MEETING NOTES

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

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

2. Members present: Ms. Arnold, Mrs. Byler, Mrs. Crowley, Mr. Moog, and Mr. Perry.

3. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

4. Construction Update

> **NOTE:** *Portions of the meeting's audio recording were difficult to decipher, so this document may include several incomplete sentences or inaccuracies. Some of the participants' names may be misspelled.*

Mr. Stewart: We have three presentations for you this evening. The first will be Jen Fuller, whom you know well at this point from Fanning Howey. Mike Mancini is here as well. Later in the agenda, you will hopefully approve the GMP for the preschool site at Norwich Elementary. We thought this would be a good time to introduce you to exactly what we'll be doing here.

Ms. Fuller: So, if you look at the screen, and I think you've seen some of this before, and honestly, it hasn't changed, which is great, but we know we have a plan and scope, and we can kind of see it through. So, we're doing an addition off of Norwich. It's a 21,000-square-foot one-story addition. There'll be a playground dedicated to the PK, along with some parking in front of that space. And then we're doing two things to help traffic flow and address any emergency needs. Behind the new addition, there's an extension of the drive from Britton, which would be for any emergency vehicles, or honestly, maintenance or something, if the school would need to go out that way as well.

And then, if you look off Britton Parkway, on what we'll call a service drive between Britton and Norwich, we have widened that lane. So, during parent drop-off and pickup, there's an extra lane that an emergency vehicle can use to get through or around traffic. We've been working with the city and the fire department to make sure that everything is a little safer and the traffic doesn't get held up. So, from a plan perspective, this is kind of what we talked about, and this is how we're moving forward.

Before we go on, do you guys have any questions about the flow, or is this looking different from what you remember?

Mr. McDonough: I'll add a couple of quick comments. We've already started planning with Brian Hart, the principal at the current preschool, and Jamie Lennox, the special education coordinator, to discuss what it will look like as we divide the current preschool. We've had some preliminary conversations with transportation as well, and we're hopeful that, with two locations and the ability to geographically place students closer to these preschools, we'll be able to bring back peer transportation, which we hope will alleviate congestion at each location. We're going to look at the start times for all three facilities to try to eliminate as much of that as we can.

Ms. Fuller: Yeah, the two in the middle probably speak the most. It's an extension of Norwich, so we are matching the brick and banding. Nothing flashy. I think it's a nice, solid addition to what you've already

got there. And so again, just the placement. We'll have a designation on signage, too, so when you're coming onto campus, you'll know where to go and other things.

And then this is an overview of the plan. Classrooms are in that brown color. The corridor is yellow, and we've got green for our staff and administration areas. So, coming into that main entry, we're following the same safety and security protocols as in the other buildings. There'll be a secure vestibule, and we know students are in and out of it two times a day. So, we've got space for students and staff, and it's pretty consolidated, which is great. So, we can keep an eye on everybody and then out the back. Is straight to that playground that we saw in the plan. And again, it's designated for the PK size, so it's different than the others. The gray areas are either storage or mechanical space. So, this preschool addition has its own mechanical room, given the distance to the mechanical room in the existing building.

Now, we will be working with the plans examiner and inspector to ensure it's safe for construction while students are in the building. We're looking at only a month or two of overlap at the end of this school year. And then it sounds like they'll be able to get a lot of this built, so we can have a safe path out and make sure we're not walking too far to get out of the building. We are really excited about the construction, so we'll make sure it's safe.

Do you have any questions about the plan?

Ms. Arnold: Educate me, what is a big muscle room?

Mr. McDonough: Are you familiar with the current preschool? As you walk in, they have a large motor room to the left where they offer many specialty services, such as OT and PT. The preschool addition at Norwich will include some specialty equipment in the big-muscle room.

Mrs. Crowley: Can you remind me of the timeline on this?

Mr. McDonough: We are targeting an opening at the same time as Beacon, so the 27-28 school year. We're going to take the bulk of next year to plan how we'll divide the current preschool population.

Mrs. Byler: And you think groundbreaking will be when?

Ms. Fuller: After spring break but before the end of the school year. So, April or May. We'll narrow it down once we're ready to go.

Mr. Moog: So the new emergency road in the back, I'm assuming that's gated to prevent non-emergency vehicles.

Ms. Fuller: Right.

Mrs. Crowley: I mean, obviously, they'll have to live through a whole year of construction on that property while they're going to school there, but it won't, like, lock up their parking lots or…

Mr. McDonough: Fortunately, we have experience doing this. In fact, Mike and Jen were part of the preschool expansion at Alton Darby. It went great.

Ms. Fuller: And we can keep you guys posted on that, too. So, once we work the logistics plan for fencing and stuff like that, we'll make sure you see it. Then we can answer your questions and put everybody at ease.

Mrs. Crowley: Darby seems like the extension is on the back half, whereas this is like right in the middle of the two buildings. So, I just didn't know if it would feel different.

Ms. Fuller: It might feel a little different, but if we can get things set up before the end of the school year, so that the team can work and get their flow done, and then when the kids come back, we'll have been used to that being there. So hopefully it's not too much of an impact.

5.   Forecast Presentation

Mr. Stewart: So, as we transition to Melissa, I'll just remind you that the legislature changed the date requirement for the five-year forecast. It's interesting to see how that has affected the information we receive and what's available when she has to do the forecast.

Mrs. Swearingen: Yes, those deadlines have changed. But the crystal ball that I was given has not been updated. So, as you'll see as I move through this tonight, there are certainly several areas where we don't really have any more updated information than we did in the October forecast. However, keep in mind that the original forecast for the next fiscal year will be due in August. So certainly when we look at August compared to February, there will be more change in the amount of information that's available between those two points in time.

So again, this current state law, implemented as part of the state budget, is now requiring a four-year forecast. It's the current year, followed by three years of projections. Best practice, however, for financial planning is a five-year basis: the current year plus four. So, we will continue to examine and approve a forecast that covers the entire five-year period. Tonight, we'll review key components of this forecast update, highlight our indicators, and then review the changes from those indicators in the October forecast.

Our beginning cash balance on July 1st was $97.4 million. We are now expecting to end the fiscal year 26 with a cash balance of just over $106 million. In this fiscal year, we anticipate operating in a surplus, with revenues exceeding expenditures. And there you can see our total projected general fund revenue is $272.3 million. Our expenditures are projected to be $263.6 million, and then that leaves us with an operating surplus of $8.7 million to add to that cash balance. When we look at the October forecast, we have projected an ending balance of $104.7 million. So, this February forecast does represent an overall positive variance of $1.4 million to our cash balance.

We've discussed our cash balance reserve policy at great length. This slide shows that we can meet the 20% cash reserve requirement throughout the forecast period. We will continue to monitor this in our future forecast, but by proactively identifying this, we can start those conversations about future planning. I will highlight on a later slide what this translates to in terms of the number of days of cash on hand. Compared to October, the cash balance as a percent of expenditures increased in the current fiscal year from 39.8% to 40.3%. And then from fiscal year 2030 back in October, we were under that 20% at 18.9%, and that has moved up to 22.2%.

When we look at the revenues, our local tax revenue still represents roughly 68% of our general fund revenue, 25% comes from the state. And then 7% comes from other sources. These percentages do not

vary significantly over the forecast period. The total projected revenue of $272.3 million is about $2.1 million, or just under 1%, above the October projections. Our property values are expected to increase by 2% in the next tax year due to new construction, followed by about 1.2% annually. Our triennial update will occur for tax year 2026. We're projecting an 11% increase. The next full reappraisal will occur in 2030. That cycle has historically repeated every three years. However, the Department of Taxation has delayed the next reappraisals in 16 Ohio counties, including Franklin County, which will have its next reappraisals delayed by a year. They are doing this to try to rebalance the state's property valuation schedule. This was one of the recommendations of the property tax working group and is intended to create greater equity in how often and when counties reassess property values. So, Franklin, along with 15 other counties, will have that reappraisal moved from 2029 to 2030. Given how the fiscal years fall, that reappraisal now falls outside the time period this forecast captures.

One other thing to note is that the final settlement for this 2025 tax year/2026 collection year likely won't be received until the end of March or April. The tax bills were not sent out by the county auditor until January 26th, which is several weeks later than when that typically happens. As of last week, when I put this forecast together, we'd received only one advance payment on our property taxes. So, we've only received about $6 million of that tax collection. So, in terms of projecting our collection rate for the time period we have property values, we can project what our collection rate will be. But the actual collection, we're not able to predict at this time.

When we look at our state funding, our increases in property values from the last reappraisal shifted our local capacity for state funding, which makes it increase faster than the base cost. That's frozen, as you remember, for at least two more years. So, our state funding is expected to remain very flat and stagnant for the next several years. We do have a simulation that the Department of Education and Workforce released for our fiscal year 27 funding. And that was used in order to come up with those numbers for the forecast. Our other operating revenues increase slightly as we continue to receive payments from Amazon, and we begin receiving payments from the TruePointe development this fiscal year. And then we also have increased interest earnings from our cash balance.

We look at the expenditure side: personnel costs, which include both salaries and benefits, account for 83% of our general fund expenditures. The next-largest category is purchased services at 11%, followed by other expenditures, which include supplies and materials. These percentages are the same as they were in October. Total general fund expenditures for fiscal year 26 are projected to be $263.6 million. This is just a $692,000 increase from our October projections. The wage increases are in accordance with our current collective bargaining agreements. No changes were made to the staffing projections from our October forecast. We did have a little bit more payroll data, so this was updated to include payroll through January. And if you recall, under our medical insurance agreement, we had a 4.7% premium increase, and then staff began contributing 1% more towards that premium, effective January 1. So, we have the January payroll and insurance data that were incorporated into this forecast. For purchased services, supplies, and other categories, there have been no changes to those assumptions in this forecast. We feel that we have sufficient appropriations in the budget to cover those expenditures for the current year.

This graph on the left shows our revenues closely aligning with our expenditures. Projected revenues are in blue, expenditures are in orange. As I mentioned, our deficit spending, where expenditures exceed revenues, doesn't begin until fiscal year 28. Due to our cash balance, we can absorb the overage and remain in compliance with our cash balance reserve policy through fiscal year 2030. Over the past five years, our revenue has increased by 3.97% and is projected to increase by just 2.5% through 2030. Our

expenditures increased by 4.27% over the past five years and are projected to increase by 4.6% through 2030.

The chart on the right shows our cash balance. So, you can see an increase with the passage of the new operating levy. And then in fiscal year 28, when our expenditures exceed our revenues, you'll see that decline in fund balance.

I updated the calculation. We talk about how much our payroll costs each month. That is up to $12.8 million a month, plus an additional $5.5 million for employee benefits. So, when we talk about real estate tax collections being about a month late, that's $18.3 million we need in the bank to make payroll for the month.

This chart shows a different visual in terms of revenues compared to expenditures. And again, you see where the lines cross there in fiscal year 28, where our expenditures begin to exceed our revenues.

I had mentioned the historical annual changes. Looking at revenues and expenditures from fiscal years 22 to 25, you can see that our projected annual revenue change from 2026 to 2030 is significantly lower. That is due to the level of state funding. The fiscal year 22 through 25 chart does have that bump in real estate taxes from the passage of the new levy. And then expenses, as you can see, really aren't a significant change when you look at history compared to what we're looking at moving forward. Just 0.3% there.

As of this February forecast, projected cash balance on hand in terms of days has improved ever so slightly from the October forecast by two days for the current fiscal year, and then in pretty much every year following. So, we are still maintaining that 20%. As we said, we're more than that over the next couple of years by about double. And we'll continue to monitor any state legislation. There was a proposal that said you weren't allowed to have more than 40% on hand. If anything like that does circulate, we'll certainly keep a close eye on this and determine whether the board needs to take any other action to protect those resources.

This is our final slide comparing the current forecast with the October forecast. As I mentioned, total revenue projections are 2.1% higher than our October projections. Expenditures are just $692,000 more. That results in about $1.4 million more in cash balance at the end of the year.

In summary, this forecast represents a slight improvement in our financial condition across all fiscal years. I also want to point out that in November 2024, after the new operating levy was first approved, we were projecting to be deficit spending beginning in fiscal year 27. This current forecast does have that out one more year into fiscal year 28, as it did back in October.

Are there any questions?

Mr. Moog: So about 25% we get from the state. Several years back, that was more like 40-ish percent. Is that accurate?

Mrs. Swearingen: Yes, it's probably been seven or eight years since it was that high, but it has dropped and will continue to stay. We're now on a guarantee where we can't receive any less than what we received in 2020. That's just for the unrestricted category. We are seeing our restricted funding decrease, though, because there isn't a guarantee to capture that piece.

6.   AI Task Force Update

Mr. Stewart: Our last presentation will come as no shock. Every profession in the world right now is wrestling with AI and what that means for the future. And we are certainly no exception to that, both in terms of operational efficiency and in the learning our students do, how they demonstrate their learning, and how that information is delivered to them. It is impacting every corner of our operation. So Mark and Jim are here to talk about a committee that has been meeting to start to work through a lot of these issues.

Mr. Smalley: Good evening, everybody. Good to see you guys. I'm Jim Smalley, coordinator of Instructional Technology. I took over for Mark Pohlman in January. I said during the interview that I'd take any opportunity I could to highlight the work our team is doing.
And so, hopefully, you're okay with us starting with what we're branding as the Hilliard Advantage.

Hilliard is a special place to work. It always has been, and it will continue to be. And these are just two opportunities as of recently, JW Reason provided scholarships for kids to do over the summer, focused on five areas: technology, art, music, wellness, literacy, and career readiness. They've raised $9,500 over the last two years to support those initiatives. We're pretty excited about the impact this can have on kids moving into the summer, especially when school is not in session. And then the other one, Mark's going to talk about.

Mr. Tremayne: Every year, we try to get our buildings engaged in what's called the Ohio Stem Learning Network with Battelle. And this year, Hoffman Trails' fifth graders entered a statewide design challenge and made it to the finals. They'll be recognized in two weeks at the Battelle Memorial Institute. Their design challenge focused on electric vehicles as part of the STEM moves Ohio initiative.

These are just two highlights and a lot of our buildings are engaging in these types of experiences, but they are a differentiator along the journey. We're very proud of the work that's being done there.

Mr. Smalley: Unless you can read Spanish, this slide might be a little tricky. I wanted to provide a practical example of how AI is currently being used, and has been used, in device learning over the last eight or nine years that we've had one-to-one. Using my iPad, I'm going to take a picture of the slide. All right, so all I'm doing is highlighting the text on the picture. Alright, Mark, can you go to the English slide? Then I'm just going to tap, translate, and play.

> "Hilliard City schools are on their way to revolutionizing education. It's a constant search to personalize the education of each student while they pursue their individual interests for their future. We are driven by our firm commitment to accept productive discomfort, empower each person in our organization to think boldly, and inspire everyone to overcome their limits."

I'll pause it there. You're getting the idea. We talk about AI being a great equalizer for our students and how it's been used. Can you go to the next slide? First, about 13% of our students are currently EL learners. So, this is making a huge impact on their access to the curriculum and on how they work and learn each day. I think often when we think about AI, our initial reaction goes to those large language models, what we hear from Gemini, ChatGPT, but it's so much greater than that. Hopefully, this is a great little visual to create some awareness on what AI touches and what it means.

It's not just those large language models. What I showed you, there was an image to translate speech. And that's an on-device machine learning. So again, this has been around as a tool for a long time now.

There are things that have come along, generative AI as well, that have changed the way that we kind of operate and do things. But I wanted to raise awareness of all the AI that exists and how it has been used in the past.

Mr. Tremayne: This year, with the evolution of generative AI, we created a task force. Rich Boettner is instrumental in that. He's not here tonight. He's dealing with some family circumstances. But he's been actively involved, and we wrote this into the strategic plan, so there's direct alignment with our district strategic plan. Really, the integration of emerging technologies and generative AI is certainly one of those. We're evaluating that as a system. We've had a runway since 2022, but the task force came together this year to develop the strategic vision and recommendations to ensure ethical and data governance practices, promote student and staff AI literacy, ensure ethical data practices, connection to the portrait of a Learner, and adopt board policy as required by the state.

Mr. Smalley: Just to give a little history and timeline, ChatGPT dropped in 2022. In 2023-2024, as far as Hilliard goes, we had our initial learning and experimenting with some staff pd. In 24-25, we created and rolled out our teacher guidelines. And those are continuing to be adapted and changed even as we speak. So, you adjust to the current times and how AI is being used. In 25-26, our big goal is to continue to have that initiative of an AI task force.

Mr. Tremayne: The task force consists of four categories: vision and strategic recommendations; policy data and systemic uses; student AI literacy aligned with the portrait of a learner; and instructional practices with ethics at the forefront. And integrity to who's doing the thinking. And the human in the loop is such an important part of all of this, trying to empower our learners and not let them hit what we call a series of easy buttons. We're keeping that very much at the forefront of what we're trying to eliminate.

With this in mind, outside experts are important. So a lot of you heard of the Ohio State AI fluency initiative. aiEDU is a national organization, and it's at the forefront of the research behind AI and K-12 schools. School Links is one of our future-ready platforms. We've connected with their CTO to learn how they're leveraging AI and to get some recommendations. Nexus AI creates a data lake that schools can use to make operations more efficient, and we're learning alongside them. The ESC of Central Ohio has an AI specialist and an active Central Ohio artificial intelligence network.

We had the opportunity to go to the International Society of Technology and Education Conference last summer. And that's when Jim and I, and co-pilots from Google and Microsoft, rolled out agents for K-12. We're growing alongside them and trying to leverage them to expand learning opportunities in Hilliard City Schools.

Mr. Smalley: As Mark kind of mentioned, we're definitely going slow to go fast, and this community and stakeholder input, and then we'll get to our student input, was essential to kind of where we go from here. So the first step was reaching out, listening to the community, putting out a survey, and getting over 800 responses, which was a great response from our community as well. And then we had student focus groups. So here's a quick overview of who completed the survey. It's a pretty good summary of what you can see there with staff and parents in our community. The biggest benefit noted was future job preparation. Some of the biggest concerns were definitely around academic integrity, bias, and misinformation.

And then we had four recommendations and takeaways: information literacy and AI literacy; an emphasis on critical thinking (which ties into Mark's avalanche of easy buttons); prioritizing the human-

centered classroom (which will always be the most important thing); and designing clear and ethical guiderails.

The next piece was our students. Obviously, their feedback is essential, as well as that of our community, staff, and teachers. We were doing the same thing. We were actively listening through our focus groups throughout the district. The focus groups consisted of five different elementary schools, three middle schools, and three high schools. The groups had approximately 150 kids. The principals, district leaders, and ed tech coaches sat in for about 45 minutes to hear what the kids had to say and asked a series of questions. And one of the big takeaways is that students are definitely using these sophisticated tools at home. So they're using ChatGPT, Gemini, and Canva, to name a few. We talked about the elementary level, and yet they report much less use at this time in the classroom.

One of the biggest benefits from the students was that differentiation and understanding content better. So the activity I just showed you was an example of how an English learner could use it to differentiate and make the learning more accessible. Definitely the efficiency piece, and then improving performance in their own grades. And their biggest concerns were integrity, dependency on tools, and critical thinking.

Mr. Tremayne: I led one of those student focus groups, and they were very transparent. I did middle school and high school. I had 12 students at once, and they were talking about how they could study on their own and get additional questions. And we took their rubric and fed it into generative AI, which gave us feedback on how they could improve it. So they are using it, but they still need some guidance. Their biggest concern was that their parents and grandparents might get scammed. And I said, "Don't worry about YouTube." It was pretty fascinating.

Along the way, we have connected with several school districts outside Ohio. One of them is Prince George's County, Maryland, and the other is Ann Arbor Public Schools. They have what's called the AI Bill of Rights, and it's linked there. Everyone we've connected with has multiple iterations because, as you've probably heard, AI is as dumb as it's ever going to be today, and it's getting smarter and smarter. So, they have different iterations. We're trying to develop a policy that addresses ethical and privacy concerns while also allowing us to grow with AI. So, we're looking forward to continued collaboration with Ann Arbor Public Schools, Prince George's County, and other school districts that are leading across the country.

Some of the task force outcomes. We had an all-day meeting on the 12th of February, and it was really a working meeting to get up to speed on all the different subcommittee work. We'll meet once again on March 12th, then have a bit more work time to finalize our recommendations for the cabinet and, ultimately, for you. So, we'll bring that draft to the cabinet in April 2026 and then present it to the board in the fall. We'll be adopting a policy this summer.

Do you have any questions?

Mr. Moog: Are the teachers reporting any type of easy button use?

Mr. Tremayne: That's a great question. We're more blended than we were a year ago. Because of this, there's a lot of offline work first, so teachers can get a sense of the tone and feel of their students' writing. You could easily go into a generative AI and say, " Write a summary of whatever the book may be based on five themes, " and it's going to do that. So, they're doing a lot of offline blended work first. And then there is some use where they are integrating with the rubric and getting feedback. We have

Mr. Tremayne: Those young learners are scared that. If you don't know how to think, you're taking away all the advantage, whether you have Gemini or an AI or not.

7.   The Board of Education adopted the agenda.

8.   The Board of Education approved the following resolution:

AUTHORIZING GMP AMENDMENT NO. 4.1 FOR THE NORWICH PRESCHOOL SCOPE OF PHASE 1 OF THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

The Chief Operating Officer recommends the Board authorize the negotiation and execution of GMP Amendment No. 4.1 for the Norwich Preschool scope of Phase I of the Capital Improvements Project with Ruscilli Construction Company, LLC.

Rationale:

1.   The Board previously authorized an agreement with Ruscilli as the Construction Manager at Risk for the Project.
2.   Ruscilli submitted its proposal for GMP Amendment No. 4.1 ("GMP 4.1") in a total amount of $8,730,177.
3.   The Chief Operating Officer recommends the Board authorize the negotiation and execution of GMP 4.1 on behalf of the Board in an amount to not exceed $8,730,177.

The Board of Education resolves as follows:

The Board hereby authorizes the Chief Operating Officer, Superintendent, Treasurer, and Board President to work with legal counsel to negotiate, finalize, and execute GMP No. 4.1 in an amount not to exceed $8,730,177, and to execute any related documents on behalf of the Board.

9.   The Board of Education approved the following resolution:

AWARDING CONTRACT FOR THE SECURED ENTRIES PHASE II PROJECT FERGUSON CONSTRUCTION.

The Chief Operating Officer ("COO") recommends the Board of Education award a contract to Ferguson Construction. ("Contractor") for the Secured Entries Phase II Project (the "Project").

Background:

1.   The Board has identified a need for the Project.
2.   In compliance with applicable law, the COO and Treasurer solicited bids for the Project based upon design documents prepared by Schorr Architects, Inc. ("Architect").
3.   Two bids were received for the Project. Bids were opened and read aloud on February 5, 2026 with the apparent low bid submitted by Contractor in the amount of $698,000 (the "Low Bid").
4.   After review of Contractor's bid submission and a scope review meeting with Contractor, the Architect recommends the contract for the Project be awarded to Contractor as the lowest responsible bidder. The COO and Treasurer concur with the recommendation and request authority to negotiate and sign an agreement with Contractor in an amount not-to-exceed the Low Bid.

5. Additionally, to avoid Project delays, the COO and Treasurer request authority to enter into change orders on behalf of the Board in a total amount not to exceed 10% of the Low Bid. Change orders in excess of that amount, individually or in the aggregate, will be brought to the Board for its approval.

The Board resolves as follows:

1. Based on the information provided, the Board selects Contractor as the lowest responsible bidder.
2. The Board authorizes the COO and Treasurer to negotiate and sign an agreement for the Project with Contractor in an amount not-to-exceed the Low Bid, and to sign any associated documents consistent with the intent of this resolution.
3. The Board also authorizes the COO and Treasurer to enter into change orders on behalf of the Board in a total amount not to exceed 10% of the Low Bid. Change orders in excess of that amount, individually or in the aggregate, will be brought to the Board for its approval.
4. No property interest in the Project will be created until all required documents have been submitted by Contractor and the agreement is executed by the designated Board representatives.

Mr. Stewart: So, this is the second round of secure vestibules. Ferguson Construction is the company that did the Darby weight room, and they were definitely the stars of the first year of this project. We're excited that they won this project.

10. The Board of Education approved the following resolution:

AUTHORIZING AGREEMENTS TO CONVEY TWO EASEMENTS TO THE CITY OF HILLIARD FOR CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE, AND OPERATION OF A WATER LINE AND A SANITARY MAIN AND TERMINATING PRIOR EXISTING EASEMENTS FOR THE SAME PURPOSES

The Superintendent recommends the Board authorize agreements with the City of Hilliard ("City"), a municipal corporation, conveying two easements (the "New Easements") to the City, for the purpose of permitting City to install, maintain and operate a water line and a sanitary main and supporting utility equipment and infrastructure over, upon, under, above and through property owned by the Board, and authorizing the termination of prior existing easements for the same purposes.

Rationale:

1. The Board is the owner of real property situated in the State of Ohio, County of Franklin, City of Hilliard, lying in Virginia Military Survey 3001, commonly known as Parcel No. 050-002853 (the "Easement Property").
2. There are currently two existing easements on the Easement Property held by the City for the purpose of maintaining and operating a water line and a sanitary main and supporting utility equipment and infrastructure (the "Old Easements").
3. As part of its Capital Improvements Project, the Board is constructing its New Beacon Elementary School on the location where the Old Easements are located.
4. Accordingly, the City has requested the Board provide the City with new easements for the installation, maintenance, and operation of a water line and a sanitary main and supporting utility equipment and infrastructure over, upon, above, and through the Easement Property.

5.   Accordingly, the Superintendent requests authority for the Treasurer and Board President, with assistance of legal counsel, to negotiate and sign agreements conveying the New Easements to the City and to negotiate and sign any documents required to terminate the Old Easements.

The Board of Education resolves as follows:

1.   Treasurer and Board President, with assistance of legal counsel, are authorized to negotiate and sign agreements conveying the New Easements to the City and to negotiate and sign any documents required to terminate the Old Easements.

Mr. Stewart: So, if you remember, Beacon took a while because we had a lot of work to do on locating and moving a water line. This is providing easements to do that.

11.   The Board of Education approved the following resolution:

AUTHORIZING CONVEYANCE OF EASEMENT

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the conveyance of an easement (the "Easement") to Ohio Power Company ("Grantee"), a unit of American Electric Power, for the purpose of permitting the Grantee to install, maintain and operate electrical and communications equipment over, upon, under, above and through property owned by the Board of Education of the Hilliard City School District.

Rationale:

1.   The Board is the owner of real property situated in the State of Ohio, County of Franklin, Township of Brown, lying in Virginia Military Survey 6637 and 6639, commonly known as Parcel No. 053-000005-00 (the "Easement Property").
2.   Grantee has requested the Board provide Grantee with a non-exclusive easement for the installation, maintenance and operation of electrical and communications equipment over, upon, above and through the Easement Property, as set forth in the attached deed of easement ("Deed of Easement"), to be recorded with the Franklin County Recorder and made of record.
3.   The Superintendent believes that the execution of the Deed of Easement, and the conveyance of the Easement to Grantee, are in the Board's best interest and requests authority for the Treasurer and Board President to sign the easement.

The Board of Education resolves as follows:

1.   The Board authorizes and approves the granting of the Deed of Easement and associated rights and obligations to Grantee. The Treasurer and the Board President are hereby authorized, with assistance of legal counsel, to negotiate and finalize the Deed of Easement, and to sign the Deed of Easement upon conclusion of negotiations.

Mr. Stewart: This is at the new Brown Elementary site. It's part of the fiber project we have with the city. It's authorizing an easement for fiber to run from the street to the building.

12.   The Board of Education approved the February 2026 Forecast.

13. The Board of Education approved the consent agenda – Item E1. 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.

    E1 Approve the following resolutions: See Attached Document.

14. The Board of Education approved the following resolution:

    BOARD RESOLUTION REGARDING TREASURER REEMPLOYMENT

    WHEREAS Melissa Swearingen has offered to terminate her current contract at 11:59 p.m. on February 28, 2026, in accordance with the terms of her February 17, 2026 letter;

    WHEREAS the Board of Education desires to reemploy Ms. Swearingen as Treasurer effective March 1, 2026 through July 31, 2030;

    NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the contract currently in effect between Ms. Swearingen and the Board of Education through July 31, 2028 is hereby terminated effective at 11:59 p.m. on February 28, 2026;

    AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Board approves the Treasurer's Contract with Ms. Swearingen for the term March 1, 2026 through July 31, 2030 as presented;

    AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the Board is authorized to execute an appropriate Treasurer's Contract with Ms. Swearingen as Treasurer of the Hilliard City School District.

15. The Board of Education approved the following resolution:

    To authorize and direct the Treasurer to place a notice on the District website and to provide such notice to all individuals who have requested Sunshine Law notices of Board meetings no later than February 12, 2026, and to submit the notice for immediate publication, which reads substantially as follows:

    PUBLIC NOTICE
    The Hilliard City School District Board of Education hereby gives public notice in accordance with Section 3307.353 of the Ohio Revised Code that David Stewart who will be retired from his position as Superintendent on July 30, 2026, is seeking re-employment with the Hilliard City School District in the same position following his service retirement.

    The Board of Education is considering re-employing Mr. Stewart as Superintendent and will hold a public meeting with respect to Mr. Stewart's proposed re-employment at a meeting to be held on March 23, 2026, at 6:30 pm, in the Board Conference Room located at 2140 Atlas St, Columbus, OH 43228.

16.   The Board of Education adopted the following policies:

a. DLC – Expense Reimbursements
b. DLC-R – Expense Reimbursements
c. EBDE – Procurement and Administration of Overdose Reversal Drugs (new policy)
d. JEC – School Admission

17.   The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.