

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

Regular Meeting of July 7, 2009

The Board of Education of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District, Cuyahoga County, held its Regular Meeting in the public meeting room of the Board of Education building at 2155 Miramar Boulevard, University Heights, Ohio, on Tuesday, July 7, 2009. Preceding the Regular Meeting, the Board met in Executive Session.

Mr. Kal Zucker, Board President, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

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)(1) for the purpose of considering the employment of an employee or official of the School District.

No. 09-07-092 It was moved by Ms. Pepler, seconded by Mr. Coble, that the Board move into Executive Session.

Vote on the motion was as follows:

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

Nays: None

The Board moved into Executive Session at 6:00p.m. with the following members present:

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

The Executive Session ended at 7:00 p.m.

The Board reconvened in public session at 7:07 p.m. with all members present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was recommended that the Board approve the following minutes:

- Special Meeting – May 19, 2009
- Regular Meeting – June 2, 2009
- Special Meeting – June 5, 2009
- Special Meeting – June 6, 2009
- Special Meeting – June 10, 2009

No. 09-07-093

It was moved by Mr. Cicero, seconded by Mr. Coble, that the above Minutes be approved.

Vote on the motion was as follows:

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

Nays: None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Approval of the Textbook Authorization Request

It was recommended that the Board authorize and approve the textbook and supporting materials for use in Criminal Justice beginning in the 2009-2010 school year.

No. 09-07-094

It was moved by Mr. Cicero, seconded by Mr. Coble, that the above Textbook Authorization Request be approved.

Vote on the motion was as follows:

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

Nays: None

Approval of Grants

It was recommended that the Board approve the following grants:

- *Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP)*, to the U.S. Department of Education - **\$177,746.00 (first year), \$426,123.00 over the three years of the grant**
- *ARRA Title II-D-Competitive: Cleveland Heights High and Monticello Middle Schools*, to the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) and eTech - **\$185,305.00 (combined, first year)**
- *First Ring Superintendents' Collaborative (FRSC)*, to the George Gund Foundation - **\$443,000.00 (first year), \$811,500.00 over the two years of the grant project**

No. 09-07-095

It was moved by Ms. Pepler, seconded by Mr. Coble, that above Grants be approved.

Vote on the motion was as follows:

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

Nays: None

Approval of Field Trips

It was recommended that the Board approve the following field trips:

Summer STRETCH Students' Field Trip to Cedar Point Amusement Park, Scheduled for August 6, 2009

Grades 6-8 to Visit Various Museums, Landmarks, Attractions in Cleveland/Akron/Canton, Scheduled for July 27-August 7, 2009

Grades 7-12 to Visit Various Colleges/Universities in Akron/Cleveland Area, Scheduled for July 27-31, 2009

No. 09-07-096

It was moved by Mr. Cicero, seconded by Ms. Pepler, that above Field Trips be approved.

Vote on the motion was as follows:

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

Nays: None

Waiver Day Request

It was recommended that the Board approve the request for one waiver day from the Ohio Department of Education (see official minutes). The purpose of the request is to have an initial whole district discussion and training on Cultural Competence. This would begin to address the findings of our recent Equity and Access Audit.

No. 09-07-097 It was moved by Mr. Coble, seconded by Ms. Peppler, that above Waiver Day Request be approved.

Vote on the motion was as follows:

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

Nays: None

Update on Chinese Partnerships and Teaching

Interim Superintendent Christine Fowler-Mack recognized the generosity and support of the Hanban Chinese Educational Agency and the Confucius Center of Cleveland State University. Joe Micheller, Sally Levine and Christine Fowler-Mack represented our District in China, along with Dean James McLoughlin and Dr. Chen Wang.

Dr. Joe Micheller, CH-UH Director of Educational Services, stated the purpose of this trip was to engage in discussions that would result in implementing the District's vision for P.A.S.S.A.G.E. (Preparing All Students for Success in A Global Economy). This trip resulted in an agreement to develop a new course (Introduction to Economics) to be offered at the High School. This course will teach economic values and fundamental business practices from two perspectives: Chinese and American. It will promote global understanding while learning basic economic principles.

The Business Chinese course will be developed through collaboration between the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Schools, Cleveland State University College of Education and Human Services, Confucius Institute at Cleveland State University, Ohio Department of Education, Capitol University of Business and Economics in Beijing, and Hanban. CH-UH Schools have also invited Shaker Heights Schools to participate in the pilot.

Dr. Micheller explained that because we live in a global society, innovation, creativity and problem solving are the new keys to success. Instruction must change in order to perfect these skills. Our partnership with Cleveland State University and China will provide immediate and long-term strategic benefits to our students.

Dr. Micheller introduced James McLoughlin, Dean of College Education at Cleveland State University. Mr. McLoughlin commended the Board on their commitment to international and global education,

which is critical for the future. He also praised the Board for allowing staff members to participate in the trip and in this partnership.

First Reading of Board Policy Updates

Christine Fowler-Mack, Interim Superintendent, acknowledged the First Reading of the following Board policies:

- Property 7000
- Operations 8000

Dr. Joseph Micheller explained that Stephen Shergalis, Director of Business Services, coordinated the review of these policies. There will be a series of three readings of these policies, with adoption of these policies expected at the third reading. Dr. Micheller asked the Board to review and direct any questions to him and Mr. Shergalis via email.

Interim Superintendent Fowler-Mack announced that on Thursday, July 16, Cleveland Heights High School will hold its annual summer school graduation.

On Friday, July 10, 2009, at 10:30 a.m., the Cleveland Heights High School auditorium will be transformed into a showplace for students attending the elementary summer school and integrated arts program. Craig McGaughey, Vocal Music Teacher, and other staff have worked diligently with students all summer to put on a production play, "*We Haz Jazz.*" Ms. Fowler-Mack encouraged all who are able to attend to witness the enthusiasm and excitement of this performance.

PERSONNEL

Approval of Resignation

It was recommended that the resignation of the following named personnel be accepted, effective on the date indicated:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Date</u>
<u>Certificated/Licensed Staff</u>		
Astey, Scott	Instrumental Music	6/18/2009
Cosimi, Gregory	Mathematics	7/1/2009
Roath, Kelly	English	7/1/2009
Stoll, Donald	Grade 4	6/15/2009
<u>Classified Staff</u>		
George, Sharon	School Bus Driver	7/7/2009
Howard, Alisa	Nurse Aide	6/19/2009
O'Neal, Jacqueline	Cleaner/Lunch Aide	5/22/2009
Rainey, Mary	Step Stones Lead	7/1/2009

Approval of Appointments

It was recommended that the Board of Education offer employment pursuant to ORC Section 3319.02 to the following individuals, for the positions listed, for the period of time identified, and at the rate of pay specified. It was recommended that the following appointments to the staff of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City Schools be approved, pending successful completion of the pre-employment procedures including criminal history checks, effective on the dates indicated, with limited contracts and with the understanding that such personnel are subject to all the rules and regulations of the Board of Education and to all of the provision of the law pertaining to their employment. If the pre-employment procedures are not successfully completed, it was understood that, pursuant to Board policy, the Board of Education may immediately release the employee from employment and rescind a conditional offer of employment.

Key: N=New R=Replacement T=Transfer

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Salary</u>
<u>Certificated/Licensed Staff</u>		
Denial, Mary Effective 8/31/2009 Assignment: Heights High – Renaissance School	Intervention Specialist-R 190 Day	\$56,100
Gleba, Patrick Effective 8/31/2009 Assignment: Heights High – Legacy School	ASL Teacher-N 190 Day	\$31,600 1BA, p.r. 4/5 time
Nitzsche, Christopher Effective 8/31/2009 Assignment: Heights High – Legacy School	Science Teacher-R 190 Day	\$43,800 4BA + 20
Perttu, Raimo Effective 8/31/2009 Assignment: Heights High – Mosaic School	German Teacher-R 190 Day	\$42,960 11MA + 10,p.r. 60%
Powaski, John Effective 8/31/2009 Assignment: Roxboro Middle School	Science/Math 7 Teacher-R 190 Day	\$39,500 1BA
Reilly, Cay Effective 8/31/2009 Assignment: District	Occupational Therapist-R 190 Day	\$74,200 11MA + 30
Williams, Nathan Effective 8/31/2009 Assignment: Heights High – Transition School	Social Studies Teacher-R 190 Day	\$42,200

Substitutes – Certified

Malaney, Jo Anne

Substitutes – Classified

Bell, Michelle
Clayborn, Irene
Rainey, Mary

Approval of Change of Status

It was recommended that the following change be made in the contract status of the following personnel:

<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
<u>Certificated/Licensed Staff</u>		
Henderson, Gregory Effective 8/31/2009 Assignment: Heights High School	Career Tech Ed Aide \$14.32/hr.	Career Tech Ed Teacher \$55,440 6BA x 1.12

Approval of Extended Time

It was recommended that the Board of Education approve to compensate the following personnel at the following rate up to the indicated number of days for extended time:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Rate</u>
Brennan, Mary Ann	Guidance Counselor	3 days	60% per diem
Cahn, Katie	Guidance Counselor	3 days	60% per diem
Cogan, Kelli	Principal	14 days	85% per diem
Cooper, Kristie	Guidance Dept. Liaison	3 days	60% per diem
Dixon, Michael	Guidance Counselor	3 days	60% per diem
Menefee, Tandra	Guidance Counselor	3 days	60% per diem
Rasul, Haethem	Guidance Counselor	3 days	60% per diem

Approval of Leave of Absence

<u>Name</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Hurst, Hillary Effective 8/31/09-6/11/10	Child Care

Addendum to Personnel Agenda

Approval of Appointments

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Salary</u>
<u>Certificated/Licensed Staff</u>		
Chen, Grace Effective 8/31/2009 Assignment: Roxboro Elementary	Chinese Teacher-N 190 Day	\$55,600 6MA
Continenza, Nicholas Effective 8/31/2009 Assignment: Heights High – Transition School	Science Teacher-R 190 Day	\$40,100 2BA
Gareau, Jennifer Effective 8/31/2009 Assignment: Fairfax Elementary	Kindergarten Teacher-R 190 Day	\$50,400 6BA + 20
Morris, Jeffrey Effective 8/31/2009 Assignment: Wiley Middle	English/Lang. Arts Teacher-R 190 Day	\$57,000 6MA + 10
Nachman, Greg Effective 8/31/2009 Assignment: Heights High – Legacy School	Math Teacher-Alg./Geometry-R 190 Day	\$39,500

Approval of Change of Status

It was recommended that the following change be made in the contract status of the following personnel:

<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
<u>Certificated/Licensed Staff</u>		
Lovejoy-Rezek, Amber Effective 8/31/2009 Assignment: Heights High – Legacy School	Educational Aide-CHAMPS \$16.22	English Teacher \$40,100 2BA

Approval of Extended Time

It was recommended that the Board of Education approve to compensate the following personnel at the following rate up to the indicated number of days for extended time:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Rate</u>
Quinn, Rebecca	STRETCH Coordinator	10 days	85% per diem

No. 09-07-098

It was moved by Mr. Coble, seconded by Mr. Cicero, that the above Personnel items be approved.

Vote on the motion was as follows:

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

Nays: None

BUSINESS SERVICES

Recommendation to Approve Bus Purchases

It was recommended that the Board approve the purchase of five (5) seventy-one passenger school buses. The purchase of these vehicles is in conjunction with the Ohio Schools Council bus purchasing program, which has been competitively bid.

Power City International
7277 Northfield Road
Walton Hills, OH 44146

71 Passenger Bus	\$ 79,912.00
71 Passenger Bus	\$ 79,912.00
71 Passenger Bus	\$ 79,912.00
71 Passenger Bus	\$ 79,912.00
71 Passenger Bus	\$ 79,912.00
Less Trade-in	\$ 11,500.00

TOTAL **\$388,060.00**

No. 09-07-099

It was moved by Mr. Cicero, seconded by Mr. Coble, that the above Business item be approved.

Vote on the motion was as follows:

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

Nays: None

Recommendation to Approve Quarterly Contracts

It was recommended that the Board accept and approve the listing of quarterly contracts for the period April 1, 2009 through June 30, 2009 (see official minutes).

No. 09-07-100 It was moved by Mr. Cicero, seconded by Ms. Pepler, that the above Business item be approved.

Vote on the motion was as follows:

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

Nays: None

Recommendation to Accept Donations

It was recommended that the Board accept the following donations:

- \$500 to the Robert Soltz Memorial Fund
- \$1,340 to the Jason D. West Scholarship Fund
- \$100 to the Betty Levy Scholarship Fund
- A 1994 Mitsubishi to the Auto Collision Program at Cleveland Heights High School
- A Tama Swing Star Drum Set to Wiley Middle School
- Sojin Upright Piano to Boulevard Elementary School

No. 09-07-101 It was moved by Mr. Coble, seconded by Ms. Pepler, that the above Donations be approved.

Vote on the motion was as follows:

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

Nays: None

FINANCE

Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library Alternative Tax Budget

It was recommended that the Board approve the 2009 Alternative Tax Budget for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library (see official minutes).

No. 09-07-102

It was moved by Ms. Peppler, seconded by Mr. Coble, that the above Finance item be approved.

Vote on the motion was as follows:

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

Nays: None

Financial Reports

It was recommended that the Board of Education confirm the Cash Position Report and Budget Transfers for May 31, 2009, Budget Transfers for May 31, 2009, and Final Appropriations for FYE June 30, 2009 (see official minutes).

Acceptance and Appropriation of Grants

It was recommended that the Board of Education accept and appropriate the following grants:

Title Funds

<u>Fund</u>	<u>SPCC</u>	<u>Name of Grant</u>	<u>Amount</u>
019	0540	Ron and Isabelle Brown Fund	\$ 3,566.28
019	0257	MHJ Science/Social Studies PD	20,000.00
TOTAL			\$23,566.28

No. 09-07-103

It was moved by Mr. Coble, seconded by Ms. Peppler, that the above Finance items be approved.

Vote on the motion was as follows:

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

Nays: None

NEW BUSINESS

Board Member Michael Cicero commented on a letter dated June 4, 2009, received by the Board from twenty-seven teachers at Roxboro Middle School. The letter alleges that there was a certain behavioral and academic program put in place, which, if the students did not meet the requirements, they would not be able to participate in three end-of-year activities.

Mr. Cicero quoted portions from the letter that was included in letters to the editor of the Sun Press:

“Recent actions by Interim Superintendent Christine Fowler-Mack have undermined the authority of our principal and staff.”

“On June 2nd, we were told that Christine Fowler-Mack did not support our efforts to maintain the criteria for the awards ceremony and that we must allow any child with an attitude mark of 3 to attend.”

“We must encourage our kids to be the best they can be every day instead of expecting and rewarding mediocrity.”

Mr. Cicero commented he might say the same about some of the teachers that signed this letter. He quoted from a letter that appeared in the June 25th edition of the Sun Press:

“As we were informed, Ms. Fowler-Mack subsequently was directed by members of the Board of Education that all students, except those failing two or more subjects, were allowed to participate.”

Board Member Cicero affirmed that these allegations were 100% false and inaccurate. He stated that not one of the Board members were even aware of this issue until they received the letter at their homes. Mr. Cicero said it is not the role of the Board to get involved in the day-to-day activities of the school. The role of the Board is to facilitate communications to administrators or building-level staff who can assist with such issues.

Mr. Cicero continued that in another letter to the editor of the Sun Press, these falsehoods and allegations against Ms. Fowler-Mack and against the Board resulted in the following remarks:

“The school board surrendered by yielding to the demands of this small vocal group. The school board shrank from its responsibility to set standards that represents the community interests. Perhaps the school board members had a good reason for their decision. If so, I hope they will explain it to the taxpayers.”

This type of behavior, Mr. Cicero stated, is below mediocre. The central staff administration and the Board members are committed to student achievement. Work with us, not against us, Mr. Cicero concluded.

Vice President Ron Register said this matter is something the administration and union leadership should investigate so that something similar does not occur in the future.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Eric Coble, Board Member, reported the Committee met to refine the Tardy Policy for the coming year. They are continuing to work on an introductory booklet to the handbook on Student Rights and Responsibilities.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Tuesday, August 4, 2009 – Regular Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 18, 2009 – Special Board Meeting – Work Session: Student Support

MOTION TO ADJOURN

It was recommended that the meeting be adjourned.

No. 09-07-104

It was moved by Ms. Pepler, 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 8:27 p.m.

Kal Zucker, President

Scott Gainer, Chief Financial Officer