



MEETING NOTES

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

- A1 President called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
- A2 Members present: Mark Abate, Paul Lambert, Nadia Long, Brian Perry, and Lisa Whiting
- A3 Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

B PROGRAMS/PRESENTATIONS

- B1 Empower, Embrace, Inspire Award Winners

Erin Dooley, Principal Hilliard Station Sixth Grade, stated she is fortunate enough to work with Joy Grubbs, Music Teacher, every day. Those of you who have had children go through the “Joy Grubbs experience” know why she deserves this award. Mrs. Grubbs is our choir teacher, but it’s only one small part of what she does. The magic she works and the difference she makes are apparent every day in the classroom and at every concert. Typically, you can see the amazing things that come from these tiny humans at our sixth-grade musical. However, this year we could not have a middle school musical. So, Mrs. Grubbs produced a musical for the students, all on her own. She welcomed students from our middle schools, and several high school students helped out. It was an amazing feat. I can vouch for the amount of extra work and time put into this project. It was not an expectation, but she did what she thought was good for students.

Samantha Althouse, Director of 6-12 Curriculum, read a letter from a parent nominating Tom Woodford, Post-Secondary School Counselor.

The letter read: “Tom is an invaluable asset to Hilliard City Schools. My son and I have attended several meetings with Tom over the past couple of months. My son is in his junior year, and we are going through college planning. It is very obvious that Tom is passionate about his work in the district and cares about our children. I have personally learned so much through the sessions he holds for parents and students in the evenings. My son has the extra benefit of getting to meet with Tom on a regular basis throughout the school year. We really appreciate all of the extra time and effort Tom puts into these educational sessions. Tom is great at providing tips and tricks about what our students should be doing to prepare and providing so many useful resources to help us along the way. He has provided multiple checklists, testing preparation, and questions we should ask during campus visits. I could go on and on. Tom has been key to bringing colleges and universities into our schools so our students can meet with them during the school day. I am beyond impressed and feel so much more prepared and confident as we embark on campus visits. Our children and parents are so fortunate that Hilliard City Schools provides Tom as a resource to us. Tom makes it a point to make a difference in our lives if we are willing to listen and take advantage of what he has to offer. Since Tom invests so much time and effort into what he does, I would be remiss if I didn’t take a small amount of time and effort to nominate him for this very well deserved award. Thank you Tom for all that you do, you are very much appreciated. Thank you Hilliard City Schools for offering Tom’s services to us.”

Two other parent nominations echoed these same sentiments, and we are so appreciative of all you do for our students. Congratulations.

Ms. Whiting commented that her daughter was lucky to have both of these teachers while in school. As her counselor, Tom gave her an aptitude test to help her decide what she might want to do. Her test determined she might want to be a genetic counselor, which is precisely what she is doing now. Thank you both for all that you do.

Mr. Perry echoed Lisa’s sentiments. I am one of those children fortunate enough to have the “Joy Grubbs experience.” Since sixth grade, I participated in talent shows, and it started with you fostering the love for music in me. Thank you! Ready for Tomorrow is not just a motto, but as a person, it is Tom. Thank you for genuinely helping prepare our students for what they want to do.

Mr. Abate added that his daughters also had the “Joy Grubbs experience.” It was amazing, and thank you so much for all that you do for our kids.

B2 Graduation Requirements – Samantha Althouse, Director of 6-12 Curriculum

State law has introduced new graduation requirements for the Class of 2023 and beyond (our current juniors). These requirements are complex, but they allow some flexibility in identifying their competency and readiness for life after high school. All of these changes have prompted us to review our courses and programs.

First, I want to thank our teacher leaders, building administrators, counselors, teachers, and district administrators, who helped review all of these requirements. In addition, we met several times over the past few months to make sure our programs and course sequences at the high school level are aligned and support our students in earning their high school diplomas.

Ohio’s new graduation requirements consist of three key components – course completion, competency demonstration (reading and math), and readiness demonstration (seals).

Course completion means that students must satisfy Ohio’s curriculum and local district requirements (*see chart to the right*). In addition, there are specific guidelines for some of the content areas within these credit requirements. For example, students must complete Algebra II as part of the math

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Secondary Instructional Teacher Leaders: Kevin Hunt, Rich Clingman, Roseanne Hetterscheidt, Eric Gulley

Assistant Principals: Adam Walton, Adam Olsheski, Kristen Clausen

School Counselors: Lindsay Palus, Rachel Creamer, Hilary Phillips, Tom Woodford, Trevor Maggied

Teachers: Business, Science, Social Studies, Capstone coaches

District Administrators: Jamie Lennox, Mark Tremayne, Cori Kindl

COURSE COMPLETION	
General Course Requirements	State Minimum
English Language Arts	4 units
Mathematics	4 units
Science	3 units
Social Studies	3 units
Health	½ unit
PE	½ unit
Electives	5 units
HCS D Requirements	½ Digital Connections/Future Ready ½ Financial Literacy ½ Senior Capstone

requirement, a physical, life, and advanced science course, and US History, US Government, and World History as part of the social studies requirements.

The second component, competency demonstration, means that students must earn a “competency” score on the English (ELA) II and Algebra I end-of-course state tests. The competency score is 684, as defined by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE). ODE consulted with educators and business partners to establish this score and describe the score as sufficient understanding for learning and providing the skills needed for future jobs. A proficient score on these tests is a 700, so the competency score is just a little below proficient.

State law requires districts to offer remedial support to students who fail to attain competency scores on one or both of the tests. Students may retake a test at least once. Suppose they are still not able to reach 684. In that case, there are alternative ways they can meet this requirement, such as College Credit Plus opportunities, remediation-free scores on ACT/SAT, military readiness, and some other career experiences.

The third component, readiness demonstration, shows that students are ready for post-high school by earning two seals (one of which must be a state-defined seal). State law created 12 diploma seals for students to demonstrate academic, technical, and professional readiness for careers, college, the military, or self-sustaining professions. Each seal allows students to demonstrate knowledge and skills essential for future success in their chosen post-high school paths.



Students will demonstrate readiness by earning at least two diploma seals, **one of which must be state-defined**. Seals help students develop an array of critical skills that are valuable to them as they transition to the next steps after high school. Schools should encourage students to pursue seals that meet their interests and skills. Graduation planning will be an essential step in supporting students in earning their seals.

Detailed information about the seals and their corresponding HCSD programs/courses can be found in the Program of Studies (<https://www.hilliardschools.org/pdf/HighSchoolProgramofStudies.pdf>).

STATE-DEFINED SEALS

SEAL	REQUIREMENTS
Military Enlistment Seal	Enlist in a branch of the U.S. Armed Forces
Technology Seal	Complete and earn a specific course grade or score in approved courses (Computer Science and Engineering)
Industry-Recognized Credential Seal	Earn a 12-point approved industry-recognized credential (Worthington Industries, RT Moore, Tolles Programs, more programs coming soon)

Citizenship Seal	Complete and earn a specific course grade or score in approved courses (U.S. History and U.S. Government)
OhioMeansJobs-Readiness Seal	Demonstration of work-readiness and professional competencies validated by mentors at school, work, and the community
State Seal of Biliteracy	Demonstrate English language arts proficiency and world language proficiency
College-Ready Seal	Earn a remediation-free score on the ACT or SAT
Science Seal	Complete and earn a specific course grade or score in approved courses (Biology end-of-course test, specified science courses)
Honors Diploma Seal	Earn one of the five Honors diplomas: Academic Honors, Career-Tech, STEM, Arts, Social Science and Civic Engagement

LOCALLY-DEFINED SEALS

SEAL	REQUIREMENTS
Community Service Seal	Complete an approved community service project or 60 hours of community service over 4 years
Student Engagement Seal	Participate in two or more approved activities (athletics, band, drama, club)
Fine and Performing Arts Seal	Earn two credits of approved Fine and Performing Arts electives or complete pre-approved field experience

As you can guess, this could be very difficult for a ninth-grader to understand how they can meet all of these requirements. State law requires school districts to make sure every student entering ninth grade has a graduation plan. The plan is developed by the student and a representative from the school. Parents/guardians are also invited to assist in creating this plan. We want the plan to address their academic pathway, document their progress throughout high school, and be used to identify if they are at risk of not graduating. This graduation plan is important since the graduation requirements are so complex.

To make sure students are on track to graduate, we need a way to measure it. So, once they create the graduation plan, we need a way to identify what careers interest them and their post-secondary options. We currently use a platform called Naviance, a college and career readiness platform. However, while reviewing these new graduation requirements, we realized we needed a system that could provide college and career exploration, graduation planning, and a way to track all of these requirements. As a result, we are in the process of onboarding a new platform called SchoolLinks. SchoolLinks is a more modern career and college readiness platform that allows students to explore careers and track where they are with their course requirements. It also provides a resume builder and an alumni network for students after graduation. Our students in grades 6-12 will be using this platform.

We also reviewed our course offerings due to these new graduation requirements and found we needed to adjust. One of our graduation requirements is Digital Connections, a course where students learn how to use Microsoft Office and talk about careers. We want to make this a more robust course. So, we are changing the name of the course to Future Ready and will be required for all ninth-graders. It will be a college and career readiness course where they will complete their graduation plan, have the opportunity to partner with area businesses, and explore their post-secondary options. Mark Tremayne, Director of

Innovation & Extended Learning, leads this course revision. He has community partners from businesses and colleges working with him to ensure that our lessons will prepare our students for their futures.

We are also adjusting the Capstone Experience that is currently offered to seniors. In talking with principals and our capstone instructors, it became evident that we were not supporting our students with earning any seals by not offering the course until their senior year. Therefore, we are moving the Capstone Experience to junior year and have created three pathways to personalize the experience for students. The first pathway is for students to explore their interests and passions. The second pathway is for the students who want to earn the honors diploma seal. These seals require field experience and a portfolio with which the capstone instructors can help. Finally, the third pathway provides structured support to juniors who haven't earned a seal yet.

The remaining two academic courses needing adjustments based on these new graduation requirements are U.S. Government and Biology. We are currently offering U.S. Government to seniors, but this will not allow students the opportunity to earn the citizenship seal. Therefore, we are moving this course requirement to the junior year.

Biology is currently offered in the sophomore year, but we are moving this course to the freshman year. This will open up more opportunities for students to earn more advanced science credits for the science seal. Changing Biology from a sophomore to a freshman course will also help balance the number of state tests required during the sophomore year. We have a transition plan for our staff and students as we move these courses for the next school year.

Our next steps:

1. Complete SchooLinks integration and begin the implementation and onboarding of students, staff, and families
2. Provide graduation requirement information to families – District webinar January 19th
3. Provide Class of 2023 students and families with on or off track graduation status based on new requirements
4. Revise Future Ready course
5. Update Capstone course options

We feel that we have created a structure and support for our high school students to meet these graduation requirements.

Mr. Lambert commented that he would like to add a sixth item to the next steps to report how students are progressing toward graduation to the community.

Mrs. Long asked about the transition from Naviance to SchooLinks. Mrs. Althouse responded that we were at the end of our contract with Naviance, so we researched other possible platforms that could be more helpful to our students with these new requirements. Our search led us to SchooLinks. The cost of SchooLinks is very similar to the cost of Naviance.

C ROUTINES

- C1 The agenda is correct as presented. Mr. Stewart recommended that items B1 and B2 be moved to immediately follow Public Participation (section D). The recommendation was moved by Mr. Lambert and seconded by Mr. Abate. The motion was approved.

- C2 The Board of Education adopted the agenda as amended.
- C3 The Board of Education approved the November 2021 Treasurer’s Report.

Mr. Lambert read a couple of sentences from the recent state auditor’s report: “During our audit, we did not identify any deficiencies in internal controls that we consider to be material weaknesses. The results of our test disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under government auditing standards.” Mr. Lambert explained that this is exciting language on an auditor’s report. It’s a statement that the management of our finances is among the best in the state. Thank you to Brian and his team for all of their hard work.

- C4 The Board of Education approved the minutes from the following meetings:
 - a. November 8, 2021 – Regular meeting
 - b. November 8, 2021 – Meeting notes
 - c. November 29, 2021 – Work Session
 - d. November 29, 2021 – 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.

Erin Reilly-Sanders

I am a parent and one of the group's leaders of Hilliard Parents for Masks and Science. The superintendent’s email about the consideration of removing masking requirements in January was a surprise. A consensus of scientific experts continues to recommend masks in schools. This email also opened several questions about when to stop wearing masks, which is when the inconvenience of masks no longer outweighs the benefit of avoiding the spread of aerosol viruses. I understand your intentions may have changed since the email was sent. To be honest, January was not a reasonable date for removing mask requirements. It would punish kids whose parents have not accepted the consensus of medical science or those having trouble finding access to vaccinations. These are often kids of lower economic status or people of color—the arbitrariness of this decision...*(lots of background noise, unable to hear speaker)*. Masks are good at preventing the spread of airborne disease, particularly when worn by the person who is speaking. It does not offer substantial protection to those who wear them but protection to their community. Children are typically happy to comply with simple requests like wearing a mask. However, changing the rules can be confusing. You already tried not requiring masks for students in grades 7-12 when we were experiencing less than 300 cases in Franklin County. But there was a significant enough spread that you changed your policy. Currently, our community case counts are at almost 600 and rising. There should be an off-ramp for masks, but with cases increasing and accelerated transmission over the winter break, setting January as a goal was unreasonable. Experts recommend 70-80% of students vaccinated or low-to-moderate community spread. Franklin County is almost at 24% of students starting the vaccination process, with 15% completely vaccinated. Our community spread is also

critically high, not low-to-moderate. We are not near either of those measures now and are not likely to reach them before spring. Thank you for listening to the experts and following their advice to keep students, staff, and teachers healthy and in school learning.

Mr. Perry commented that the superintendent would be providing a COVID-19 update near the end of tonight's meeting. His update may answer some of your questions and concerns.

John Kizer

In light of all of the transportation issues we hear in the news, I want to thank Ms. Wendy (Bus #21/Preschool) and Mr. Ralph (Bus driver for Britton). He appreciates them being personable and engaging with the students. Although my daughter had some challenges with some older kids on the bus, I was able to talk with Mr. Ralph at length. One of the things he said that stuck with me is that he views "driving" as a minor (although very important) part of his job. He puts a lot of importance on being the first school staff person the kids see each day. I was pleasantly surprised and impressed by how much thought he puts into his job. So, a big thank you to our bus drivers.

I also appreciate everyone's perspective on the mask debate. I emailed, via the website, some links you may want to view.

Ms. Whiting added thanks to all of our bus drivers and support staff who work hard to keep our students and staff safe. We have heard the news about school districts struggling, and we appreciate every one of our bus drivers.

Jon Osmundson

I am a parent of four students across four buildings in Hilliard City Schools. In my professional life, I serve as one of the pastors of the Hilliard United Methodist Church, the oldest continuing faith community in the city. We are a faith community that welcomes and loves all persons regardless of race, gender, sexual identity or expression, political belief, or any other human difference because we believe God loves and accepts everyone. I have come to publicly thank you on behalf of the people of the Hilliard United Methodist Church. For many years, Hilliard City Schools have partnered with Hilliard UMC, the Hilliard Food Pantry, and Scioto Ridge Methodist Church to provide Thanksgiving meals to at-risk families in our school district. This year on Saturday, November 20, we distributed our combined gifts to over 350 families. Roy Walker, Executive Director of Human Resources of Hilliard City Schools, helped coordinate across the district to encourage faculty, staff, and students to donate gift cards in increments of \$10. This year the schools raised nearly \$5,000 in gift cards and, our Hilliard Education Association donated an additional \$2,000. Combined with the almost \$3,000 raised by Hilliard UMC, we provided \$30 to every family to purchase additional items they may have needed for their Thanksgiving meal. In addition to the \$10,000 in cash donations, we collected 8,000 pounds of produce and 325 pumpkin pies. Next year, we hope to return to the traditional collection of non-perishable items in brown bags to distribute to families. I am so very grateful for the generous spirit and generous giving of our Hilliard City Schools community, especially when so many are already stretched so thin. One ten-dollar gift card might not seem like a lot, but it was amazing to see all of those gift cards as they were bundled on my desk for distribution. When we work together, united together, we can make a huge and lasting impact in our community. I am thankful to every Hilliard City Schools community member who contributed to this year's Thanksgiving outreach. On behalf of the Hilliard UMC, I look forward to the many more ways we can work together to reach the most vulnerable members of our community.

Ms. Whiting echoed her thanks to everyone who participated and the Hilliard United Methodist Church for coordinating this much-needed program.

Stephanie Kunze, Ohio State Senator

As your State Senator, I am here on behalf of myself and the entire State Senate to recognize the three of you for your long-time service to our community. Many Monday night meetings and many other weeknights and weekend nights were spent preparing for those meetings. As I listened to the community comments, I thought to thank you individually and collectively for your service. Over the last twenty years, the vision you have shared and executed has been fruitful even during this unprecedented global pandemic. The mission of Hilliard City Schools has been putting students first for a long time. The amount of training and professional development provided to all staff is impressive. It all starts here with the leadership of the Board. As the parent of two HCSD graduates and a former school secretary, I thank you for your time and energy in this community. Lisa, you are one of the longest-serving members, and I am grateful to know and work with you. Paul, outside of several school treasures, you are one of only a handful of people who understands our complicated school funding formula. I appreciate your expertise and personal investment in helping many people understand how school funding works. Mark, thank you for your service. I know what it takes to devote your time to the community when you have children with busy schedules.

Allison Russo, Ohio State Representative

On behalf of the Ohio House of Representatives, I am here to honor our three outgoing school board members. I appreciate you for your long tenures of service to this community, but also for your service during the last eighteen to twenty months, where you faced unimaginable circumstances as a result of this global pandemic. I am proud to represent this school district at the statehouse because it has become one of the premier school districts in the state. You have worked tirelessly toward this outcome. Thank you for your time and energy in service to this community. It takes special people to volunteer for public service.

Ms. Whiting added her thanks to Stephanie and Allison for their service to this community. We appreciate the support of the statehouse.

E CONSENT AGENDA

- E1 Approved the following Certified Personnel actions – See attachment to the *Minutes*.
- E2 Approved the following Classified Personnel actions – See attachment to the *Minutes*.
- E3 Employment – Stipends Non-Contractual – effective for the 2021/2022 school year: Approve an hourly rate of \$55 per hour for all staff participating in Title I Power Hour grant activities at Beacon, Britton, Hilliard Crossing and Hilliard Horizon Elementary schools.

The Board of Education approved item E1 through E3, consisting of certified and classified personnel matters. You can find the complete list of personnel matters as an attachment to the *Minutes*.

F ACTION AGENDA

F1 The Board of Education established the date, time, and location of the Organizational Meeting for the calendar year 2022. Regular business meeting to immediately follow.

Monday, January, 10, 2022, 6:30 p.m., Hilliard Darby High School

F2 Mrs. Long motioned to appoint Mr. Perry as president pro tem for the first Board of Education meeting of 2022. The motion was seconded by Mr. Abate. The Board of Education appointed Mr. Perry to serve as president pro tem for the first Board of Education meeting of 2022.

F3 The Board of Education adopted the school calendar for the 2023-2024, 2024-2025, and 2025-2026 school years as presented.

F4 The Board of Education adopted the following resolution:

Authorize the Treasurer to Transfer \$50,000 from the General Fund #001 to the following Public School Support #018 accounts:

#018 – High School Band Uniform

Authorize the Treasurer to Transfer \$1,150,000 from the General Fund #001 to the following Building Fund #004 account:

#004-9006 – Building Fund

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Hilliard City School District, Franklin County, Ohio, that to provide for current expenses and other expenditures of said Board of Education, during the fiscal year, ending June 30, 2022, the following sums be amended and the same are hereby set aside and appropriated for the several purposes for which expenditures are to be made and during said fiscal year as follows:

#006 – Food Service	\$6,082,350
#200 – Student Activity	\$600,000

Mr. Wilson explained that the \$1.2 million in transfers (public school support and building fund accounts) was included in the budget this year. The \$50,000 transfer is for purchasing band uniforms. The \$1,150,000 is a transfer to the building improvement fund to balance the cost of the preschool addition. As you know, \$2.8 million from the sale of the Leppert Road property is allocated for the preschool addition.

Since we weren't sure how much revenue the food service would collect, we did not budget any capital outlay. However, federal funds are most likely going to come in much higher than anticipated to appropriate funds for capital projects. \$6,082,350 is a \$375,000 increase in appropriations which will fund the replacement of walk-in cooler freezers at Ridgewood, JW Reason, and Brown Elementary schools.

The student activity fund was an agency fund that we never had to budget before this year. We now have to budget these funds that the students manage. So, essentially, it is revenue in and revenue out.

F5 The Board of Education approved the following Certificated Personnel actions:

Employment – Supplement Salaries – effective for the 2021/2022 school year:
 All are 100% level unless otherwise indicated.

STAFF MEMBER	ASSIGNMENT	BLDG	PERCT	STEP	SALARY
Abate, Nikole M	Cheerleading-Freshman Basketball	HBR	6.00%	5	\$3,206.00

Employment – Contractual Activity Stipends – effective for the 2021/2022 school year:
 All are 100% unless otherwise indicated.

STAFF MEMBER	RESPONSIBILITY AREA	BLDG	PERCT	AMOUNT
Abate, Nikole M	District Initiatives	COA	100%	\$660.00
Abate, Nikole M	District Initiatives	COA	100%	\$660

G REPORTS / INFORMATION / EXHIBIT ITEM

G1 Committee Reports

Mr. Lambert reported that there was a policy committee meeting last week. It was basically to develop a list of policies to be reviewed beginning next year.

Mrs. Long mentioned that the business advisory council had met on December 2. This was the first in-person meeting since the pandemic, and it was great seeing everyone. We discussed the skilled trades expo and brainstormed ideas for a teacher externship program. Our business partners described the need for our teachers to experience what is happening in the “real world.” Our next meeting is scheduled for February 3.

Mr. Abate reported the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee meeting this past week. We had a great conversation about discipline policies, practices, and student handbooks.

Mrs. Long added that the facilities committee met on December 3. We toured Ridgewood Elementary, including the newly installed modular classrooms. We also toured Hilliard Tharp Sixth Grade School and were able to see the new innovative discovery center in action. In addition, we reviewed the 2021 capital improvement projects, the preschool addition, and the tentative list of capital projects for 2022. Our next meeting is scheduled for March 4.

G2 Enrollment

G3 Superintendent’s Update

a. COVID-19 Update

Unfortunately, the case counts in our county and community have continued to rise over the past few weeks. As you recall, I emailed parents in November, when cases had been steadily declining, and suggested we may be able to loosen the mask requirement following the winter break. Shortly after that, the number of new cases began to rise. Within the district, we had been averaging 30 cases per week. We have been averaging 70 cases per week in the last two weeks. It does not appear that I will recommend loosening the mask requirement until cases begin declining

for a substantial period. We have had two vaccination clinics for students and encourage families to seek out getting their children vaccinated.

Mrs. Long asked how the number of students being quarantined compares to the number of cases. Mr. Stewart responded that the rules around quarantining changed. Therefore, we no longer have to quarantine as many students because we instituted the mask requirement for all staff and students.

b. Thank you for your service

I'm happy for all three of you to begin the next chapter of your journey, but I am not happy you are leaving. I've had relationships with all of you before having this amazing opportunity of being the superintendent. I cherish our friendships. The unifying theme of these folks is that they serve for the same reason – simply to serve. They have given their time merely to serve this community. We are going to miss them.

Mark has been on the Board of Education since 2017. I first knew him as “Mark Abate,” Nikole Abate’s husband. I was a principal while getting to know him and remember having a conversation with Doug Maggied (former board member) that Mark would be a great board member. Doug responded that he had been trying to talk him into it. So we recruited him for a redistricting committee, and his service to the community began. He has been serving this community long before becoming a board member. He’s a good dad, husband, and friend. He asks great questions and speaks with sincerity. His service will be missed. Thank you!

Paul has been on the Board of Education since 2009. I first knew Paul as a very vocal community member and neighbor of Bradley High School. When Paul came onto the board, no one knew quite what to expect from him. We quickly learned that Paul is one of the most intelligent people you will ever know. He is impeccably prepared for everything he does, and he brings a great deal of knowledge to the board. Unfortunately, we will have to adjust to no longer having his daily input. He has a wealth of knowledge about the history of Hilliard and our local government. The wondering what Paul would be like turned into an absolute comfort having him here. During his tenure, his leadership and service resulted in buildings being constructed and providing a different way to view our organization through a lens of sustainability. Thank you for your time with us!

Lisa has been with the Board of Education since 2007. I first knew Lisa as a mom to an amazing kid. She was very involved in her daughter’s activities. So when she became a board member, there was no question she was in it for the right reasons. She has been a fantastic leader of this board through unprecedented times in society and personally. I can’t say enough about the support she gives that nobody sees – the phone calls she takes from me at all hours of the day and night, including weekends. She never complains and only asks what we and the kids of the district need. She is a public servant in every sense of the word. We will miss you.

The administration then presented a laser engraved district boundary map to each outgoing board member. It was designed and created by students at the Innovation Learning Center.

Mrs. Long offered her thanks to Paul and Lisa for their help when she first became a board member. I echo everything that Mr. Stewart has said. One of the greatest things I’ve learned from Lisa is how to show appreciation to our staff and community. You always do it very well.

Mark, when you became president of the board, you had no idea of the challenges you would face. Shortly after you became president, the pandemic hit, and we closed our schools. Your leadership was outstanding. One of my favorite memories of Paul is a comment he made about never being board president. The night we voted for you to be president is one of my favorite meetings. Thank you for your leadership and insight.

Mr. Perry stated that he and Mark had become good friends the past couple of years. This board stuck together through a very challenging time (pandemic). He was very responsive to everyone during his tenure as president. Paul has been my mentor for many years, and I wouldn't be on this board without his help. He was very thorough in teaching me the history of the district. Finally, Lisa's level of experience has been so invaluable. She has been a rock of consistency throughout this difficult time. I sincerely appreciate your guidance since my becoming vice president. Also, I found the photo of you handing me my diploma at my high school graduation, and I'm giving it to you as you "graduate" from the board.

Mr. Abate stated that this was a bittersweet evening. He is disappointed that he will not continue to serve on this board, but it will be nice to have a few free evenings. I will certainly miss the people and the work. It has been a great honor to work with this board, the district professionals, and in service to students. Thank you for supporting me and challenging me over the years. Thank you to Doug Maggie, Heather Keck, Andy Teater, Paul, and Lisa for your mentorship and for helping me make decisions without telling me what to decide. Thank you, Nadia and Brian, for being great teammates and servants for the school district. The board's open communication and supportive nature have served us well. Thank you to Brian (treasurer) and Dave (superintendent) for your support and mentorship. Finally, thank you to my wife and kids for their support and understanding of this commitment.

Paul began by thanking his wife for letting him do this all these years. Being numbers the guy, here come some numbers. As of tonight, I have been a school board member for 4,730 days and will continue for another nineteen days, although tonight is the last of my official duties. It has been a rewarding twelve years. I'm happy to say that many of my objectives have been achieved with the help of many board members and administrators. One of the greatest rewards is my relationships with my fellow board members, including Doug Maggied, Andy Teater, Dave Lundregan, Heather Keck, Lisa, Nadia, Mark, and Brian. I have also worked with three superintendents – Dale McVey, John Marschhausen, and Dave, and thankfully only one treasurer – Brian Wilson. I will miss all interactions with administrators, teachers, staff, and students. I will not miss the divisiveness present in our school district, whether it's over public health matters, curriculum, or other hot-button issues of our society. Although, I am happy that people come to board meetings to make us aware of your concerns. Empathy is always crucial in these types of interactions. I wish Kara, Beth, and Zach a meaningful and productive time in office. Strap in and hold on; it's going to be quite a ride. I thank you and am humbled for the 20,225 times people checked my name on the ballot. It's been an honor to serve you.

Lisa began by thanking everyone for their kind words. I am humbled and apologize if I become emotional. What a journey this has been. It started when my daughter entered kindergarten. I got involved with the PTO and followed her from Alton Darby Elementary, Brown Elementary, Hilliard Station Sixth Grade, Hilliard Memorial Middle School, Hilliard Darby High School (freshman year), and finally graduating from Hilliard Bradley High School. I have met so many amazing people along the way and served in this position for more than fourteen years. As I started my

term in 2018, I decided it would be my last. However, I wanted to see what else happens on Monday nights and what other challenges I might embark on.

I thought I had learned everything I could about being a school board member, and then a global pandemic hit two years into this term. Wow, talk about a rapidly changing environment and learning to pivot often and quickly. These have indeed been unprecedented times. We had to help guide, support, and protect our students, staff, and community. So, in addition to our typical board obligations, we had to pivot our energy, finances, and the way we offered education to our students. It had to be done quickly as we searched for ways to provide the best opportunities for our students. I am proud of every teacher, support staff, administrator, and community member for supporting us in our efforts. It hasn't been easy, and I thank everyone for helping us through this unprecedented time. All of the work I have done over the past fourteen years has been rewarding, and I'm honored to have had the opportunity to serve our community. I've been privileged to work with many talented leaders, including my fellow board members, district leadership, students, teachers, and community members. I often walked through our schools watching learning taking place and was in awe of that work being done by teachers and students. I have learned so much in this role and am grateful for the many people who have helped me along the way. I see some of my friends here who have helped on the bond and levy issues. The dedication to our district from members of this community is unprecedented.

I believe we live in a very special place with special people who have helped our schools and students be successful. Although many of you know that I have experienced several personally challenging times over the last several years, I am forever grateful for the care, support, and comfort you have provided to me. My daughter was part of Bradley's second graduating class in 2012, and I'm so grateful for her education from Hilliard City Schools. It has been the foundation of her academic career. As I mentioned earlier, she is a genetic counselor and went onto graduate school and could never have accomplished this without the foundation provided by HCSD. I am proud of the work we have done to move our district forward and to support children in their hopes and dreams for the future. Thank you to everyone for trusting me in this role.

Mr. Perry congratulated Eddy Hornyak, custodian, on his retirement. Eddy has been a custodian in the district since 1984.

H1 The meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.