

**MAPLEWOOD CAREER CENTER**  
**Board Meeting Notes**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**January 16, 2025**

**Convened: 5:14 p.m.**

**The meeting was called to order by Board president, Mary Kaley.**

**Roll call:** All were present.

**Acceptance and approval of Board meeting agenda for January 16, 2025, as presented on BoardPaq.**

**Acceptance and approval of the minutes of the December 19, 2024, regular meeting as presented.**

**There were no visitors present.**

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

**Board President, Mary Kaley, reported on the following items:**

- Mrs. Kaley thanked Mr. Jay Kelsey for all of his hard work as the 2024 Board President and as a Board member.

**Superintendent, Randy Griffith, reported on the following:**

- The preliminary plans for the renovation to the Auto Collision Technology lab are done. A building outside of the lab will be constructed to house air compressors. The compressors run the air from the Auto Collision Technology lab all the way south to the Power Equipment Mechanics lab. Taking them out of the lab will create more floor space for instruction and will reduce noise. Two new overhead doors will be installed along with two new paint spray booths. Vehicles will enter the spray booths through the overhead doors. After the vehicles are painted, they will be driven forward into the lab to dry. A paint mixing room is also being installed. This has not been part of the lab previously. A two-post lift is being replaced with a four-post lift. The four-post lift will be moved to the north wall. A frame straightener will be on the south wall. Welders will be mobile. This will make the lab more conducive for teaching and learning.
- Minor remodeling will be done to the Power Equipment Mechanics and Auto Service Technology labs in the tool and equipment storage areas.
- All remodels will continue to ensure that students are behind two locked doors during lock downs.
- Mr. Griffith still has not received a response from the letters he sent to the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce regarding the special education communications plan. He is supposed to be part of a zoom meeting in January, but has not yet been informed as to when.
- Maplewood's instructional staff recently completed a ninety-minute staff in-service related to mental health and de-escalation techniques.
- SkillsUSA competitions will take place in the next couple of months. Maplewood students will be competing locally and regionally. Students who are successful will move on to state competitions and possibly national competitions.

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

- OSBA's *Student Success* article – *Public school enrollment declines 2.5% since 2019*: According to the National Center for Education Statistics, public school enrollment dropped 2.5% from 2019 to 2023. Pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade dropped 4.5%. Grades 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> increased 2%. This appears to be driven by birth rates.
- OSBA's *Student Success* article – *Looking at alternatives to school resource officers*: A researcher at Iowa State University raises questions about the effectiveness of school resource officers. He recommends schools provide resource officers with training on de-escalation and child development, and teaming them with therapists and social workers.
- OSBA's *Student Success* article – *Fostering student belonging to enhance academic success*: Experts claim that creating a sense of belonging is essential to helping students learn. This is especially true for adolescents

and middle schoolers. Teachers can help build student confidence by affirming the students' contributions and sharing student progress even if it does not show in the students grades.

- OSBA's *Student Success* in-depth – *Teacher satisfaction dips as student absenteeism rises*: A study conducted using data from the U.S. Department of Education about 2,370 kindergarten teachers around the country, found that when a higher percentage of students are absent from the classroom, teacher job satisfaction trends downward. Absenteeism is causing teachers to conduct additional remediation to get students caught up. Before and after school tutoring and greater instructional assistance would help support teachers.

**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 December, 2024.
- The expenditures were approved for the month of December, 2024.
- The investments were ratified for the month of December, 2024.
- The bank reconciliations were ratified for the month of December, 2024.
- Approved Alternative Tax Budget for Fiscal Year 2026.
- Authorized payment to teachers completing the Science of Reading Pathway.
- Informational Items: Group Health Insurance Plans for Board Members, Bylaw 147, OSBA Roster Information; Calendar Year 2025 IRS Mileage Rate; Pepple & Waggoner School Negotiations Workshop, Cleveland, January 23, 2025; Pepple & Waggoner Special Education Seminar, Cleveland, February 7, 2025; COSSBA, Consortium of State School Boards Associations, National Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, March 20 – 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 part-time Aspire instructors, Scott Barth and Natasha Rodriguez-Carroll.
- Set the day school tuition rate at \$9,855.62 for the 2025 - 2026 school year.
- Recognized the month of February 2025, as "National Career and Technical Education Month".
- Recognized the month of February 2025, as "National African-American History Month".

**Adjourned 5:40 p.m.**