



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.

The superintendent recommends that the Board of Education appoint a treasurer pro tem for the board meeting on December 12th, 2022. Mrs. Long moved, and Mr. Vorst seconded the motion. Next, Mrs. Long nominated Mr. Perry. The motion passed.

Mr. Stewart asked Mr. Perry if he would like him to take the role. Mr. Perry stated he delegates all of his authority to Mr. Stewart.

A2 Members present: Mrs. Long, Mrs. Murdoch, Mr. Perry, and Mr. Vorst. Mrs. Crowley attended via Zoom.

A3 The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

B PROGRAMS / PRESENTATIONS

B1 Cross Country State Champion Connor Ackley – Davidson High School

Mr. Stewart said our first presentation this evening was an exciting one. We have a state champion with us this evening. Connor Ackley from Davidson High School recently won the boys' Cross Country State Championship, and I believe Mr. Bobek will introduce him.

My name is Nathan Bobek, and I'm the Athletic Director at Hilliard Davidson High School. I've been here nine and a half years as athletic director, and it gives me great honor and pleasure to introduce you to Coach Schlecht, our head boys' coach. He's been there for many years and gets to brag about one of his own, Mr. Connor Ackley.

Thank you. It's been an honor and a privilege to coach Connor Ackley and his wonderful family. I want to introduce them to you. This is Connor, Wayne (father), Grace (sister), and Nicole (mother). I can go on for a long time, but I will keep it nice and sweet. My program is an amazing one, and it's because of the parents and their dedication and especially the athletes. Connor came to our program just as a regular old freshman, but he progressed very rapidly. It's hard to become an Allstate runner; he was Allstate his first year. In his sophomore year, he was third at the state meet. He broke 15 minutes once, and the whole country kind of wrote about him a little bit. And then, in his junior year, he was runner-up at the state meet against a guy who had an amazing race. And then this year, with a lot of planning, dedication, and hard work for an extended period, he was the state champion of the Ohio Cross Country meet. He was undefeated during the season in Ohio and broke many course records. In fact, at the Midwest Regional Meet, where he qualified for the team national meet, he ran the fastest time that's ever been run in Ohio by an Ohio Cross Country runner, 14:29. Congratulations.

Connor thanked the coach. He's done more than I can thank him for, and thanks to my family for always supporting me and putting me in a great environment to do what I love to do. So, thank you.

Mrs. Long presented Connor with an HCSD pin. On behalf of the board of education, congratulations. We are a cross country family, too, so we know how hard that was, and we're very proud that you're representing Hilliard. So, here's a pin to share our token. Thank you.

Mr. Stewart asked, for people who aren't familiar with what it takes to be elite in cross country, can you estimate how many miles you ran last summer in preparation for this season? Connor replied that he probably ran 400-500 miles.

B2 Secondary Program of Studies Presentation – Jacob Grantier, Director of Secondary Curriculum

Good evening. As the Director of Secondary Education, I am pleased to present this iteration of the Hilliard City School's Program of Studies for grades six through 12.

The program of studies that has been shared with you for your review reflects the course offerings and opportunities available to students in the 2023-24 school year. Even though we are not yet through the first semester, we are already thinking ahead to the next school year as the scheduling timelines for grades six through 12 begin in earnest after students and staff return from winter break. This endeavor involves a multi-step process, engaging students, families, school counselors, building administrators, and central office staff to ensure that as many course requests and needs as possible are met across our secondary buildings and for almost 9,000 of our Hilliard students.

The development, evaluation and revision process for these supportive documents represents a collaborative effort among a team of representatives from the central office, all eight secondary schools, and the Innovative Learning Campus. In addition to the school counselors and administrators listed on this slide, whose input is an invaluable resource as we work to publish this document each fall, I would be remiss if I did not recognize the contributions of Jen Wozniak, Herb Higginbotham, Mark Tremayne, and Cori Kindl in the curriculum department who provide ongoing support, innovative thinking, and deep institutional knowledge within our district.

Our district's programs of study provide students, families, and staff with vital information regarding course offerings, innovative learning experiences, graduation requirements, and post-secondary opportunities. As we look for ways to support the short and long-term planning process for every student without exception, it is imperative that our learners and families have clarity regarding the educational opportunities available within and outside our district.

In addition, this process provides school staff the opportunity to evaluate programming and course offerings to ensure alignment among master schedules, approved courses of study, developed curricula, and student needs. The annual evaluation and revision process of our programs of study begins with our district-level collaborative group, individuals at each secondary building, including administrators, counselors, teachers, and department facilitators. They can review, suggest edits and changes and develop a greater understanding of available course offerings and interventions ahead of course planning and scheduling.

Lastly, programs of study are made available on the district website and during the scheduling process to students and families in support of informed course selection and planning. Within the programs of study, students and families will find various information, including graduation requirements, scheduling and planning information, and courses and opportunities available within the district. Graduation requirements include course completion at the high school level (21 and a half credits), competency in

Algebra I, and English Language Arts, and readiness according to state and local seals. All learning is meant to prepare students for graduation and beyond. In secondary education, it is never too early to be thinking about graduation and post-secondary opportunities. As the graduation requirements have recently changed at the state level, we plan to share more information at a subsequent meeting. In addition, scheduling and planning information is included so that students have the best information in selecting core courses, electives, and appropriate interventions. And then also included is specific information about the courses and opportunities available in the Hilliard City School District.

The programs of study represent a curated list of educational opportunities available to all students in grades six through 12, as well as course descriptions, prerequisites when applicable, and scaffolding meant to support students as they make their course selections. These opportunities include courses and programs available through students' home buildings, the Innovative Learning Campus, college credit plus, career technical opportunities available through Tolles, and credentialing opportunities such as partnerships with RT Moore and Worthington Industries.

The next slide shows an example of this document. There is a lot of information in there and what we have found over the years is that this document can be a little bit cumbersome. So, we're working each year and with each iteration to make it more usable and accessible to our students and families. For example, this year, we're adding bulleted lists with our descriptions for our middle school elective courses. Those will be then transferred onto a one-page document that will be given to every sixth through eighth grader as they go through the scheduling process. And we'll also be working on translating those into other languages so that students and families who do not speak English as a native language have access to that information as well as they work to make educational decisions.

Beginning in January, school counselors will meet with groups of students to provide an overview of the scheduling process. This is especially important when we consider transitions from one school building to another, such as fifth into sixth, sixth into seventh, and eighth into ninth grades. Teachers will also leverage the information, including the programs of study, to make course recommendations for each student in core subjects. Students will have access to information in the program of studies and, in collaboration with their school counselor and family, will work to identify the most responsive course selections for the 2023-24 school year. These requests are then used to inform the master scheduling process at each secondary building so that every student, without exception, has equitable access to high-quality educational opportunities in response to their interests and individual needs.

Pursuant to board policies, IF, and IFD, and as a way to ensure transparency with you and our community, we request that the board of education take action on the programs of study each year to approve new course offerings and programming. For the 2023-24 school year, these changes include a reconceptualized, technology-based elective offering at the sixth-grade level called Innovative Thinkers, a credit-bearing opportunity in math at our newcomer center for our EL students, and the continuation of the beta program at the high school level offered at the Hub in response to our partnership with Amazon Web Services.

At this time, I would be happy to answer any questions that you might have.

Mr. Vorst asked for more information about the Beta 2.0 program. Mr. Grantier replied that it's an opportunity available to our high school students. Right now, the beta program is only offered to seventh and eighth graders and is housed in our think big space at the Hub. So, it's just an opportunity for those students involved in media arts at the high school level to have a different kind of art immersion

experience in that think big space and to have access to the technologies available through our partnership with Amazon Web Services. So, we're excited about extending that opportunity to our high school students.

Mrs. Murdoch asked for more detail on the next steps. Mr. Grantier explained that we post the programs of study to our district website every year, so they're always available at any time. We also provide printed copies of specific sections to certain grade levels. For example, sixth graders will receive a copy of the entire program of study for sixth grade, which is about eight pages long. High school students will receive copies of sections A through C, the most pertinent information as they transition to high school. It includes information about graduation requirements, selecting courses, course planning, and things like that. So, then the students have that information in hand. The counselors will meet with every student in grades six through 12 at least once, most cases twice, to introduce the course selection process, walk students through how to access home access, and make those requests. And then ensure that once students have the requests, they match or are commensurate to the courses their current teachers recommend for the subsequent school year. So, counselors have multiple touchpoints with our students throughout the process. This information is also included in parent information nights as we prepare for the transition to the next school year. This is to make parents aware of the types of classes offered, some of the prerequisites, or what would be most suited for their child if they're interested in an honors level or higher advanced level course.

Mrs. Long said her question is more about Amazon's partnership with the Hub. So, is this the same classroom we will utilize in another way? Is that what I'm understanding? Mr. Grantier answered yes, same space and with the same teacher. So, it's not an addition of staff or space. It's just using it differently to help support different opportunities for our high school students that are a little bit different or more innovative than what they might experience in their home building.

Mrs. Long then asked how many students were utilizing those rooms in the Hub. Mr. Tremayne said that there are 150 students per semester (so 300 students per year) using those rooms. So we're trying to get some opportunities to leverage that technology as they make informed decisions about their next steps.

Mr. Perry said thank you for bringing that presentation together. I think it was super helpful. I would like to know if the slides will be made available because there was a lot of good information. Mr. Grantier replied that he would be happy to share these with building principals so that they can make it available on their building websites. We can also include this and links to the draft of the programs of studies available on the curriculum page, just as we did with the ELA course of studies.

C ROUTINES

C1 The agenda is correct as presented.

Mrs. Murdoch motioned to remove item F8 from the agenda and requested that Superintendent Stewart render a decision on the matter placed before the reconsideration of materials committee in alignment with our current policy KLB. Mrs. Long seconded the motion. The motion passed.

C2 The Board of Education adopted the agenda as amended.

C3 The Board of Education approved the October and November 2022 Treasurer's reports.

C4 The Board of Education approved the minutes from the following meetings:

- a. November 7, 2022 – Regular Meeting
- b. November 7, 2022 – Meeting Notes
- c. November 21, 2022 – Work Session Meeting
- d. November 30, 2022 – Special Meeting

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.*

Sarah Myers

Good evening, superintendent and board members. So, Sarah Myers. I have a second grader at Washington, and on Friday I saw several of you. I was at the policy meeting and I heard this.

“The board believes that parents and family involvement is an important part of the educational program. Current research indicates that a home-school partnership and greater involvement on the part of the parents and families in the education of their children generally result in higher achievement scores, improve student behavior and reduced absenteeism. All parents, guardians, family members, and foster caregivers are encouraged to take an active role in the education of their children or foster children.

The board directs the administration to develop, along with parents/guardians, family members, or foster caregivers, the necessary regulations to ensure that this policy is followed and that parent and family involvement is encouraged. The regulations are to:

1. encourage strong home-school partnerships;
2. provide for consistent and effective communication between parents, guardians, and family members, or foster caregivers and school officials;
3. offer parents, guardians and family members or foster caregivers, ways to assist and encourage their children or foster children to do their best; and
4. offer ways parents/guardians and family members or foster caregivers can support classroom learning activities.”

Now you guys know me well enough to know I'm not very shy. So, I reach out to my daughter's teachers and I always have. The school's and all the school administrators have always gotten back with me very quickly. They've helped me with questions that I've had. I wanted to say thank you for this policy and good job. Thank you, and well done.

Scott Merillat

Good evening school board members. Thank you for allowing me a moment to speak. My name is Scott Merillat. I am a Hilliard resident and a parent of a student who is attending Hilliard Darby High School. And I have three quick points.

One is the Darby High School Winter Concert. It was such a great success. A big special thank you to the board, the administration, and the teacher, Mr. Riegel to just simply allow that to happen this year. And the students did perform very well. The events included students and attendees. They had such a variety of ethnicity, ages, abilities, genders, and sexualities. It really represented the entire diversity and the inclusion of all of us who live here in Hilliard. The performance was not politicized, nor was it protested. And I thank you.

Last month the news media was present at this school board meeting to report the opposition of some LGBT books within the school system. And, to be clear, I am opposed to book censorship. I have heard the rhetoric for many months, but the fact remains that every parent within our school system has the authority and the right to parent and teach their children their family values. For example, in September, my son brought home a set of books from the libraries that did not align with our family values. We discussed the books. We discussed our family values, and why these books were inappropriate for our family. The next day he returned the books, and the topic was resolved. I did not need to come to you for a book ban, and I did not need for you to get involved. I believe this is how families should work. Removing a book will never resolve a parenting issue. History proves that the books have never really been the problem. And so, I implore you to stop allowing the school board meetings to be used as a political weapon in our media.

My son and his friends have the right to access diverse and inclusive literature that represents him in the books that they read. We should not be denying them the opportunity to see themselves represented in this literature that they read. And it's essential for their personal growth and their development. Moreover, banning books is simply just a violation of our freedom of expression and the right to access information. It goes against our principles in education and the mission of our school, which is to provide students with diverse perspectives and knowledge. Thank you.

Lastly, on behalf of my family and the non-majority people, I'd like to request that you stand against the Ohio State Board of Education Shea's Resolution to be voted on tomorrow.

Cyndie Sheets

I wanted to talk about two things real quick. One being the English Language Arts course of study. It's my understanding that there was an opportunity for comments or questions. It's also my understanding that there were only two responses to that. My take on that would be perhaps it's not great communication. So, I would ask before that this is approved in its entirety that parents be given an additional opportunity to participate. I personally would like to have a conversation in regard to the district instructional goals, how they came to devise those, and how they potentially could be revised with parental participation.

My second request is to ask the board not to blanketly approve the personnel action items attached to the agenda. We got the email for the agenda Friday night. The first availability I had to send a question was Monday morning, which is not enough time to answer the question. From speaking with a couple of board members, they, too, had questions. I don't know if it can be done piecemealed or how that can work, but there's questions in regards to thousands of dollars for specific committees.

And my final thing I want to say. We didn't mean to interrupt when he was presenting. We didn't understand that you were the only one for questions, but not a problem. The statement is the secondary program of studies. Why was the bubble for staff counselors bigger than that of parents? Sarah just talked about a policy that's inclusive of parents, caregivers, et cetera. We need to be working in partner with not below. And why are the counselors meeting with students one to two times per year individually and only having to touch base with parents in a large group setting? That's all I got. Thank you.

Jon Osmundson

Good evening. My name is Jon Osmundson, and I use he/him pronouns. I'm here tonight in an official capacity on behalf of the people of the Hilliard United Methodist Church and the Hilliard Food Pantry to say thank you to the Hilliard City School District. I don't know if the members of this board are aware, but for several decades now, we've partnered with the Hilliard City Schools to provide more than 350 families with everything they might need for a Thanksgiving meal. That's over 13,000 pounds of produce and turkeys, more than 350 pumpkin pies, and nearly \$9,000 in grocery gift cards that were distributed to local families the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

With the assistance of Mr. Roy Walker, members of the district donated gift cards in excess of \$4,000. I want to thank every administrator, teacher, staff member, and student who gave in support of their community. I also want to thank the HEA for their annual gift to the Thanksgiving outreach. If I remember correctly, it was Crossing Elementary where the greatest value of gift cards was collected this year. Three hundred fifty families were served in about three hours by volunteers from around the district who braved below-freezing temperatures and served with smiles. That's a small percentage of families, but that's 350 families in our district that didn't have to stress about feeding their family for at least one weekend.

This is what can happen when we lay aside differences of opinion to do the work that's best for our community. I stand here tonight with the hope that with your awareness of this vital partnership that the board of Education in 2023 will help Mr. Walker raise awareness across the district so that we can assist even more families next year. I want to see this increased by 50 to a hundred families to assist 400 families in our district. And I hope that maybe someone on the BOE may be interested in working with me in the coming year to encourage and get the word to every building to participate in helping their neighbors and their classmates to have happy Thanksgiving in 2023, either through giving or through serving. You have my email, so don't hesitate to reach out. Members of the board, I am proud of the long-standing working partnerships that Hilliard United Methodist Church has with our local schools. And I'm hopeful that with your assistance, we can be a greater service to our community, not just at Thanksgiving but all throughout the year. And I hope you have a happy holiday season. I'll see you next year.

Brandon Ross

Good evening. Currently, Hilliard City School District, along with parents, guardians, and residents, have teamed up to help create a plan that will serve as a north star to strengthen the district's goal of Ready for Tomorrow. I was fortunate to be invited by a school board member to be part of this committee.

At the very beginning of our first meeting, an icebreaker question was presented to help jumpstart the communication between those of us at the meeting. The question was, and I'm going to paraphrase, what's the difference between school when we attended compared to school today? I initially broke the ice by answering with snow days. Snow days were not as common when I was in school compared to now.

As I thought about the icebreaker question and my answer more, I now have a change of heart. My new answer is holding employees and students at the school district accountable and transparency. Currently,

accountability for inappropriate actions no longer exists within the public schools, especially within Hilliard City School District, employees, and students. Inappropriate reading material within the Hilliard City School libraries that need to be monitored better. An inappropriate bulletin board in the hallways of Hilliard City School District. An inappropriate QR code on badges that teachers flash around within the district. An inappropriate student walkout. Inappropriate 24-hour bullying between all student demographics and inappropriate conversations among a student and school employees within Hilliard Memorial without the acknowledgment of her parents.

Along with accountability being non-existent, transparency no longer exists as well. No transparency between school employees and the parents, guardians, and residents, especially with the unfortunate incident within Hilliard Memorial administration and faculty. No transparency in regards to when Panorama surveys will be taken by students and the results of these surveys. I'm going to hope; actually, I'm going to advocate that the board will start moving forward with creating policy that holds Hilliard City School District accountable for inappropriate actions and policy that provides transparency among the major players of ready for tomorrow. Without clear expectations that is created by policy, we are not equipped properly to prepare children for their futures. Instead, we are making mainstream media headlines. Lastly, I am going to recommend at the Hilliard City School Board of Education, and Superintendent take a step back and run yourselves through a self-assessment to identify weaknesses and strengths in regards to your performances over the past year. Thank you.

Dr. Aisha Khan Afghan

Thank you so much for giving me an opportunity once again, I really appreciate that. So, I have a couple of questions from Mr. Jacob Grantier as well from the superintendent. I don't see him here though, but all of you, because I've written multiple emails and back and forth with Mr. Grantier. And my question was that there is a major influx of Muslim students in the school, almost 20% that I mentioned last time.

So, my question is, is the school doing something, is the school prepared to actually address that 20% of Muslim students? Because we have completely different needs. And I just heard one of the parents was talking about how the family integration is so important and how the school values that. But my personal experience, this is my first year is completely opposite.

So, I had a problem with the curriculum and the stuff that was presented and I asked the teacher, and the teacher was very much willing to give me an alternative. But when the curriculum department was involved, simply the game completely changed. And then there were questions and answers and back and forth and friction and verbiage that I had to kind of really loop around and try to make my point. But in the end, I was not given an alternative for the assignment and it was called an invalid request. And I just found that to be really not fair, that as a parent, if I'm asking for an alternative and the teacher is willing to, what problem does the curriculum department has with it?

So, with that, I also suggested that there is a training program. Because I feel that the educators need to be trained about the needs of us as Muslims. So, I think the educators need to be trained and I suggest a training program by an educator in Minnesota, Mr. Michael Abraham, and he has actually written a book called, "Engaging Muslim Students in Public Schools." So, I haven't heard back from the superintendent, I haven't heard back from Mr. Jacob Grantier as to where they are with that training program. Have they even contacted? I know one of the teachers probably from Hoffman Elementary has contacted him. I think it's a music teacher, I'm not sure. But there has been no, like effort made so far as far as our needs are concerned.

So, I just want to make sure that the curriculum that's coming next year or whenever have our representation as well so that our kids are not embarrassed and feel misfit in the class when they are presented. For example, there was a movie with an extended kissing scene. My son could not watch that. He just left the room. He said, I can't watch it. So, then he was bullied after that. He was made fun of. Oh, you're a baby, so you can't watch that. So, your mommy said something to you.

Mr. Perry stated he would like us to look into this issue.

Kat Penley

Hi there, my name is Kat. Thank you for the time to speak. I'd like to address the numerous requests over the past few months for book bans. I've been in a book club since I was 22, and I'm better for everything I have read.

As a parent, you can choose to censor what your student reads, watches, and listens to. Absolutely. And that should be listened to. I totally agree. But you cannot censor these resources for the rest of our children. Books are tools to learn about things you do not understand. I want my children to go into the world, eyes open, and have experienced or been educated on lots of different perspectives than their own. They will be better for it and more prepared to succeed in this diverse world.

Young people also deserve to see themselves reflected in the stories they read. It helps them solidify who they are and how they will maneuver this ever-changing world. Limiting resources does not protect them from the complex issues. It leaves them 10 steps behind. Reading also does not change who they are. It won't make a gay student straight or vice versa. Books are only feared by those unwilling to learn something new. If you want to point your swords at something, point those at other things that actually cause harm. I do not need to list them. Everybody knows what those are.

Additionally, I'd like to know the process for reviewing materials to determine if they should be removed from libraries includes the very important step. Step number five is passages, or parts should not be read out of context. Meaning reading a quote at a school board meeting is out of context and should not be enough to ban a book. The committee that makes these decisions, not the school board, will read these books front to back as I have started doing. I have made a list of all the books that people are requesting to be banned. I have read three and a half so far. Haven't quite finished the fourth one yet. So instead of fighting the slander by giving you more quotes that are out of context and not necessary. I thought I would give an alternate view on some of the books that have been slandered here.

“Gender Queer” by Maia Kobabe is a wonderful book. It's a graphic memoir, meaning basically it's a big comic book only without the humor. It includes beautiful illustrations and illuminates the confusion some students go through when trying to understand who they are without resources from people like them. It took two days; that's it to read. I highly recommend everybody reads it. It received many awards, including the Alex Award from the American Library Association, and was the finalist for the Stonewall Book Awards.

Another book, “Me, Earl, and The Dying Girl” by Jesse Andrews, is a wonderful, heartfelt book from the perspective of an awkward self-deprecating senior whose mother encourages him to befriend a girl in high school with cancer. He makes her life better in the last few months of life, as does she in return. Yes, there is bad language, 100%. He is a senior in high school. No, there is no sexual relationship here at all in this book. It was so good they made it into a major motion picture, and it has won at the Sundance Film Festival.

Linna Jordan

Hello, Lena Jordan, president of HEA. I'm here to talk to you all about one wonderful opportunity we have here at Hilliard that a lot of other locals don't have, Hilliard U. We get together twice a year, and we treat each other as professionals and learn from each other. We have incredible sessions by really knowledgeable educators at all levels in this district. I want to share some of what I learned in some of them so that you have an idea of how incredible an opportunity it is that we have Hilliard U in this district.

I went to a presentation about tech tricks and tips, and before the end of that day, I had completely redone just about everything that I was doing in terms of organizing my tech stuff. And I'm really upset that I'm not in the classroom right now to use those things because it was so good. There were people on the floor even after it was over to work on the stuff she told us because we were so excited.

I went to a session on grants and how to write grants to get action projects in the classrooms, how to get artists to come to visit, and to be resident artists. It was absolutely fabulous. I went to a session on a building that picked its media center books by the demographics in the building. They got the information from CO, and they made sure that the books they were choosing hit every demographic in a wide variety of genres so that every student in that building could see themselves in their IDC. As a matter of fact, they noticed the number of new Ukrainian students they were getting, and they made a couple of orders of Russian and Ukrainian-centered books. So, I just thought that was incredible as a very mindful way of picking the books that our students see.

I went to another presentation by middle school IDC and Media Center Specialists in how carefully they pick books that are in student interest, but also very specifically at the middle school level that are geared towards them. There's something very strange about middle school that's a wide variety of reading levels and a huge variety of interests. Everything from SpongeBob Squarepants to...I don't even know. What do eighth graders read? I have no idea. But the point is that they were able to show us exactly how they go through this. And they don't just pick; let's say Mr. Stewart is interested in sports. They don't just pick two sports biographies, and then they're done. They look for non-fiction books. They look for graphic novels. They look for fiction so that they have a variety of books in subject areas that they know their kids are going to be interested in reading. And when kids come to them and say, ugh, these are boring, they stop buying them. If they say this was fabulous, do you have book two? Why, yes, we do. We already bought the second in the series, so again, showing off Hilliard U.

Sherise Thompson

Just to caveat off of Linna, there's a lot that's strange about middle school, just so you know. I'm Sherise Thompson. I'm an educator at Hilliard Memorial Middle School. I'm up here usually to talk about things that are false that are leading some of the narratives. Walking in today, I decided to change that up a little bit, but I do want to say that there are two sides to every story. Memorial Middle School is an amazing building. It was my end all where I wanted to be because of the staff, and we really love our kids and support them. So, with that being said, since I'm the last one, I wanted to end with a celebration because we don't get to do that enough.

Let's just tell my story. This is my second career, and I went back to school in my thirties. I'm not gonna tell you the exact number. And I decided I wanted to be an educator. I student taught, and then I substituted in 14 different districts because I had no loyalty to anybody. I'm from Southern Ohio. Again, I'm not gonna tell you too much of all that. After those 14 different districts, Hilliard was my home base, and I knew it. The hallways had life in them. The buildings have this feeling that you just cannot explain in this district. It is amazing what this district does. And with that, I'm going to share because Mrs. Crowley put this on her

page. And this is what I'm going to end on our celebration that I hope that we can all go home and celebrate a little bit about Hilliard City Schools.

We are thrilled to announce that Hilliard City School District has been recognized as the top three public schools from 2022 CBus top picks, the Columbus Dispatch official Community Choice Awards. Now, do I know anything about that award? No, I do not. But we're in the top three. It could be the (inaudible) all I know, but we are in the top three. There's a reason we are in the top three. We do incredible work, and we get lost so much in all the outside noise.

I want you to remember educators, from bus drivers to custodians to our educators, OAPSE, to principals, to our central office staff, are amazing people doing it for our kids, and that's why we get award after award for this district. That is why people move here all the time. I want us to remember that. We aren't in the news for two-sided stories. We're in the news because of one-sided narratives. We do amazing things in this district, and I hope we can walk away with knowing that we got whatever amazing award this is. And I hope you get a plaque to put on the wall or something, but we do amazing things here.

Mr. Perry added, thank you, Sherise, for that. And I kind of wanted to echo that a little bit. First of all, I also put that on my page, so now we know whose Facebook page somebody watches. We recently had a couple of special meetings, and I can't disclose what we said during those meetings, but one thing that came through loud and clear that I think that we can all echo is we support our educators in this district. And it's not just a one-way street. I know you have to advocate, and you should advocate on behalf of all your fellow educators, but we do need to do that as well. And I think that's something we could always do more is let everyone know how much we do appreciate our staff. That includes all the certified, all the classified, every support staff, and our administrators. They do amazing work. We're top three in a county full of high-performing districts. We're talking New Albany, Bexley, Grandview Heights, Upper Arlington, and Dublin, and only three of them made the list. So, think of which two you wouldn't want to have in there. And we made the list over some of the other ones. We are performing at a level that we haven't seen hardly ever. We're excelling. We're succeeding across the board on things. We performed above average on 18 out of 20 metrics; in 16 of those, we performed faster or grew faster than neighboring districts. We're not even just performing above average; we're performing faster and growing faster than districts in our surrounding area, which is incredibly impressive given some of those high-performing districts around here. And that's to the credit of all of those folks I just mentioned to our educators, our teachers, their classroom teachers, everyone, and the parents I should mention because we can't do this without that partnership. That is absolutely true. We cannot do that without the partnership that we have between the parents and their students and everybody else because the students are doing the work. Still, they can't do that work if they're not supported at home, if they're not supported in the classroom, and if they're not supported by their board. And I'll tell you right now; they're supported by this board. So, thank you guys so much for that.

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. Bradley, Davidson, Darby Ski Club, Ellicottville, NY – January 21, 2023
- b. Darby Art, Peru – March 23, 2024

- c. Bradley Softball, Symmes Valley, OH – April 6, 2023
- d. Bradley, Davidson French, Paris – March 29, 2024
- e. Bradley Baseball, Cocoa Beach, FL – March 31, 2023

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 acknowledged the following retirements:

- 1) Todd Heinlen, a mathematics teacher who's been with us since 1990.
- 2) Leslie Salamony, a second-grade teacher who's been with us since 1989.
- 3) Lee Wilkinson, a mathematics teacher who's been with us since 2000.
- 4) Mark Capalino, a custodian who's been with us since 2014.

Thank you for your many years of service.

Mr. Vorst commented that there are a lot of club coordinators and several different positions here in addition to our staff's responsibilities. I am not all that familiar with some of these things. Can you give a synopsis of many of our staff's extra responsibilities? And what are Guys with Ties? Mr. Stewart explained that, as you know, much of our work is guided by the collective bargaining agreement that the board, administration, and HEA negotiate. Those negotiations include working conditions and other things like wages and benefits. One of the components of the negotiated agreement is stipends. And so, as you pointed out, that typically is work that needs to be done outside the typical teacher's responsibilities. And so, we agree to compensate people for those kinds of things.

In the context of what you're dealing with tonight, there are three different stipends, and they're creatively labeled A, B, and C. A and B stipends are things that are delineated in the negotiated agreement. So, they're stipends for a specific dollar amount for particular work, such as the National Honor Society advisor, the student council, newspaper, yearbook, Key Club, prom, and so on. So, there's a long list of work outside the teacher workday. So, it's outside of the teacher's responsibilities, and a set amount is negotiated for each of those stipends.

The third set of stipends is called C stipends, which are not delineated in the contract beyond the number of stipends per building at each level. Those stipends are for a set amount and can be divided into two. They are discretionary stipends that are worked out between the principal and the school improvement team for work specific to that building. And so it can be for initiatives that a principal and staff are working on that need extra help driving that outside of the school day. So again, they exist to assist principals and school improvement teams to compensate people for the amount of work that goes on outside their normal teaching responsibilities.

As I understand it, Guys with Ties is a national program about creating positive role models for young men.

Mrs. Murdoch added that during our conversation today, it was pointed out to me that in the past, some of these things were presented as a big lump, and at some point, it was decided that everything would be line-itemed out like this. And although it makes a somewhat overwhelming list, I appreciate the transparency of being able to see the variety of things going on in all our schools. So, I think that's great.

F ACTION AGENDA

- F1 The Board of Education approved the K-12 English Language Arts Course of Study.

Mr. Vorst asked if this is the document we got at the November board meeting, and we're voting on the grade level standards, scope, and sequence. Mr. Stewart said this was correct.

Mr. Vorst continued, so these lay out the expectations. Like, for example, I'll just talk about the first one. Kindergarten English language standards – reading standards for literature when presented with the read-aloud. Retell a cohesive mental model image when presented with a read-aloud. Identify the main topic, da, da, da, da, da. I think everybody kind of gets the picture there, and it goes on for a hundred or so pages of the different concepts to be expected at every grade level. So, I just wanted to ensure everybody felt included in the conversation and know exactly what we're talking about and voting on. Mr. Stewart explained that you are not voting on resources or materials tonight. We need to adopt the standards first, and then the process of adopting materials that align with those standards begins.

Mr. Vorst confirmed that this is where we had a recent public comment period and asked for a synopsis. Mr. Stewart replied that we posted the link for public comment in our District eNews and Building eNews publications twice. We also posted it on the district webpage and all of our social media channels, all of our social media channels. The link was open through today, which was beyond the initial period.

Mrs. Murdoch noticed that handwriting wasn't included and challenged this group to devise other ways to address it. It sounds like it's such a small thing. But as a parent who tried to take that on and teach it to my son, it is not a simple, easy thing. His handwriting is atrocious. I wouldn't normally admit in a public forum that that is because of what I taught him. I know everything's a trade-off, so if we put handwriting into these standards, something else will probably have to give. This cannot be taught in a short time. I realize that it's not a state standard, so we're not required to do it, but it does feel like Hilliard could go above and beyond to help our students learn this skill. Mr. Stewart explained that handwriting (letter formation) is addressed in the standards, but cursive writing is not. The state is required to provide supplemental material for cursive writing. So, one thing that we will do is seek resources. The research is not conclusive on the benefit of cursive writing. The state has decided it doesn't need to be in the standards for every student, but we can certainly have resources and opportunities available. The research shows that it benefits some students who may struggle with reading, so we may have opportunities for specialized, differentiated instruction and an opportunity for an extension as well.

Mr. Vorst said, so it's not in the plan for a given kid, and the parent wants them to have the opportunity to get instruction on cursive writing; we're looking at ways to provide them with that opportunity. Mr. Stewart said yes, through supplementary material and things like that. So, we do not intend it to be a direct instruction for all kids, but we will be able to support families who wish that for themselves.

- F2 The Board of Education established the date, time, and location of the Organizational Meeting for the calendar year 2023. Regular business meeting to immediately follow. Date: Monday, January 9, 2023, 6:30 p.m., Bradley High School.

- F3 The Board of Education appointed a president pro tem for the first Board of Education meeting of 2023.

Mrs. Murdoch recommended Zach Vorst, and Mrs. Long seconded the motion. The motion passed.

F4 The Board of Education approved the following resolution:

META Cooperative Advertising and Receiving Bids for School Bus Chassis and Bodies

WHEREAS, the Hilliard City Schools Board of Education wishes to authorize the Chief Operating Officer to advertise, receive bids, and purchase up to fifteen (15) 78-passenger conventional school bus chassis and bodies.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Hilliard City Schools Board of Education wishes to participate and authorize the META Solutions (META) to advertise and receive bids on said Board’s behalf as per the specifications submitted for the cooperative purchase of up to fifteen (15) 78-passenger conventional school bus chassis.

Mr. Vorst asked if this is just us appropriating the ability to make offers for buses through a purchasing group as we have previously. Mr. Stewart said yes, and explained that the most significant change is that the window for prices to be locked in is much shorter in our current environment.

F5 The Board of Education adopted the following resolution:

Authorize the Treasurer to Transfer \$50,000 from the General Fund #001 to the following Public School Support #018 accounts: #018 – High School Band Uniform

Mr. Perry asked how long these band uniforms are expected to last. Mr. Stewart replied that he didn’t have the answer, but this is a yearly appropriation. Mr. Vorst asked if this goes across all three high schools. Mr. Stewart replied correct.

F6 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, 2023, 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:

019	- OTHER GRANT	\$134,000	From Battelle for equine therapy
499	- MISC STATE GRANT	\$453,638	Safety grant
536	- TITLE I – SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT	\$179,741	Carryover from last year
590	- TITLE II-A TEACHER QUALITY	\$519,634	Carryover from last year

Mr. Vorst asked if this is just an appropriations amendment for the current year. Mr. Stewart replied correct.

F7 The Board of Education approved granting an Easement Area to Columbus Fibernet, LLC. This Easement is for the purpose of supporting the City Wide AWS Project located at Beacon Elementary School, 3600 Lacon Rd., Hilliard, OH 43026. Parcel ID No: 050-002853-00. See Exhibit A.

Mr. Stewart noted that we will be doing a presentation next month. This resolution isn't very exciting, but the partnership that's creating it is. The city will be here to talk about our partnership for this fiber project.

F8 The Board of Education considered and acted upon the reconsideration of materials committee recommendations report.

This item was removed from the agenda. See item C1.

Mr. Vorst noted that while we're at that point where F8 was going to be....So, there was a lot of talk about books tonight, and we have a tool coming out in January to help notify parents and to give them management tools regarding library books. Can you talk about that briefly?

Mr. Stewart started by thanking the technology department, media specialists, and IDS's for helping collaborate on this work. In January, we'll roll out our library collection software, Destiny, to parents. Parents have always had access to Destiny, but we will remind them and give them instructions on accessing the library collection at their child's school. It's searchable by title, author, and topic. We will also add a link to a Google form where parents can list titles and authors they wish their child not to have access to checking out. So, once a parent fills out the form, it will be routed to the specialist at that building. The specialist will put it into that student's information. Then, anytime that student checks out a book, that list will pop up so that the specialist can check the book against that list and honor the parents' wishes.

Mr. Perry said thanks for doing that. I know that we had spoken about that too about two months ago. I know it was a heavy lift, but I think it was worth doing because we try to give the parents as much ability to parent their own children as humanly possible in all circumstances. And I think this tool really allows us to do that. Now, one other question. We have two policies - KLB, and the other one is I.... that we're not necessarily congruent as they should be. So we're talking with our legal team to work that through policy coming up here to make sure those two kind of marry, am I correct?

Mr. Stewart said his goal is to have a new policy that would marry those two policies for the committee to consider at the February policy meeting. Earlier tonight, what you as a board asked regarding the current book challenge is that we use a policy KLB, which directs me to take the committee's report and issue a finding. So, I will do that in writing sometime tomorrow morning.

G REPORTS / INFORMATION / EXHIBIT ITEM

G1 Committee Reports

Mrs. Long said we had our school board and city meeting last Friday. I think every intention is that we'll continue next year. I got a lot of good feedback from everyone rotating through that meeting, so I appreciate everyone's support in spending time with the city and the township's leaders.

Mr. Vorst talked about the annual OSBA conference held at Columbus Convention Center in mid-November. School board members from all over the state attend this conference. This year, John Lithgow (from Third Rock from the Sun) was the celebrity draw. There were many productive professional development lectures, and we met several people from other districts. There was also a nice trade show. I had no idea 38 different companies make Field Turf. All five of us and Mr. Stewart were there. It was a valuable experience, and we're all looking forward to next year.

Mr. Vorst reported that the health insurance committee met via Zoom. We talked about pharmacy benefits, and committee members voted to approve a change in the formulary to save the pharmacy benefits program a significant amount of money (\$70,000-\$90,000 annually).

Mr. Vorst also reported about the superintendent's advisory committee on November 29th. Again, we had a great turnout, 25 to 30 people. Mr. Stewart took questions from all angles. We talked about bus logistics, parent-teacher conference schedules, reading and math instructional methods, staffing needs, facility use availability and planning, and locks/access to our buildings. So, for those unfamiliar with this committee, the staff members can submit questions to Mr. Stewart. They're filtered to the building leadership, and then we all get together, and he answers them in person. It's a great committee. I'm glad to be a part of it.

Mr. Vorst talked about the facilities committee that met on December 2nd. We got a master facilities update (review of facilities and real estate), which should be done in January 2024. We talked about summer projects for next year and our five-year project improvement plan. We also got an electric bus update. We will get four electric buses in April. The charging stations have been installed and are ready to go. The committee toured the Davidson HS locker room. It was great. They put a lot of work and time into it, and it's in great shape. We also got a demonstration of the new door-locking mechanisms installed this past summer.

Mrs. Murdoch gave an update on HEF. Their denim and diamonds event, which sold out last year, has been scheduled for Friday, March 3. So, mark your calendars and get your tickets as soon as possible. I'm sure they'll sell out again this year. They've already had many discussions about items such as the wine pool and bourbon pool. I'm ready to donate a case of wine to the wine pool myself. I hope to see many of you there.

Mr. Perry talked about the policy review committee meeting. We pretty much talked about clerical things revisions that came from OSBA. We did have one request from a member of the community. Any members who decide to place a policy on the agenda it goes on automatically. It would be a revision to policy BJ, our policy on policies. It was to clarify when and how policy readings happen and when they can be amended. Anything going for a third or final reading is released to the public in full before the meeting upon which it is intended to be voted on. That way, everyone can read the language and participate. We want to be as transparent and open as possible.

Mr. Stewart added that Sherise stole my thunder about the CBUS top pick award, but we are excited. 12,200 people cast votes. We were in the top three, and I believe the other two districts were Bexley and New Albany. So, we will be celebrating that with our community.

H EXECUTIVE SESSION / ADJOURNMENT

H1 The meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.