out of policy or if there isn't a consensus among the review committee, are they sent back for further review? Mr. Perry said that they can, and the issue with this policy is that this language was drafted after the review committee meeting. So, we met and had a general consensus idea, and the language was drafted after the meeting had ended. He would like to take the current draft back to the review committee. We have three readings and can do this way, but he would prefer to take it back to the review committee. Mrs. Long added that best practice is to have agreement from those in policy. This is why she wants to make sure attendance is taken to make sure there is a quorum. Mr. Perry explained that we don't have a quorum because we don't vote. So, the only consensus we can have is a rough, general sense of what's happening as recorded in the minutes. If the committee cannot reach an agreement, the issue is brought to the board for your decision. Mrs. Long stated this was modified after the first reading. Mr. Perry confirmed. Mrs. Crowley said that from reading the minutes, it looks like the committee wanted some of Beth's recommendations, some that were already there, and some from NEOLA. Looking at this draft, it seems like it does that.

Mrs. Long that in reading this policy today, she thinks the first and the last are a little bit everywhere. Mr. Perry explained that the first paragraph enumerates all of the rights included in the first amendment. The last line is a modified line from NEOLA because NEOLA used the term guidelines, which is not our administrative practice. So it was drafted by the administrative team to follow our practice in Hilliard more closely. It essentially gives the superintendent the authority on a case-by-case basis. Mr. Perry stated that an attorney drafted the NEOLA language. Mrs. Crowley said a lot of school districts use NEOLA's policy language.

Mrs. Long noted the policy was adopted in 2001 and revised in 2015. In looking at the middle piece, our current policy, I hear Beth doesn't like the word "suspend." Mrs. Murdoch adds that the policy doesn't give them any bandwidth to mark them tardy for a short, unplanned walkout. She wants the policy to have a broader definition instead of saying "shall be authorized to suspend from school." As currently written, it sounds like we do nothing or suspend you, and it doesn't feel right. There should be consequences but not an automatic suspension.

Mrs. Crowley asked for an explanation of a "purposeful activity" – "The disruption of the educational program of the schools by disorder or any other purposeful activity will not be supported." Mrs. Murdoch replied that...tried to remember where she saw an example. Mr. Stewart added that it's most likely broader things done in the name of protesting something. Mrs. Murdoch said that the example was a bunch of students blocked the school buses from leaving the school. Transporting students is a purposeful activity of the school. So it's not a disruption of the educational program but a disruption of purposeful activity.

Mr. Perry said that in the second paragraph, which interferes with the normal operation of the school, he would add the word "substantially." This is because so many things may interfere with school operations but is it irritating (like most protests are annoying). Mr. Vorst asked how do you define substantially? Mr. Perry asked how do you define reasonably?

Mrs. Long asked if we could move forward with our current policy. Mrs. Crowley stated she likes the strength of the NEOLA language. It's nice to know there is protection for students and that this language is used by three-fourths of the districts in Ohio. It feels like good practice. Mr. Perry said there are things in here he likes – changing suspend to discipline, adding the last sentence, the last paragraph that includes protections is good, and the changes Beth made to principals and responsible.

Mr. Stewart suggested that if you want to send this back to policy, he is confident after all the conversations on how you would like the administration to respond to these events. So, we can carry out the board's intent with our current policy while the policy review committee hammers out the details.

There was disagreement on whether the policy review committee minutes were clear about adding the NEOLA language. Mr. Perry thought the committee agreed to add the language, but Mrs. Murdoch said her notes did not include that agreement. Therefore, this policy will not move to the third reading.

Mr. Vorst asked Mr. Stewart how he would handle a similar situation. What do you need from us? Mr. Stewart said we need the flexibility to handle each situation uniquely. He doesn't believe there is any specific way to respond to this type of situation. He explained that many students wanted to do something similar in the final months of the school year. Taking what we learned, the principals were able to work with those students to find a more productive way to voice their concerns. We are encouraging kids to be active and find their voice. We are also helping them find a way to express their concerns that doesn't disrupt the school operation. Mr. Vorst asked what he would do if the same thing that happened in April happened again. Mr. Stewart said the one thing he might add would be to record who was in class and who wasn't.

G2 Amended school calendars submitted for a second reading

- a. 2022-2023
- b. 2023-2024
- c. 2024-2025
- d. 2025-2026

Mr. Stewart said we need to take board action tonight if you want to adopt these calendars. This is the second reading, and none of the calendars have changed since the first reading. However, I have one recommendation before you take action. In the 2023-2024 school calendar, we added a day to the end of the school year so that we could add a holiday for Eid, which makes the last day of school a Monday. Therefore, I recommend we add a day to the beginning of the school year and start school on August 22 (Tuesday) instead of August 23. This would put our last school day back to Friday, May 31.

Mr. Vorst confirmed these changes are to add a holiday for Eid. He thanked everyone who helped bring this to our attention and work through the issue.

Mr. Stewart added that this change is better for the school district and families. Typically, our daily attendance rate is 92-95%. However, the attendance rate fell below 80% on Eid this past school year.

The Board of Education approved the school calendars listed above.

G3 Committee Reports

Mrs. Long announced that the July meeting with the City had been canceled. Mrs. Crowley said she would like to attend the next meeting in August.

Mr. Perry reported that OSBA offers a toolkit for bringing candidates into the school. This might be a good opportunity for students to view a civil, respectful political debate.

Mr. Vorst said that he emailed our head school resource officer on the day of the Uvalde school shooting. Mr. Stewart, myself, our head school resource officer and our most seasoned school resource officer met with the Chief of Police and discussed many topics. They talked about their ongoing training and going through many different possible scenarios. They routinely qualify on the pieces of equipment they use. The physical security of the schools is something they regularly review. It's not a process that is ever done. They mentioned we had a couple facilities where the doors were a concern due to being weather-beaten and possibly couldn't be secured in slush or snow. Those doors have since been repaired. They also stated it is not their practice to wait outside of a room in the case of a school shooting. Mr. Vorst asked for their thoughts on HB 99, and they agreed it's not a good idea to expect teachers to be able to handle that responsibility. They thanked us for improving some of our cameras. As a result, they have greater visibility and fewer blind spots. They will continue to have an ongoing dialogue with the school district.

Mr. McDonough said that both the police and fire department would be doing a presentation at the August 8 board meeting.

Mrs. Crowley said she received an email from HEF. The Jeff and Judy event was a success. Over 300 community members attended and raised nearly \$30,000. In addition, Larry Earman, a member who recently passed away, asked that donations be made to HEF in lieu of flowers. As a result, HEF has collected nearly \$8,000.

Mr. Perry said he and Nadia participated in an elected officials' cookie bake-off. We are going to be at the fair. All proceeds from our cookies will be donated to charities – HEF and Hilliard Bridges.

G4 Superintendent's Update

- a. Other items as deemed necessary

H **EXECUTIVE SESSION / ADJOURNMENT**

- H1 Mrs. Long moved and Mr. Vorst seconded that the Board of Education caucus to executive session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, promotion, or compensation of a public employee or official. Time: 8:01 p.m.

There will not be any action following executive session.