

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

**Special Meeting of November 18, 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 of Education building at 2155 Miramar Boulevard, University Heights, Ohio, on Tuesday, November 18, 2008, at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Michael Cicero, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:42 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:** 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

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**Approval of the Cleveland Heights High School's 9-12 Grade Varsity Basketball Team Scrimmage Field Trip to Newark High School, Newark, OH**

It was recommended that the Board approve the Cleveland Heights High School's 9-12 Grade Varsity Basketball Team Scrimmage field trip to Newark High School, Newark, OH, scheduled for November 28-29, 2008.

**Approval of the Cleveland Heights High School's Swim Team Field Trip to Canton, OH**

It was recommended that the Board approve the Cleveland Heights High School's Swim Team field trip to Canton, OH, scheduled for December 19-20, 2008.

**Approval of the Cleveland Heights High School's Varsity Basketball Team Field Trip to Milwaukee, WI**

It was recommended that the Board approve the Cleveland Heights High School's Varsity Basketball Team field trip to Milwaukee, WI, scheduled for December 21-23, 2008.

**Approval of the Cleveland Heights High School's Choir Field Trip to New York City**

It was recommended that the Board approve the Cleveland Heights High School's Choir field trip to New York City, scheduled for March 13-17, 2009.

**Approval of the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Wiley Middle School Field Trip to Washington, D.C.**

It was recommended that the Board approve the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Wiley Middle School field trip to Washington, D.C., scheduled for May 6-8, 2009.

**No. 08-11-144**

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

Vote on the Motion was as follows:

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

Nays: None

**PERSONNEL**

**Board Resolution Authorizing the Treasurer to Give Public Notice Required by Law** (in hands of Board Members only)

**No. 08-11-145**

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

Vote on the Motion was as follows:

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

Nays: None

**Resolution to Approve the Agreement between the Board of Education and the following Bargaining Unit effective July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2011**

It was recommended that the Board adopt the Agreement between the Board of Education and the following bargaining unit, effective July 1, 2008:

Cleveland Heights Teachers Union, Local 795

Michael Cicero, Board President, thanked the District's and the Union's bargaining teams for reaching a fair agreement.

**No. 08-11-146**

It was moved by Mr. Zucker, seconded by Mr. Cicero, that the above Personnel item be approved.

Vote on the Motion was as follows:

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

Nays: None

**FINANCE**

**Approval of Resolution Accepting the Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying them to the County Auditor**

Scott Gainer, Chief Financial Officer, said this resolution was re-submitted due to a County error on the tax rate resolution passed by the Board in January. A portion of the library levy was inadvertently omitted.

It was recommended that the Board approve the Resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor (see official minutes).

**No. 08-11-147**

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

Vote on the Motion was as follows:

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

Nays: None

## **WORK SESSION – TOPIC: Academic Achievement**

Superintendent Deborah Delisle provided an update to the community and to the Board of Education on academic achievement. She introduced the team of staff members involved in student achievement.

Dr. Joseph Micheller – Director of Educational Services  
Christine Fowler-Mack – Assistant Superintendent  
Caroline Kaczala – Coordinator of Data Assessment and Accountability  
Sally Levine – Director of Elementary Education  
Laurie Chapman – Program Specialist  
Bob Swaggard – Teacher Leader, P.R.I.D.E.  
Crystal Maclin – Program Specialist  
Jacky Brown – Principal, Fairfax Elementary

The title of the Academic Achievement presentation is: **Positioning our Schools for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Our Journey . . . Our Progress!** Superintendent Delisle pointed out that the work that is developing and emerging in our schools is a journey. As soon as we obtain one level of achievement, we are moving along to the next level. Our goal is to build the competencies of individuals within the school district with a focus on all students attaining high levels of success.

Assistant Superintendent Christine Fowler-Mack continued describing the work that is being done throughout the school district along with the results that are being achieved. Ms. Fowler-Mack stated that our challenge is to close the “knowing” and “doing” gap, thus closing the “achievement” and “expectation” gap.

Ms. Fowler-Mack’s presentation focused primarily on high quality teaching and learning: improving staff effectiveness with appropriate instructional materials, methodologies, and professional development. She also focused attention on research-based responses, supports and interventions. Specific district goals were outlined centering on excellence, high quality and achievement.

Caroline Kaczala, Coordinator of Testing/Accountability, provided an overview of the 2007-2008 Ohio Report Card for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District.

Robert Swaggard, Teacher Leader, P.R.I.D.E. School, interpreted how the data from the Ohio Report Card connects with the individual classroom level. He explained what is being done to sharpen the skills where teaching and learning come together in the classroom.

Laurel Chapman, Program Specialist for Instructional Support, discussed the challenge of a PLC (Professional Learning Community). She indicated that research has shown the PLC work the district is doing has proven to be the change agent that we need. Ms. Chapman said the age of accountability is here, and we have to focus on results. Professional development will need to be job-embedded so that teachers and students go hand in hand as learners.

Principal Jacky Brown, Fairfax Elementary School, shared the plan for success specific to Fairfax. He discussed goals for improvement in math and reading in particular.

Crystal Maclin, Program Specialist for Student Support, continued the discussion on professional learning communities and professional development as they relate to student learning. In an effort to communicate the message of the PLC, the Transition program produces a quarterly newsletter featuring articles and information about the program for students and their families.

Sally Levine, Director of Elementary Education, highlighted some of the pilot projects that the district is involved with, i.e. Agile Mind and iDiscovery. Throughout this process, teachers are exploring new methods of presenting concepts to students in ways that will engage the students and ensure learning.

Dr. Joseph Micheller, Director of Educational Services, remarked that our students' future is based on the interdependent global economy and the ability to learn 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. He mentioned that the One to One Teaching and Learning with Technology Initiative is one way of providing an environment to teach students 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. This initiative ties together with the John Carroll University partnership, also focused on 21<sup>st</sup> century learning.

Superintendent Deborah Delisle concluded the work session and opened the floor to the Board members for comments and questions.

Board President Michael Cicero thanked the student achievement team for their work and acknowledged their good job in preparing for this session.

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Thursday, November 20, 2008 – 6:00 p.m. – Special Board Meeting (Executive Session)  
Tuesday, December 2, 2008 – 7:00 p.m. – Special Board Meeting (Library Interviews Only)  
Tuesday, December 16, 2008 – 7:00 p.m. – Regular Board Meeting

### **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

It was recommended that the meeting be adjourned.

#### **No. 08-11-148**

It was moved by Ms. Pepler, seconded by Mr. Coble, 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 9:40 p.m.

---

Michael Cicero, President

---

Scott Gainer, Chief Financial Officer