

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

Special Meeting of February 25, 2008

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 Monday, February 25, 2008.

Michael Cicero, President, called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

Present at Roll Call: Mr. Michael Cicero, President
Mr. Kal Zucker, Vice-President
Mr. Eric Coble, Board Member
Mr. Ron Register, Board Member

Also Present: Mrs. Deborah Delisle, Superintendent
Mr. Scott Gainer, Chief Financial Officer
Members of the Central Office Staff
Patrons of the School District
Representatives of the News Media

Absent: Ms. Nancy Peppler, Board Member

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Approval of Cleveland Heights High School Students' Field Trip to the Ohio College Tour

It was recommended that the Board approve the Cleveland Heights High School Students' Field Trip to the Ohio College Tour, scheduled for February 21-22, 2008.

Approval of Cleveland Heights High School Career Development Field Trip to the Ohio DECA Conference

It was recommended that the Board approve the Cleveland Heights High School Career Development Field Trip to the Ohio DECA Conference in Columbus, Ohio, scheduled for March 7-8, 2008.

Approval of Cleveland Heights High School Instrumental Music Department Spring Tour Field Trip

It was recommended that the Board approve the Cleveland Heights High School Instrumental Music Department Spring Tour Field Trip to Pittsburgh, PA, scheduled for March 25-27, 2008.

No. 08-02-031

It was moved by Mr. Coble, seconded by Mr. Zucker, that the above field trips be approved.

Vote on the Motion was as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Cicero, Mr. Register, Ms. Pepler,
Mr. Zucker, Mr. Coble

Nays: None

WORK SESSION: Topic: Value Added Data and Growth Model

Superintendent Deborah Delisle explained that during the last several years, we have been utilizing a variety of ways to measure students, particularly those that are required by both Ohio as well as the federal government under No Child Left Behind. There is a new model that is gaining in popularity that actually measures the growth of individual students within a school district within a classroom. This model is known as a Value Added Model. Superintendent Delisle introduced Caroline Kaczala and Laurie Chapman, who have both been at the forefront of working on Value Added Data, to present on this topic.

Laurie Chapman, Program Specialist and Caroline Kaczala, Testing/Accountability Coordinator, conducted a presentation on "Understanding Value-Added Analysis." The presentation offered an introduction to value-added analysis, offered sample value-added reports, discussed how value-added information can inform school improvement, and provided district value-added reports.

Dr. Kaczala pointed out that the power of using the Value Added Model is that you are not just looking at a school's achievement, but you are looking at achievement and progress.

Ms. Chapman mentioned that negative growth does not mean that a child is not making progress; it just means that a child did not grow as much as expected. The major impact of Value-Added on our District and building ratings is that it will be calculated this year in terms of AYP along with the Achievement scores. The State was very clear that they did not sanction too quickly and did not reward too quickly. It will take two consecutive years of above average growth before the State will move a school district up one rating. It will take three consecutive years of below average growth before it will move a school district down one rating. The Value-Added measure will affect the report card ratings starting this year (2007-2008).

Ms. Chapman, Program Specialist, indicated that no longer can one teacher accomplish what is needed by himself/herself. More and more, teachers need time to meet with each other, share ideas, share improvements, share progress, share expertise, and share what is working and what is not working.

Dr. Caroline Kaczala pointed attention to the 2007 Ohio Value-Added Report for Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District measuring growth in Reading and Math Achievement.

Superintendent Deborah Delisle stated that we have struggled with our database and the kinds of information we can get from it. Some school districts across the state have no database to manipulate. Superintendent Delisle continued that there is a significant cost factor to change over a software system, to purchase a system and to be trained on it.

Christine Fowler-Mack, Assistant Superintendent, stated that during this time of change, we have had the benefit of having the ear of Dr. Zelman of the Ohio Department of Education, along with six other districts. Right after the first results came out, vertical alignment sessions were held. There was quite a reaction between the districts about the data and the manner in which we would have preferred to receive it so that we could really use it to impact instruction.

Deborah Delisle commented that great credit should be given to the work that is being done every day in the classrooms. She said that is where the strength is, when you look at what is happening between the teacher and the student. Given the many challenges, whether it is mobility rate, socio-economics, or whatever the case may be, we are still moving students along and experiencing growth. This, she feels, is what is most critical.

Kal Zucker, Board Vice President, observed that part of the job of the Board is to provide resources to the District so they can do their job in the best possible way. He questioned what type of proposal would be needed to have a system that is useful and can help our students to achieve.

Caroline Kaczala indicated that in all our schools, teachers and principals are really starting to use data to improve instruction, and it is frustrating when the information they need is not available as quickly as they need it.

Ms. Fowler-Mack pointed out that to meet the needs of our teachers, we did find the most sophisticated tool this year that would allow teachers the ability to manipulate the achievement data they receive for all the different achievement tests given. This tool allows them to get more information and to draw comparison reports about particular students as it relates to achievement tests over different years.

Superintendent Delisle expressed her thanks to Caroline Kaczala and Laurie Chapman for sharing this information in such a concrete and factual way. She indicated that we will revisit this topic when the report card comes out in September or October.

Board President Michael Cicero agreed that this was an excellent presentation.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

It was recommended that the meeting be adjourned.

No. 08-02-032 It was moved by Mr. Coble, seconded by Mr. Register, that the meeting be adjourned.

Vote on the motion was as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Register, Mr. Coble, Ms. Pepler,
Mr. Zucker, Mr. Cicero

Nays: None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Michael Cicero, President

Scott Gainer, Chief Financial Officer