



MEETING NOTES

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

1. The meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. Members present: Mrs. Crowley, Mrs. Long, Mrs. Murdoch, Mr. Perry, and Mr. Vorst
3. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
4. The Board of Education adopted the agenda as presented.
5. The Board of Education approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board is committed to serving our community by utilizing several Hilliard City School buildings as designated polling locations and,

WHEREAS, the Board supports the exercise of free speech whenever possible or legally required and,

WHEREAS, no students are present when school buildings are used as polling locations and,

WHEREAS, Board policy KJA typically prohibits certain electioneering activities on school grounds and,

WHEREAS, Board policy BFF allows for the suspension of current policies;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Board policy KJA subdivision 7 is hereby suspended for the entirety of the day of November 7th, 2023, and for no other day, with the exception that signs placed in or on the ground on district property shall still be prohibited and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, pursuant to Board policy KJA-R, permission shall be granted for candidates on the November 7th, 2023 ballot, their supporters, and supporters/opposition groups for any ballot initiative also on the November 7th ballot to display/distribute campaign literature subject to KJA subdivisions 1-6 regarding subject matter and appropriateness and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in keeping with Board policy BFF this resolution granting a temporary partial suspension of Board policy shall automatically sunset at the next regular meeting of the Board following November 7, 2023.

Mrs. Murdoch explained that this is the item that would grant permission for candidates on November 7th of this year only their supporters or opposition groups for any valid initiative to be able to display and distribute campaign literature subject to our policy KJA. And the limitation is that no signs will be placed on school property.

Mr. Perry added that it allows people to wear their t-shirts and pass out things at the polling locations. Just don't put anything obscene on the literature, and don't put the signs in the yard.

6. The Board of Education approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Hilliard City School District Board of Education’s policy KJA(7) states a general prohibition on the “distribution/advertisement/ promotion” of “literature that promotes or opposes any political figure, candidate or issue, including ballot issues of any kind and;

WHEREAS, board policy KJA(7) defines literature as including, but not being limited to “a notice, placard, advertisement and written/printed material of any nature” and;

WHEREAS, board policy KJA(7) allows the board to grant exemptions to this general prohibition so long as they relate specifically to “issues that directly affect Hilliard City Schools including, but not limited to, District levies and bond issues” by passing a resolution stating the nature of the exemption to be granted and;

WHEREAS, an election for seats on the Hilliard Board of Education constitutes an issue that directly affects the Hilliard City Schools and;

WHEREAS, members of the public deserve the opportunity to hear directly from candidates for the Hilliard Board of Education, and the candidates’ representatives, prior to making voting decisions and;

WHEREAS, there is decades long tradition of allowing board candidates and their representatives to speak to fellow residents at certain football games hosted by the Hilliard City School District;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that an exemption to board policy KJA(7) shall be granted for certified candidates running for the position of Hilliard Board of Education Member, and their representatives, which shall allow the following:

- I. The wearing of campaign attire such as shirts/buttons/nametags and the like on district property.
- II. Polite discussion with the general public promoting or opposing a certified candidate for the Hilliard Board of education.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution does not allow for the distribution of any literature of any kind, nor does it allow for yard signs to be placed on or in district property and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that election materials and displays must comply with board policy KJA regarding content, and must comply with all applicable election laws.

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that this exemption shall only apply on district property during all varsity football games hosted by the Hilliard City School District where at least one of the teams playing is from a Hilliard City School District high school, and only at the premises where such a game is being played.

Mrs. Murdoch explained that this resolution is also an election-year resolution. This will allow people running for the school board to wear t-shirts and things like that, talk to people, and engage the community outside of home football games this year. No literature will be able to be passed out. That's the biggie on this.

Mr. Perry added that in the past, a little over a decade at least, we've made some resolution to allow people to campaign at home varsity football games. They look different every year because sometimes we allow distribution, and sometimes we don't allow distribution, at Hilliard only games and all home games. Each board does it a little bit differently, but this is standard. We're just doing it early enough that everyone knows in advance.

Mrs. Crowley asked if this was for all varsity football games or just Hilliard versus Hilliard games. Mrs. Murdoch said it's for all home football games.

Mrs. Crowley asked if they could hand out candy and other things. Mr. Perry replied no distribution. Mrs. Crowley asked what about airplanes? Mr. Perry said he doesn't see anything unless you're distributing planes. Mr. Vorst added that we don't own the airspace. Mrs. Crowley confirmed there's no distribution of anything. Mr. Perry replied we did that one year, and it became a ginormous mess. The maintenance staff said, Brian, your face is everywhere, on the ground and in the trash. And half the people I talked to said we already got this at our house anyway. So, it's better for the maintenance staff. We don't want to make a giant mess.

Mrs. Murdoch stated that this resolution says the distribution of any literature of any kind or yard signs placed on district property. So that's what's prohibited. Mrs. Crowley confirmed just literature. Mrs. Murdoch added yard signs on the property, but you can place them on your car. Mr. Perry stated that literature, as defined in our policy, includes anything written. So, a button is literature, a t-shirt's literature, and all count under our policy definition. So, stickers, all that kind of stuff. If you're handing stuff out with your name on it, that's distribution.

Mrs. Murdoch asked if there was any other discussion or questions. Mrs. Long stated she's thankful that we're taking care of this early in the year. So, with your leadership, we're doing it a little bit differently this year. So, thank you for taking care of it early.

7. The Board of Education approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS, school boards create a vision for what students should know and be able to do;

WHEREAS, school boards establish clear standards for student performance;

WHEREAS, school boards ensure that student assessments are tied to established standards;

WHEREAS, school boards are accountable to the community for operating schools that support student achievement;

WHEREAS, school boards align school district resources to ensure that students meet standards;

WHEREAS, school boards create a climate that supports the philosophy that all children can learn at high levels;

WHEREAS, school boards build collaborative relationships based on trust, teamwork, and shared accountability;

WHEREAS, school boards are committed to continuous education and training on issues related to student achievement;

WHEREAS, the month of January is designated as School Board Recognition Month; and

WHEREAS, the success of this district is due in part to those Hilliard City School Board Members who came before us, the Tolles Career Center Board of Education, and Ohio's State Board of Education;

NOW, THEREFORE, We, hereby declare our appreciation to all of these individuals who have contributed to ensuring our students are Ready for Tomorrow.

Mr. Vorst said he thanked everybody who came before us. There have been, I don't know how, many dozen school board members here in Hilliard, one of whom is sitting right there, Mr. Mark Abate. So, we thank you and everyone who came before us and our Tolles rep. This is not meant to be some self-congratulatory thing. I know we're all like, mm-hmm about that, but nevertheless, it's great that we're recognizing the people putting in the hard work before us, and I'm happy to support this.

Mr. Perry said he would be remiss if he didn't mention we have a board member from another district. So, this is for you, buddy. It's been a privilege to meet folks from around the state trying to help their students and communities. It's truly a humbling experience to meet with these folks and have the community's faith entrusted to us. Even at the statewide level, the decisions they have to make are greater than ours in some cases, so we want to thank them. We're not just patting ourselves on the back, as Zach said, but it's genuinely thanking everybody who does this kind of work.

Mrs. Murdoch said let's not leave out our counterparts at Tolles and the state board of education and our thanks. Happy School Board Appreciation Month to all of you who are here tonight.

8. Policies submitted for a second reading
 - a) BF – Board Policy Development and Adoption
 - b) JFE – Pregnant Students
 - c) KKA – Recruiters in the Schools
 - d) KMA – Parent/Citizen Organizations

Mrs. Murdoch said that Brian highlighted most of these during our first reading. The first policy, BF, is the one that's being revised based on some community input. And basically, it says that although we still maintain the ability to make substantive changes to a policy during any reading, we will not vote on the same day we make a substantive change. So, for example, if we made a change during our third reading at the next meeting, we would delay the vote for the following board meeting. Any questions or discussions on that policy?

Mrs. Crowley stated she didn't have any issues with this policy and wanted to make sure the language was clear. Because the first time I read it, it said something about once the agenda, including the full policy language, has been released, the board may not move to amend it, but then in the next sentence, it says if the board wishes to amend it. So, it's almost like we're saying you can't do it, and then you can do it, and this would happen. So, I just wanted to make sure we're clear about the language that you can; it's going to be tabled to the next meeting before we can vote.

Mr. Perry said you could not amend it and vote on it at the same time. If you want to amend it, you can do that, but it's got to be at the next meeting. Mrs. Crowley wanted to make sure the language was clear.

Mrs. Long added that it could be amended because of errors, spelling, or citations. Are you okay with that part? Mrs. Crowley replied yes. It made it sound like that was the only reason we could amend it. We couldn't amend it otherwise. But then, in the next sentence, it says if you would amend it, like if it changes the substance as long as that's clear to everybody.

Mrs. Murdoch asked for any discussion on the remaining three policies. We don't want to read them entirely; I don't think. Mrs. Crowley confirmed OSBA recommended the revisions. Mr. Perry added that the policies or revisions are required.

9. The Board of Education caucused to executive session to conference with an attorney for the public body concerning disputes involving the public body that are the subject of pending or imminent court action. Time: 6:43 p.m.