



BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

December 11, 2023 | Beacon Elementary School

MEETING NOTES

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

A1 The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

A3 The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

B. PROGRAMS / PRESENTATIONS

NOTE: *The audio recording of the meeting was difficult to decipher due to background noise. You may see many unfinished sentences throughout the presentations.*

B1 Beacon Fourth-grade students will present their learning and study of erosion and erosion prevention.

Mr. Stewart said we are fortunate to be joined tonight by some fourth-grade students from Beacon Elementary who are going to present their learning and study of erosion and erosion prevention. We'll start with Mr. Sparks.

Mr. Sparks asked his teachers and very brave fourth-graders to join him.

Okay, good evening. First and foremost, welcome to Beacon Elementary fourth. Board of Education, thank you so much for being here and taking a few minutes to hear about the amazing experiences we provide for students here at Beacon. I'm going to turn it over to Barbie Kash, one of our gifted intervention specialists, who has worked in collaboration with our fourth-grade team of teachers but also really took this project over the last few years to make it something for every single fourth-grader to participate in. Something that has real-world applications and ties into some of our curriculum. And I think you'll hear from the kids; it was a really great experience as well. There are some photos of every fourth grader who worked on it in the back. It does look like they have casseroles there, but it's actually the project about erosion. So, if you're in the audience and you're like, that looks like a terrible Thanksgiving experiment, it is not. It is an erosion project.

Ms. Kash said she is the gifted intervention specialist Beacon, Alton Darby, and Darby Creek. We do the same project over at Darby Creek. It started with the Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation Representative. He came in and gave a presentation about erosion. And then, the wonderful fourth-grade team (teachers) came in and they did all their lessons. Then, it was my turn to come back in and do a synthesizing culminating project with the children.

I proposed a project to them. Hilliard has a lot of construction going on, which means they have an erosion problem. So, what can we do? Can we create some models? Hilliard Council gave us \$500 dollars to create models in order to solve the erosion problem. And so, I'm going to turn it over to our students to tell you a little bit more about the project.

Hi, my name is Desmond. I'm a fourth grader in Mrs. Diso's class. I really enjoyed doing the erosion project because it taught me that erosion can...(inaudible). The second reason is because I thought it was fun because of all the options we had for those rules. Finally, the last reason why I liked this project is because it was a journey like how you always have to put some play...(inaudible).

Hi, my name is Matt. I'm a 4th-grade student in Ms. Overmyer's class. I really enjoyed doing the erosion project because it was challenging. It was fun because I loved how it ran on my creative side. I also loved working with my team. We had lots of challenges, like working on a model or figuring out how to make it better. I also learned about how water gets filtered, like how the sand gets all the gross particles out. It also helps the fish live. The dirt in the water can be bad for the fish. That's why we need to take care of the water.

Hi, my name is Mason. I am a fourth-grader in Ms. Overmyer's class. I really enjoyed doing the erosion project because of the budget. We only had \$500, and the materials were expensive. The second reason is because of the pool. We either had to filter the water as much as possible or have the water get through.

Hi, my name is Parker. I am a fourth-grader in Mrs. Matousek's class. I really enjoyed building the project because I learned how erosion can affect the lake. Another reason that I really enjoyed the erosion project is that we got to work together and talk about it. My favorite part was when we got to build our project and got to see what it looked like. We'd also like to see what we need more of. Lastly, I....(inaudible)...because we only had \$500, so that it pushed us to be smart about what we needed to buy and what we needed to do with it.

Good evening. My name is Jenny Ben. I am a fourth-grader in Mrs. Diso's class. I really enjoyed doing the erosion project because we got to do teamwork. And teamwork was very fun to do as we got to do the erosion project. It was also challenging too because the budget was very hard, and sand, clay, and straw are very hard and expensive. Lastly, it was fun to learn how to filter the water because the learning part was very fun as to filter the water for the sea and animals.

Hi, I'm Mrs. Diso. I really liked the project because my students got to collaborate. They got to manipulate materials and work together in testing theories, and it also dipped into our literacy curriculum when we were learning about the effects of extreme settings and weathering. It all connected together.

Mr. Sparks said I just wanted to say thank you to everybody for being brave and getting up here and sharing about our project. With all that talk about water, and since I have the mic for a second, I need to do one or two thank yous to Mark Dudgeon and Mike McDonough. About a month ago, I got a text from a teacher that said we had running water down our hallway from a pipe that burst. And we know how amazing our maintenance staff and our custodial staff are here. I see that every day, but man did I see it that day. I got a text at 4 o'clock on a Sunday, and we were able to hold school in all those classrooms Monday morning because of the hard work of these two gentlemen and their team. So, since I had a public forum, I wanted to thank both of you.

B2 Embrace, Empower, Inspire Award Winners – Sandie Raynes, Drew Sprouse, and Cathy Emmons

Mr. Stewart said next up we have our Embrace, Empower, Inspire Award winners. Let's start with Craig Vroom and Sandie Raynes.

Mr. Vroom said thank you, to Mr. Stewart and the Board of Education. I have the distinct pleasure of recognizing Sandie. She has been with our district for 25 years. She is recognized every day. She is the face of our school over at the Innovative Learning Center. We have students coming and going every day, and Sandie greets them with a smile. She's impacted thousands of students over the course of time. She's been a great colleague and an inspiration to all of us. Officer Parkey in the room here this evening is a legacy in his own right with the schools. Officer Parkey, thank you for your nomination of Sandie. It is our great pleasure to recognize you as our Embrace, Empower, and Inspire recipient. Sandie introduced her daughter, grandson, and son to the audience.

Next up, we have Drew Sprouse and Katie Salyer.

Hi, I'm Katie Salyer. I'm the principal of Hoffman Trails. I've been there nine years with Drew. And this award is so warranted. He is wonderful. I'm just going to read the message that his parent wrote for him. "Mr. Sprouse creates a positive environment for his students and truly goes above and beyond his position. At the start of school, my son was diagnosed with a medical condition in which there was a lot of uncertainty. After I explained to Mr. Sprouse the situation, he periodically checked in with my son and would just send me small communications such as, he's doing well today. Just that small act of kindness would help this anxious mom. He also creates an environment in his class where he not only teaches math and reading, but empathy and gratitude. He shows he cares for his students with small notes saying you matter and other small encouraging words. These are just a few examples of how he goes above and beyond for his students." And that is Mr. Sprouse and he is amazing.

Mr. Vorst added that last year, he was my daughter's second-grade teacher. As Ms. Salyer said, he's a very kind and talented guy who does some tremendously innovative things. We had a student-led parent-teacher conference, which was great. He got my daughter outside her comfort zone and challenged her to do something in a really fun and informative way. And we had all kinds of examples of that last year. And I would like to make a reservation for Mr. Sprouse in three years for my son.

Next up, Katherine Hueter and Cathy Emmons. First off, congratulations to all the recipients tonight. My name is Katherine Hueter, Principal at Weaver Middle School, and I have the honor of introducing and celebrating Miss Cathy Emmons. We're so thankful that a community member recognized the work that you see daily with Miss Emmons at Weaver Middle School. When we think about educators and the work they do in unseen hours, I think about Miss Emmons. I think everyone can attest to that she goes above and beyond, period. In terms of how she contributes to our school, she's actively involved in numerous committees, is our department facilitator, is involved in the curriculum and school improvement team. She also leads our Washington, D.C. trip and our school play. But it's more about the experience you feel when you go to her classroom. She knows where they are, who they are as people, and where they are with their skills in language arts, reading, and writing. And I think a lot of our administrators have walked through her classroom and felt that same experience. We are so fortunate to have her. She embodies high expectations and high support. On the note that led to this award today, the family member said that she inspires her daughter daily. And I know she inspires us at Weaver, and we're just so thankful.

B3 Recognition

Next up, Ms. Murdoch, I believe you have a recognition item here. Mrs. Murdoch said yes, we do. As some of you may or may not know, Nadia has served this district proudly for eight years. And tonight's her last meeting, and we wanted to recognize her for that eight years of service. I personally, in the last two years, have learned so much from you. It has been an amazing ride working in this school.

Mr. Stewart said, on behalf of the entire administrative team, we want to thank you as well. Being a board member is not easy. It is not showing up for two board meetings a month. There is a lot that goes on in between that nobody ever gets to see. It involves a lot of sacrifice on your part and your family's part. We want to thank you and your family for sharing you with us for eight years of service to this district and community. Thank you.

B4 Secondary Program of Studies – Jake Grantier

Good evening. Thank you for the opportunity to present the 2024-2025 iteration of the Hilliard City Schools programs of studies for grades 6-12. The programs of studies that have been shared with you for your review reflect the proposed course offerings and opportunities available to students in the 2024-2025 school year.

Even though we are not yet through the first semester, we are already thinking ahead to the next school year as the scheduling timelines for grades 6 to 12 begin in earnest after students and staff return from winter break. This yearly endeavor to build secondary master schedules involves a multi-step process engaging students, families, school counselors, building administrators, and central office staff to ensure that as many course requests and needs as possible are met across our secondary schools and for almost 9,000 of our students.

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

Our district's programs of studies provide students, families, and staff with vital information regarding course offerings, innovative learning experiences, graduation requirements, and post-secondary opportunities. The program of studies is designed as a one-stop shop for all academic questions that inevitably come up as our learners navigate their secondary experience. As we look for ways to support the short and long-term planning process for every student without exception, it is imperative that our learners and families have clarity regarding the educational opportunities available within and outside our district. In addition, this process provides school staff the opportunity to evaluate programming and course offerings to ensure alignment amongst master schedules, approved courses of study, developed curricula, and student needs.

Just as a reminder, the program of studies does include lots of information that is available for staff, students, and families. The first is information about graduation requirements. Students have to successfully complete 21.5 credits in order to graduate from high school. In addition, they have to demonstrate competency in Algebra I and English Language Arts and receive at least two readiness seals, at least one state and one local. All learning is meant to prepare students for graduation and beyond. In secondary education, it is never too early to be thinking about graduation and post-secondary opportunities.

In addition, we have information about scheduling and course planning, including core courses, electives, and interventions. We also have information about individual courses and opportunities. The programs of study represent the comprehensive record of the educational opportunities available to all students in grades six through 12, as well as course descriptions, prerequisites when applicable, and scaffolding meant to support students as they make course selections.

These opportunities include courses and programs available at a student's home building, the Innovative Learning Campus, including the Online Academy and the Hub, or through College Credit Plus. We also include information about career technical education opportunities available through Tolles. Pre-apprenticeship and credentialing opportunities, such as our existing partnerships with R. T. Moore, Worthington Industries, Rosatti Windows, Eco Plumbers, and Hamilton Park.

As we look ahead to January, the teacher recommendation windows will start in earnest. These recommendations help to guide students, families, and counselors to make the best and most informed decisions regarding courses for the 24-25 school year. Teachers are encouraged to have conversations with their students about these recommendations so as to partner with them and support their academic goals. Students will subsequently submit their course requests that inform the staffing and master scheduling processes later in the spring. Each year, these processes ensure that we are leveraging our available staff across all our secondary buildings to be responsive to our students' requests and needs.

Pursuant to board policies IF and IFD, and as a way to ensure transparency with you as well as the community, we requested that the Board of Education take action on the programs and studies each year so as to approve new and updated course offerings and programs. For the 2024-25 school year, these changes include a new elective offering at the Hub, reconceptualized electives at our middle schools, a partnership with Tolles to bring career exploration to our middle school students, opportunities for students to engage with experiential learning beyond the traditional classroom through a co-op, and intentionally embedded credentialing opportunities in existing business, fine art, and engineering courses at our high schools.

As we continue to identify opportunities to design meaningful and relevant experiential learning as well as implement strategies to positively impact our district's graduation rate, our district is on the cutting edge of pairing the existing curricula with industry-recognized credentials, which are of benefit to all learners, providing access to leadership development, mastery of software applications, and career-specific skills.

While these opportunities can provide an alternative pathway to graduation for some students, they are a pathway through graduation for all learners in preparation for their next steps beyond high school. These experiences will not only provide our learners with marketable skills to support their post-secondary aspirations, but are also anticipatory of new measures of success from the Department of Education and Workforce, specifically the college career workforce and military readiness component of the state report card. With adjustments to our future-ready course and students' access to CPR credentialing in temporary help, every student, without exception, will, be the beginning of their junior year, have the chance to obtain at least 7 of 12 required credentialing points toward the industry-recognized credential readiness seal.

In addition to our revised course offerings, the program of studies includes updated honors diploma requirements as prescribed by the state, as well as proposed changes to our course add-and-drop procedures at the high school level. In consultation with administrators and counselors, we are also

proposing that all nonadvanced placement honors level courses be split into A and B sections, as our non-honors courses are already structured.

Our ongoing efforts continue to be guided by our collective goal that every student, without exception, has equitable access to learning opportunities that align with their interests and prepare them for the skills mindset set forth in the District's Portrait of a Learner.

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

Mr. Vorst said thanks, that was great. Can you elaborate a little more on the last slide that talked about credentialing opportunities? Mr. Grantier replied that we have identified a number of different credentialing opportunities that are stackable across multiple industries and allow our students pathways as they navigate through high school. For example, all students, as they go through the required future-ready course, will participate in both leadership excellence and Microsoft PowerPoint. Those are combined to give the students six points. CPR is one point, and a driver's license is another point. So beyond that, we're really in a race to four points to find other opportunities. We've identified the Adobe suite, like Adobe Illustrator and Adobe Photoshop, to be embedded in some of our Fine Arts courses. We're working with our engineering teachers to make sure that our software there is aligned with a credentialing opportunity. And then, we also have other credentialing opportunities such as Six Sigma Yellow Belt, and you can get Google AdWords to be embedded into other business courses that...(inaudible)...As many of these opportunities that can come alongside existing curricula allow students to walk away from a course with more than just a credit and a grade. It truly gives them those marketable skills that transcend the high school diploma and allows them to identify possible career pathways.

Mr. Stewart added that it's amazing what you're doing, and I'm not aware of other districts doing it to the extent that we are. But we've also talked about continuing to look at increasing graduation rate. This is a specific strategy in that quest as well.

C. ROUTINES

- C2 The Board of Education adopted the agenda as presented.
- C3 The Board of Education approved the November 2023 Treasurer's report.
- C4 The Board of Education approved the minutes from the following meetings:
 - a. November 6, 2023 – Regular Meeting
 - b. November 6, 2023 – Meeting Notes
 - c. November 27, 2023 – Work Session Meeting
 - d. November 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.*

Joe Boff

Good evening. I'm Joe Boff. I know I've emailed you. I just wanted to voice, you know, Darby, we're working with the same weight room we've had since the building was built. When we compare it to our other schools, Davidson and Bradley, it doesn't compare. We're looking for a safe and updated facility so that our athletes and our students can compete but also have equal footing with our other two schools here in Hilliard.

The frustration got really deep. I know funds were raised in 2018. There's a little bit of, where's that, what happened with that? But it's been a lot of frustration. We've been told since 2018-19 that the groundbreaking is in the spring, the groundbreaking is in the spring. So, we're in 2023, in 2024, with that groundbreaking happening in the spring, and the frustration has grown.

I know meetings have happened. I know it sounds like it's going to be lumped in with the facilities plan now. But I think what's going to be important is a lot of transparency with the Darby athletic parents. Going forward, I think we're starting to lose some support maybe for that vote coming up next year because it's just been an ongoing kind of maybe a little bit, taking the trust away from those parents of what happened, where are we going, what's moving forward with it.

So, understanding that there is a plan, I think that plan needs to be very, we need to be very open with it and transparent in that communication with the Darby parents so that we don't lose that support. We don't lose that vote come next year. Remember, that's gonna happen. That's all I got.

Tracey Boggs

Good evening, and thank you for taking my late request. I'm Tracy Boggs, I'm the mother of a third grader at Darby Creek Elementary. I'm speaking out regarding a situation I've been bringing to the attention of administration for the past two years.

I find it to be a gap in safety that during indoor recess, there is not a designated teacher or adult in each classroom. Two years ago, I was made aware of this when my daughter encountered a brief medical incident, and no adult was in the room. I raised this with Ms. Canale, who was her principal at Alton Darby at the time, and didn't have a resolution that was to my satisfaction. I did email the entire school board at the time, and the superintendent. What I received back is I felt a dismissive email from Beth Murdoch, to which I replied back and let you know my feelings, and I didn't hear again.

I did receive a call from Herb Higginbotham. I appreciated that he called, listened, and had follow-up conversations with the staff but, again did not address the specific matter of adult coverage. The follow-up stopped once the school year ended, but after checking in with my daughter this year, the procedures seem to be the same this year. With the new principal in the building, I emailed Mrs. C and received no response.

In an extreme situation, if the school was to go on lockdown due to an active aggressor, there would be a delay in safety procedures with no adult in the room. Herb expressed that teachers will be instructed to get back to their classes, but that might not be an option. I was acquainted with a few noon aides last year, and when I asked had this been covered in a safety plan, they said no, and they were even afraid of what decision to make in a true emergency.

This is a blind spot that could have a catastrophic impact. Last week, the country experienced another mass shooting on a college campus, making it the 80th school shooting in 2023. The highest since they started tracking this metric around 15 years ago. Last night, we all received emails about threats to our schools that were deemed not credible but sent nearly every parent into a panic of whether to send our kids to school or not today.

I'm also aware from another parent that their child has experienced bullying during this unsupervised indoor recess period, but nothing has been proven because there is never an adult in the room to witness. The children know when this is happening and can take advantage. I have two more children entering the school district over the next couple of years. If there is no outcome that resolves the staffing and safety issue, my family and I have to decide if this school district and the officials we elected to the school board is the best option for our family. 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:

E2 Approved the following Classified Personnel actions:

E3 Approved the following student trip requests:

- a. Davidson Boys Tennis, Hilton Head, SC – April 1, 2024
- b. Darby JSA Debate Club, Washington DC – February 15, 2024
- c. Davidson Spanish Students, Spain – March 29, 2025
- d. Davidson Boys Lacrosse, Canton/Massillon, OH – April 5, 2024
- e. Bradley Softball, Ashland, OH – April 19, 2024

Mr. Stewart said that Mr. Vorst asked me to explain the kind of weighty personnel action items. It is because our contract allows for A, B, and C stipends at every school. Some of them are set for very specific purposes, such as the yearbook advisor, the school improvement team, and things like that. Each school has a certain number of discretionary stipends for the different needs of that school. So tonight, we're approving all of those, which is why the consent agenda is so much longer.

Mr. Perry congratulated the following retirees:

- James Stimmel, who has been with the district since 1995
- Sandra Sweeney, who has been with the district since 1999

- Paul Anderson, who has been with the district since 2010
- Gayle Friedman, who has been with the district since 1994

Thank you all for your many years of service.

F. ACTION ITEMS

- F1 The Board of Education established the date, time, and location of the Organizational Meeting for the calendar year 2024. Regular business meeting to immediately follow:

Monday, January 8, 2024, 6:30 p.m., Darby High School

- F2 The Board of Education appointed Zach Vorst to serve as president pro tem for the first Board of Education meeting of 2024.
- F3 The Board of Education accepted the proposal and contract from Aramark Corporation for the District food service management beginning on 7/1/2024 for the 2024-2025 school year with possible four (4) one-year renewals thereafter.

Mr. Vorst said I know we're with Aramark, and we have great results, and we love everything, and Dave's here. But, does anybody else go for this or is it pretty much Aramark? (Inaudible)....Mr. Stewart said we are very fortunate to have Mr. Wilson at Aramark. He's been an unbelievable partner for twenty-three years. Not only are they a great partner, but they intentionally give back to the district.

- F4 The Board of Education approved granting a Right of Entry to the City of Hilliard for the purposes of traffic signal ADA modifications at HDV/WMS.

Mr. Vorst asked can you elaborate on what this means? Mr. Dudgeon replied that the City of Hilliard will be moving the crosswalks at the HDV/WMS intersection for pedestrian safety. This resolution grants them access to district property to complete their work. Mr. Vorst asked if the City is paying for it. Mr. Dudgeon said yes, it is a City project.

Mrs. Long asked if the crosswalk would be moved closer to the transportation area. Do you think it's helping safety? Mr. Dudgeon replied that the crosswalks are being moved 10-15 feet further back than where they are currently. Mrs. Long asked if we had done a risk assessment around safety to make sure that it fits what we need it to. Mr. Dudgeon said this is a city project, and they vetted all that information.

G. REPORTS / INFORMATION / EXHIBIT ITEM

- G1 Committee Reports

Mrs. Long said we had a policy committee meeting, and it was supposed to be really long, but I'm happy to report as chair of policy, I think we've hit under an hour every meeting. Great participation by all of those on policy. Thank you for those that have contributed to the meeting. I believe it'll come to you guys in January. We had last Thursday, so we didn't want to turn it around quite so fast. Lots of things coming from the state to help our district move forward.

Mr. Vorst said we have a facilities committee meeting tomorrow. Come one, come all, three o'clock. The Superintendents Advisory Committee met via Zoom in November. I'm trying to pull the notes up, but I think there were only two or three brief issues.

Mrs. Crowely said we had an ISPTO meeting, and we had a presentation this month on the new visitor management system and school safety updates, as well as an update on the district master's facility plan. And we also, it's one of the best meetings of the year. All the different PTOs come together and talk about their fundraisers, the companies they use, and the events that they hold. It's a great way for all the PTOs across the district to exchange information.

Mr. Perry said we also had a communications committee meeting last week. It centered predominantly around our financial forecast, and our school financial projections. I think it was really engaging, and a lot of folks I haven't seen before. When we start talking about money, people...(inaudible)... I think it was really informative. I learned a lot. I hope that a lot of people learned a lot as well. A lot of great questions were asked, which is the whole point of this.

Mrs. Murdoch said the big news with HEF continues to be planning for denim and diamonds. Mark your calendars for Friday, March 8th. Remember that every year, their tickets are selling out faster and faster. And be on the lookout for special VIP bourbon and bubbles, I think is what it was called, for tickets this year. Something new and exciting to look forward to.

H. EXECUTIVE SESSION / ADJOURNMENT

H1 The board adjourned at 7:13 p.m.