



## BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

April 17, 2023 | Britton Elementary School

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# MEETING NOTES

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*Meeting Notes are only official once 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. Long, Mrs. Murdoch, Mr. Perry, and Mr. Vorst. Mrs. Crowley attended via Zoom.

### B PROGRAMS / PRESENTATIONS

- B1 Students and the Innovation and Discovery Specialist will share monthly student-led community read-aloud events. These stories and the following discussions help bridge the community across the campus of BNLC. In addition, it brings together 38 classrooms for a shared experience.

Good evening. I'm Stephanie Miles, the Innovation and Discovery Specialist at Britton Elementary. And I'm Tiffany Hutchins, the Innovation and Discovery Specialist at Norwich Elementary. Today we're here to talk to you about the power of the community read-aloud. The community read-aloud is a shared read-aloud over Zoom between students at Britton and Norwich. This helps to bring the schools together academically, emotionally, and socially. In alignment with our Hilliard City School's commitment plan, we're providing high-interest experiences that encourage deep thinking and solving real-world problems.

We wanted to share some thinking routines. This is called circles of action, and it involves having the students reflect on how they will use these concepts in the classroom, school community, and in the larger community outside of school. The community read-aloud thinking routines encourage a growth mindset among the students, a sense of belonging across the campus, empathy and understanding, getting to know different cultures and building friendships, and building kindness (*how we treat one another*).

So, without further ado, I'm going to allow the students to introduce themselves and share a little bit about our community read-aloud.

Hi, my name is Andrew. We shared the book, *This is a School*. It was so cool that the author even sent us signed copies of the book. Our community grows together when we work together and care about each other. An important part was this is a community celebrating that all people are unique and beautiful. Learning about each other is fun and helps us make new friends.

Hi, my name is (*inaudible*), and I'm a fourth grader. The book I read was *This is a School*. BNLC connected to this book by learning that we are a community. Community read-aloud is important because we are one community with many kinds of people all learning together. The book helped build community by everyone being involved and thinking about how they can be kind.

Hi, my name is Sylvie. The book I read was *We Belong*. The main idea was that we should always welcome each other so that we feel like we belong. And the important part is that when we learn from each other, we expand what we know. Our heart cracks open like seeds, and they grow. BNLC connected to this book by creating a "we belong camp" and each class added a line. This book helps build community by making us think we have the choice to help others belong.

Hi, my name is Riley. Title – *The More You Give*. My sister and I shared this book. The main idea was the more kindness and love you give, the more they grow through the generations. (*inaudible*) Saturday

morning lunch and the wake for how things grow are important. An important part was how love, even when given to the smallest things, is spread up and out and grows bigger than she could ever imagine. BNLC is growing into a giant family. Community read-aloud is important because it brings the whole school together to share books and ideas about our community and work. This book helps build community by teaching us to adjust to change and accept others just as they are.

Hi, my name is Burke. I'm in second grade. Title – *The Year We Learned to Fly*. The main idea was that there will be problems in life, but we overcome them and find a way to fix them and fly. An important part was when the grandmother advised to lift your arms, close your eyes, take a deep breath, and believe in a thing.

Hi, my name is Amina. I'm in third grade, and the book I read is called *Salam Alaikum*. Salam Alaikum means the message of peace. The main idea was you should be kind to others so they will be kind to the next person, and so on. Always remind one another of peace on the earth every day. BNLC connected to this book by how our community can show kindness. Community read-aloud is important because it connects us and inspires both schools. This book helped build community by sharing ways to be respectful and kind. When we are respectful and kind, we help build a peaceful world. Salam Alaikum.

Mr. Stewart praised the students for doing an amazing job. In addition, he thanked the parents for sharing their students and the Innovation and Discovery Specialists for putting the presentation together.

## B2 Embrace, Empower, Inspire Award Winners

Jill Abraham invited Kelley Burkhart and Dawn Blankenship, Enrollment Specialists, to join her. They work in our welcome center, and it is my pleasure to recognize them tonight as our embrace, empower and inspire award winners. They've been in the role for one year, and what a difference they have made for us in our welcome center. They've been so wonderful as our families come in and demonstrate a variety of needs. They have brought forward several ideas to help make the enrollment process easier for our newest families.

The following is the nomination we received from a parent: "I work for a local nonprofit that serves New Americans, and over the past year, I've accompanied multiple families coming from all over the world.... Ukraine, Afghanistan, Venezuela, and the Congo, just to name a few. Kelley and Dawn have welcomed each family with a welcoming smile, patience, a helping hand, and a creative approach to communicating each step of the process so the children can be enrolled as quickly as possible in school. I can't imagine how difficult it is to be in this role, and these ladies do it every day with understanding and a true heart to serve the students and their families. For many families, Kelley and Dawn are the first people they will interact with within the school system, and I can't think of a more perfect duo to be Hilliard's welcoming committee."

Jill added that these two ladies are true ambassadors for our district. Several families they've enrolled have come back to the welcome center to ask questions weeks and months after they've enrolled just about basic kind of school processes because they build such great relationships.

Mr. Warfield, Principal at Bradley HS, introduced Ms. Kowalski, a math teacher. I'm excited to have an opportunity to talk about Ms. Kowalski's program. Ms. Kowalski is one of our algebra teachers. So often, we talk to our kids about what relationships they have with the teachers. We had the opportunity just a few weeks ago to talk with our freshmen about their experiences. Listening to how many of her students

called her their person was so moving. When you walk into Ms. Kowalski's classroom, you know the relationships are real. You know that they're genuine and that she cares about her kids.

I'm going to read the nomination submitted by one of her students. "Miss Kowalski continues to show me and other students that she will always be there for us and cares about everything in our lives. As an incoming freshman in 2020, I felt like I had no one to go to when I had a rough day. That was until I met her. Knowing I had her class was the main thing that got me out of bed every day. Her personality and kind spirit made it feel like something was normal. Now as a junior, I still feel welcome to go to her room during a free period to fill her in on aspects of my life. She has always been there for me and has never seemed upset when I need someone to talk to. She welcomed me with open arms into her class, and I couldn't be more grateful. I'm sure you could ask any student that has had her, and there would be no negative feedback. She is such an awesome person that I look up to, and I'm so happy I got to know her."

- B3 Davidson High School - Competition Cheer Team won the National Championship, also receiving the High Point and Grand Champs awards in March.

Good evening. Thank you for inviting our cheer squad with us tonight. I'm Joyce Brickley, principal, and Mr. Bobeck, our athletic director. I cannot say enough good things about these young ladies. What a lot of people don't see is what happens behind the scenes. Their routine is two minutes and 30 seconds and requires a large amount of practice time. I got the opportunity to see them a lot throughout the season. And every time I saw them, their routine got better and better. Thank you for allowing them the opportunity to go to Orlando and after qualifying to participate in the nationals. We're super proud of them. They worked very hard and I'm glad they're getting their recognition. So, I'm going to turn it over to their cheer advisor, Kelly Clark who's also a proud mom of a cheerleader on the squad.

I'm Kelly Clark. I'm the head cheer coach at Hilliard Davidson. First and foremost, thank you so much for inviting us to be here. We're super excited to be here. You guys know Joyce Brickley and Mr. Bobeck are very busy people. Where are they? They're right here with us. Their support means so much to me and so much to all these kids standing with me up here.

These girls do work so hard and yes, it is only a two minute and thirty second routine, but it takes us about 11 months to get that fine-tuned. These girls are skilled athletes with amazing discipline and synchronization. Everything is just above and beyond. Earlier in our season, we had won a competition which qualified us for this national competition. We have also won that competition in previous years. However, this year was different because this team not only has the skills, they also have the heart. They have the commitment and wanted to go to the national competition. It was a great experience. And then to come out and win it was just icing on the cake.

In Orlando, we had a two-day competition that competed on Saturday and Sunday. The scores from both of those days were averaged and we won our division. This trophy right here is for winning our division. What happened beyond that, which was so crazy, is we won the highest points of the entire day of all divisions, which made us grand champions. The grand champion trophy is as tall as Alex. Thank you to everyone for all your support. These kids are absolutely incredible people, athletes, and great leaders at Hilliard Davidson. I'm going to let them introduce themselves (*Sorry for any misspelled names*):

Lindsay Lamberjack, Junior  
Brennan Nemeyer, Junior  
Sophia Martin, Junior

Alex Kim, Freshman  
Lexi Marlow, Freshman  
Allie, Freshman

Maddie McCune, Sophomore  
Macy Petit, Sophomore  
Jayla Ivory, Sophomore

McKayla Clark, Sophomore  
Sidney Hoffberger, Junior

Ava Parker, Junior  
Natalie Capso, Senior

Henley Jackson, Senior

As a senior, you really want your last season to go out with a bang and be something you remember from your four years, and that's exactly what the season was. You've had previous accomplishments throughout the season, but just to go to Florida, it's just something you know, you never think you'll experience in your four years. And it was truly just the best experience with all 15 of these ladies right here. And they made it worthwhile. They made the season amazing and just the competition was amazing. Just getting that experience to compete against teams you've never competed against and come out winning was just really amazing.

So, adding on to what Henley said, it was great to go with this group of girls specifically. Like Coach Clark said, we have won this competition previously to qualify to go to Florida, but I would not want to do it with anyone else but these girls. And on top of that, as a senior, winning nationals. That's crazy.

Kelly Clark introduced Sherry Luellen, the varsity assistant coach. She does a lot to help-out our group.

The girls showed their national champion jackets, medals and rings.

So again, it was a wonderful experience. Thank you for having us here tonight, and we hope to keep bringing the hardware home to Hilliard. We were happy to represent our cheer program, Hilliard Davidson High School, the Hilliard community, and our state.

Mr. Stewart told the athletes they are not just national champions today. You're a national champion for the rest of your life. It's something really cool you can tell your kids. Congratulations!

## **C ROUTINES**

- C1 Additions or deletions to the agenda - None
- C2 The Board of Education adopted the agenda as presented.
- C3 The Board of Education approved the March 2023 Treasurer's Report.
- C4 The Board of Education approved the minutes from the following meetings:
  - a. March 13, 2023 – Regular Meeting
  - b. March 13, 2023 – Meeting Notes
  - c. March 27, 2023 – Work Session
  - d. March 27, 2023 – 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. Due to the unavailability of the public participation forms, some names may be misspelled.*

Sarah Kamento

Here I am again, month after month, making plea after plea for this school district to do the equitable thing for all of students. Feeling fully ignored by highlighting the policies not being followed, writing appeal after appeal, and having untold number of conversations. Conversations where in which district employees have capitulated, that I'm not wrong in my interpretations of these long-standing policies. So, instead of doing the insane thing and expecting different results, I'm going to pivot my approach.

Last board meeting, there was a presentation regarding projected enrollment numbers for the district. As I sat in my seat listening, all I noticed is that Cooperative Strategies to whom we pay \$32,175 failed to consider legislation that is currently being debated within the Ohio House and Senate. Legislation that would afford parents the opportunity to reclaim their tax dollars. An oversight of epic proportions, if you ask me.

Now, consider that I am not 100% versed in all the data for enrollment, but let's just play with some loose numbers. If House Bill 11 affords \$5,500 per year for students grades kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> and \$7,500 per year, students in grades nine through 12. For our purposes, let's just use the average of \$6,500 per year. Last board meeting, a father presented a petition with 1200 signatures of Hilliard parents supporting the removal of certain content from our libraries. Now, let's take that number and divide it by two to account for a signature from a mom and a dad, which is unlikely, but just for arguments sake. That would be \$6,500 times 600 students, which would equate to \$3.9 million of resources lost by Hilliard City School District. Further, consider that this is solely the financial cost for one academic year. Moreover, these are only rough numbers that account for one portion of this district's population, and in no way is a complete financial picture as to what the district is risking financially.

Further, consider that there will likely be students born into this district that will never once step foot into a Hilliard City School. And for each of those students, the district will lose \$228,000 worth of resources. We are soon entering a point of no return for this district. Once parents pull their children, resources and votes away from district interest, there will likely be no financial recovery.

The impassioned plea from parents like myself have repeatedly fallen on deaf ears and have forced us to look elsewhere for our children. Once that move is made, we will not be coming back to this district despite living here. With all of that being said, where will this district be financially if all of us who do not wish to abandon our religion, morals, and beliefs truly leave?

Jessica Smith

Hi, I'm Jessica Smith. I wanted to thank the board and the district for setting up our opportunities for my children to learn outside what is taught in the syllabus and allowing all parents to elect to participate in these or not. The journey to creating a community and learning environment that is inclusive and inviting to everyone is a never-ending one if you're doing it right. And Hilliard seems to be taking good strides, in my opinion.

My family really enjoyed the We Are Hilliard event, and I wanted to thank all the people involved in hosting this. We hope this event and others like it will continue so my kids, who are white Americans, can experience the beautiful diversity right in their own city and classrooms. My only criticism is that the We Are Hilliard swag was not offered in children's sizes, so I hope that is an option next year.

I also appreciate that the district is continuing to provide a variety of diverse books and student libraries. And I am thankful for the district's formal recognition that every parent has rights when it comes to what our kids are reading by initiating the opt-out form for books. I'm sure there are still kinks to work out, as with any new system. But the beautiful thing about the form you have established is that to me it seems to protect the rights of all parents regarding what we want our children to have access to outside of the curriculum at school.

Parents have the right to opt out of whatever titles they choose, but it also protects the rights of parents who do want their children to have access to certain books. My oldest is only a preschooler, so I don't yet know if there are titles we would prefer that our children not check out. But we appreciate that the district respects that it is our right to decide one way or the other.

I am thankful for many of the books that are in the libraries and that my kids will have the choice of books by diverse authors and on diverse topics. I'm appreciative that the district has not restricted my children's access to books by banning them for everyone, and I am grateful that I have the option to review titles and opt our kids out from anything we don't want them reading.

I have seen from my family in other states, such as my cousin in Kentucky, who is an elementary school teacher, how district-wide book bans can lead to slippery slopes and how they disproportionately tend to affect authors and characters of color and topics related to race and the LGBTQIA+ community.

And as I started my comment, exposing my kids to these things is important to me and my husband, so I'm thankful that we've not started down a potential path of restricting children's access to them. I hope to see more access to opportunities to expose my children to our world's diversity outside of the classroom curriculum, not less so that all parents can decide for themselves what to have their children participate in or not. Thank you.

Kelley Arnold

This stack is the 35 books that Ms. Cyndie Sheets, representing Central Ohio so-called Parents' Rights in Education, in collaboration with Ms. Kamento and Dr. Khan Afghan, have requested removed, restricted or hidden away. The forms as submitted would be laughable if they were not so injurious to our district and the students it represents.

Of these 35 books, I have personally read 26 of them and tracked nearly 44 hours of reading time. I anticipate the remaining 9 will take another 35 hours. These include heart-warming tales of teddy bears, poignant stories of family and community, cautionary words about censorship, and even a Pulitzer Prize winning book. Unfortunately, at the previous Board meeting, Ms. Murdoch's sole concern in considering policy was the frequency of the challenge process and how to speed it up. Not how long it takes to read the full books nor writing any analysis of the works. Zero thought into the lost productivity of educators and education administration. Not exactly good stewardship of our tax dollars. While the applicants crib notes from Moms for Liberty, obviously without reading many of these works as evidenced by incomplete and error-filled forms, proper consideration requires careful reading and understanding of the work

“taken as a whole.” These things take time, as Ms. Murdoch should full well understand at this point considering she needed over 32 days to evaluate the 37-page Health Curriculum.

The question must be asked, however, are students being served by devoting any time at all to these particular book challenges for they are based in racist, homophobic and transphobic bigotry. Let’s look at one book, *In Our Mothers’ House*, a story of a loving household that happens to have two moms, just like some kids within our schools. These people seek to have the book removed and hidden away with counselors. They want this book segregated because it doesn’t fit their homophobic narrative of what family looks like. Separate has never been equal.

So, will you continue to indulge and pander to this bigotry? Ms. Murdoch, we have seen you indulge it in July 2021 when your running mate and director of the organization facilitating these bans, Ms. Chaffee, introduced her “resolution” to ban the 1619 Project. I watched you encourage and record her while she was claiming the ban as “anti-racism.” Also, as a featured speaker at this same so-called “Parents’ Rights” group in May 2022, you noted your number one strength was “Achiever” per your StrengthsFinder assessment. Is this the achievement you want, furthering the abuse of the book challenge system based in the fear of others and promoting racism, homophobia and transphobia? These are your people, perhaps you need to have a serious discussion with them about what your values are. Or maybe these are your values.

Toni Morrison, the Ohio-born author of the 1988 Pulitzer Prize novel *Beloved*, and subject of one of these forms, called banning books a “purist and yet elementary kind of censorship designed to appease adults rather than educate children.” We cannot grow and have continuous improvement when mired in bigotry and attempts to oppress liberty of ideas.

Trish Barker

Thank you, superintendent board. First off, I want to thank you all for restarting the school presentations. The last two meetings were fantastic. Love seeing what the kids are learning, the diversity of challenges they're going through, et cetera. These comments are not my own but are from a friend in the community wishing to remain anonymous due to concerns about bullying within this community. So, I'm reading them on their behalf.

“Three parents ask for books to be removed from our libraries. Three parents out of 16,434 students in this district. And what action comes to this request? How many hours, as Kelly mentioned, to read the books, and how much salary per hour per how many people to read these books? From one of the same people currently suing our district? I'm sick of allowing this group of parents, a small but obnoxious few, to make a mockery of our school district, to waste our time at these board meetings reading books seductively, suing the district, calling for the superintendent's removal, and to pressure those who may agree with some of their extreme views that were elected to the board to do their job.

I guess spreading misinformation and living in a bubble during Covid did a number on some, but they did not represent the majority of parents. I'm proud that my kids go to Hilliard. I appreciate diversity. The teachers are amazing. The superintendent is remarkable, and they all care about all children in their development. I can't even imagine how a student who is gay or transgender must feel, or those parents who may be here today that feel like they need to hear what things may come their kid's way because that parent can't decide to teach their kid to hate. No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin or his background or his religion. People must learn to hate; if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love. For love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite.

You don't get to say; I'm not against gay people. Actions speak louder than words; you're trying to take away their stories. Books of people whom they relate to. The same group continues to cry out for back to the basics. Zach and Beth, you ran on that platform, yet sending kids off to religious school classes during the school day and using our tax dollars to consider censoring folks of kids in our district is okay. Stop the hate. It has no home here. Stop allowing these few very vocal and hateful people to waste your time and ours and make a mockery of this awesome and diverse district. Thank you.

Owen Archer

Hello, I'm Owen Archer. I'm a junior at Darby. Tonight, I was going to speak about how if you don't want your child reading a specific book, then just tell your child not to read it. But the kids at the beginning of the meeting inspired me to speak about kindness.

So, maybe instead of all this hate, or at least what can be perceived as hate, that we bring to school board meetings, maybe we can show kids that just because we have differences doesn't mean we have to debate them at meetings every month. Let's educate. Not hate. We don't have to hate each other because of our differences. Shouldn't we raise kids to be loving and accepting rather than the "my way is right" mentality? Just because people have a different religion, skin color, sexuality, or read books about someone kissing the same gender, that doesn't mean we should be hating on them. We should be building bridges, not walls and educating people rather than hating and telling them to hate each other.

Every religion preaches about love; not hate. So, I think we can all agree to start loving each other. We are all meant to love each other. Don't we think that is why hate is influencing our kids in a bad way? Any why bullies are the way they are? It's because they're hated on. And if you don't want to love everyone, then just leave them alone. Stop hating on people like me because I'm gay. Stop hating on my cousin because she's black. Stop hating on the teacher because they say they care about you regardless of your sex, gender, or sexual orientation or whatever makes you, you.

I'm just a child. And if I can figure this out, then hopefully you can too.

Scott Merillat

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you this evening. My name is Scott Merillat and my pronouns are he/him. I'm here to speak tonight on behalf of my son and his friends. And my topic is the ongoing censorship in Hilliard City Schools.

The American Library Association reminds us that the Supreme Court ruling, the Board of Education (*inaudible*), is in the board's attempt to remove books from a school library, was rejected. The right to receive ideas is necessary predicate to the recipients meaningful exercise of his own rights of speech, press and political freedom, and students too, are beneficiaries of the principle. This decision has already been decided, but on March 30th, 2023, Federal Judge Robert Hitman did order the books to be returned from to library within 24 hours. The First Amendment prohibits the removal of books based upon either point of view or content discrimination. Our Hillard public schools is secular and must represent all of the students without bias. Therefore, all books that have been removed from the Hilliard City Schools for any reason must be returned.

Furthermore, the board should refrain from further restrictions of books in my son's school system. The opposition provides limited and misleading information, which is pointed out in the paperwork that I provided. One example in the second printout is that the author said that it is not a children's book, which



is correct. Children's books are from zero to nine years old. And the author and the publisher agreed that the book is for young adults, written specifically for high school students. And when I looked in the Destiny system, it is no longer there in the collection. It's been removed. So, this book and the others must be returned promptly. It is their first amendment right. Thank you.

Sarah Myers

Good evening, Superintendent Stewart and members of the board. My name is Sarah Myers and I am (*inaudible*) Washington. I want to talk about the prospective book bans in our district, which seem entirely counterintuitive to the whole purpose of education.

We send students to school because as a society we have decided that an educated populace is in everyone's best interest. Sometimes this means reading about things that are uncomfortable or foreign to our child's existence. At least I hope, rape, incest, abuse, food insecurity, injustice, cruelty are foreign. I don't wish that on anyone's child, but it will happen to some of our students. Statistically, it just will happen to some of my daughter's friends. Limiting access to books about these things does not protect any child from experiencing or understanding these issues.

I'm the expert on my child as each parent is on their own, but I'm not even close to an expert on childhood development or education. I did a year of online academy with my kid and I learned how much I don't know. So instead, I trust the professionals in our specific schools because they are trained to find quality literature, and they also have an eye on the needs of their particular student population. We saw and applauded that tonight, the fruit of their professional abilities in the read-aloud program.

If I find my child reading a book that I find problematic, I can talk to her specifically about it and even request that it's not available to her. I still don't take away the rights of other parents to allow their students to access it. In large part, I object to the stated objection of many of these books, which is "the inclusion, discussion, and focus on complex topics of sexual identity, sexual orientation, and sexual expression." Why not include that? Our kids are blanks. At (age) 18, they don't just suddenly become aware of sexual expression or orientation. It's not like they haven't already experienced anti-Semitism or sexism to name just a few things. They know something is up, even though they may not fully understand. Books can help them understand and give a name to their experiences. Our diverse students deserve to see their experiences reflected in our literature, and they deserve to see stories of survival. Every student in our district does. Thank you.

Kemmily Kwok

Hi everyone. I'm Kemmily and I have kids in the Hilliard City School District. I wanted to talk about two things. Hopefully I'll have time. Main thing is my daughter Aurelia, she's 11 and she's currently in the Arrow program at Tharp. She's a gifted student and she loves reading books. I told her about what's going on with the school, possible book bans, and things like this and that I attend some school board meetings. She was like, mommy, you have to bring the book that I read called *Zenobia July*. This book was recommended to her by her teacher because she told her teacher she wanted to read more books about social justice.

This book is about a transgender girl in middle school. I want to read a brief excerpt. This girl lives in Arizona and she exists mostly online, hiding from impossible life and improving her impressive coding and hacking skills. Now she's coming out of her shell discovering a community of friends at school, and she used to live as a boy because everyone around her thought she was one. Now she's able to live openly as the girl she has always known herself to be. When someone posts hateful memes on her school's website,

Zen knows that she has skills to catch the hacker, but is it worth it? And she had hold herself together in the face of multiple challenges of a new school, a new family, and the rollercoaster ride of presenting her true gender for the first time. Timely and touching Zenobia July is a story of how many different ways there are in the world to find a family and make a home.

So, I just wanted to say that my daughter absolutely loves this book and it opened her eyes. I just think that it creates empathy among kids at schools. So, there is no reason why we need to dial books like these.

The second thing I wanted to talk about is that I'm a volunteer with the organization OPAWL. We're a nonprofit. We're looking to build a coalition with various groups to help support our goal for all Ohio students to learn about history that reflects all people. Alongside the young Latino Network Car Ohio and Honesty for Ohio Education, we are preparing to launch a new campaign dedicated to bringing an updated, holistic, multicultural curriculum to Ohio K-12 public schools.

So, I invite all of you to our informational meeting on Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the United Methodist Church. If you have any questions, my email address is [kem.opawl@gmail.com](mailto:kem.opawl@gmail.com). Thank you.

## **E     **CONSENT AGENDA****

The Board of Education approved the consent agenda, items E1 through E3. Action by the Board of Education in “Adoption of the Consent Agenda” means that all E items are adopted by one single motion unless a member of the board or the Superintendent requests that any such item be removed from the consent agenda and voted upon separately. Employments, where applicable, are contingent upon 1) Verification of education, 2) Proof of proper certification, and 3) Positive results from a criminal records check.

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

Mr. Perry thanked the following retirees for their many years of service:

- Joseph Burke, with the district since 1988
- Julie Cannell, with the district since 2004
- Sandra Nagy, with the district since 2000
- John Riggs, with the district since 1987
- Richard Thorpe, with the district since 1987

## **F     **ACTION AGENDA****

- F1    The Board of Education approved the K-5 Math Curriculum Resource, Imagine Learning Illustrative Math.

Mr. Vorst asked the superintendent to talk about the selection process. Mr. Vorst reviewed this stuff at the central office. It seems like high-quality material. Mr. Stewart said it was a very similar process to the previous resource adoption for ELA. Ms. Kindl led a team of teachers at each grade level. They reviewed five different resources and then broke into grade-level teams to dive deeper into each resource and score

each resource. Imagine Learning Illustrative Math was the high-scored resource at each grade level, making this an easy choice.

Mrs. Crowley thanked Ms. Kindl and her team. She noticed this was missing when her son started kindergarten many years ago. She knows that doing two curriculum reviews in one year is a big ask, but this is a critical need for our district. We are grateful for the work it takes to complete both of these reviews. She hopes the board approves it because this is also a big ask of our teachers to learn the new curriculum resources. We need to get this approved and support our teachers. They'll be grateful for this resource in the long run.

Mr. Vorst also thanked Ms. Kindl and her team.

Mr. Perry thanked the team for the link to review the resource. It breaks it down, especially for teachers, the ability for lesson planning and how it relates to the standards. It has sequencing, pacing, and differentiation. It breaks it down in a way that it's very transparent. It's very accessible to folks. He watched a 14-minute video. He thought it was very clear.

Mrs. Murdoch said her husband looked at it because he's not a math person. And he loved the parent resources because he could help with someone's homework instead of being uncomfortable with today's available resources.

- F2 The Board of Education authorized the renewal of the food service contract with Aramark Corporation for the 2023/2024 school year.

Mr. Stewart pointed out that Dave Wilson, Food Service Director, was in attendance. He couldn't say enough positive remarks about Aramark as an entity, as a partner, and certainly Dave's leadership in managing that part of our organization. We couldn't have a better partner than Aramark and Dave.

- F3 The Board of Education authorized the Chief Operating Officer to award the following bid for the 2023 Hoffman Trails Elementary School Paving Project to Chemcote, Inc. at a bid of \$933,807.16

Mr. Perry confirmed that the district has used this vendor. Mr. Vorst asked how much under budget and Mr. McDonough replied 22%. Mrs. Long confirmed that we'll make some more traffic considerations as we do the paving improvement. Mr. McDonough said the campus is currently in good shape but we'll add some parking spaces and remove some islands to improve accessibility.

## **G REPORTS / INFORMATION / EXHIBIT ITEM**

- G1 Policies submitted for a first reading
- a) BDDA – Notification of Meetings
  - b) IGAE – Health Education
  - c) IGCH-R (also LEC-R) – College Credit Plus
  - d) JHG – Reporting Child Abuse and Mandatory Reporting
  - e) LEC-R (also IGCH-R) – College Credit Plus

G2 Committee Reports.

Mr. Perry announced that the facilities committee meeting will be this Thursday, April 20 at 3:00 p.m. One of the discussion items is a project submitted by some students at Beacon Elementary.

Mrs. Long noted that the above policies submitted for a first reading were discussed at the last policy review committee meeting. All the changes were OSBA recommendations and the meeting summary is available on the district website. Our next meeting is scheduled for May 18<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Crowley said she was not able to attend the ISPTO meeting last month because she was at the Hilliard State of the City event, but we are going on a bus tour of the district tomorrow. She's very excited about the tour.

Mr. Vorst reported that the superintendent's advisory committee met on March 28<sup>th</sup>. Again, this is the committee where teachers and staff bring their issues to Mr. Stewart. There were around 25 staff members present at the meeting. The topics were enrollment requirements, the timing of spring break, teacher support and professional development for new curriculum, bus driver needs, supplemental contracts, the place of artificial intelligence in the classroom, administrator logistics, cell phone policies at different schools, the need for more intervention specialists, class-size stipulations, and how to best account for kindergarten screening day for the teachers.

Mr. Vorst then made a brief statement about a side project. Over the last few years, I've seen how many kids struggle with mental health issues. It's evident that our kids need our support, and I see the downstream effects of all these issues at my day job as a healthcare provider. In that spirit, and with the blessing of everyone at the table, our lawyers and Stacie Raterman, I decided to take up a side project to message our kids to try and find a way to show them how much we care for them. I brought some stickers and yard signs that read, "we ❤️ our kids every student without exception." So, basically, it's a messaging project that I'm trying to get started. I'm going to be rolling these out at different schools. Mental health issues and suicide are real problems in our world, and I hope our kids can absorb this message to realize that we care for all of them. I often get contacted by a member of the community to discuss something related to our schools. And I have floated this idea to a couple of those people from different roles and stripes and have always got great answers from being willing to support something like this. Unfortunately, there's also a lot of division in our community, which our kids pick up on. I hope this message is something that can unite our community. That it becomes something we can all support and that we can all get behind it. This is privately funded. There are no district funds that are being used. I kicked it off, and we'll see where it goes from there. I hope that if it takes off, someone else can use it as a fundraiser or something like that. There are some signs here. They'll be at all three high schools, Hoffman Trails, preschool, Washington, and Ridgewood. And I also realize that this is just a message and that messages don't produce actual change without action. This board will continue to support every student in our district, and I hope this is a start to all our kids knowing their value and worth in the world. So, please take one if you feel compelled. Thank you.

H EXECUTIVE SESSION / ADJOURNMENT

H1 The meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.