

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

Special Meeting of January 30, 2008

The Board of Education of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District, Cuyahoga County, held a Special meeting with Cleveland Heights City Council at Cleveland Heights City Hall, 40 Severance Circle, Cleveland Heights, Ohio on Wednesday, January 30, 2008, to enhance communications on topics of mutual interest as well as to discuss any business that may be lawfully conducted.

The Special Meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

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

Also Present: Members of Cleveland Heights City Council
Patrons of the School District
Representatives of the News Media

The Cleveland Heights City Council meeting facilitator, Mayor Edward Kelley, began by thanking everyone for coming together to talk about various matters, including communications, safety and security, and working better together. Mayor Kelley felt the City was really close to working things out with the City of University Heights as far as salt sharing was concerned.

Cleveland Heights Mayor Ed Kelley stated he spoke with the City Manager, Bob Downey, about meeting with Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District Superintendent, Deb Delisle, to have conversations to possibly intertwine staff in order to stay on top of things and move forward together.

Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District Board President, Michael Cicero, thanked the City of Cleveland Heights for meeting with the School Board. Mr. Cicero stated that he was glad to be present and looked forward to working together. He mentioned the CH-UH City School District would have its own Board Meeting on January 31, 2008 at 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Cicero stated he received an email from a concerned citizen who expressed his inability to attend the Board meetings and stated that he did not have cable television. Mr. Cicero stated he made arrangements for those citizens who do not have cable and cannot attend the meetings to contact Michael Dougherty and he will make a tape available to them to view at their leisure.

Mr. Cicero appointed Eric Coble, Board Member, as the liaison to the Coventry Study Committee. Mr. Coble will bring information back to the Board periodically on the scope of the meetings.

Mr. Cicero felt it was a compliment that since the Administration hired its current Safety and Security Director, Bryan Loretz, a former Cleveland Heights police officer; we have enjoyed a renewed partnership with Cleveland Heights community that did not always work before. It works marvelously now.

A question was asked about a health concern at Heights High School. Michael Cicero responded that the District received word that this health concern involved two student athletes. Immediately the athletic director ordered the facility to be disinfected over the weekend. Because of HIPAA regulations, we were not provided further information.

The Administration is working on an examination of all the programs that are currently at Taylor to see if they can be held at other facilities.

Ron Register, Board Member, stated that the make-up of the Coventry Study Committee would be discussed at the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District Board meeting that would be held on January 31, 2008. Mr. Register stated that we are absolutely committed to making sure City council would be represented on the committee.

Board President Cicero commented that the Safety Committee meets quarterly.

Nancy Pepler and Ron Register, Board Members, spoke about opportunities that would be supportive to students when they are dismissed from school. Mr. Register mentioned there might be a transportation issue for Middle School students in getting to the Youth Club. Someone mentioned there might be a residency issue involving the Club because the permits are issued to Cleveland Heights' residents. The Middle School student resident population is mixed.

Kal Zucker, Board Vice President, posed a question to Cleveland Heights Council about the housing crisis in the City and whether there were any proactive ways the City is approaching this problem. The City responded they are working with HUD on solutions, as well as other investors. Out of thirty-six foreclosed properties, the City has decided to tear down twelve of them.

Mayor Kelley stated that the number of Section 8 rentals has gone down by forty units. The City is being aggressive about evictions and neighborhood issues. They are encouraging home ownership by conversion of two-family units into condominiums. The City is also encouraging owner-occupied individuals who are renting to upgrade their homes through low-interest loans and matching grant programs.

Mayor Kelley stated last fall, residents were offered participation in a landscape program, which improved the appearance of the streets. The City is hopeful that if this program works and results are seen by next summer, it can be used as a model to take to congressional representatives in order to solicit Federal and State money to continue the programs.

Ron Register, Board Member, asked whether the City had ever considered creating a local community development corporation. He stated the City of Cleveland attracts dollars from foundations and other vehicles through CDCs.

The City responded they are doing something similar with the HUD program.

Mr. Register indicated that at some point during the meeting he would like to hear something about the issue that will be on the March 4 ballot. He questioned whether the levy would keep the City whole or does it allow the City to do some of the innovative things they have discussed.

The City responded the issue is Issue 29, and it is the first time in twenty-nine years that the City has asked for a tax increase in the City. The increase could possibly raise about \$4 million. The tax rate would increase from 2% to 2.4%. Mayor Kelley said it is a tough time for the City any time you have to put a levy on the ballot. They are expecting a record number of voters to come out on Election Day. This is not a property tax increase; it is strictly income tax.

It was mentioned that a way to find illegal students in the District is to check the public records at the Police Department. It was also mentioned a police officer indicated residents/students always give their correct address when filing a report. Ron Register stated the District already has an employee who investigates residency matters. Kal Zucker, Board Vice President, voiced his appreciation for the idea. He added that there is a tremendous amount of time, resource and expense involved with tracking residency, and the District is doing everything they can with what they have.

It was stated that the District should recognize academic achievements in the same way they recognize and honor student athletes. Someone suggested that inductees into Student Council be recognized each year, as well as National Merit scholars.

It was mentioned that student scholarships are available for families that cannot afford to involve their students in some of the school and recreation center activities.

Ron Register, Board Member, asked about the Joint Boards meetings and should they be revisited. He mentioned that they did not work very well in the past. Someone from the City said in order to see if these meetings will work in the future, it is necessary for the Boards to meet in order to solve problems. Mr. Register said it would be a good idea to have a reception where the individual units come together with no agenda. The Library Board would be included in this invitation. Mr. Register said South Euclid should be included in the invitation as well. Discussion was held about who should be invited to a reception. Mr. Zucker commented that the idea of a reception was fine, but what is the point, what are we trying to accomplish by doing this. Someone from the City said that Joint Boards were created because of common interests that were worked on together. The community expects everyone to get along and step up to the plate. The City representative felt the purpose of having this reception would be to get those bodies back together to get to know each other again and discuss ideas.

Everyone agreed that changes need to be made in legislation regarding school funding. It was suggested that we come up with a new approach, get something on the ballot, or get involved with the legislation in some way. Mayor Ed Kelley stressed something needs to be done; it is what the community expects. Board President Michael Cicero stated the problem is that we have people in Columbus who have ties and political favors with those who run community schools in this state. Mr. Cicero said the only way to get anything done at this juncture is to elect people who will do something in a majority format in the state legislature or to do a referendum on the constitution. It was mentioned that even the wealthier school districts are nervous because they do not know how much revenue they will receive.

Board President Cicero stated the administration is working with several potential buyers for the Millikin property.

After much discussion, a follow-up meeting with Cleveland Heights City Council and Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District Board Members was scheduled for Wednesday, April 2, 2008, at 6:00 p.m. at the Board of Education.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

It was recommended that the meeting be adjourned.

No. 08-01-014 It was moved by Mr. Register, seconded by Ms. Peppler, that the meeting be adjourned.

Vote on the motion was as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Register, Ms. Peppler, Mr. Zucker,
Mr. Cicero

Nays: None

Absent: Mr. Coble

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Michael Cicero, President

Scott Gainer, Chief Financial Officer