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# MEETING NOTES

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1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Roll Call: Mark Abate, Paul Lambert, Nadia Long and Lisa Whiting were present.  
Heather Keck was absent.
3. Everyone stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. The Board of Education adopted the agenda as presented.
5. Presentations
  - a. Transportation Department Overview presented by Cliff Hetzel, Director of Business, Andi Cunningham, Transportation Coordinator and Ryan Young, Assistant Transportation Coordinator.

The following is an overview of technology resources used for planning and determining bus routes.

Buster the bus is the department's mascot. Buster is used at the annual First Time Riders Open House before each school year. This year's open house is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. to noon at Weaver Middle School on Saturday, August 10. This program was developed specifically for first time riders and their parents to alleviate the scare of riding the bus. Staff members use Buster the bus to help teach bus safety and procedures. Students and parents are also able to explore and take a short ride on a school bus.

We use a routing software program, Transfinder, to help develop efficient routes based on student needs and addresses. Once the student information system (eSchoolPlus) has "rolled over" all students for the new school year (*moved to the next grade level*), Transportation staff are able to download this information into Transfinder. Bus stops are then generated and assigned based on addresses and school assignment. The number of buses and routes needed at each level (*elementary, sixth grade, middle school, high school*) is determined by student enrollment and location. Student enrollment numbers are ever-changing, so we monitor them very closely and make stop/route/bus adjustments when necessary.

We also use Zonar on all buses. This system reports defects, gives real-time location of buses, and records the driver's pre-trip and post-trip inspections. Each driver has a "wand" they must use on several check points throughout their pre-trip and post-trip inspections. It digitally records these inspections so we know that the driver has completed this necessary requirement. If a defect is found during one of these inspections, Zonar generates a defect report that is sent to the mechanics with exactly what needs to be repaired/replaced. One of the important check points of a post-trip inspection is located at the back of the bus. This helps ensure that drivers have walked through the bus and checked to make sure there are no students left on the bus. With this program, we are able to run reports showing all of the activity for the bus. We can determine when did it stop and why it stopped.

One of the other technology tools we use is bus manufacturer software systems that include complete bus specification sheets. So, when a mechanic gets a diagnostic report from Zonar, he is able to access the manufacturer information to identify the correct parts needed for that particular repair on that particular bus.

We have also added a new technology tool called Bus Hive. Historically, we used Tom, an in-house built database, to manage all field trip activity. This program is 19-20 years old and we have been struggling to manage the updating of contract language and seniority lists. This new program, Bus Hive, allows everyone to request field trips online and work through our specific assignment process as dictated by our current and future contracts.

Beginning this coming school year, Transportation will be providing busing from some daycare centers to some elementary schools in an attempt to decrease vehicle traffic at drop off and dismissal. The reduction in traffic will also reduce the wear and tear on school driveways.

We just recently met with Norwich Township and are working with them to improve student access to Ridgewood Elementary. They are going to build a drop-off location on Darbyshire Drive at the walk-path that leads to Ridgewood Elementary. This will provide a safe access point for parents to drop off and pick up their students instead of using the school driveway that is full of buses.

Next, we believe we are ready to look at the possibility of alternative fuel like propane and electric. Thomas and Blue Bird have both developed a bus that runs on electricity. We are developing a partnership with Ohio Cat to demo one of their buses. The electric bus may be the best pathway for us to move to a more sustainable fuel solution. We already have power poles for all buses to plug into to keep the diesel fuel warm.

b. A Preview: Quality Profile Summary

You have the final draft of the Quality Profile status report. If you remember, last October we published the Quality Profile and we had specific measurable goals. This status report will mirror what we plan to use for the Next X report in terms of sharing with the community whether the goals are completed or ongoing and the progress level we have made. This will be posted in the coming days on the website for the community to view.

We have exceeded our goal for increasing the number of Naviance logins. Now we want to continue to build on this. For example, we want to measure the value of each login and whether students are actually exploring different careers. We also have to be honest where we didn't meet our goals. In "sense of belonging" our goal was to have an increase across the board from Fall to Spring. Instead, we saw an overall decrease for the second year in a row which actually mirrors national statistics. We do have some things that we want to celebrate such as the students who are in our lowest quantile on "sense of belonging." Fifty-one percent of them are no longer in the lowest quantile when you look at the national norms.

We are proud of the work we have done to bring HOPE Squads to our schools. Students have been referred on the weekends through the police non-emergency line and received treatment

at Children’s Services. We continue to look at how do we keep our kids healthy in both body and mind so that they are able to learn.

In partnerships, we continue to see increases in College Credit Plus as well as increases in AP. We are approaching 5,000 college credits being completed during the course of a year. We are also focusing on mentorships and internships. We are getting our students into jobs so they can see if they like it or not.

The Board appreciates the reporting of the district’s goals and progress. This communication with the community helps build trust. The Quality Profile is huge in continuing to increase the level of understanding and trust in the community. The format of the Quality Profile Status Report is easy to follow and understand.

6. The Board of Education approved items E1 through E2 consisting of all personnel matters.

The superintendent introduced Samantha Althouse and Monica Campana. Samantha will be our next Director of Middle Level Education and Monica will become the Principal at Washington Elementary.

The superintendent praised Roy Walker, HR Executive Director, and his team for doing a great job filling all vacancies for the upcoming school year.

7. The Board of Education approved the following trip requests:

- a. Bradley Cross Country, Bellefontaine, OH – August 1, 2019
- b. Davidson Boys Cross Country, East Lansing, MI – September 12, 2019
- c. Davidson Boys Cross Country, Rochester, NY – September 27, 2019
- d. Davidson Girls Soccer, Cleveland State University – July 17, 2019

8. The Board of Education approved the Fiscal Services Agreement with the Alliance for High Quality Education.

Upper Arlington has been the fiscal agent for the Alliance since the creation of the group. However, they are constructing a new high school which is occupying a great deal of the Treasurer’s office time. Therefore, the Alliance approached us and asked if we would be willing to be the fiscal agent. Our Assistant Treasurer, Anita Dalluge, performed this function when she was the Assistant Treasurer at Upper Arlington. She is familiar with the process and it is not a great deal of work. Our membership fee for this group is waived while we are operating as the fiscal agent.

9. The Policy Review Committee submitted several policies for a second reading. The recommended changes are highlighted in each policy.

- a. EBC-R – Emergency Management and Safety Plans
- b. GBH (Also JM) – Staff-Student Relations (***new policy***)
- c. IGD-R – Cocurricular and Extracurricular Activities
- d. IGDJ – Interscholastic Athletics
- e. IGDJ-R – Interscholastic Athletics
- f. JM (Also GBH – Staff-Student Relations (***new policy***))

Paul Lambert expressed concerns regarding the definition of “staff” and “fraternization” in regards to staff and student relationships in Policy GBH. In part, this policy prohibits staff from fraternizing with students except on matters pertaining to school-related issues. We may need to better define these two terms. For example, many of our staff are also parents in the district and socialize with other families in the community. So, it’s likely teachers are in contact with students outside the classroom.

Mike McDonough, Deputy Superintendent, explained that this is not a required policy but we have had many conversations about this issue for several years. The policy review committee discussed this policy at all 4 of this year’s meetings and had a lot of conversations specifically about fraternization. The spirit of the policy is for the safety of students and having something in writing. The superintendent is consulting with legal counsel to make sure we have what we need.

Lisa Whiting mentioned that she believes the social media sites are where we have our biggest risk. We need to address this issue and continue to review this policy in our ever-changing world. It is almost impossible to have the exact right language but believe we are doing our due diligence. School districts all across the country are dealing with social media and the sharing of intimate details in the digital world.

Whether we have this policy or not, staff will be reprimanded whenever they do something they shouldn’t. This policy is more of a warning for all staff to consider before engaging in this type of behavior. The Board agrees this policy should be moved to the third reading with the knowledge there could be some changes based on communication with legal counsel.

10. Discussion Topics:

a. Workforce Development Board Update

Since the last time we met, we hosted the Workforce Development Board at Weaver Middle School. This board has opened up a ton of doors in state legislation and education departments. This group meets quarterly and usually at a location in Central Ohio. Our staff – building, operations and communications teams – did an excellent job of facilitating this group.

Paul mentioned the highlights of the meeting were the three students who presented in the different sections. One of them was a recent Hilliard graduate who spoke very well. She was confident, articulate and provided clear, honest answers to questions (instead of taking the easy way out).

b. State Budget Update (including Graduation Requirements, ADC, and finances)

The Senate version of the graduation proposal, that we first introduced with our business advisory council, includes state diploma seals. This version includes state assessments in math and reading, and some alternative pathways such as enlisting in the military, getting an industry credential and a series of seals so that the diploma actually recognizes what the student accomplished.

Academic Distress Commission (ADC) – This issue is still “up in the air.” Hilliard is not anywhere near in line for ADC but Dayton and Columbus could be there in the near future.

Finances – The Senate version is a little better for us than the House version. The Senate recognizes some of the fast growing school districts needing additional funds. Neither version puts us where we would have been in the old formula. Both of these versions put us in a worse position.

c. Technology Focus

For the next meeting – July 15 – we will be in the new COA Board Conference Room. Rich Boettner and the tech team are going to demonstrate “Hilliard Classroom 3.0.” This conference room is outfitted with the same technology that we will now have in our sixth grade buildings and all of our middle schools. They will also report on this summer’s projects.

d. Other Items as Deemed Important

Bradley HS Stadium Turf Field – Mike McDonough spoke to Paul and Heather. We had the turf field tested. There are ten areas of the field that are tested for impact (GMax test). Four of those areas came back as a concern. We contacted the company that originally installed the turf but they are no longer in business. So we reached out to Hellas Construction (installed Darby & Davidson’s turf fields) and they have provided us with some solutions. They will have the repairs made by July 11. They are going to completely rejuvenate the field. Depending on how well the rejuvenation process goes, the field will need to be replaced in one to two years.

Regarding our recent meeting with City of Columbus and Columbus City Council officials. The main purpose was to create a connection that hasn’t existed before. This was a chance to meet and begin a conversation with City leaders about helping us maintain a good economic profile as development goes forward. For us, 44% of our constituents live in the City of Columbus but for a Columbus City Council member only 5% of their constituents live in Hilliard City Schools. So, we want to continue to partner with them to keep us on their radar.

Swenson’s is moving forward. Mike is working with them to ensure our student’s safety when the new year begins.

11. The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.