

MAPLEWOOD CAREER CENTER
Board Meeting Notes
Regular Meeting
November 21, 2024

Convened: 5:04 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Board President, Jay Kelsey.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board Vice President, Mary Kaley, and followed by a moment of silence.

Roll call: Heather Hakin and Chelli Yoho were absent.

Acceptance and approval of Board meeting agenda for November 21, 2024, as presented on BoardPaq.

Acceptance and approval of the minutes of the October 17, 2024, regular meeting as presented.

No visitors were present.

Present: Mr. Randy Griffith, Superintendent; Mrs. Michelle Seckman, Treasurer.

Board President, Jay Kelsey, reported on the following:

- Mr. Kelsey attended the Annual Business Meeting of the OSBA Delegate Assembly at the OSBA Capital Conference. The Delegates' jobs were to consider amendments to OSBA's legislative platform. Boards of Education were provided an opportunity to submit proposed amendments this past Spring. If their amendment was not approved by the Legislative Platform Committee or if they wished to propose a new amendment, Delegates were able to bring proposed amendments to the floor for consideration. A school district brought a proposed amendment to the floor for consideration regarding career technical school Board membership. They wanted Boards of Education to be able to choose the best qualified person to serve on their Career Center Board. They also wanted to be able to remove their Board member from the Career Center Board if that individual retired or quit from their home school board, was not re-elected, or moved out of the home school district. The amendment reached the floor for consideration but failed to pass.

Legislative Liaison, Mary Kaley, reported on the following:

- The Ohio General Assembly has 65 Republicans and 24 Democrats in the Ohio House, and 24 Republicans and 9 Democrats in the Ohio Senate. The legislators have started the lame duck session. The Ohio House has three sessions dates scheduled and the Ohio Senate has five session dates scheduled. Approximately 190 bills impacting public education are pending and more may be introduced.
- House Bill (HB) 8 is pending in the Senate Education Committee. It is entitled the "Parents' Bill of Rights." It maintains that a parent has a fundamental right to make decisions concerning the upbringing, education, and care of the parent's child. It would require schools to ensure that sexuality content is age and developmentally appropriate; notify parents of instructional materials that include sexuality content and provide an opportunity to review the material and to request alternative instruction; notify parents about school-provided healthcare services and the option to withhold consent or decline any specified services; notify parents about changes to the health services or monitoring provided to their children by their school, related to the student's mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being or the school's ability to provide a safe learning environment; prohibit school personnel from encouraging a student to withhold from a parent information concerning the student's health or well-being, unless that disclosure would result in abuse, abandonment, or neglect; and establish a process under which the district or school must resolve written concerns submitted by parents about topics addressed in the bill. Amendments were added by the Senate that would require districts to adopt notification policies no later than 120 days after the bill's effective date; clarifies that parents must be notified of a substantial change rather than a change in any services for their child's mental, emotional or physical health or wellbeing; require districts receive consent from a parent or guardian prior to providing students with any physical, mental or behavioral health care; clarify emergency situations, first aid or minor, unanticipated health care services are not included in the bill's requirement; require disclosure of any health service or care a school seeks to provide that could be provided outside of school and require the school to notify parents whether it is required by state law; prohibits "sexuality content"

from being taught in grades K-3; clarifies that third parties are subject to the bill's prohibition on providing instruction related to sexuality content for students in grades K-3 as well as the notification requirement for such instruction provided to students in grades 4-12; and adds a section clarifying that incidental references to sexual concepts or gender ideology that happens outside of formal instruction are not considered instruction in sexuality content.

- House Bill (HB) 445 is pending in the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee. It requires, instead of permits, as under current law, school district boards of education to adopt a policy authorizing students to attend a released time course in religious instruction conducted by a private entity off school district property during regular school hours.
- Senate Bill (SB) 104 is pending in the Senate for a concurrence vote. It makes changes to the College Credit Plus (CCP) program. It adds the option for a student to inform the district of their intent to participate each semester (April 1 deadline for fall semester or full year and November 1 for spring semester). It requires districts to use CCP forms developed by the Chancellor-districts must have the Chancellor's approval to modify the forms, and requires the Chancellor to establish a process to certify teachers with relevant teaching experience as CCP instructors. During the House session on June 26, 2024, House Bill (HB) 183 "the bathroom bill" was added to Senate Bill (SB) 104. It requires public and private schools, educational service centers (ESC) and institutions of higher education to designate specified facilities for the exclusive use of student of either the male biological sex or the female biological sex; prohibits schools and ESCs from allowing members of the female biological sex to use a restroom, locker room, changing room, or shower room designated for the male biological sex and vice versa; prohibits schools and ESCs from permitting members of the female biological sex to share overnight accommodations with members of the male biological sex; and prohibits multi-occupancy facilities designated as nongendered, multigendered or open to all genders.
- Senate Bill (SB) 295 is pending in the Senate Education Committee. It declares the General Assembly's intent to revise the closure requirements for poor-performing community schools and school buildings operated by a school district. Senator Brenner was quoted, "But one of the things we haven't done –and I think we're considering in the state –is not just continuing the closure of those ineffective charter schools but actually, on our books, we can theoretically close ineffective public schools."
- House Bill (HB) 432 is pending in the Senate Education Committee. It permits an applicant to apply for an initial career-technical workforce development educator license rather than the employing school district to apply on behalf of the applicant, and creates two alternate educator preparation programs in lieu of a career-technical workforce development educator preparation program offered by a higher education institution.
- Bus Safety legislation is a product of interested party meetings held this past Summer and is expected to be amended into a bill in the House Transportation Committee. It would designate August as "School Bus Safety Awareness Month." It would require a graphic, instructing drivers to stop and yield to a stopped school bus loading or unloading passengers to be displayed at each deputy registrar location, on the Bureau of Motor Vehicles website and on social media sites managed by the deputy registrar and the Ohio Department of Public Safety (DPS). It would create the school bus safety fund consisting of funds from the General Assembly and criminal fines collected for violations of passing a stopped school bus. This would provide \$25 million to start. Funding would be used for grants to districts to improve safety features on school buses. Funding would also be used by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (ODEW) and DPS to educate the public about laws on school bus safety. It would also increase the penalties for violations of passing a school bus. First time offenders would be fined between \$250-\$1000 (could be reduced to \$150 if offender completes a school bus safety course), have two points on their license (court may waive points if offender successfully completes the school bus safety course), and maybe imposed a class six suspension of the license. Second time offenders would be fined between \$350-\$2000, have four points on their license (court may waive points if offender successfully completes the school bus safety course), maybe imposed a class five suspension, and be required to complete a school bus safety course
- Senate Bill (SB) 29 dealt with student data privacy. It passed in June and became effective in late October. OSBA and their partner associations are working with Senator Huffman, the bill's sponsor, to seek changes to clean up issues with the legislation.

Student Achievement Liaison, Joan Seman, reported on the following:

- OSBA's *Student Success* article – Milford EV creates Portrait of a Staff Member to retain teachers: Milford EV school has achieved a 92% teacher retention rate through its Portrait of a Staff Member initiative. Each month, the portrait focusses on a teacher and emphasizes traits like kindness, empathy, and flexibility to create a positive and supportive environment for students.
- OSBA's *Student Success* article – Boost student engagement as attention spans shrink: Educators are exploring strategies to boost student engagement through a combination of behavioral, cognitive, and emotional approaches. Techniques include quick wins, integrating social emotional learning, and structured collaboration.
- OSBA's *Student Success* article – Promoting data literacy: Introducing data science education early and into various subjects will help students learn how to analyze and use data.
- OSBA's *Student Success* article – ACT, SAT scores fall slightly in 2024: The class of 2024's average ACT score dropped to 19.4. The average SAT score also declined. More schools are participating in free school-day testing for both exams. The decline in scores may be attributable to more students taking the tests and possibly being less prepared.
- OSBA's *Student Success* in-depth – Survey says U.S. teacher colleges lag on training: A new report suggests U.S. schools have not kept pace with the rapid changes in artificial intelligence (AI). Only a handful of teacher training programs are moving quickly enough to equip K-12 teachers with a grasp of AI fundamentals. Fewer programs help future teachers grapple with ethics issues. Researchers found that one in four institutions incorporates training on teaching methods that use AI and most lack policies for using AI tools. Most teachers and college faculty are not ready or able to embrace AI. Programs that use AI are mostly to help teachers prevent plagiarism. Few teacher training programs show promise of integrating AI into teacher prep.

Superintendent, Randy Griffith, reported on the following:

- Mr. Griffith reviewed the Day School Report: Student Perfect Attendance for the First Quarter – 99 students; Sophomore Showcase Day – 449 students currently enrolled; Parent/Teacher Conferences on October 2, 2024 – 12.91% attendance; and October Students of the Month – Senior, Lillian Boland, Medical Assisting, Rootstown, and Junior, Kamryn Lynn, Dental Assisting, Waterloo.
- The Culinary Arts kitchen project is nearly complete. We are currently waiting for TriMark to start up the kitchen and are having a difficult time getting them to complete that task.
- The design phase of the Auto Collision lab renovation is starting. Plans should be complete in the coming months.
- Maplewood has been undergoing a special education review by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (ODEW). The IEP review process instituted by ODEW has been an experience. Maplewood and the associate schools were to devise a communications plan with the assistance of ODEW and SST8. Mr. Chip McCain is the lead for ODEW. After five hours of meetings under his leadership, he reprimanded the entities involved for not being able to get along and not caring about kids. He stated he did not have to facilitate the discussions, that ODEW does not need to be involved in the process if it weren't for the people involved, and that the group could devise the plan on their own. In the days following the meeting, Mr. McCain informed Mr. Morgan and Ms. Zabloutny that he was stepping down as the facilitator, and that Mr. Morgan and Ms. Zabloutny were to create the agenda and talking points, and facilitate the next meeting on November 20, 2024. Mr. Griffith sent a letter to Mr. McCain informing him that he, Mr. McCain, had stated the communications plan was the responsibility of the associate Schools and Maplewood, that he did not have to facilitate the meeting or attend, and that the Districts could work the communication plan out on their own and determine what they wanted to put in the plan. Mr. Griffith also informed Mr. McCain that he did not have the authority or governance to assign responsibilities or direct the work of Mr. Morgan and Ms. Zabloutny, who are employees of Maplewood Career Center. He also informed him that Maplewood Career Center has an interest in the outcome of the communications plan, and that any entity with a stake in the outcome should not be assigned as facilitator, and as such, Mr. Morgan and Ms. Zabloutny, as agents of Maplewood Career Center, would not facilitate the meeting. Mr. Griffith and the associate school Superintendents met on Friday, November 15, 2024, to discuss large issues with the communications plan, most of which were handled except those that require legal guidance. The Special Education Coordinators and some Superintendents met on

Wednesday, November 20, 2024. The majority of the communications plan was written at that meeting. Everyone worked well together. The plan is well on its way to completion. Mr. Griffith wrote a lengthy letter to Dr. Brooks, the administrative leader of the group, regarding his concerns regarding the process ODEW implemented. Dr. Brooks received the letter two weeks ago. Mr. McCain received his letter one week ago. Neither have responded. ODEW and SST8 representatives have provided their beliefs relating to Special Education law, but their interpretations do not appear to be consistent with the Ohio Revised Code. Maplewood is engaging a new law firm due to the fact the firm we typically use is also counsel for many of our associate school districts. The firm is on the agenda tonight for approval.

- Mr. Griffith commended the staff on the great job they did at the Sophomore Showcase and Spaghetti Dinner. Maplewood has a lot of people doing great jobs and they take their jobs very seriously. They did an excellent job recruiting. Currently, there are 449 juniors who have applied.

The following recommendations were made by the Treasurer and motions were acted on by the Board:

- The District Financial Report was approved and filed for the month of October, 2024.
- The expenditures were approved for the month of October, 2024.
- The investments were ratified for the month of October, 2024.
- The bank reconciliations were ratified for the month of October, 2024.
- Approved the Amended Certificate of Estimated Resources and Permanent Appropriations Resolution for FY2025.
- Approved payments to board members for attendance to training sessions for the 2024 calendar year.
- Informational Items: Fiscal Year 2024 GAAP Conversion; Fiscal Year 2024 Audit; OSBA Capital Conference expense reimbursements; Christmas in the Woods Revenue Report; COSSBA, Pepple and Waggoner, School Negotiations Workshop, Cleveland, January 23, 2024; COSSBA, Consortium of State School Boards Associations, National Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, March 21 - 23, 2025; NSBA, National School Boards Associations, National Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, April 4 - 6, 2025.

The following recommendations were made by the Superintendent and motions were acted on by the Board:

- Approved employment of a part-time Aspire instructor.
- Approved employment of certified/licensed Information Technology Instructor, Marla Slama, for the 2024-2025 school year.
- Accepted the resignations of; Erin Kisela, English Instructor, Anthony Schulmeister, Information Technology Instructor, and Dennis Schaeffer, Custodian 2nd Shift.
- Approved payment of security personnel for the Christmas in the Woods event on November 1 - 2, 2024.
- Approved paying Holly Johnson, English Instructor and Monica McAtee, English Instructor, \$130.00/day each day they are assigned to teach double classes.
- Approved the grant applications; Super Rapids 7 Grant, Ohio Work Ready Grant, and the Talent Ready Grant.
- Accepted two donations.
- Commended the Maplewood staff and students who participated in the Christmas in the Woods event on November 1 - 2, 2024.
- Commended the hard work and commitment demonstrated by Maplewood staff and students who participated in the Maplewood Sophomore Showcase event on November 5 - 6, 2024.
- Acknowledged the students and staff who contributed to the success of Career Night/Spaghetti Dinner, on November 14, 2024.

New Business:

- Approved convening the Board of Education Organizational meeting on Thursday, January 16, 2025, at 5:00 p.m., with the regular Board meeting to follow.
- Authorized the purchase of Make Up Air Units, Exhaust Fans, and Kitchen Exhaust Hoods from Gardiner, 31200 Bainbridge Road, Solon, Ohio 44139, utilizing the cooperative purchasing of the Ohio Schools Council ("OSC"), a regional council in the State of Ohio, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code 167.081.

- Authorized the Superintendent to employ legal counsel as needed.
- Approved the Proposal of Architectural Services, from DVA Architecture, to provide architectural services for the Maplewood Career Center Automotive Classroom Renovation.

Unfinished Business:

- Approved the GMP Amendment No. 1 with Whitehouse Construction Services Co., as Construction Manager at Risk, of the Maplewood Career Center - 2024 Kitchen Renovation Project.

Executive Session: Discuss employment or appointment of public employees, matters required to be kept confidential by federal law or regulations or state statutes, and, safety and security. **(5:54 p.m. – 6:09 p.m.)**

Adjourned: 6:09 p.m.