

MAPLEWOOD CAREER CENTER
Board Meeting Notes
Regular Meeting
December 19, 2024

Convened: 5:01 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: All were present.

Acceptance and approval of Board meeting agenda for December 19, 2024, as presented on BoardPaq.

Acceptance and approval of the minutes of the November 21, 2024 regular meeting, as presented.

The following visitor was received: Miss Hakin.

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

Board President, Jay Kelsey, reported on the following:

- Mr. Kelsey thanked his fellow Board members for the honor of being the Board President for the 2024 calendar year. He said the Maplewood Board is a great group to work with and he is very grateful to work with them.

Legislative Liaison, Mary Kaley, reported on the following:

- House Bill (HB) 8 is scheduled for a committee hearing in Senate Education Committee. The bill would enact the "Parents' Bill of Rights," requiring public schools to adopt a policy on parental notification on student health and well-being and instructional materials with sexually explicit content. The bill was amended to require districts to adopt a policy allowing for release time religious instruction (RTRI) and defines core curriculum as "reading and English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies and health education." House Speaker Jason Stephens has repeatedly stated that he wants a "clean" bill, meaning that he doesn't want the bill to pick up amendments that do not pertain to the title. The Senate Education Committee could amend the bill on December 17, 2024, to remove RTRI language, or the chair, Senator Andrew O. Brenner, could move the bill out of committee with the RTRI language to see what Stephens does on the House floor.
- Senate Bill (SB) 295 is scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Education Committee. It would require schools in the bottom 5% of the performance index and bottom 10% of the progress measure for three consecutive years to choose to either close or implement an alternative to closure. It is not scheduled for a vote but it could be amended in House Bill (HB) 206.
- House Bill (HB) 206 would make changes regarding the expulsion of a student from a public school for actions that endanger other students' or school employees' health and safety. House Bill (HB) 206 could pick up Senate amendments as they look for an education-related vehicle to address any items the Senate wants to take legislative action on during this General Assembly. However, the House will need to concur with any Senate changes.
- Senate Bill (SB) 208 would require school districts to include an exception for children of active-duty military personnel in their open enrollment policies and permit a student enrolled under a district's open enrollment policy exception for children of military personnel to continue to attend that district and receive transportation services for the remainder of the school year if the student's parent is no longer on active duty. Senate Bill (SB) 208 does address a few other educational related issues. It requires the board of education of a school district and the governing board of an educational service center to seek to meet the "varying and unique needs of students and teachers" when purchasing technological office equipment and computer hardware and software and requires the board to consider the long-term cost of ownership, flexibility for innovation and any anticipated residual or salvage value at the end of the target life cycle. It permits educational aides or assistants and instructional assistants to provide services under the Autism and Jon Peterson Special Needs scholarships virtually. It permits, rather than requires, public schools to have law enforcement officers or

prosecutors with relevant experience provide employee in-service training on child sexual abuse and specifies that those officers and prosecutors may provide the training at their discretion so long as they have relevant experience. It eliminates provisions of law that required the Department of Education and Workforce to adopt a model curriculum for high school students on proper interactions with peace officers during traffic stops and other encounters, school districts and other public schools to use the department's model curriculum in at least one course required for high school graduation, and the director of Public Safety to adapt the department's model curriculum for use in driver training programs and new driver instructional materials. It establishes the Prenatal-to-Five Early Childhood to Post-Secondary Regional Partnerships Program to support early childhood to post-secondary regional partnerships throughout Ohio. It also permits a preservice teacher permit to be one year in duration, in addition to three years as under continuing law.

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

- OSBA's *Student Success* article – *Fortnite physics lab offers hands-on learning*: A physics professor turned Fortnite into a tool for science education by creating an immersive physics laboratory that can be used to demonstrate and explore a variety of physical science concepts. It is an experiment that shows what learning experiences could look like in the future.
- OSBA's *Student Success* article – *Parents rely more on teacher input than grades*: A national survey of 20,000 parents indicated a shift in how parents assess their children's academic performance, with communication from teachers now trusted more than grades. Due to factors like grade inflation, parents put more stock in communication with teachers to gauge kids' performance. Colleges are also seeing grades as less reliable. Many have re-instated standardized test requirement for admissions that were dropped during the pandemic.
- OSBA's *Student Success* in-depth – *Three barriers to learning algebra in high-poverty middle schools*: Fewer Black and Hispanic students and students of low-income in all races are passing algebra in the eighth grade compared to white students. In 2021, 25% of white students passed algebra in the eighth grade, and only 13% of black students did. A survey conducted in 2023 and 2024 of more than 3,000 school principals and 1,000 math teachers across the country suggest three problems at the poorest middle schools, disproportionately populated with Black and Hispanic students: many don't offer algebra at all; their teachers have less training and math expertise; and teachers describe their time spent in the classroom differently than those at wealthier schools.
- OSBA's *Student Success* article – *NAEP using new socioeconomic measure in 2024 report*: The 2024 Nation's Report Card (NAEP) will debut a new poverty measurement. Measurements of students' socioeconomic status will examine factors such as the number of books in homes and parents' education levels. Previously, it relied on students' eligibility for free or reduced-price lunch to gauge low socioeconomic status.

Superintendent, Randy Griffith, reported on the following:

- Mr. Griffith reviewed the Day School Report: Senior Awards Ceremony will be held on Wednesday, May 28, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.; Important upcoming dates; and November Students of the Month – Senior, Faith Scarberry, Welding, Southeast, and Junior, Camry Oaks, Cosmetology-East, Waterloo.
- The Culinary Arts kitchen project is complete except for a final punch list.
- The design phase of the Auto Collision lab renovation is underway.
- The Power Equipment Mechanics lab may also undergo a renovation this summer to the tool storage areas.
- Last month, Mr. Griffith informed the Board he had written letters to Dr. Brooks and Mr. McCain regarding his concerns regarding the process ODEW implemented to devise a communications plan for special education. It has been five weeks, and neither has responded. Mr. Griffith stated that he is not surprised.
- Mr. Griffith thanked the Maplewood Board of Education for their support of Maplewood, the students, and the staff. Maplewood would not be able to accomplish what it has without the Board's support.
- Mrs. Seman told Mr. Griffith and the Board that her daughter Sue employs two Maplewood students at her veterinarian practice. She said they have excellent work ethics and are doing an excellent job.

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 November, 2024.
- The expenditures were approved for the month of November, 2024.
- The investments were ratified for the month of November, 2024 and total investment earnings for the 2024 calendar year.
- The bank reconciliations were ratified for the month of November, 2024.
- Informational Items: Approved Fiscal Year 2024 Financial Statements and Compliance Audit; Fiscal Year 2026 Proposed Alternative Tax Budget; Reappraisal of Property Values; Pepple and Waggoner School Negotiations Workshop, Cleveland, January 23, 2025; 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:

- Authorized and directed the Board President and the Treasurer to give written notice of contract expiration to the following administrators: Renee English, Supervisor, Laure Gauntner, Adult Education Director, Joseph Hinton, Cafeteria Supervisor, Jennifer Smith, Director of Technology, and Ted Slankard, Supervisor.
- Employed Nicole Landmesser, Custodian 2nd Shift, for the remainder of the 2024 - 2025 school year.
- Employed Amanda Kortright, English Instructor, for the remainder of the 2024 -2025 school year.
- Employed Loren Bernadine, Substitute Cafeteria Personnel.
- Approved employment of Victor Cianci, Substitute Electricity Instructor.
- Approved employment of Karl Brendle, part-time Adult Education instructor.
- Accepted two donations.

New Business:

- Appointed Jay Kelsey, Board President, to serve as president pro tem for the Organizational Meeting on Thursday, January 16, 2025.
- Adopted the proclamation to name January 2025 as “School Board Recognition Month”.

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. **(5:29 p.m. – 5:37 p.m.)**

Adjourned: 5:37 p.m.