

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

Special Meeting of May 17, 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 May 17, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Kal Zucker, President, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Present at Roll Call: 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

Ms. Beverly Wright, Board Member, arrived at 5:40 p.m.

Mr. Kal Zucker, Board President, arrived at 5:45 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)(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, and pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(1) for the purpose of considering the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, demotion, or compensation of an employee or official of the School District.

No. 16-05-074 It was moved by Mr. Silverman, seconded by Mr. Posch, that the Board move into Executive Session.

Vote on the motion was as follows:

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

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. Brad Callendar, Director of Career/Technical/Partnerships
Mr. Scott Wortman, Coordinator of Communications
Atty. Lindsay Gingo, Squire Patton Boggs
Atty. David Smith, Smith Peters Kalail
Atty. Sherrie Massey, Smith Peters Kalail
Atty. Steve Friedman, Squire Patton Boggs

The Board moved into Executive Session at 5:31 p.m.

The Executive Session ended at 7:28 p.m., and the Board reconvened in public session at 7:32 p.m..

WORK SESSION

School Funding Presentation

Chief Financial Officer A. Scott Gainer and Lay Finance Committee Chair Jayne Geneva conducted a presentation on School Funding. Part of the Strategic Plan is to make sure the District has the necessary finances and to make clear where those finances come from. Mr. Gainer provided Board members with OSBA publication, Making Sense of School Finance, which attempts to explain some of the very complex issues related to school funding.

Jayne Geneva gave a historical overview of school finance to explain why the continuing demand for school levies is necessary. Jayne, who is also a school-funding activist, stated that as a school district, we cannot raise any more money if we don't add more millage to our tax burden. More and more of the dollars that the state used to provide to districts now must come directly out of local citizens' pockets as the state revises the funding rules for public education and reduces the amount it will put in its budget to educate Ohioans. She reiterated that repeat school levies are not a sign of inefficiency, waste or lax oversight on the part of districts. They are a direct result of state law, House Bill 920, which outlines how public schools are funded. Historically, each school district must repeatedly go to its residents about every three years to reaffirm how important education is to that community. Levies enable districts to maintain its systems given there is no automatic inflationary increase, even though inflation raises the cost of utilities, supplies and labor. Education, Ms. Geneva commented, plays a strong part in lifting our economy. Without valued education, our economy would falter.

CFO Scott Gainer provided an overview of our District's sources of revenue. Our revenue, he explained, is being reduced significantly by state funding that is going to charter schools, open enrollment and scholarship opportunities. The amounts that we are losing are expected to increase in the future, resulting in a significant drop in revenue.

After considering several millage models, the levy proposed for this November would be 5.5 mills, which would produce approximately \$5.8 million per year for school operations. This amount was reviewed and recommended by the Lay Finance Committee, a group of expert community members who examines the five-year forecast and reports their findings to the Board.

The proposed levy would be the district's smallest operating levy request in at least 20 years.

Approval of 5.5 Mill Tax Levy for the Purpose of Current Expenses

It was recommended that the Board of Education approve a resolution declaring it necessary to levy an additional tax for the purpose of current expenses and requesting the Cuyahoga County Fiscal Officer to certify the total current tax valuation of the school district and the dollar amount of revenue that would be generated by that additional levy (see official minutes).

No. 16-05-075 It was moved by Mr. Posch, seconded by Mr. Silverman, that the 5.5 Mill Levy Resolution be approved.

Vote on the motion was as follows:

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

Nays: None

The Board will hear a second reading of the resolution at its regular monthly meeting on June 7th since it takes two official readings of a resolution to formally place the levy on the ballot.

ELA Book Adoption

The Board conducted its second reading of the ELA book adoption. The third and final reading required for this book adoption will be held on June 7, 2016.

Approval of Five-Year Forecast

It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the five-year forecast for fiscal years ending June 30, 2016 through June 30, 2020 (see official minutes).

No. 16-05-076

It was moved by Mr. Silverman, seconded by Mr. Register, that the Five-Year Forecast be approved.

Vote on the motion was as follows:

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

Nays: None

Board Member Jim Posch and Board Member Eric Silverman attended the Facilities Accountability Committee Meeting held on May 12, 2016. Mr. Posch said the Committee is working to make sure they are kept up to date regarding budgetary decisions on the facilities project.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Tuesday, June 7, 2016 – Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, June 21, 2016 – Special Board Meeting

MOTION TO ADJOURN

It was recommended that the meeting be adjourned.

No. 16-05-077

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 8:56 p.m.

Kal Zucker, President

Scott Gainer, Chief Financial Officer