



BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

May 8, 2023 | J.W. Reason Elementary School

MEETING NOTES

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. Crowley, Mrs. Murdoch, Mr. Perry, and Mr. Vorst. Mrs. Long was absent.

B PROGRAMS / PRESENTATIONS

B1 JW Reason supports every student without exception. One way we provided this support this school year is by restructuring our language art supports to be inclusive for all students. Our 4thgrade teachers and students are excited to present the learning they have done together as they have tried out the Wit and Wisdom curriculum this year. Students and teachers alike have enjoyed this rigorous and engaging curriculum. Another way we have supported every student without exception is by creating intentional time for staff collaboration each week. As part of the collaboration, our classroom teachers in grades K-5 along with Mr. Smalley, our Innovation and Discovery Specialist, created a Design Thinking Challenge for the entire school. Students were tasked with designing a shoe for kids who do not have access to shoes. Then students worked with the 7th and 8th-grade students at the ILC Hub BE2TA Lab to create a 3D representation of their shoe design.

We have several exciting presentations tonight. We're going to start with Mr. Smalley and some fourth graders here at JW Reason sharing some impressive work they've been doing.

We have a great group here today. We are certainly honored and privileged to be able to share some of the awesome things that we're doing here at JW. Reason. It brings back the "why" for what we're doing. Often, we share the what, but this is "why" we're doing it. This group of kids we have in front of us and some of the amazing things that we're doing here at JW Reason. Two of the things we're going to highlight are going to be quality work and creativity.

We have a district commitment plan and a building commitment plan as well. And this meets one of our goals. Our teachers meet weekly to collaborate. I'm one of the people that they meet with. This is one of the projects that came from that. We look at some data, and we also talk about how we can best meet the needs of our kids.

So, there is our building commitment plan and how it matches up. I told them they can share anything that they wanted to in one line, and this is what we got. Ava, would you mind reading yours and then passing it off? Ava said, "I wrote, I love my family." Another student said, "I wrote, I play baseball." And the third student said, "I wrote, I love to tell jokes, and one of my jokes is, what did the artist say to his sweetheart? I love you with all my art."

Mr. Smalley commented, it really doesn't get any better than that. We'll dive into the project. This was a really cool partnership we offered K through 5. Then we took the top 20 creatives at JW Reason and partnered with the Hub, which is right down the street here on a three-day field trip. Students basically went through a design thinking process, and we're designing shoes for kids in need. So, they really had to think about empathy, what it would that feel like, and how they would design that.

This is a cool project because it focused more on the creatives, not always just the high academics, which was cool to highlight as well. As far as the future career path, one of the other visions we have is our storytellers' series. So, a world without a story is lost. We really want our kids to see future careers and give them opportunities to be able to do that. And one of the big pieces of this project was these students used CAD (computer-aided design), which you wouldn't think a fourth-grader would be able to do that. I'm going to have Ava come up on the screen here and demonstrate how she generally got started. Again, this was a three-day project, and it's super impressive what these kids were able to create. So, when I asked her what she loved most, she said the challenge of the opportunity, which speaks to who she is. All the kids rose to the occasion. I'm going to turn it over to her to share her prototype and why she designed it the way she did. And then you can see her 3D-printed shoe at the end.

Ava began. So, first off, I combined what I wanted to do with my childhood and what I wanted to do now. When I was little, I loved art a lot, and I also loved light-up shoes. And so, I was really excited when Mr. Smalley gave us this project to do. I used my creativity in my shoe design and added light-up shoes and Velcro straps, which I thought were very useful when I didn't know how to tie my shoes. I also loved sprinkles on my ice cream. And so, I used that inspiration, and now I love more of a simpler kind of thing. And I also loved rainbows when I was little, and so I added smiley faces, sprinkles, and all my favorite things when I was little.

Mr. Smalley said he was going to hold the microphone while Ava drove the computer. We used Tinkercad, a CAD software that speaks with the 3D printer. She's going to give you a quick vibe of what this looks like and how it works.

Ava said, first, I pulled out a cylinder from the toolbox. Then I had to rotate it 90 degrees. And to do that, I hit this box up here and typed in 90 degrees. I wanted it to stretch out a little more to resemble a shoe. So, I pulled it out a bit to make it look more like a shoe. Then I took out another cylinder and put it in the middle of it. I had to pull it down a bit so it would fit inside the shoe. Now I want to make a hole in the middle so you can put your foot inside the shoe. Now I want to get both these highlighted and click this box to group them together.

Mr. Smalley said she made that look so easy, but I promise you that is so hard to do. And the grit she took to make that was just incredible. Really all the kids that were selected. So, we're proud of that partnership and proud of Ava for her work. So, I'm going to turn it over to Anita Norris, who's going to share one more focus around quality work and some of the amazing things we did with Wit & Wisdom. And I'll go back to our slideshow here.

Anita said we support every student without exception...*(Inaudible due to lots of background noise)*...Tonight, a couple of our fourth-grade students are going to share some of the work they've done. The extreme study is about the human response to challenges from the environment. The students have learned that these challenges can be big and small.....and how to respond to these challenges shape....Part of this unit.....research on some mountains. Students were given the task to create a brochure to give to hikers. Ms. Norris introduced a student (couldn't hear the name) and said she would talk about the task and the preparation.

Student: After learning about different mountains, we were given the task of making brochures for hikers who would be hiking in our assigned mountain range. Our brochures had to include interesting facts, dangers, safety tips, weather, and climate. Some interesting facts about the Alps are they are the biggest and highest mountain range in Europe. There are more than 14 million people living on the Alps and the

Alps are 2.988 miles long and more than 125 miles wide. My favorite part about this project was being able to work with Canva, which is a fun app that can be used to make brochures.

Student #2 is going to share how the students collaborated and participated in the quality work framework. So, we collaborated by each doing a section. I did weather and climate. One of my friends did interesting facts, and my other friend did safety tips. All of us did dangers. We all participated in feedback and quality work because at the end, we all looked at each other's slides and we went over if there was punctuation and if there was a capital letter after each sentence. And then, we submitted as a team by also seeing over and looking over our mistakes. My favorite part was we got to work together in one big group. Oh, and Canva was the app we used. And it's really good for our age because we can look at brochures that people created, we can look at their structure, and we can put in our words and take out stuff if we wanted to, and we could also add stuff.

Mr. Smalley said thank you guys for your time. We appreciate you letting us share a little bit of JW.

Mr. Stewart thanked Mr. Smalley, Ms. Norris, and the students. He also hoped everyone heard the comment about Wit & Wisdom, a resource recently approved by the board.

B2 Hilliard Education Foundation

So, thank you so much for having us. I'm Sarah Thress, president of the Hilliard Education Foundation Board. For those of you that aren't aware of what we do, we raise money to provide grant opportunities to different schools and also scholarships. We love supporting it, and we do one big fundraiser every year. Hopefully, a lot of you were there at Denim & Diamonds. And it has sold out in the last two years. So, our goal is to get it even bigger and better so that we can give even more money away.

So overall, we have given over \$1.2 million away in grant funding to teachers that have come up with innovative ideas. Teachers submit their ideas, and then we as a board go over them and decide if it is this innovative. Does this fit what we want to fund and be able to provide opportunities for our students that they would not be able to have otherwise?

So, this year, we're awarding more than \$25,000 to further opportunities for students. And what we decided to do is a little bit different. We'd like to do chat presentations but we like to make sure that it's in an environment where people are actually going to see this presentation and understand the great work that they did. So, we're going to kick off this public presentation here tonight by awarding \$10,000 for the every student without exception, lifesaving ability, CPR, and first aid certification program. This is a grant that was written by Mark Tremayne and Kevin Hunt and will benefit more than 1400 students at all three high schools. Students will be certified in CPR. So, then we will have more people out in the community that are able to provide lifesaving skills.

A check was presented to Mark Tremayne.

In addition, we couldn't do our important work without the support of different people within the community. So, each year we give away different awards that we call star awards. And this year, we talked about the different people that really made a big impact. The school star is a district employee or group of employees who exhibited exemplary service, dedication, and commitment to furthering the mission of the foundation and hence the school system. This support the foundation has been demonstrated by attending or actively participating in HEF events, or by executing grants that represent the core values of

the Hilliard Education Foundation. We unanimously decided on this person, and we're so excited to be able to present this year's award to Stacie Raterman.

Mr. Stewart took a moment to talk about the impact this organization has had on the district. I first came to this district in 2004, and as far back as then, they were supporting the innovation and efforts of our teachers in the classroom. And what I love about their work is they push everything directly to the classroom level. You saw just one example where we're going to get every 10th grader certified in CPR. There's a greater good here that they support. Thank you so much for your work. And I certainly agree with your choice for the star award.

B3 Dr. Anita Somani – Education Bills and Teacher Appreciation

Next up, we have Dr. Anita Somani, our state representative, and she's here to talk about a couple of items.

First, I'm going to start by thanking everyone here. For those of you who don't know me, it was a fast and furious campaign, and I thank those who supported me and look forward to working with anybody who has questions. What I wanted to do today is talk to the board as well as everybody else here, about some of the bills that we're seeing at the State House. Before I got involved in politics, I knew about healthcare bills, but I didn't know about all the other bills that were out there. So, I thought it would be helpful for you all to know what's happening.

The one big thing you've maybe heard a little bit about is the Senate Joint Resolution, which would impact people in terms of voting rights. So last week, it passed out of the Senate. It passed out of our oversight committee but was not voted on by the full house. So, it may come up for a vote this week. And what would happen is that we would have a special election in August, which was voted out by the last assembly, saying it was a waste of money. The cost of the special election was \$20 million and there was less than a 10% voter turnout. Now, they're trying to bring that back to vote on a bill that would make it so citizens, people like us, would not be able to pass a constitutional amendment without a 60% threshold. So, as you know, most bills require a 51% majority vote. When somebody runs for office, they win by a simple majority. There's been a lot of push back. There have been over 200 local organizations that have spoken out against it.

Also, it is teacher appreciation week. So, I want to thank everybody for being involved with teaching kids, to make sure that they become good global citizens and that they have a good understanding of critical thinking. I went to public schools, my kids went to public schools, and I appreciate everything that my teachers did for me to help me get into college and then medical school. Teachers set that foundation. They help kids to learn how to love learning, how to read, and how to think critically. I remember there were subjects I hated in school, but sometimes teachers made them more interesting. And it helped me to appreciate that. So, to all the teachers and parents in the room with kids in school, thank you. I know it's hard. The pandemic has been really challenging, and I think that we just have to all work together.

With that being said, I want to talk about some of these bills really quickly. We have the House Bill 8, which is the Parents' Bill of Rights. Essentially, what it does is take parents' rights over students' rights. So, the parents would have to be notified if there was sexually explicit instructional material. They would have to have the opportunity to review them. If a kid came to a teacher or counselor with a concern or a problem, the teacher/counselor would be forced to notify the parents. As you know, and especially when your kids get to middle school, it can be hard for them to confide in their parents. They may not have that

relationship with their parents. So, it threatens the kids' confidence or ability to confide in other adults that may be looking out for their best interests. This bill has received three hearings and will have a fourth hearing tomorrow. So far, we've only heard from proponents, but you can still send in testimony.

The next one that's at the house is the backpack bill. And what that means is that for any funding or scholarship money, there would be a state-funded education savings account that would allow kids to take that money with them. So, the taxes we pay for public school funding would be able to go with children who choose to be homeschooled or attend private school. Although I no longer have kids in school, I personally feel my taxes should go to funding public schools. I think that allows the most people to get the quality education that they deserve. The nonpartisan analysis says it would cost over \$1 billion each year and that there are no guidelines for how that money would be spent. So, if you were homeschooling or going to a private school or charter school or online school, there would be no guidelines for those educators that we have in public schools. Public schools have a lot of guidelines and programs to establish criteria for teachers. So, that's House Bill 11. It has had three hearings from both opponents and proponents but has not been voted out of committee yet.

House Bill 38 allows students to have three days of excused absences for mental health. Obviously, mental health has been at the forefront when it comes to concerns for kids' mental health and adults' mental health. Every time there's a mass shooting, we hear that mental health is involved. This bill would provide an excused absence for mental health separate from sick days. There has been one hearing.

House Bill 127 would make approving homeschooling easier. It would only require the superintendent to acknowledge that the parent or care caretaker intends to homeschool. There would be no criteria for a curriculum or anything that students would need potentially to then succeed in college.

I'm not as involved with Senate bills, but the one that's gone to the education committee is tax credits. So, income tax credits anywhere from \$250 to \$2,000 for homeschooling expenses. Parents that send their kids to public schools don't have the ability to get tax credits for books, supplies, and computer software, but people who are homeschooled would have the potential to do that.

And the last one I'll talk about is Senate Bill 1, which also you've been hearing a lot about. And that one is that the elected state board of education would not have the power to make decisions regarding public schools, and it would transfer to an unelected director appointed by the governor. So, the state board and the state superintendent's power would become minimal, and there would be no homeschool regulations. I have a different perspective because I still have family overseas whose educational backgrounds are different. I have nieces and nephews that have been educated in China and Singapore, and education in other countries is very different from here. Education can be a common denominator. It can help to understand people of different backgrounds. It can help people to become friends with people from other religions and races. And that's something that we need to preserve. So, for me, I look at some of these bills, and I think this is going to create more division.

As the state representative to all of you and having met with the superintendent here, I think it's really important for everybody to start becoming involved and understanding what local and state politics are. This is where it all starts. It's easy to think everything's going well, but things are happening at the State House that maybe you're not aware of. So, I'll take a few questions.

Mr. Perry said I think that's wonderful (referring to mental health days). That's something we've all talked about. I'm hoping it's bipartisan. Dr. Somani confirmed that it is bipartisan. I think everybody recognizes,

especially after the governor's State of the State address, that mental health is really critical and that we need to support mental health, however, we decide to support it. Mr. Perry said that's good. I like to hear when people are getting together on something that I think everyone can support.

Mr. Perry said House Bill 11 has come up a few times with us. We have some in our community to support it and others who oppose it. So, when we have this diversity of opinion, I like to dive into that a little bit and see where we're at. So, one thing I noticed is that the bill was written in a cursory way. It expands the ability to give public taxpayer dollars to non-chartered non-public schools. Can you define a non-public or non-chartered non-public school? What kind of regulations are they obligated to? Could they turn your children down? Could I be paying for a school that can turn a child away? Explain that to me. Dr. Somani said those are all good questions that haven't been clarified. So, essentially, it's very general, and that's one of the criticisms of the bill. It just says it would make all public, non-public and homeschool students eligible for state scholarships. And that's where the nonpartisan group has said it would cost over a billion dollars each year, and that money should probably be more directly invested into public schools.

Mr. Perry then asked if that were to go forward and remove a billion dollars from our public school system, how does the state plan to reimburse the public school system to make sure that we're not losing any kind of funding so that we can use our taxpayer dollars for our students rather than paying for private corporations to pay for their children? Dr. Somani said that's another great question. I don't have the answer to that because sometimes things happen in a vacuum at the State House, and we don't look at the unintended consequences. So, I think those are great questions. Right now, as I said, the hearings have happened, but it hasn't come up. It hasn't left the committee yet, so there's probably going to be more hearings on it.

Mr. Perry then asked if the people who initiated these bills had spoken with any educational leaders like OEA, the state superintendent, local board members, local superintendents, or teachers. Dr. Somani said I'm not on that committee, so I can't answer that, but I can certainly find out.

Mr. Perry stated I think when we get involved in education, having that partnership with educational leaders, parents, and students would be helpful. Oftentimes when we see what comes out of the State House, we wonder if they talked to anyone in education, especially when it comes to state standards. There's actually a course at OSBA called Demystifying the State Report Card. And I went there once with Paul Lambert and Paul and I both walked out there and said, are you demystified? And the answer was absolutely not. We were as mystified as when we started. In fact, people giving the presentation also said, we don't know what this means either. So, I wish that we would have this debate. I think this is a great step. I love doing this. Having this collaborative arrangement between folks. In fact, you mentioned that the Senate, and I would love to have Stephanie Kunze come in as well. I would love to have her talk about the Senate side. Just have as many people come in and get involved as possible. I think this is wonderful that you came in and spoke with us. Dr. Somani said her door is open to anyone who would like to speak to me. I'm at the State House on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and still practicing clinical medicine the other three days of the week.

Mrs. Murdoch said concerning the Parents' Bill of Rights, my experience in Hilliard City Schools has been even-handed between parents, student, and teachers. So, I'm wondering what changes would need to be made in that bill to make it palatable for you and make you vote for it? Dr. Somani said I think teachers and parents come from the same perspective – that you want to do what's best for your children. So, if you think about it from a child-centered model rather than a parent-centered model, you may be able to make the right changes in this stuff.

Mr. Vorst said thank you for coming and talking to us. Can you elaborate a little more on the details of the Parents' Rights bill? What all does that entail? What are the specifics? Dr. Somani replied that it's a much longer bill than what I stated. And again, I'm not on any of the education committees, but these are basically parents' rights from the bill. So, it would require public schools to provide parents with a notice about sexually explicit instructional materials, with an opportunity to review them and to request alternative instruction. So, I look at that thinking as an OBGYN, I would teach sex ed in schools if I needed to. Is that considered sexually explicit? I don't know because it's not clarified. When you think about health education and health standards, I want to have a better understanding of it. Notifying parents about school-provided healthcare services and working with them to create a healthcare plan for their children. Again, I don't know that that's happening. And I don't know if that includes when your student goes to the nurse's office because they have a headache. And now, generally speaking, if you go to the nurse's office and as a parent has said, yes, they can get Tylenol or ibuprofen, or they can get their temperature checked. I'm not sure if that's what this is about or if it's more specifically about counseling. And as far as I know, schools are not providing vaccinations or physical exams or anything like that, right? One of the board members said the school does vision and hearing screenings. Dr. Somani said so, it may address whether schools would still be allowed to do vision and health screenings. The third thing is to notify parents about changes to the health services provided to their children by their school or the school's ability to provide a safe learning environment. And it prohibits school personnel from encouraging a student to withhold from a parent information concerning the student's health or well-being, unless that disclosure would result in abuse, abandonment, or neglect. Again, it's a vague statement. You would hope that parents and children have a good enough relationship and that kids would go to their parents first, but that may not always happen. I know there are times when teachers are the first people who recognize that a child is being abused and neglected and go through the process of reporting that. So again, I can't specifically speak to examples of that, but it's pretty general. And then establish a process under which the district or school must resolve written concerns submitted by parents about topics addressed in the bill. So, this would mean that the teachers, superintendents, and school board would need to address any parent concern. And again, I think a lot of this is already done. So, I'm not sure how much this will improve or complicate things. And that's where I think we always have to look at bills from the point of unintended consequences. It sounds good, but what does this mean in reality? How does that protect your child if they're being abused or neglected at home, or if they're being bullied by a specific child, or if there's something else going on that they don't want to share with a teacher? Maybe they only want to share with a counselor or nurse, or they have somebody they feel comfortable confiding in.

Mr. Vorst asked whether you think everybody at the State House will be able to get together and work through the details and refine those nuts and bolts. It sounds like people are lining up on sides of this, but there are still a lot of details to be hammered out. Dr. Somani said she has learned and was shocked to find this out, but the only time a committee votes on a bill is if the chair brings it up for a vote. And the only time the house votes on it is if the speaker brings it up for a vote. So, I may think a bill is great, and I want it to get through, but if the committee chair is not in favor of it, it may never see the light of day. So that's one thing I've found really interesting about being at the State House – as the chair of a committee, you have that ability to push things forward or to hold things back.

Any other questions? Someone from the audience asked if Dr. Somani was aware that there's an amendment that's been made to HB 8 that will require schools that even when teachers suspect abuse they must divulge to parents any mental health concerns, and that amendment has already been accepted. And then if that's the case, then they must report it to Child Protective Services. Dr. Somani said she's not on that committee so she was not aware of that amendment.

- B4 Congratulations to Hilliard students who will be graduating from CSCC with their associate degrees:
Cole Crawford
Ava Woodard
Abrar Mohammed

Next, Mr. Tom Woodford is going to highlight an exciting accomplishment on the part of three of our graduating seniors.

Hi there everybody. My name is Tom Woodford, and I'm the college counselor. I love what I get to do. I get to talk to students every day about what they're going to do after high school, but also, a big part of what I get to do every day is start their college process while they're still in high school.

Three years ago, COVID hit, and we were at home and scheduled multiple Zooms. It was Zoom meeting after Zoom meeting with students. Each year between 750 and 900 of our students choose to take part in the state of Ohio's College Credit Plus (CCP) program. That is where they can take college courses while in high school. All those courses also count as high school credit. Most of our students take a handful of those classes as well as AP courses at the high school, band, choir, and other extracurricular activities. The neat thing about these three students is that they chose to take all CCP courses, which means they took over 60-semester credits from Columbus State over the last three years. And in a week, they will graduate from Columbus State a week before they graduate from high school.

So, I want each one of them to share what they've done, where they're going to go, and point out their parents. I will talk about Cole since he was not able to be here. I got an email from him about three hours ago. He had a family emergency, and he's not able to make it. Cole Crawford is a junior at Hilliard Darby High School. He's going to graduate next week with an Associate of Science degree. He is going to spend his senior year of high school as a junior at Otterbein University, where he plans to major in biology.

Hi. I'm Ava Woodard. My parents are Doreen and Curtis. So, a special thank you to them, of course. I'm currently a senior at Hilliard Bradley High School. But I haven't actually gone there in the past three years. I've only been to Columbus State, and I'm going to be graduating in a week with my Associate of Arts in Psychology. I plan to go to Ohio State University after that to get my Bachelor of Arts in Psychology.

Hi, I'm Abrar Mohammed. I go to Hilliard Darby. I'm a senior. I got my Associate of Science in Chemistry, and next year I plan to enter Ohio State University to get my Bachelor of Science in Chemistry. I'd like to thank my parents, Arthur Mohammed and *(inaudible due to background noise)* and Mr. Woodford, for making it very easy to do all of this. He made it possible.

Mr. Woodford said he wanted to share this one thing. Because of their schedules, Ava just got here from work. They're very active in sports, very active in work, very active as volunteers and in service, and being very active in school and doing very well. We have to schedule these Zoom meetings at different times of the night, and sometimes it's nine o'clock at night and we have a Zoom and here comes Chris's head sneaking in just to say hi. So, having that partnership with parents and students, as well as the school district, is really getting our students ready for tomorrow, and these students have really shown that. Thank you.

Mr. Vorst said he met Tom at Davidson. He has an incredible zeal for what he does. He's an incredibly important person that makes all this stuff happen. Can you plug the podcast? Mr. Woodford said there's

so many students and I feel like my job is very important. I love my job, and I feel like I have to get to parents and I have to get to students, but everybody's busy. Everybody's volunteering, working, and active in sports. The parents should be at these sporting events. I host all these various meetings for them, but I understand that they can't be there sometimes. One thing that Covid changed is the way that I do business. And so, with the college news email that goes out every week, I've started to make videos on YouTube so I can have all the slides there. And you get to hear this outstanding voice for 30 minutes or so. But then, over the last year or so, I've had a lot of parents say, hey, we are back to work, and we are back on the road, so we don't have time to watch your videos. So, I started working with Eric Lane and now I have a podcast. Who would've thought that a guy who stutters would have a podcast? What normally takes 25 minutes takes me 40. I'm just trying to reach as many families as possible. Thank you.

Mr. Stewart added that Tom is a tremendous resource to the district. I think I speak on behalf of every parent that we're proud of all three students and amazed by your accomplishment. We were all sitting here calculating the dollars and cents you have saved. And what an amazing accomplishment.

B5 Brown Elementary named a 2023 OAESA Hall of Fame school.

And last but not least, Mark Jones from the Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators is here to share some exciting news about Brown Elementary.

Thank you, Superintendent Stewart. Ladies and gentlemen of the board, I want to first say how pleased and proud I am that you invited me to attend your board meeting to share this honor that one of your schools has earned. This is the highlight of my year. In the springtime, we have our school recognitions, and I get to travel around the state and make these presentations. This is just the first of two presentations that we will use to honor Brown Elementary at our annual conference in June, which is up the road at the Nationwide Conference Center. We have a special awards luncheon, and we'll hand out a plaque that's much more attractive than this photo dummy here just for tonight's presentation.

But as he said, my name is Mark Jones. I'm the Associate Executive Director for OAESA. We are the Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators. We represent more than 1200 principals from across the state. And one of the things that we try to do each year is to recognize some of the great things that are going on in our schools. We all know that oftentimes schools take a beating in the press. So, we like to highlight good things that are going on.

One of the awards that we have is called a Hall of Fame award. Let me tell you a little bit about what it takes to be a Hall of Fame school. There's a three/four-step process involved here. The first step is that someone has to nominate that building. Someone, either a parent, community member, educator, or a PTO member, has to send us an email saying, hey, I think you guys should take a look at this school. We take that nomination and send the principal a congratulatory email saying that someone is recognizing some of the great things that are going on in your building, and we would like to offer you the opportunity to fill out an extensive application that describes everything about your building. It's about 13 pages, and schools will spend months filling them out. It's a good activity, though, because it asks them to describe all the wonderful things that they're doing and the challenges they're meeting and exceeding, and it's very introspective for them. So, the time involved does bear rewards even if they aren't selected.

Ultimately, we bring in a crew of administrators who volunteer to read the applications. Their read in the blind, and the names of the schools and the districts are taken off. And every application is read by at least three or four readers. And then they score them according to a rubric. If the average score is above a

certain level, we put them in a separate pile, and we say, okay, these schools have really shown a lot in this application. We would like to send a team to visit the school and make sure that what we're reading in the application is actually happening.

So, we sent two administrators because Brown Elementary had crossed that first threshold. And they came, and they had a separate scoring rubric. They interviewed some PTO members, Mr. Stewart, students, parents, and teachers. They spent at least half a day walking around and observing. When they came back, they said, oh yeah, this is definitely a good one.

There are about 2,500 elementary and middle-level schools in Ohio that potentially could be Hall of Fame schools. And each year, we are highly selective. We limited it to no more than 10, and this particular year there were only six. So, Brown Elementary is one of just six schools in the state to be recognized as a Hall of Fame School this year.

I apologize for having to read this off my phone, but I would like to read you some of the comments that the visitors made about Brown Elementary. Normally, I have it printed out, but I was away over the weekend and didn't have a chance to print it. So, the office said, here, we'll just send it to your phone. I said, great. Anyway, included in Brown Elementary's application was a quote that said, we may not have the newest or flashiest space, but we lead with our hearts, and our hearts shine bright. When asked for a statement by a student, one of the students said, the teachers here are like diamonds, impressive and rare. Mrs. Miller, the principal, is like a million-dollar-plus diamond. This is like a second home. The building's foundation is strong and with every step of the way filled with hard work, determination and love by all. Each classroom is like a fantasy world. Everybody is nice and has each other's backs. Now, that's coming from one of your students. I don't think there's a better testament than that.

The observers or the visitors said, no better words can be said to reflect the environment the staff has created here. The staff, parents, and community members echoed all the same feelings. Brown Elementary is their home away from home. The staff supports each other, lifting each other up. Each is committed to their true purpose, which is to serve children. One teacher shared that they feel like they can dream big and they know that they will be supported. Others shared that they aren't afraid to try innovative new ideas because they know that they'll be supported if mistakes are made.

Superintendent Dave Stewart remarked that the school's inclusivity is 100%. High expectations or help for all staff members as well as for every child. Everybody here is for the students. It's a collective team and family-oriented building. The resounding sentiment amongst parents, students, administrators, and the staff was that Mrs. Miller generates a positive energy in everything she does, going so far as calling her the battery charger behind it all. Without a doubt, everyone at Brown Elementary is using the energy fueled by their leader to create a positive school climate bound by academic excellence. So that told us, yeah, this is one that certainly means recognition.

I will also add one other thing. We're going to do something as an organization this fall to recognize some of our outstanding schools. In October, it's Ohio Principals Month. We're going to celebrate that in four different regions of the state, the Cleveland area, the Toledo area, down in Cincinnati, and right here in central Ohio. Every Thursday in October, we're going to charter a bus and invite administrators and principals from around the state to take a day-long tour of three schools in each region to gather ideas. We know that we get the best ideas when we steal them from other people, and when our visitors came back from Brown Elementary, we thought hopefully we can convince them to join our bus tour. We called Mrs. Miller, she said, absolutely. Come on. So that is one of the stops. I think it's on February the 29th.

And we would love to have all the Hill Hilliard administrators participate in that as well. We'll be stopping here. There's another building in Upper Arlington, and then we found a gem in Columbus City. That'll be a fun day for all.

Mrs. Miller, do you mind coming up?

Mr. Stewart said I was there when that young lady made that quote about the diamonds and the millionaire. I about fell out of my chair. She was amazing. But, being a part of that interview process, the thing that stood out to me was everyone – teachers, students, classified staff, myself – all described Brown the exact same way independently of each other. Kate's done an amazing job of creating a very special culture there. I also know that several staff members are here, so if they would stand up so we can recognize them.

Mrs. Miller asked the staff to continue standing. We are truly honored to receive this award. But I have the best team. I know I'm a little biased, but Brown Elementary is such an amazing school, and we love to serve and care for our students and each other. I couldn't receive this award without all of you. You guys are my battery chargers, and I thank you for what you do every day for our students and for each other. You're truly amazing. This award is definitely for all of you and all the families, and thank you too to the central office and the board. Your support is just unbelievable. I can call any person at any time and ask a question or receive any help that we need. So, thank you so much. I'm so honored to be a part of this organization and receive this award on behalf of my amazing staff and students. So, thank you very much.

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 April 2023 Treasurer's Report.

Mr. Vorst asked if there was anything of significance Mr. Wilson wanted to share. Mr. Wilson said the property tax rollback payment didn't come in April, but we expect to receive it in May.

- C4 The Board of Education approved the minutes from the following meetings:
 - a. April 17, 2023 – Regular Meeting
 - b. April 17, 2023 – Meeting Notes
 - c. April 24, 2023 – Work Session
 - d. April 24, 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.*

Owen Archer

Hello, my name is Owen Archer, and I'm a student at Hilliard Darby. Right now, our world is filled with hatred. We are bringing our hate to school board meetings and bashing the other side. I am even guilty of doing that. So tonight, I'm going to speak about love and education.

We oftentimes view people that are different than us as inferior or view them with hate. We are not born with this hate, but rather we learn it from someone somewhere. The most familiar hate I see is homophobia and racism. Homophobia and racism are diseases that many people have been infected with in our society. And believe me, because I was once infected by hate at one point in my life too. But to cure what is, in fact, a deadly disease, we don't need some vaccine that has Elon Musk or Joe Biden microchip. The cure to hate is education. Just as people were taught to hate, you can be taught to love. Because what I oftentimes see is that those who possess hatred towards someone are those who lack the knowledge of that person. And it's not just yourself you should educate. You should educate your children on what it is to love. You should educate your child that no matter what their race, sexuality, religion, gender, or whatever it is that you will be loved.

I'm not telling you how to be a parent. I'm telling you what a parent is. A parent is someone that loves their child unconditionally. And unconditional love is not just loving them no matter what. It's loving someone, even if you know they won't love you back. When I tell you to educate your children, it's because of those moments in your *(inaudible)* or what set the foundation of love and acceptance. I'm not asking you to share your child gay porn and tell them to love gays. I'm not telling your child read *(inaudible)* and tell them that lesbians are awesome. I'm telling you to show your child that there are different people in different races and sexuality and tell them to love them, not because they're different, but because they're human. And that is the foundation of it all. We should be loving everyone, not because of anything except the fact that they're human and they deserve to be loved.

Lisa Chaffee

Good evening. On behalf of Parents' Rights Education for Ohio, I wanted to thank all of our teachers. Last week as you know, was teacher appreciation week, and I know our teachers are stretched really thin, and so we wanted to just show our gratitude for that.

On a side note, given that Representative Somani was here tonight and admittedly is not very familiar with all the bills that she talked about, I am asking that the board bring in people who are very familiar with the Backpack Bill, the Parents' Rights Bill, and the other bills so that we can hear the other side and hear all of the details, especially for someone who is involved in writing the bill. And I can help facilitate that if you would like.

Laney Osborne

Hi guys. So going back to being positive and loving, I want to thank all of the teachers in here because I know that this week is technically National Teacher Appreciation Week. And I'm a senior at Hilliard Darby. I have been in the school district since first grade. I've had some not-so-good experiences and some great experiences. It's been a lot. I just want to give my appreciation to everyone I've ever interacted with in Hilliard, whether it's been a positive or negative interaction.

I know that it takes a lot for everyone here to be here. I know it takes a lot. I have my mom, who's an amazing teacher. I love her more than anything, and I want to go into education. I'm going to college next year. So, I just wanted to give my appreciation and kind of piggyback off Owen and just loving one another.

I have nine days of school left. I'm not trying to be hateful. I'm just trying to get through my last nine days and then walk that stage. I want all of you to know that you are appreciated, your loved. And if any of you need a hug, you can find me right over here at the end of the meeting, and I give really good hugs. Thank you.

Jon Osmundson

Good evening. This has been an awesome evening of celebrating Hilliard City Schools officially approving tonight some nearly 1300 students graduating and even celebrating those graduating before they're graduating. First, I also want to mention that as the pastor of the amazing Rich Boettner, I want to say how much I appreciate the love and support the district has shown his family in the midst of his family tragedy.

I know y'all hear enough complaining, so tonight's been very refreshing. And while this may sound like a complaint, I promise it's not. I have four students in the district. My youngest is a fifth grader and a fifth-grade IEP. Every day he rides a special assistance bus up to the far north end of Washington Elementary for services. Last Thursday, we had a transportation issue. Bus was pushing 45 minutes late coming home, and it's never been more than five to 10 minutes. Needless to say, my wife started to panic, but dad was doing his best to keep it together. My wife called, and there was some confusion exactly about where our son was, but after a few minutes, they were able to track down the bus. There was a breakdown. They were swapping it out, and he'd be home in just a short amount of time.

First, thank you to the amazing bus crew who made Isaac feel calm. He got off the bus laughing at his adventure. Finally, I emailed Dave Stewart who promptly responded this morning to say he would find out about the communication breakdown. He shared what happened and the hard work behind the scenes of a shorthanded transportation department that included our amazing director of transportation shuttling buses to get our kids home and in his haste, forgot to make a phone call.

I'm good with that. He was getting a problem solved. My wife was worried. So was I. Thankfully Isaac was less concerned. I'm thankful for the hard work that often goes unseen and the thankless jobs that we often can overlook, like our shorthanded transportation team. Unless something like that happens, as it did to my family last week, nobody ever really pays much attention. So, I admit I failed to be proactive in my thanks to many of the unseen public faces that make our Hilliard City School district the greatest district where we prepare our students to be ready for tomorrow by serving every student without exception.

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 Employment – Stipends-Non-Contractual – effective for the 2022/2023 school year: Approved a rate of \$175 per day for staff participating in Title II-A new curriculum resource professional learning.
- E4 Employment – Stipends-Non-Contractual – effective for the 2022/2023 school year: Approved an hourly rate of \$55 per hour for all staff participating in Title I Power Hour activities at Beacon Elementary.
- E5 Approved the following student trip requests:
- Darby Marching Band, Mt. Gilead, OH – August 6, 2023
 - Darby Girls Volleyball, Sandusky, OH – July 27, 2023

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

- Jodi Korbas, has been with the district since 2012
- Stephanie Miles, has been with the district since 1989
- Amy Smedley, has been with the district since 2000
- Angela Stafford, has been with the district since 2001
- Gregory Harrison, has been with the district since 2002

F ACTION AGENDA

- F1 The Board of Education approved the 2023 Graduates of Bradley High School, Darby High School, and Davidson High School. *(The complete list of names can be found in the Minutes.)*
- F2 The Board of Education approved the revised 5-year forecast.

Mr. Vorst asked Mr. Wilson if he wanted to clarify the reason for the update. Mr. Wilson said, as required by Ohio Revised Code that the October forecast has to be revised. This is the revised forecast presented to you at the Work Session a couple of weeks ago.

- F3 The Board of Education adopted the following policies:
- BDDA – Notification of Meetings
 - IGAE – Health Education
 - IGCH-R (also LEC-R) – College Credit Plus
 - JHG – Reporting Child Abuse and Mandatory Reporting
 - LEC-R (also IGCH-R) – College Credit Plus
- F4 The Board of Education approved the following handbooks for the 2023-2024 school year:
- Preschool/Elementary Student Handbook
 - Sixth Grade & Middle School Student Handbook 11
 - High School Student Handbook
 - Athletic Manual for Parents-Athletes-Coaches
 - Performing Arts Handbook

Mr. Vorst said, just for everyone's clarification, I think a couple of us asked questions about what were any differences made and there weren't any significant differences made in any of these handbooks. Mr. Stewart replied that the changes were cleaning up and updating language, nothing substantive.

F5 The Board of Education approved the following resolution:

SELECTING PRATER ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES, INC. AS ARCHITECT AND AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT FOR DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE HVAC SYSTEM REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The Superintendent recommends Prater Engineering Associates, Inc. ("Prater") as the most qualified firm to serve as the architect and provide design and related construction administration services for work on the HVAC System Replacement Project (the "Project"), and the Superintendent requests authority to negotiate and execute an agreement with Prater for these services.

Rationale:

1. The Board requires the services of a design professional to provide design services and related construction administration services for work on the Project.
2. Sections 153.65 through .71 of the Ohio Revised Code prescribes a qualifications-based selection process, which is required to be followed by public entities when design professional services are needed.
3. In accordance with the statutory process, the Superintendent publicly advertised and issued a request for qualifications for design professional services and, with assistance from District administrators, evaluated the statements of qualifications submitted by design professional firms.
4. Following this evaluation, the Superintendent and District administrators identified Prater to be most qualified to provide the required design professional services.
5. Prater provided a pricing proposal for the necessary design and related construction administration services for the Project, as set forth in Prater's pricing proposal dated April 10, 2023, in an amount not-to-exceed \$190,500.00.
6. The Superintendent, requests authority to negotiate and execute a contract with Prater for the necessary design and related construction administration services for the Project in an amount not-to-exceed \$190,500.00.
7. The Superintendent also requests authority to authorize amendments to the negotiated contract with Prater on behalf of the Board in a total amount not-to-exceed 10% of the not-to-exceed amount of \$190,500.00. Contract amendments in excess of 10% will be brought to the Board for its approval.

The Board of Education resolves as follows:

1. The Board selects Prater as the firm most qualified to perform the required design and construction administration services for the Project.
2. The Board authorizes the Superintendent and Treasurer, working with legal counsel, to negotiate an agreement with Prater for the necessary design and related construction administration services for the Project in an amount not to exceed \$190,500.00.
3. The Board authorizes the Superintendent, Treasurer, and other officials and administrators to execute the negotiated agreement on behalf of the Board, and to sign any related documentation consistent with the intent of this Resolution.
4. The Board further authorizes the Superintendent and Treasurer to sign amendments to the contract with Prater in a total amount not-to-exceed 10% of the contract not-to-exceed amount of

\$190,500.00; should an amendment to the contract exceed this amount individually or as the aggregate of amendments, the amendment will be brought to the Board for approval prior to the work being performed.

Mr. Stewart explained that this is an authorization for an agreement for design services for an HVAC system replacement project at Ridgewood Elementary.

Mr. Perry asked why a resolution was needed for this purchase versus other purchases. Mr. Stewart replied that it's because the scope of this project is big enough that it is required to be competitively bid.

G REPORTS / INFORMATION / EXHIBIT ITEM

G1 6-12 English Language Arts Resource – StudySync first reading

This item is just an exhibit item. We are giving you notice that we'll be recommending the adoption of this resource at the next meeting. We will send an email to the community notifying them of their ability to review and give their comments on this resource. The resource will be available at the central office and online from May 15 – May 26.

G2 Committee Reports

Mr. Perry said that since we last met in public, we had a facilities committee meeting. We covered most of that information in our work session. But for those of you who are unable to attend, most of it involved going back over our schools, finding out what's important and what's necessary, and getting the score based on how well the rooms fit the purpose of the room. So, saying, is an art room, for example. Is it designed as an art room, does it have the facilities of an art room? Or is it designed as a classroom? How do we put that on the metric? Really prioritize our public taxpayer dollars and being the stewards of the taxpayer's money. And then also explaining to people why we're spending money where we are and showing the value of doing that.

We also discussed adding an athletic facility to Darby. We're working through that whole process. We've been a little bit delayed through COVID and some additional expenditures have come through that. But that's on our list of things to do. And for those of you tired of hearing our mics cut out, we also added a little note that we're going to get these fixed at some point.

We spoke a little while ago about Beacon Elementary. The students there were wonderful, and they were engaged in a project to try to be changemakers, and they identified an issue at Beacon. They decided that the fence built in 1966 was not adequate any longer. They wanted to address it with us. We took that very seriously. They brought that to the facilities committee immediately, and through a partnership with Amazon, we're going to be able to get that replaced. I believe we're going to be able to update some playground facilities and asphalt as well. Mr. McDonough said we have made the request but don't have a guarantee yet.

Mr. Vorst asked for an update on the electric buses. Mr. McDonough said they have started arriving, but he doesn't know how soon they will be on the road.

Mrs. Crowley said that there will be a policy committee meeting next Thursday, so we haven't met since our last meeting. But I went on an outstanding bus tour. Definitely a five-star rating out of five stars. Mike

and Dave led the tour, and it was an incredible tour. I learned so much, and I heard nothing but positive feedback. So, my only critique is that you should offer it monthly and just pick up people around the district because it was excellent, and people could learn a lot.

Mrs. Murdoch said I've got nothing to add above and beyond what HEF has except that HEF has the best committee meetings of any committee.

Mr. Vorst said the superintendent's advisory committee had our last meeting of the year. Mr. Stewart fielded questions about volunteer badges, athletic passes, attendance policies for athletes, scheduling of testing days, scheduling tutor time, the recycling and composting process, spaces for teachers, lounges, our policy on animals in the schools, spacing in our buildings, and having a microwave available for students in cafeterias. I want to thank everybody for participating in that.

Also, want to thank everybody who helped with the sign project that I started. There are two left. They're out there by the entrance. I'm glad to have them all out of my garage. And I think there's a couple left at Hoffman Trails. Other than that, I think they're all gone.

And one last thing, last week was teacher appreciation week. Can everybody who's an educator please stand up, including you, Mrs. Crowley? Thank you for everything you do. We appreciate you and are glad to have you as part of our district.

H EXECUTIVE SESSION / ADJOURNMENT

H1 At 7:48 p.m., the Board of Education caucused to executive session:

- a. To prepare for conducting or reviewing negotiations or bargaining sessions with public employees.
- b. Conference with an attorney for the public body concerning disputes involving the public body that are the subject of pending or imminent court action.
- c. To consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of a public employee or official.