

**OHIO COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL
BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT #505**



The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Ohio High School District #505 was held on Tuesday, April 16, 2024 in the District Office.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

1.1 Roll Call

High School Board members present: Albrecht, Hacker, Kaecker, Deery, Campbell Reka, Park

Administrator present: Superintendent Hamilton, Principal Wilt

Board Recording Secretary: Kelly Becker

Other attendees: Kristen Ryan, Beka Piper, Courtney Forristall, Dee Hughes, Katrina Graff and Megan Hellrung

1.2 Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Deery, seconded by Kaecker, to approve agenda as amended.

The vote was unanimous. Motion Carried.

II. CONSENT ITEMS IN ENCLOSED IN PACKET

2.1 Approved Minutes for March 19, 2024 Regular Board Meeting.

2.2 Approved Treasurer's Report and Activity Account Reports for March.

2.3 Approved Payment of March Bills (\$11,440.33) which were prepared 4/12/2023 at 12:47 PM, March Additional Bills (\$2,128.91) prepared 4/16/2024 at 9:00 AM and Payroll (\$57,835.92).

Motion made by Hacker, seconded by Park, to approve consent items in packet as presented.

Roll call; Yes; Hacker, Kaecker, Deery, Campbell, Reka, Park, Albrecht

Nay: none. Motion Carried

III. PUBLIC SESSION

3.1 None

IV. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

4.1 None

V. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

5.1 Attendance Update: Our monthly average is up from last month to 92.7.

5.2 Sports Physicals: Ohio Schools will host the annual Sports Physical Clinic (for grades 4-11) on Wednesday, May 15th through O7ySF St. Francis Hospital starting at 10:30 am. This is a **FREE** sports physical exam provided to your child at NO COST to you; parents do not need to attend.

If your child does not receive the sports physical through the school, and are planning on participating in any sporting event during the 24/25 school year, you will be responsible for getting their physical through your own family physician.

5.3 End of Year: We have a very busy April/May ahead of us with many events scheduled including Outdoor Ed May 8-10, Grad Walk on May 24 at 2:00 and Graduation on May 25 at 2:00.

- 5.4 Track season is going well. Conference Meet scheduled for 5/2 and Sectionals 5/8.
Jillian Anderson has broken the high jump school record and her own personal record.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- 6.1 Enrollment: Pre-K thru 8: 77 students HS: 24 students TOTAL-101
- 6.2 Health Insurance: Employee Health Insurance: BCBS renewal rates have been calculated by Gallagher. We will have an increase for the BlueEdge HSA (\$2500 deductible) which is over the Board agreed upon a cap of \$772.50 per month for each certified staff. Our Gallagher insurance representative will be at school on April 24th and April 26th to discuss the increase in premiums and other potential options with our staff, Union president, and Board representative.
- 6.3 Graduation: Just a reminder that instead of certifying that students have met all of their graduation requirements, we will simply certify the graduating class prior to the ceremony. This provides every student an equal opportunity to meet the graduation requirements within the established school year and not one month prior to graduation.
- 6.4 During the March board meeting, Ms. Hamilton summed up the steps required if the Board decides to move forward with deactivation and suggested tabling this subject until the April Board meeting. Tonight a decision needs to be made regarding:

Moving forward or discontinuing conversations regarding deactivation

- If moving forward, which neighboring school districts will best meet our student's needs
- If two districts are considered, how will this impact students/families
- Recognizing, a deactivation resolution with all of the specific information and agreement with the receiving school district (s) will need to be on the May or June agenda to meet the required timelines for the November 5 ballot.

The Board members were asked if they had any questions?

- Chad Deery has been discussing deactivation with community members. A question he was asked was "Will we still be in charge of our tax body?" Ms. Hamilton replied, "Yes, we will still have our own Board, budget and levy."
- Do we have someone who will help our students transition? Ms. Hamilton answered, "Yes."
- Another concern was if our students are struggling at the new school will Ohio pay for tutoring? Ms. Hamilton reminded the board that they will be able to decide how best to assist Ohio students in their new school.
- Reka Albrecht stated the concern of what kind of voice (we the Board) will have with the other school district? Board President Albrecht answered, "Odds are our voice will be smaller."
- Reka Albrecht asked how we can address the teacher shortage. Ms. Hamilton talked about Illinois' shortage of teachers and the Grow Your Own program. We as a rural community are trying to get those teachers but usually the bigger school wins out.
- After reaching out to the community Mr. Albrecht said, "The community has very strong differences and opinions and is not ready to make the decision to change things."
- Courtney Forristall, (parent) said, "A lot of community members aren't aware that the Board has been having these discussions." Ms. Hamilton stated that once the board makes a decision, the school will send out information on the Teacher Ease, provide minutes to The Walnut Leader and post information on our school website.
- Brock Kaecker stated, "I have talked to families in the community and some have said they will pick up and move if we don't do something."

- Board member Park discussed coming from a small school and wonders if he had been offered more opportunities would he have gone down a different course in his career.
- Consensus was a community meeting would be a great step in informing the community if a decision is made to deactivate.
- Ms. Hamilton reminded that a deactivation contract would be a 2 year contract with whichever District(s) enter an agreement .
- The Board agreed for Ms. Hamilton to reach out to our neighboring schools and start the discussions with their Boards to see which Districts might be interested in receiving Ohio HS students, the cost of tuition, who will be responsible for transportation, staffing and legalities.

VII. CLOSED SESSION

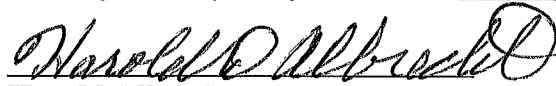
7.1 None

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

- 8.1 Motion by Hacker, seconded by Park to approve appointment of Insurance Consultant Arther Gallagher.
Roll Call: Kaecker, Deery, Campbell, Reka, Park, Albrecht, Hacker
The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
- 8.2 Motion by Kecker, seconded by Campbell to approve the appointment of Architectural Firm: Architects Richard L. Johnson & Scott Johnson Rockford, IL.
Roll Call: Deery, Campbell, Reka, Park, Albrecht, Hacker, Kaecker
The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
- 8.3 Motion by Park, seconded Kaecker, to approve Contract for Vision and Hearing Screening Services 2024-2025 Sharon Kuntz.
Roll Call: Campbell, Reka, Park, Albrecht, Hacker, Kaecker, Deery
The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
- 8.4 Motion by Hacker, second by Campbell to approve Contract for School Nurse Services 2024-2025 Sue Cater.
Roll Call: Reka, Park, Hacker, Kaecker, Deery, Campbell
Abstained: Harold Albrecht
The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
- 8.5 Motion by Hacker, seconded by Kaecker to accept with regrets the resignation of Katrina Graff as the Drama sponsor.
The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
- 8.6 Motion by Deery, seconded by Reka to accept with regrets the resignation of Tess Heidenreich Yearbook co-sponsor at the end of the 23-24 school year.
The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

9.1 Motion by Deery, seconded by Campbell to adjourn this meeting at 8:16 PM. The vote was unanimous, whereupon the meeting was declared adjourned. The next regularly scheduled meeting Tuesday, May 21, 2024, 7:00 PM, in the District Office.



Harold Albrecht
President



Kelly Becker
Secretary