

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

**Special Meeting of January 31, 2008**

The Board of Education of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District, Cuyahoga County, held a Special Meeting in the public meeting room of the Board Building at 2155 Miramar Boulevard, University Heights, Ohio, on Thursday, January 31, 2008, at 3:00 p.m.

Michael Cicero, President, called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

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

**WORK SESSION - Topic: Coventry Facility**

Deborah Delisle, Superintendent, recalled a meeting held late last Fall that began discussion on the most appropriate and best use for Coventry Elementary School. This work session was held as a result of that discussion. The Administration was charged with arriving at a process that would be brought to the newly formed Board of Education.

Mrs. Delisle, Superintendent, requested Administrators of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District, introduce themselves to the 2008 Board members. Those Administrators are: Scott Gainer, Chief Financial Officer; Stephen Shergalis, Director of Business Services, Joe Micheller, Director of Educational Services; George Petkac, Assistant Director of Business Services; Christine Fowler-Mack, Assistant Superintendent; Nylajeon McDaniel, Director of Human Resources; Sally Levine, Director of Elementary Education; Susan Schraff, Director of Student Services; Michael Dougherty, Coordinator of Communications; Don Phillips, Director of Information Technology.

Mrs. Delisle, Superintendent, stated that the District has arrived at a strategy through its work with Harvard University that will provide coherence across the District and which will be imbedded into all the work we are doing within the District. In order to further promote the District strategy, posters will

be placed in various areas so that everyone will be very clear on the mission of our District, where we are headed and why we are doing what we are doing.

This District strategy states:

**We believe in the power of our collective knowledge, and therefore, through the use of our Professional Learning Communities, we will build capacity to meet all students' needs by:**

- Supporting and reinforcing a culture of collaboration
- Recruiting, developing, and retaining highly effective staff
- Using data effectively for strategic action
- Ensuring access to global content and the development of 21<sup>st</sup> century competencies
- Improving staff effectiveness with appropriate instructional materials, methodologies, and professional development
- Accepting our responsibility to provide support and remove barriers related to Equity & Access

Mr. Joe Micheller, Director of Educational Services, discussed the previous Elementary Reorganization process.

Mr. Scott Gainer, Chief Financial Officer, discussed the financial details and economic conditions involved with the disposition of Coventry Elementary.

Ron Register, Board Member, elicited clarification on the role of the five-year forecast as it relates to the Coventry closing.

Mr. Gainer explained that the Board is required to approve the five-year forecast in October and May of each year. However, we can approve a five-year forecast as often as is necessary, as information is made known to us.

Steve Shergalis, Director of Business Services, discussed the proposal being submitted for consideration in the process to dispose of the former Coventry Elementary School facility (see official minutes).

Discussion was held regarding the facility proposal.

Mr. Shergalis and Mr. Petkac commented on the present status of security, maintenance and grounds-keeping at the Coventry School facility.

Mrs. Deborah Delisle, Superintendent, expounded on the Coventry School Study Committee proposal. She discussed various factors, i.e. zoning, projected costs, impact on the five-year forecast, ramifications on other programs, and benefits to the District and/or community. Superintendent Delisle described the role of the Study Committee; it is not a decision-making committee, but rather, a study committee that is bringing information to the Board of Education for consideration.

It was recommended that the Coventry School Study Committee use an external facilitator, William Wendling of Wendling Communications. Mr. Wendling would serve as a liaison to the District. He would assist the group in adhering to the Board-approved process of determining the future of the former Coventry Elementary School.

Mrs. Delisle, Superintendent, also stated that the Committee will have two District liaisons, Stephen Shergalis and Joseph Micheller. She continued to describe the various roles of participants on the study committee. Deborah Delisle pointed out that adherence to the timeline and meeting stated goals is critical to this study committee. (See official minutes for roles and timeline.)

Mr. Kal Zucker, Board Vice President, voiced his support of having a facilitator to serve as liaison to the District. He agreed that the timeline of this committee is extremely aggressive.

Michael Cicero, Board President, confirmed that Eric Coble and Kal Zucker would be the two Board of Education members serving on the study committee.

Ron Register, Board Member, questioned the programmatic aspects of the proposal being submitted for consideration. Mrs. Delisle responded that this aspect would be addressed through having Joseph Micheller, Director of Educational Services, as a District liaison on the committee.

Michael Cicero, Board President, suggested establishing a deadline for submission of proposals by parties interested in the use of Coventry.

Mrs. Delisle stated her support of arriving at a deadline to eliminate competition among bidders.

Ron Register, Board Member, expressed skepticism about opening up a window for bidders because there is the potential of losing control of the input.

Kal Zucker made specific recommendations of people to sit on the study committee.

Superintendent Delisle explained certain considerations intended to guide the work of the study committee and discussed the proposed timeline of this process. She also indicated she would bring a list of study committee members to the Board.

### **Motion to Approve Process as Presented**

It was recommended that the Board of Education approve the process by which to study the future of the former Coventry Elementary School as presented.

**No. 08-01-015** It was moved by Mr. Zucker, seconded by Mr. Coble that the above Process as Presented be approved.

Vote on the Motion was as follows:

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

Nays: None

**Motion to Move into Executive Session**

It was recommended that the Board move into Executive session pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(2) for the purpose of considering the sale of real property owned by the District.

**No. 08-01-016** It was moved by Mr. Coble, seconded by Ms. Pepler, that the Board move into Executive session.

Vote on the Motion was as follows:

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

Nays: None

The Board moved into Executive session at 5:06 p.m.

**Present:** 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:** Mrs. Deborah Delisle, Superintendent  
Mr. Scott Gainer, Chief Financial Officer  
Mr. Stephen Shergalis, Director of Business Services  
Mr. Steve Friedman, Squire, Sanders & Dempsey  
Mrs. Kathy Petrey, Squire, Sanders & Dempsey

**Motion to Adjourn**

It was recommended that the meeting be adjourned.

**No. 08-01-017** It was moved by Mr. Zucker, seconded by Mr. Cicero, 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 7:08 p.m.

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Michael Cicero, President

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Scott Gainer, Chief Financial Officer