



MEETING NOTES

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

1. The meeting called to order at 9:00 p.m.
2. Members present: Mark Abate, Paul Lambert, Nada Long, Brian Perry, and Lisa Whiting
3. Everyone stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. The Board of Education adopted the agenda as presented.
5. The Board of Education approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020, Amy Acton, MD, MPH, Director of the Ohio Department of Health, ordered that all school buildings that provide any kindergarten through grade twelve instruction in the State of Ohio be closed to students beginning at 12:01 a.m. on March 17 and ending at 11:59 p.m. on April 3, 2020, to prevent the spread of COVID-19 into the State of Ohio;

WHEREAS in Dr. Acton's order she provided for the purpose of clarity, this closure does not include administrators, teachers, staff, vendors or contractors of a school and that the administration of each school shall determine the appropriate level of access in the school during the closure;

WHEREAS Dr. Acton's order provides that before and until April 3, 2020, this order will be continuously evaluated and may be modified or extended by the Director of the Ohio Department of Health;

WHEREAS Governor DeWine in his March 12, 2020 statement announcing school closures directed that "schools should work to provide education through alternative means;"

NOW, THEREFORE, the Hilliard City Schools District Board of Education hereby authorizes the Superintendent and Treasurer, during the time period that Hilliard City School District's school buildings are closed to students due to COVID-19 or May 29, 2020, whichever is earlier, to take any and all actions necessary to maintain educational programming for students and provide for the safety of all students and staff, which includes, directing students and staff as appropriate; implementing curriculum as appropriate; purchasing, obtaining, leasing or otherwise utilizing and paying for all necessary supplies, services, technology and equipment necessary for education through alternative means within current budget appropriations; and complying with orders and guidance issued by the federal and state government and agencies in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

Discussion:

Mr. Abate commented that we are in an unprecedented time where daily and hourly changes are significantly disrupting our normal lives. At the end of the day, we were looking for inspiration. Dr. Marschhausen, Mr. Wilson, and their teams, teachers, and support staff have been nothing short of that inspiration. This resolution is a declaration of our trust and our faith in Dr. Marschhausen, Mr. Wilson, and your teams in implementing the continuation of education, lunches, and things we need to do for our students as things are changing so quickly.

Mrs. Whiting also commended Dr. Marschhausen, Mr. Wilson, and their teams for everything you are doing for our students. Not only are we prepared for this crisis, but our district has also aligned itself with the future of learning in creating new ways to educate students, prepare them for graduation and beyond – college, military, or entering the workforce. Our readiness is a true testament to the work that is done by you, our teachers, support staff, our students, and the community for having faith in us as a school district. They have given us the opportunities to provide iPads to our students, so they are ready to continue to learn during this troubled time. The stability of still having contact with their teachers and peers will help get them through this situation. It is truly making a difference in student’s lives.

Mr. Lambert thanked Dr. Marschhausen for his patience as he processed the intersection of being able to react to this crisis and our role as the governing body. I’m satisfied with the way the resolution reads. One of the most important things to do in a crisis is communication, and your communications bulletin is doing that. Please continue to update us as we continue through this situation.

Dr. Marschhausen commented that with this resolution comes a new level of responsibility for Mr. Wilson and myself. Dr. Marschhausen will continue sending daily communication about what we are doing. There are times that the changes we made are a clear departure from our normal day-to-day operations. We, as a team, appreciate the support of our Board. We changed our school calendar to meet the needs of our students. He is so proud of our teachers and how they have come together and responded to this situation. Our leadership team has struggled with some of the decisions we have had to make. We listened to Dr. Acton and Governor DeWine, who said essential is essential, and if you’re not essential, please work from home. As educators and leaders, this is hard for some of us. We will continue to communicate with you each step of the way.

6. The Board of Education approved the following resolution:

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION
AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES
AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR

(CITY, VILLAGE OF LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION)
OHIO REVISED CODE, SECTIONS 5705.34, 5705.35

WHEREAS, This Board of Education in accordance with the provisions of law has previously adopted a Tax Budget for the next succeeding fiscal year commencing July 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, The Budget Commission of Franklin County, Ohio, has certified its action thereon to this Board together with an estimate by the County Auditor of the rate of each tax necessary to be levied by this Board, and what part thereof is without, and what part within, the ten mill tax limitation; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Board of Education of the Hilliard City School District, Franklin County, Ohio, that the amounts and rates, as determined by the Budget Commission in its certification, be and the same are hereby accepted: and be it further

RESOLVED, That there be and is hereby levied on the tax duplicate of said School District the rate of each tax necessary to be levied within and without the ten mill limitation for tax year 2020 (collection year 2021) as follows:

SCHEDULE A

SUMMARY OF AMOUNTS REQUIRED FROM GENERAL PROPERTY TAX APPROVED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION, AND COUNTY AUDITOR’S ESTIMATED TAX RATES

Fund	Amount to be Derived from Levies Outside 10 Mill Limitation	Amount Approved by Budget Commission Inside 10 Mill Limitation	County Auditor’s Estimate of Full Tax Rate to be Levied	
			Inside 10 Mill Limit	Outside 10 Mill Limit
General Fund	\$134,500,962.69	\$12,802,191.56	4.45	80.50
Bond Retirement	\$19,506,810.37			6.80
Permanent Improvement Classroom Facilities	\$5,150,174.85			2.00
TOTAL	\$159,157,947.91	\$12,802,191.56	4.45	89.30

and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Treasurer of this Board be and is hereby directed to certify a copy of this resolution to the County Auditor of said County.

Discussion:

We file an alternative tax budget with the county budget commission every year. They then review that document and certify our taxes for the following year. Once certified, they provide us with this information that we approve of accepting the rates they have set. Then the county budget commission turns this over to the state department of taxation.

7. Discussion Topics:

a. COVID-19

We are launching eLearning tomorrow. In grades 6-12, we feel we are as well prepared to begin as any institution in the state of Ohio. We have been using iPads for five years and Canvas for three years. The other day we had 12,000+ students log into Canvas. That pretty much means all students in grades 5-12 were on Canvas. K-4 is going to be a little bumpier and have some instructional challenges. Those teachers are so dedicated that Dr. Marschhausen has every confidence that they will make it work. His biggest concern is the homes where mom and dad are engaged will have a different level of education than the homes where the kids are on their own. Our teachers will do everything they can, including calling students that need additional support. We are going to do everything we can, but it will be a work in progress.

We have a map on our website that shows parents and students where they can access our WiFi outside of the school buildings. Thanks to Rich Boettner and his team for making this possible. Also, thanks to the City of Hilliard for providing us a map of their WiFi availability. Parents/students can go to one of these locations to download classwork and instructions, and also upload completed assignments.

Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of this week are a test-run of eLearning. We are going to learn some things these three days and then we have spring break. Many of us will be working to iron out some of the kinks during spring break. When we come back from spring break, we are going to be in this for the long-haul. Every indication shows that this situation is going to go for a more extended period than is currently expected. As a staff, we are prepared to finish the year, if necessary, using eLearning as our means of providing instruction to our students. We know it's not the same level of teachers and students in classrooms every day, but we believe we can keep the learning going. Every bit of education we can accomplish now is a step up, and we'll know where everyone is for the 2020-2021 school year.

We have worked to determine who is essential and who is not essential. Nonessential personnel are working from home. Our team delivered laptops to our secretaries today. There will be staff in the buildings during lunch distribution. We will also have staff in the buildings at times to deal with technology issues.

The work being done by Dave Wilson, Aramark, Mike McDonough, and Cliff Hetzel is exceptional. In addition to having grab-and-go meals available at all of our school buildings, tomorrow, we will begin delivering lunches to a few apartment complexes (a complete list is on the website). We will continue to provide lunches during spring break. We will probably consolidate our building sites depending on foot traffic at each location. For example, if you were to look at Britton, Norwich, and Tharp, you might say to students who attend any of these three buildings, your pick up location is now at Norwich. Any changes we make will be publicized ahead of time. Typically, students do not get lunches during spring break, but this is a national crisis, and the federal waivers and commitment from our team, we consider it our responsibility to provide these lunches. Thank you to our bus drivers who are willing to step up and provide this service.

We are providing lunches to all students who come to pick up lunch. Due to regulations, we are not able to hand out lunches to adults. The students must come to pick up lunch.

Mrs. Long asked what we are doing with our preschool program. Our preschool students do not have iPads. We are on hold and trying to figure out how to serve these students.

Mr. Abate commented that during this crisis, our Board meetings would continue to be closed and live-streamed to the public. We will figure out how to accommodate public participation at regular business meetings. Dr. Marschhausen's current proposal is to allow anyone to submit any comments via email with a statement to be read in its entirety for up to three minutes, or participants could send comments via "chat" in a live-stream. Our next regular meeting that will include public participation is scheduled for Monday, April 13. If we are still in this type of format, maybe we include the participation form as an attachment to the agenda that is posted on the website. Our intent in having closed meetings is not to get around Sunshine Laws or keep people from participating; we are merely complying with the recommended social-distancing for everyone's health and safety.

b. Other Items

We rescheduled the March 16 Board Work Session, dedicated to the Master Facility Plan, for Monday, April 6. Dr. Marschhausen proposes canceling the April 6 meeting and holding the previously scheduled April 13 regular meeting and the April 27 work session. We will hold another meeting after the crisis, to discuss the Master Facility Plan and possible financial considerations. All Board members agreed.

8. The meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m.