

## **Shaker Heights Board of Education, March 16, 2021**

**Present:** Board President Heather Weingart and board members Lisa Cremer, Ayesha Bell Hardaway, Emmitt Jolly, and Jeffrey Isaacs; Superintendent Dr. David Glasner, Treasurer Bryan Christman.

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Weingart at 6:05 p.m. The agenda may be found [here](#). The livestream may be found [here](#).

Onaway 4th graders Dhylan Burfitt, Maddie Harrington, Emerson Linder and Samira Tendulkar gave a recorded welcome presentation followed by brief remarks from Eric Forman, Onaway Principal.

The minutes of the [February 9, 2021 regular meeting](#) and the [February 23, 2021 special meeting](#) were unanimously approved without comment.

Ms. Bell Hardaway read two public comments submitted online prior to the meeting. The first comment was from Anita Chitluri, a parent of a seventh grader, who expressed concerns about the number of videos being shown to students, and the level and rigor of classes during the pandemic. The second comment was from Kathleen O'Connell Sauline who expressed concerns about closed meetings during the hiring of Jonathan Kuehnle as Shaker Heights High School Principal in 2016; she urged the Board to investigate.

Dr. Glasner acknowledged students and staff for special recognition. He congratulated the Shaker Schools Foundation for raising over \$230,000 at A Night for the Red & White. He applauded four Shaker student members of the Boy Scouts of America Inaugural Class of Female Eagle Scouts. Dr. Glasner congratulated the High School Esports team on being awarded a \$25,000 state-of-the-art Esports lab. He applauded the wonderful production of "Sankofa DNA: The Survival Success Gene" and congratulated Marcia Fudge, SHHS Class of 1971, on becoming the U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. A complete list of special recognitions may be found [here](#).

Shaker Heights Mayor David Weiss, Shaker Heights Library Director Amy Switzer, Library Board President Michael Bertsch, and Shaker Heights City Councilman Tres Roeder (via phone) shared an update on Forward Together joint facilities planning. They have conducted interviews to hire a Project Manager for the creation of the Joint Facilities Master Plan. In the next week, they will hire a Consultant Team for creation of the Joint Facilities Master Plan, following the March 22 application deadline. They are finalizing an interagency agreement to split costs between the City, the Library, and the School District. An interim report will be released in December 2021. Construction that was due to start this summer at Betram Woods Library has been delayed by six months while joint facilities planning is underway. Ms. Switzer stated that the Library Board is committed to keeping branch services in the future, even if not in the current Betram Woods Library building.

High School Principa Eric Juli, Athletic Director Michael Babinec, Assistant Athletic Director Marc Enie, and High School Physical Education teacher Jill Woodard gave a presentation about proposed changes to the [High School Physical Education program](#). The goal of the proposed changes is to increase the emphasis on health and wellness for all students, and to support the goal of ending racial segregation in Shaker classrooms by ensuring that the racial makeup of all PE classes is representative of the student body. Currently, Shaker requires twice the state minimum for PE credits to graduate. The District requires 1.0 credit (four semesters) of PE, while the state requires .50 credit (two semesters). Prior to this year, the High School schedule consisted of seven periods per day. Approximately 50% of students opted out of in-person PE classes to fit other classes in their schedules. They did independent study or online courses rather than in-person PE. Currently, many African American students take in-person PE classes.

Beginning with incoming 9th graders (Class of 2025), the High School will eliminate the option to opt out of in-person PE and shift from 1.0 (four semesters) required credit to .5 (2 semesters) required credit. This means incoming freshmen will be expected to fulfill the PE graduation requirement solely by taking in-person classes (competitive games, raider games, strength and conditioning, lifetime fitness, and yoga/stress management). With the eight period High School block schedule, students will have room in their schedules to take PE. A new weight room as well as a newly-hired Strength and Conditioning Coach (Joseph Schlesinger) will allow for a beginning strength course for athletes so they can be encouraged to use the weight room properly. There is also a goal to have the students take in-person Health classes. 9th graders will take PE the first semester and Health the second semester. The PE department feels that more robust programs will help with the goal of lifelong wellness for Shaker students. After the freshman class, student athletes can have an interscholastic independent study credit for their second PE credit, but the hope is that many students will take an in-person PE class for the second credit, too. Only one interscholastic independent study credit will be allowed over a student's four-year experience.

Current 9th-11th graders are "grandfathered" in and can still use the independent option for all PE credits, but will be encouraged to take in-person classes. These changes to the High School PE program will not require any change in staffing.

Ms. Weingart asked the Board for approval of personnel actions and reports. All were unanimously approved. Dr. Glasner highlighted the retirement of three staff members: Barbara Rose, Mercer third grade teacher (14 years of service), James Sexton, Woodbury custodian (31 years of service), and Nancy Wemer, Onaway library technician (18 years of service).

Chief Operating Officer Jeff Grosse presented a proposal to re-engage with the Ohio facilities Construction Commission for an asset and evaluation of Shaker's eligibility for funds under the Ohio Construction match. This resolution allows conversation and does not obligate the District to agree to whatever assessment the Commission proposes. Once Mr. Grosse meets with the case manager, he will present a timeline to the Board. See proposal [here](#). It passed unanimously.

Chief Operating Officer Jeff Grosse presented a proposal for air handling unit fans at Woodbury. The work includes replacing ECM (Electronically Commutated Motor) fans in Gym, Band Room, and Choral Room air handling units. The proposal is from Gardiner Services Company (a preferred contractor of the Ohio Schools Council) which has pre-negotiated contracts and allows the District to get a discount without the bidding process. The need for this work was discovered during issues in the Woodbury Gym. The work is required to keep the building functioning. Total net cost (excluding sales tax) is \$127,540.00. See the proposal [here](#). It passed unanimously.

The Board unanimously approved an agreement for the leasing of space on the second floor of the Main Shaker Heights Library building for the District's student registration (Registrar), and engagement and outreach of students and parents (FACE) operations. The Library leases the building from the City of Shaker Heights, so it is a sublease agreement. The City legal office reviewed it. Base rent will be \$500 per month. The term includes payment over 10 years for the improvement to the space that will be used by the District. The lease term is for two years and then renewable in 5-year terms after that. This allows the District to re-evaluate its needs and make sure the space is working for its needs. See the [lease](#) agreement.

Dr. Chris Rateno presented the third of three readings of Board Policies that were updated policy statements. All passed unanimously.

- [BDC - Executive Session.pdf \(97 KB\)](#)
- [DH - Bonded Employees and Officers.pdf \(97 KB\)](#)
- [DM - Deposit of Public Funds \(Cash Collection Points\).pdf \(157 KB\)](#)
- [EDE - Computer-Online Services \(Acceptable Use and Internet Safety\).pdf \(141 KB\)](#)

The Board unanimously passed the authorization of a waiver of the 3rd grade reading guarantee during the 2020-2021 school year due to the coronavirus pandemic. Dr. Chris Rateno and Dr. Marla Robinson explained that the District will still administer the evaluations and they will have reading plans for the students, but they will not be required to hold the students back based solely on the evaluation. The teachers and superintendent will have flexibility in evaluating the students and will be able to provide additional reading supports to those who need it. This waiver has been authorized by HB 409. Dr. Robinson emphasized that the District still emphasizes reading skills. This waiver takes the high stakes testing requirement out of third grade and allows the teachers to evaluate each student individually.

The Board unanimously passed the appointment of Bruce Rogen to the Shaker Heights Public Library Board of Trustees. Board of Education members Ayesha Bell Hardaway and Lisa Cremer participated in the interview process with the Library Board President and a Library Board Trustee. Bruce Rogen is Chief Medical Officer, Employee Health Plan at Cleveland Clinic and is eager to serve on the Library Board. See his CV [here](#).

Mr. Christman presented the [February Monthly Report](#). Highlights include:

- Real estate tax revenue received this year-to-date was \$2.4 million or 3.7% less than prior year due primarily to lower first and second advances received in January and February this year vs last; \$140,000 below budget as projected through the end of the fiscal year.
- The expenditure activity for the month and for the fiscal year-to-date February 2021 was \$2.5 million or 3.9% less than the prior year amount, due primarily to reduced operating expenses due to the COVID-19 hybrid/remote/closure partially offset by increases attributable to COVID-19 expenditures and timing differences in some of the various expense categories. Expenditures are \$2.9 million or 2.84% below budget as projected through the end of the fiscal year. The favorable budget variance is due to reasons including due to partial salary chargeouts to the Federal COVID-19 ESSER-I grant Fund 507 as well as no mid-year salary increase due to the recent one-year extension of the SHTA collective bargaining agreement. While the District's overall finances are trending favorably at this time, the total amount of expenditures required during the rest of the fiscal year attributable to COVID-19 is still an unknown variable at this time.
- Review of Legislative bills that affect school funding.
  - HB 110 - Student Wellness and Success funds requires partnering with two community partners instead of just one
  - Tax Collections - cases pending on adjustments to local property taxes based on employees working from home during the pandemic.
- The Finance and Audit Committee has openings and is interviewing potential committee members.

At the recommendation of Mr. Christman, the Board unanimously voted to adopt the Tax Rate Resolution for the ensuing tax year. This directs the County to collect taxes and includes the millage rate as voted, which is not the effective millage rate.

**SCHEDULE A**  
**Summary of Amounts Required from General Property Tax Approved**  
**by Budget Commission and County Fiscal Officer's Estimated Tax Rates**

FUND	COUNTY FISCAL OFFICER'S ESTIMATE OF TAX RATE TO BE LEVIED	
	INSIDE 10 MILL LIMIT	OUTSIDE 10 MILL LIMIT
Bond Retirement		4.50
General	4.10	179.33
Permanent Improvement		1.25
Library		5.90
Total	4.10	190.98

Dr. Glasner presented his monthly report to the board.

- March 9th, Faculty and Staff received a second shot of Covid vaccination. Thanks to Human Resources and ESC partners for coordinating the shots.

- March 17th, staff will have a webinar with the Health Team from University Hospitals to address any questions about vaccine or Covid-19.
- The Superintendent's Student Advisory Team met with Windsong, partners on educational equity for an engaging conversation that included the students' input on their experiences.

Ms. Weingart invited Board members to share reports. Ms. Bell Hardaway has been meeting with the Equity Policy Implementation Advisory Team and had the opportunity to tour the Middle School. Ms. Cremer reported on touring Woodbury and Lomond. Mr. Isaacs reported on visiting Woodbury, Lomond, and Onaway. He also informed the Board that Shaker Schools Foundation Board members have been reading books on equity and holding book group discussions led by Phillip Rowland-Seymour. Dr. Jolly reported on visiting Boulevard and Ms. Weingart reported on visiting the High School.

The public session of the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m. The next Board meeting will be March 23, 2021 for a work session devoted to SELF summer programs.

*Susan Vodrey and Sarah Divakarla, LWV observers*