

## **The Lakewood Board of Education Meeting (Tuesday, September 7, 2021)**

### **Members present**

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

### **Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM**

#### **A. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL**

Procedural: 1. Call to Order - Roll Call

The Lakewood Board of Education met in regular session in the Lakewood High School Cafeteria, 14100 Franklin Boulevard, Lakewood, Ohio at 7:00 p.m. In addition, the public meeting proceedings were livestreamed at the following YouTube channel link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8X6Pcjqzt2OrjwiKAo-4fA/videos?view=2&flow=grid>.

In the absence of the Board President, Board Vice President Favre conducted the proceedings.

#### **B. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Procedural: 1. Pledge of Allegiance

Board Vice President Favre led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance. He then thanked the Lakewood PTA Council for participating in the annual Ice Cream Social held before tonight's Board meeting. While this event was conducted differently than it has been in the past, it shows the cooperation between the Board and the PTA. Both Mr. Favre and Mrs. Rachel Vuyancih, PTA Council President, spoke about the collaboration between the District and the PTA units. Mr. Favre said the Board most definitely appreciates the PTA and everything they do for the District and its students. Mrs. Vuyancih said the Lakewood City School District has been extremely supportive of PTA's efforts through the years and feels that this is a great partnership. She also shared information about this year's Brake for Kids initiative.

#220/2021

#### **C. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (ROLL CALL VOTE)**

Action: 1. Adoption of the Agenda

Motion to adopt the agenda for the September 7, 2021 Regular Board of Education Meeting (ROLL CALL VOTE)

Motion by Michael Callahan, second by Linda Beebe.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

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

#### D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board members approved the following three sets of Minutes in one action.

Action, Minutes: 1. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting Held on August 2, 2021

Motion to Approve the Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting Held on August 2, 2021

Motion by Emma Petrie Barcelona, second by Linda Beebe.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

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

Action, Minutes: 2. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting Held on August 16, 2021

Motion to Approve the Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting Held on August 16, 2021

Motion by Emma Petrie Barcelona, second by Linda Beebe.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

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

Action, Minutes: 3. Approval of Minutes of the Special Board of Education Meeting Held on August 30, 2021

Motion to Approve the Special Board of Education Meeting Held on August 30, 2021

Motion by Emma Petrie Barcelona, second by Linda Beebe.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

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

#### E. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Information, Reports: 1. District Updates - Superintendent Niedzwiecki

Superintendent Niedzwiecki shared several updates this evening with Board members. Our number one goal, as always, is the safety and security of students and staff. The Superintendent spoke about the challenges of educating students during a pandemic. Information was provided as to where the most up-to-date Covid-19 data and District procedures were housed on our website. The Covid-19 Dashboard is updated each day. Since all District staff and students wear masks, we need not track quarantines. Along with the Dashboard, the 2021-2022 School Year Plan is also posted. This document contains information about mask requirements, eLearning information, safety protocols, suspected illness protocols, quarantine guidance, Covid student reporting form, FAQs, and additional resources. Superintendent Niedzwiecki spoke about strategies that everyone can follow in order to lessen the likelihood of quarantine. Information about quarantining has been constantly changing. The Superintendent shared information that was provided last week from the State. Wearing masks right now allows our students to remain in class while the Delta variant runs its course. Superintendent Niedzwiecki said she is sure we will continue to receive more clarifying documents as we move through this pandemic and that will make us continue to adapt our processes in order to comply.

The Superintendent reported that the Community Recreation and Education Commission has been

working on revising their bylaws. It has been many years since the bylaws were updated. Commission members have spent a few months working on this revision. Lastly, the District completed the joint agreement with the City. We have begun to reorganize our organization model and partnership with the City. Administration has spent many hours developing a plan with the City to review our pools' and baseball fields' management. These documents are more the fiscal piece; however as we move forward, there will be plenty of opportunity for the community to share their thoughts on how we can continue to better ourselves in this area. The Superintendent said if anyone had any concerns about this agreement they could reach out to herself, Mrs. Leslie Krogman or a City representative to discuss their concern.

This ends the Superintendent's Report.

## F. DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE SECOND REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

### G. DISCUSSION - FINANCE REPORT - MR. CALLAHAN, MS. PETRIE BARCELONA

### H. DISCUSSION - BUILDINGS, SITES AND MAJOR PURCHASES REPORT - MS. PETRIE BARCELONA, MR. CALLAHAN

### I. DISCUSSION - EDUCATION REPORT - MS. BEEBE, MR. FAVRE

Discussion: 1. Agreement between the Lakewood Board of Education and Parents of a 3rd Grade Student to Provide Attendant Services

Discussion: 2. Agreement Between the Lakewood Board of Education and GCL Education Services, LLC.

Discussion: 3. Agreement Between the Lakewood Board of Education and Bellefaire JCB - Monarch School

Discussion: 4. Resolution to Approve Student Clubs

Discussion: 5. Memorandum of Understanding Between the Lakewood Board of Education and Asian Services in Action, Inc. for the 2021-2022 School Year

### J. DISCUSSION - POLICY - MRS. SHAUGHNESSY, MR. FAVRE

### K. DISCUSSION - HUMAN RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT - MR. FAVRE, MS. BEEBE

Discussion: 1. Certified

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

Discussion: 3. Resolution to Approve Additional Classified Administrative Position

Discussion: 4. Classified

Discussion: 5. Classified Non-Employee Coaches/Advisors (ECES)

## Discussion: 6. Community Recreation & Education

### L. COMMUNICATIONS

#### Information: 1. Board of Education Comments

Board Vice President thanked our staff, teachers, and everyone in the District for assuming the added layer of responsibility and work during this Covid situation in order to have the students return safely to the buildings.

Ms. Beebe reported she had received a call from a parent expressing her appreciation for the mask policy as that allowed her child to safely return to school. Ms. Beebe also ran into a family where the kids were jumping up and down with excitement because they were back in school.

#### Information: 2. Public Comments

- Bill Fraunfelder, 1428 W. Clifton Blvd., Lakewood. Mr. Fraunfelder stated he currently serves as a Commissioner of the Community Recreation and Education Commission (CREC). He spoke about the service level agreement being negotiated by Ms. Krogman and the Administration with various members of City Council negotiating on behalf of the City of Lakewood. Mr. Fraunfelder reminded the Board that CREC had been tasked by the Board to advise and direct the programming of our Recreation Department. He expressed his concerns with how the residents were being represented in these discussions and asked that the service level agreement involve review by the CREC prior to recommended adoption by the Administration and approval by the Board.

- A.J. Magner, 15710 West Shore Court, Lakewood. Mr. Magner said he understands the previous speaker's concerns about the lack of involvement in the MOU's preparation process; however, Mr. Magner supports proceeding with the current document. He feels it is a good start to make the remedial repairs to the ballfields, and it is a good framework for the eventual evolution and improvement between the City's and the District's relationship. There are only 60 work days left this year for outside work. He suggested that a timeline be presented to stakeholders. Mr. Magner will meet with Mrs. Krogman and Dr. Palumbo next week.

He commented on the recent CREC meeting that he attended. He did not feel welcome at all and found this to be a very disappointing and frustrating experience.

- Julia Toke, 1682 Parkwood Avenue, Lakewood. She applauded both City Council and the School Board for how quickly the MOU was put together. She expressed her concerns about inconsistencies within the document and wanted to ensure it is all encompassing for all of the recreational properties. Ms. Toke will send her comments to the Superintendent. Ms. Toke also attended the recent CREC meeting; she has applied for the open position because she was enraged by the level of decorum. She feels the School Board and City Council exhibit a spirit of collaboration, and she found this lacking at the most recent CREC meeting.

- Johnny Miller, 2066 McKinley Avenue, Lakewood. Mr. Miller addressed the District's return to school policy at the August 2 Board meeting. Since then he has conducted additional research and questions the motives driving these decisions. Mr. Miller feels that access to the ARP (American Rescue Plan) Federal funds is driving the Board's decisions. He asked to be provided with the information and

data used to make these decisions as well as information about how this money has been spent.

- Billy Fronimo, 1434 Clarence Avenue, Lakewood. Mr. Fronimo asked to be provided with the data and the science used to arrive at the Board's mask mandate for students. He shared information and statistics that contradicted the decision requiring students to mask. Mr. Fronimo expressed his opinion that money must have played into making these decisions.
- Rachael Mathes, 14616 Armin Avenue, Lakewood. Ms. Mathes shared information from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) that masks do not prevent the spread of viruses. She stated that neither society nor a school board has the right to require medical intervention on an individual for the benefit of society. She also spoke about the negative health effects of wearing masks. Ms. Mathes believes the parent should decide whether their child(ren) should wear a mask.
- Jessie Holland, 2053 Arthur Avenue, Lakewood. Mrs. Holland stated as an educator and a parent, she thanked Board members for instituting and upholding a mask mandate in all of the District's school buildings.
- Christie Gibbons, 17704 Archdale Avenue, Lakewood. Ms. Gibbons provided Board members with printed materials. She spoke about unmasking our children. She referenced studies that indicate it is unhealthy for children to wear masks and shared the impact masking is having on her non-verbal daughter. Ms. Gibbons wants children to have a choice.
- Brittany O'Connor, 2173 Mars Avenue, Lakewood. Mrs. O'Connor thanked the Board for continuing to follow the guidance of the Federal, state and local health agencies and requiring that masks are worn when inside District buildings. She encouraged families not comfortable with masking to take advantage of other learning options.
- Donna Parks, 2050 Wyandotte Avenue, Lakewood. Ms. Parks thanked the Board members for having policies in place that allow her children and grandchild a safe return to the classroom. She feels in-person learning is the best option, and the current rules limit students' time out of the classroom due to the need to quarantine.
- Valerie Molinski, 1480 Clarence Avenue, Lakewood. Mrs. Molinski expressed her appreciation for the continuation of the mask mandates. She does not understand why we are continuing to have this masking debate when the information and best practices of the American Academy of Pediatrics continues to say otherwise.
- Sharon Schuldt, 1284 Bunts Road, Lakewood. Mrs. Schuldt thanked the Board for making the decision to require masks for students at all grade levels. She said it was clear that we needed to set aside our personal opinions and work together for the good of the community.
- John Daters, 1266 Edwards Avenue, Lakewood. Mr. Daters thanked the Board for making the right decision and listening to the majority of the parents.

## M. OTHER BOARD BUSINESS

#221/2021

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

Motion to approve Certified action on one reading (ROLL CALL VOTE)

Motion by Linda Beebe, second by Michael Callahan.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

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

#222/2021

Action: 2. Classified - Request Approval on One Reading (ROLL CALL VOTE) (Favre, Beebe)

Motion to approve Classified actions on one reading (ROLL CALL VOTE)

Motion by Linda Beebe, second by Michael Callahan.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

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

Discussion: 3. Resolution to Approve the Joint Agreement between the City of Lakewood and the Lakewood City Schools Board of Education - First Reading (Petrie Barcelona, Callahan)

## N. ADJOURNMENT

Action: 1. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Motion by Michael Callahan, second by Emma Petrie Barcelona.

Final Resolution: Motion Passed

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