

**MINUTES OF THE CLEVELAND HEIGHTS-UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Special Meeting of February 16, 2016

The Board of Education of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District, Cuyahoga County, held its Special meeting in the public meeting room of the Board Building at 2155 Miramar Boulevard, University Heights, Ohio, on February 16, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Kal Zucker, President, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Present at Roll Call: Mr. Kal Zucker, President
Mr. Ron Register, Vice President
Mr. James Posch, Board Member
Mr. Eric Silverman, Board Member

Also Present: Dr. Talisa L. Dixon, Superintendent
Mr. Scott Gainer, Chief Financial Officer
Members of the Central Office Staff
Patrons of the School District
Representatives of the News Media

MOVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was recommended that the Board move into Executive Session pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(3) to meet with Board Legal Counsel to discuss disputes involving the Board and/or the School District that are the subject of pending or imminent court action.

No. 16-02-027 It was moved by Mr. Silverman, seconded by Mr. Register, that the Board move into Executive Session.

Vote on the motion was as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Posch, Mr. Register, Mr. Silverman,
Mr. Zucker

Nays: None

Present at Executive Session: Mr. Kal Zucker, President
Mr. Ron Register, Vice President
Mr. James Posch, Board Member
Mr. Eric Silverman, Board Member
Ms. Beverly Wright, Board Member
Dr. Talisa L. Dixon, Superintendent
Mr. A. Scott Gainer, Chief Financial Officer
Mr. Steve Shergalis, Director of Business Services
Mr. Steve Friedman, Squire Patton Boggs LLP

The Board moved into Executive Session at 6:06 p.m.

Ms. Beverly Wright, Board Member, arrived at 6:18 p.m.

The Executive Session ended at 7:05 p.m., and the Board reconvened in public session at 7:15 p.m.

WORK SESSION

Noble Elementary Peer to Peer 21st Century Grant Program

Noble Elementary Principal Rachael Coleman, Site Coordinator Tiffany Rowan, ELL Teacher Wendy Craven, and 21st Century Grant Coordinator Meghan McMahon presented highlights of the Peer 2 Peer program that helps ELL students integrate into the school. Principal Coleman says that Noble Elementary currently has a population of 33 students from Nepal who are ELL students, and the school needed a program to provide support to these students. Since 2012, Noble Elementary has seen a 150% increase in their English Language Learner students. The 21st Century Grant has funded a Peer to Peer Mentoring program (P2P), which pairs an ELL student with a native English speaker who needs extra help in literacy.

P2P students have extended academic and literacy opportunities Monday through Thursday, from 7:30-8:30 a.m. Afterschool enrichment is available Monday through Thursday, from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m., with classroom teachers staffing the program on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

MSAN Program

Allison Byrd, Director of Data, Research and Assessment, talked about the District's participation in Minority Student Achievement Network (MSAN), a national coalition of multiracial, suburban-urban school districts that have come together to understand and eliminate achievement/opportunity gaps that persist in their schools. MSAN's mission is to understand and change school practices and structures that keep racial achievement gaps in place. Its goal is to ensure racial differences in achievement are eliminated, while improving the achievement of all students. In MSAN, the greatest chance for student participation is the annual student conference, where the focus is to create opportunities for students to guide the work of the organization.

MSAN advisors, O’Dasha Johnson, Nathan Williams, and Shawn Washington allowed students in the program to share their social and academic experiences.

AVID Program

Bob Swaggard, Coordinator of Secondary Education, Zoraba Ross, Heights High Administrative Principal, and other AVID instructors, talked about the AVID program, Advancement Via Individual Determination. This program’s mission is to close the achievement gap by preparing students for college readiness and success in a global society. AVID teaches students how to study, how to stay organized, how to interact with teachers and fellow students, self-development and self-discovery. Beginning with 7th grade students, AVID sets the foundation for success in high school. Students talked about their experience with the program, highlighting the support, strength, confidence and skills received to help them excel in school and prepare them for college. Heights High Administrative Principal Zoraba Ross said he is an advocate for the AVID program and would like to see the AVID strategies expand throughout the entire high school.

Board President Kal Zucker stated that the Board will have a further discussion in May 2016 on nature of the work of the Facilities Accountability Committee (FAC). Mr. Zucker spoke about the criteria for candidate selection and proposed Ms. Elissa Bray and Mr. Patrick Mullen to fill the vacancies on the FAC.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Tuesday, March 1, 2016 – Regular Board Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

It was recommended that the meeting be adjourned.

No. 16-02-028

It was moved by Mr. Silverman, seconded by Ms. Wright, that the meeting be adjourned.

Vote on the motion was as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Posch, Mr. Register, Mr. Silverman,
Ms. Wright, Mr. Zucker

Nays: None

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Kal Zucker, President

Scott Gainer, Chief Financial Officer