

The Lakewood Board of Education Regular Meeting (Monday, November 2, 2020)**Members present**

Emma Petrie Barcelona, Betsy Shaughnessy, Edward Favre, Michael Callahan, Linda Beebe

Meeting called to order at 5:30 PM**A. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL**

Procedural: 1. Call to Order - Roll Call

The Lakewood Board of Education met in regular session at Lakewood High School's Ranger Cafe, 14100 Franklin Boulevard, Lakewood, Ohio at 5:30 p.m.

B. RECESS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION (ROLL CALL VOTE)

Action: 1. Executive Session - For Consideration of the Employment of Public Employees

The Board recessed to Executive Session at 5:30 p.m.

Motion for members of the Board of Education of the Lakewood City School District to hold an Executive Session for consideration of the employment of public employees (ROLL CALL VOTE)

Motion by Betsy Shaughnessy, second by Michael Callahan.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yea: Emma Petrie Barcelona, Betsy Shaughnessy, Edward Favre, Michael Callahan, Linda Beebe

The Executive Session ended at 6:25 p.m. The Board returned to public session at 6:25 p.m. and immediately recessed. No action was taken.

C. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Procedural: 1. Pledge of Allegiance

The Board reconvened in the Lakewood High School Civic Auditorium at 7:00 p.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. In addition, the public meeting proceedings were livestreamed at the following YouTube channel link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8X6Pcjqt2OrjiKAo-4fA/featured>.

#213/2020

D. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (ROLL CALL VOTE)

Action: 1. Adoption of the Amended Agenda (ROLL CALL VOTE)

Motion to adopt the agenda as amended for the November 2, 2020 Regular Board of Education Meeting (ROLL CALL VOTE) with the following addition under Building, Sites and Major Purchases:

1. Resolution to Approve the Extension of the Master Electric Energy Sales Agreement between Lakewood Board of Education and ENGIE Resources, LLC

Motion by Linda Beebe, second by Betsy Shaughnessy.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yea: Emma Petrie Barcelona, Betsy Shaughnessy, Edward Favre, Michael Callahan, Linda Beebe

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Action, Minutes: 1. Approval of Minutes of the Special Board of Education Meeting Held on October 12, 2020

Motion to approve the Minutes of the Special Board of Education Meeting Held on October 12, 2020

Motion by Linda Beebe, second by Betsy Shaughnessy.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yea: Emma Petrie Barcelona, Betsy Shaughnessy, Edward Favre, Michael Callahan, Linda Beebe

Action, Minutes: 2. Approval of Minutes of the Special Board of Education Meeting Held on October 18, 2020

Motion to Approve Minutes of the Special Board of Education Meeting Held on October 18, 2020

Motion by Linda Beebe, second by Betsy Shaughnessy.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yea: Emma Petrie Barcelona, Betsy Shaughnessy, Edward Favre, Michael Callahan, Linda Beebe

Action, Minutes: 3. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting Held on October 19, 2020.

Motion to Approve the Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting Held on October 19, 2020.

Motion by Linda Beebe, second by Betsy Shaughnessy.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yea: Emma Petrie Barcelona, Betsy Shaughnessy, Edward Favre, Michael Callahan, Linda Beebe

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Information, Reports: 1. District Updates - Superintendent Barnes

Superintendent Barnes said tonight we would recognize our National Merit Scholars. Lakewood High School Principal, Mr. Mark Walter, introduced Mrs. Roberta Marcinek, LHS Counseling Department Facilitator, who provided information about the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) competition. Seniors Gina Marjanovic and Anastasia (Nina) Seckers placed among the top 16,000 scorers on the PSAT taken in their junior year and were named semifinalists. They will continue on in the competition in

the hope of being named a finalist and earning an NMSC scholarship. Sean McHugh, Aidan Peck, and Katherine Spilsbury were named National Merit Commended Students for placing in the top 5% of those participating in the PSAT. Board President Petrie Barcelona extended the Board's congratulations to Gina and Aiden for their academic achievements and presented them with certificates acknowledging their accomplishments. Nina, Sean and Katherine were unable to attend.

Mr. Walter said in addition to LHS' outstanding academic program, the high school also has an exceptional Fine Arts' program. Art teachers Ms. Dayna Hansen and Ms. Arline Olear were in attendance to speak about the recent successes of two of their Art students. Grace Hoppel and Nola Williams-Riseng both had art selected for inclusion in the 2nd Annual Juried High School Art Exhibition at Otterbein University. Their pieces were chosen out of over 100 submissions from high school students throughout Ohio and adjacent states. Board President Petrie Barcelona thanked Grace and Nola for creating and sharing their art with their peers, teachers, and community. Grace was presented with a certificate of recognition; Nola was not able to attend tonight's recognition.

This ended the Superintendent's Report.

G. DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE SECOND REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

H. DISCUSSION - FINANCE REPORT - MS. BEEBE, MR. CALLAHAN

Discussion: 1. Investments Purchased and Matured - For the Month of August 2020

Discussion: 2. Financial Information - For the Month of August 2020

I. DISCUSSION - BUILDINGS, SITES AND MAJOR PURCHASES REPORT - MR. FAVRE, MRS. SHAUGHNESSY

Discussion: 1. Resolution to Approve the Extension of the Master Electric Energy Sales Agreement between Lakewood Board of Education and ENGIE Resources, LLC

J. DISCUSSION - EDUCATION REPORT - MR. CALLAHAN, MR. FAVRE

Discussion: 1. Gifts To Schools For the Month of November 2020

K. DISCUSSION - POLICY - MS. PETRIE BARCELONA, MRS. SHAUGHNESSY

L. DISCUSSION - HUMAN RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT - MRS. SHAUGHNESSY, MS. BEEBE

Discussion: 1. Certified

Discussion: 2. Certified Athletic Coaches/Advisors (ECES) - Non-Employees

Discussion: 3. Classified

Discussion: 4. Classified Athletic Coaches/Advisors (ECES) - Non-Employees

Discussion: 5. Community Recreation & Education

M. COMMUNICATIONS

Information: 1. Board of Education Comments

- Mr. Callahan summarized the input he has recently received from parents. Parents have generally commended teachers for their remote learning efforts; however, parents really want their children to attend school in-person in some fashion. Parents have asked for a change to the plan that currently ties our public health advisory system to the District's remote learning model and have expressed the negative impact remote learning is having on their children. Mr. Callahan indicated there has been an increase in comments regarding perceived mental health challenges related to isolation and learning remotely. Parents are encouraging the District to be nimble and consider new information and data. Mr. Callahan expressed his opinion that he would like the District to move towards a return to in-person learning as long as it can be accomplished in a safe manner for our students, families, staff and administrators. He stated that he is not minimizing the seriousness of the virus, but that it has become clear to him that many people would like to have the option to return to school at least in a hybrid model.

- Mr. Favre said he thinks students are being done a great deal of harm by not being in school. While we may have the best remote process available, there are students who are suffering emotionally and academically from not being in the classroom. The District needs to maintain the choice for parents who wish their children to continue remote learning but offer an option for those who wish to return to the classroom. Mr. Favre said that we as a public entity have a responsibility to have as many students who are willing and can be safely accommodated in the school buildings. He addressed sports and indicated it seemed contradictory to have students playing sports in close contact with each other but not have them in the classroom. If we feel we can allow students to safely participate in sports, surely we can safely conduct in-school, in-class instruction. Mr. Favre would like to see the District implement a plan or process to get students safely in the buildings as much as possible.

- Ms. Beebe indicated she is pretty much in agreement with Mr. Callahan's and Mr. Favre's comments. She said there is a rumor circulating that it is this Board's intention for students to remain remote until June 2021. She indicated this is a changing scene, and it is not this Board's plan for students to remain out of school until a specific date. She also has been hearing from parents about their concerns and frustrations. Some of the frustrations associated with technology have made the learning experience more difficult. Parents are concerned that their children are not learning at the level they should be learning. Ms. Beebe said the District should be creative in considering options for the safe return of students to the classrooms. She fears the difficulties facing students are affecting their education.

Ms. Beebe said there were many articles available on the topic of tomorrow's presidential election. Parents may want to take advantage of this information to help explain events to children.

- Mrs. Shaughnessy said she would refrain from repeating previous comments as she is in agreement. She said several things can be true at the same time. Many of these plans took place during the summer, and the priority at that time was to focus on improving remote learning. While working on improving remote learning, we still need to recognize that children learn best in a classroom setting with a teacher. If this were not the case, schools would not exist as they do now. Many children need the connection with the teacher and the interactions with their peers. Mrs. Shaughnessy said that the Board clearly wants students, families and staff to be safe. She believes with all the good minds in this district that we should be able to come up with a safe way for children to be in a classroom with a teacher and their peers. The exception would be in obviously dangerous times, which we should be able to identify. A plan was developed, things change, knowledge changes, and we then see the results for our children. Mrs. Shaughnessy said the Board appreciates all the thoughtful and hopeful requests advocating for students' return to the classroom.

- Board President Petrie Barcelona provided an overview of the Board of Education's decision-making process and the protocols in place to ensure transparency to all stakeholders. At the meeting two weeks ago and in the media there were references to "a decision was made." Regular Board meetings are scheduled in advance, sometimes a full year ahead; and the agenda for each meeting is usually published on the Friday before the meeting. The only decisions the Board can vote on in public session appear on the agenda. At the meeting two weeks ago there was no item having to do with a return-to-school plan or a memorandum of understanding (MOU). Board President Petrie Barcelona wanted to make sure all understood that the Board did not make a decision two weeks ago with regard to a return to school. She explained that two weeks ago Cuyahoga County went to red, which precluded students from returning to the classroom based on the District's current plan. She was quite clear that the Board can never vote or make a decision in private as that is against the open meeting laws governing public meetings. The Lakewood Board of Education is a public body duly elected by the citizens of Lakewood.

She stated that at a meeting prior to that Board members did approve an MOU with the Lakewood Teachers Association. This MOU covered many things related to the schools, and Ms. Petrie Barcelona said she did vote to approve it. Components of the MOU included staff safety along with how to conduct remote education. While the Board does not participate in negotiations, it was her understanding that a lot of effort went into building the plan. She expressed appreciation for those who developed a plan to continue remote education for students who would not or could not return to the classroom. There is a lot of good in this MOU. She indicated her personal hesitation, while she voted in favor of the MOU, was that whether students were remote or in-person was solely tied to the county level as designated by the Ohio Public Health Advisory System.

Since this summer, there has been access to more information. Lakewood was prudent in not reopening early as we can now build on other districts' experiences of how a return to school can be safely accomplished. The data supports that spread is not occurring in work places and schools. It is happening in places that do not have standards, rules, or expectations for rules of behavior. We know the District has talented people who can make this work. We have to accept that things will be different but there are ways to minimize the risk and keep everyone as safe as possible. In Lakewood there is the ability to communicate and collaborate in order to find great solutions. Board President Petrie Barcelona asked for everyone to continue to work together and find solutions that will be good for our students and families. She encouraged families to make choices in their personal lives that will help facilitate the reopening of schools and classrooms. She thanked everyone who attends Board meetings and shares their thoughts and comments. She acknowledged that while time constraints have made it difficult to respond to all communications, she does read each and every one.

- Superintendent Barnes said he has also been receiving and reading all of the emails, and it has been challenging to try to respond to each one. Administrators are reviewing the information and are taking it into consideration. The Superintendent appreciates those who are taking the time to share their thoughts. Dr. Barnes indicated there have been inquiries about student fees, and he wanted the community to know that we are reviewing the fees and whether they need to be modified given that students are in remote learning.

Information: 2. Public Comments

Board President Petrie Barcelona asked if anyone in attendance would like to address the Board. The following individuals spoke to advocate for the Board of Education to provide options that would permit students to return to in-person instruction:

- Gabriella McCarty, 16712 Edgewater Drive, Lakewood
- Amber Callahan, 14212 Clifton Boulevard, Lakewood
- Jen Stanley, 1259 Lakeland Avenue, Lakewood
- Patricia Barley, 1060 Kenneth Drive, Lakewood
- Kelly Munaretto, 15322 Lake Avenue, Lakewood

Board President Petrie Barcelona said the following individuals had submitted online comments prior to tonight's meeting:

- Ann Stahlheber, 1081 Forest Cliff Drive, Lakewood – supports decision to keep students 100% remote while providing additional support for those students who need it
- Sharon Mulac, 16509 Clifton Boulevard, Lakewood – advocates for students to have the choice to return to school
- Michael Bentley, 15623 Lake Avenue, Lakewood – advocates for students to have the choice to return to school
- Megan Dubecky, 17610 Franklin Avenue, Lakewood – requests a survey be sent to families to gauge interest in continuing remote learning
- Adrienne Tekaucic, 13202 Hazelwood, Lakewood – enumerated the District's inconsistencies in response to the pandemic
- Jill Carson, 13938 Lake Avenue, Lakewood – questioned why school fees are assessed when students are not attending classes in the school buildings
- Lisa A., 1307 Warren Road, Lakewood – advocates for students to return to the classroom especially students on IEPs with special needs
- John McCarty, 16712 Edgewater Drive, Lakewood – advocates for students to have the choice to return to school

N. OTHER BOARD BUSINESS

#214/2020

Action: 1. Classified - Request Approval on One Reading (ROLL CALL VOTE) (Shaughnessy, Beebe)

Motion to approve the Classified resignation for the purpose of retirement and resignations on one reading (ROLL CALL VOTE)

Motion by Betsy Shaughnessy, second by Linda Beebe.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yea: Emma Petrie Barcelona, Betsy Shaughnessy, Edward Favre, Michael Callahan, Linda Beebe

#215/2020

Action, Discussion: 2. Resolution to Approve the Quote between the Lakewood Board of Education and Gardiner for Repairs to Boiler #2 at Garfield Middle School - Second Reading (Favre/Shaugnessy)

Motion to approve the quote between the Lakewood Board Of Education and Gardiner for repairs to Boiler #2 at Garfield Middle School

Motion by Edward Favre, second by Betsy Shaughnessy.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yea: Emma Petrie Barcelona, Betsy Shaughnessy, Edward Favre, Michael Callahan, Linda Beebe

O. ADJOURNMENT

Action: 1. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

Motion by Michael Callahan, second by Betsy Shaughnessy.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

Yea: Emma Petrie Barcelona, Betsy Shaughnessy, Edward Favre, Michael Callahan, Linda Beebe