

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

**Special Joint Meeting of January 26, 2017**

The Board of Education of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District, Cuyahoga County, held its Special joint meeting with the Facilities Accountability Committee (FAC) in the public meeting room of the Board Building at 2155 Miramar Boulevard, University Heights, Ohio, on January 26, 2017, at 5:30 p.m.

Board President Ron Register called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

**Present at Roll Call:** Mr. Ron Register, President  
Mr. Kal Zucker, 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

Ms. Beverly Wright, Board Member, arrived at 5:39 p.m.

**MOVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

It was recommended that the Board move into Executive Session pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(4) to prepare for, conduct, or review negotiations or bargaining sessions with employees concerning compensation and other terms and conditions of employment.

**No. 17-01-013** It was moved by Mr. Silverman, seconded by Mr. Zucker, 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. Scott Gainer, Chief Financial Officer  
Mr. Scott Wortman, Supervisor of Communications  
Ms. Felisha Gould, Assistant Superintendent  
Dr. Paul Lombardo, Assistant Superintendent  
of HR & Operations  
Dr. Jeffrey Johnston, Director of Student Services  
Mr. Sandy Womack, Director of Principal Leadership  
& Development  
Mr. George Petkac, Director of Business & Operations  
Mr. Bryan Loretz, Coordinator of Safety & Security  
Ms. Rachael Coleman, Elementary Principal  
Mr. Woodie Goodnight, Consultant, Huffmaster Services

The Board moved into Executive Session at 5:36 p.m.

The Executive Session ended at 6:33 p.m. The Board held a reception and reconvened in public session at 7:06 p.m.

### **Overview of the FAC Functions**

Board President Ron Register stated the mission of the FAC is to monitor and regularly report to the Board regarding the status, progress and expenditure of funds for Phase 1 of the District's comprehensive plan, as authorized by District voters in Issue 81, passed in November 2013. The FAC's responsibilities include monitoring the implementation of the Facilities Master Plan, as well as reviewing the status of construction, financing and fundraising, following proposed and actual construction costs, and reviewing community engagement in school planning, construction contracting, and construction workforce.

### **FAC Report**

Mr. Seku Shabazz, Facilities Accountability Committee Member, provided a summary of the Points of Accountability Report from the FAC Committee (see official minutes). The FAC felt that communication and engagement within the school community has improved; however, the communication and engagement with the overall greater community is an area of concern. There was a note of caution regarding the community pool. Mr. Shabazz stated that there will be a pool,

but there are still issues to be resolved between the Board of Education and the City of Cleveland Heights and the City of University Heights. The overall budget was quite concerning to the FAC. The Committee believes with the High School's finished project being significantly over budget, the middle schools budget will be insufficient to complete their renovation satisfactorily, and improvements to the elementary schools will be impacted as well.

John Janssen, FAC member, clarified that we are not at risk right now for going over the overall budget. He said we have exceeded the estimated cost at each step. The result is that in order to stay within budget, the architect must design to the remaining budget to ensure the project's completion without going over the overall budget. At this point, though, Mr. Janssen stated, we are not over budget; we have exceeded estimates at every stage. This is still a cause for concern.

### **Comments & Questions from the Board**

Board members asked questions and continued to discuss this report.

### **Next Steps**

The Board is being asked to look at where the project will currently end and determine if it is where they want to be or if they would like to take time to re-evaluate the path to the end. The Board will discuss whether they wish to continue the FAC's role in the facilities project and what that role would include. Feedback will be provided to the Superintendent, and a recommendation will be made at an upcoming meeting.

Board members recognized FAC members for their hard work serving on the committee.

### **Resolution to Approve Travel Related to Official Duties While Serving OSBA**

It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the resolution authorizing payment of travel expenses for Ron Register, Board President, while he conducts official duties during his service as an executive committee member of the OSBA (see official minutes).

#### **No. 17-01-014**

It was moved by Mr. Silverman, seconded by Ms. Wright, that the Board approve the above resolution.

Vote on the motion was as follows:

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

Nays: None

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Tuesday, February 7, 2017 – Regular Board Meeting

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

It was recommended that the meeting be adjourned.

**No. 17-01-015**

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 8:19 p.m.

---

Ron Register, President

---

Scott Gainer, Chief Financial Officer