

The Washington-Nile Local School District Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Portsmouth High School. Mr. Craig Hazelbaker, Board President presided over the meeting.

Roll Call: Mr. Mitchell Blevins, present; Mr. Alex Bloomfield, present; Mrs. Leichia Davis, present; Mr. Craig Hazelbaker, present; Mr. Asa Jewett, present.

Alex Bloomfield, board member, gave the opening prayer and Mr. Craig Hazelbaker, board president led the Pledge of Allegiance.

21-20 AGENDA MODIFICATIONS & ADOPTION

Mr. Blevins moved and Mr. Jewett seconded the motion to add the following and adopt the agenda.

VI (H) – Set Special board meeting.

VIII (A-C) Board Recommendations – Approve contract with architect for RFP's.

Roll Call: Mr. Bloomfield, yes; Mrs. Davis, yes; Mr. Hazelbaker, yes; Mr. Jewett, yes; Mr. Blevins, yes.

The President declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - Ericka McDermott requested that the lockers be replaced in the varsity girl's locker room. The only cost would be for materials (estimate of \$6,500.00) and Ed Ingles would build/install.

21-21 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Blevins moved and Mr. Bloomfield seconded the motion to approve the minutes of February 20 and February 24, 2021 meetings.

Roll Call: Mrs. Davis, yes; Mr. Hazelbaker, yes; Mr. Jewett, yes; Mr. Blevins, yes; Mr. Bloomfield, yes.

The President declared the motion carried.

21-22 EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Bloomfield moved and Mr. Jewett seconded the motion to go into executive session as per ORC 121.22(G-1) consideration for the employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee, or official; matters required to be confidential by Federal law or regulations or State statutes at 7:29 p.m.

Roll Call: Mr. Hazelbaker, yes; Mr. Jewett, yes; Mr. Blevins, yes; Mr. Bloomfield, yes; Mrs. Davis, yes.

The President declared the motion carried.

The Board returned to open session at 9:59 p.m.

21-23 (A-H) TREASURER/FINANCE REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Blevins moved and Mr. Jewett seconded the motion to act upon the following items A through H:

21-23A Fund Report for February, 2021

Accept fund reports for receipts/expenditures/appropriations and investment report as of February 28, 2021.

21-23B Federal/State Program Application

Authorize the administration to apply for state and federal grant programs for the 2021-2022 school year.

21-23C Resolution to Endorse the Fair School Funding Plan

A RESOLUTION TO ENDORSE THE FAIR SCHOOL FUNDING PLAN, AS CONTAINED IN HOUSE BILL 1, AND TO ENCOURAGE THE 134TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO EXPEDITE THE PASSAGE OF THE BILL.

WHEREAS, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled in *DeRolph v. State of Ohio* (1997) that Ohio's method for funding schools through the state's school foundation program was unconstitutional under Article VI, Section 2 of the Ohio Constitution; and

WHEREAS, in *DeRolph*, the Ohio Supreme Court declared that Ohio's school funding system was over-reliant on local property taxes, and as such, was inherently discriminatory to children based on where they reside for disparities exist between communities of affluence and impoverishment; and

WHEREAS, since the *DeRolph* decision, the Ohio General Assembly has failed to create a funding system that meets Ohio’s constitutional standard of securing “... a thorough and efficient system of common schools throughout the state”; and

WHEREAS, Ohio’s solution to satisfy the Ohio Supreme Court’s order has been to pass a series of biennial budgets containing politically expedient remedies that have not eliminated the over-reliance on local property tax or mitigated the discriminatory nature inherent in the series of “funding fixes” legislated over the last 23 years; and

WHEREAS, Ohio’s previous biennial budget crafted by the 132nd Ohio General Assembly, and effective July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2019, created a funding system with “capped” districts, and districts receiving a minimum level of funding referred to as the “guarantee”; and

WHEREAS, the previous biennial budget identified 503 school districts out of 610, or 82%, either “capped” in their funding, or on the “guarantee,” which is a testament that Ohio’s funding model is not effective; and

WHEREAS, Ohio’s current biennial budget crafted by the 133rd General Assembly, froze foundation funding for Ohio schools at 2019 fiscal year levels (effectively placing all districts on “the guarantee”), which funding levels have subsequently been cut due to the economic impact of the Coronavirus pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the current school funding system in Ohio lacks a rational basis for determining both the cost of educating students and how the funding of education is shared between the state and local taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, Representative Robert Cupp (R) and Representative John Patterson (D) convened a statewide workgroup, made up of eight practicing school district CFO/Treasurers and eight practicing Superintendents (the “Cupp-Patterson Workgroup”), to devise a new formula, and recognizing that Ohio needs an overhaul to its school funding system, have spent the last three years determining the inputs necessary to fund a “thorough and efficient system of common schools” that reduces the over-reliance on local property tax and creates equity in the state foundation system; and

WHEREAS, the Cupp-Patterson Workgroup carefully analyzed national research, best practices, actual Ohio school district spending data, and drew on their own extensive experience in educating students and operating school districts to make recommendations for a school funding system that meets the needs of all Ohio’s students in the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, the Cupp-Patterson Workgroup developed recommendations that laid out a rational, transparent, comprehensive and – most of all – fair system for funding schools based on the actual cost of providing a basic education for all students in Ohio (the “Base Cost”); and

WHEREAS, the Cupp-Patterson Workgroup developed a method of sharing the funding of the Base Cost between the state and local taxpayers that is easy to understand and based on a fair, defensible measure of the capacity to generate funds locally; and

WHEREAS, the Cupp-Patterson Workgroup identified and provided a framework for providing additional resources to meet needs beyond those of basic education, including the areas of the social, emotional, safety, and mental health of students, the additional challenges driven by students living in poverty, with special needs, with limited English proficiency, and who are academically gifted; and

WHEREAS, the Cupp-Patterson Workgroup developed recommendations for properly funding Career Technology Centers, Educational Service Centers, and Charter and Community schools; and

WHEREAS, based on the research and work outlined above, the Cupp-Patterson Workgroup produced and recommended the Fair School Funding Plan, which was introduced in House Bill 1; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio General Assembly and the Governor of Ohio have an opportunity to devise a funding formula, as outlined in the Fair School Funding Plan, that is an investment in Ohio’s children and Ohio’s future.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Washington-Nile Local School District, that:

Section 1. It is necessary to formally endorse the Fair School Funding Plan, as introduced in House Bill 1 of the 134th General Assembly to ensure that K-12 schools in Ohio are funded using a rational school funding system that meets the needs of all Ohio’s students in the 21st century.

Section 2. The Treasurer is authorized to deliver or cause to be delivered a certified copy of this Resolution to community leaders; to members of the Ohio House of Representatives and the Ohio Senate, including Representative Brian Baldrige and Senator Terry Johnson; and to the office of Governor Michael DeWine.

Section 3. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption.

21-23D Approve Transfers

Approve the following transfers:

| From Account | To Account | Amount |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| General Fund | Severance | \$219,000.00 |
| General Fund | Various 200/300 | \$60,000.00 |
| Concert Fund | UCAN | \$11,940.93 |

21-23E Accept/Approve Quotes – One to One Devices

Accept the following quotes for one-to-one devices:

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Insight Public Sector | Chromebooks | \$97,036.00 |
| GovConnection | Chromebooks | \$97,072.00 |
| Trafera | Chromebooks | \$99,600.00 |
| Apple Inc. | IPADS | \$58,800.00 |

Approve quotes to purchase Chromebooks from Insight Public Sector in the amount of \$97,036.00 and from Apple Inc. for IPAD's in the amount of \$58,800.00.

21-23F Workers' Compensation Group Retro Rating Program

Approve the membership to Sedgwick - Workers Compensation Group Retro Rating Program and approve the payment of the administrative fee.

21-23G Approve Contract – South Central Ohio ESC

Approve a contract with South Central Ohio Educational Service Center for Hearing Impaired, Low Incidence, Speech and Preschool Handicapped for the 2021-2022 school year.

21-23H Set Special Board Meeting

Approve setting a special board meeting for March 30, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. for planning purposes and review of finances.

Roll Call: Mr. Jewett, abstain on 23D (UCAN) and yes on rest; Mr. Blevins, yes; Mr. Bloomfield, yes; Mrs. Davis, yes; Mr. Hazelbaker, yes.
The President declared the motion carried.

21-24 (A-G) SUPERINTENDENT'S CONSIDERATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Jewett moved and Mr. Bloomfield seconded the motion to act upon the following items A through G:

21-24A Employ Certified Substitutes

Approve the employment of certified substitute personnel per SmartFind.

21-24B Approve Purchase of Lock Down Security Devices

Approve the purchase of lockdown security devices per committee recommendation from The Lockout Co. LLC.

21-24C Accept Supplemental Resignation - Blevins

Accept the supplemental resignation of Leah Blevins as assistant soccer coach for the 2021-2022 school year.

21-24D Approve Extended Learning Plan

Approve the Extended Learning Plan for the 2020-2021 school year.

21-24E Approve 2021 Graduation

Approve setting the date of June 6, 2021 for the 2021 graduation.

21-24F Approve Senior Early Dismissal

Approve early dismissal of seniors as June 3, 2021.

21-24G Approve Volunteer - Mcguire

Approve the following as a volunteer for the 2020-2021 school year:

Amy Mcguire – Softball

Roll Call: Mr. Blevins, yes; Mr. Bloomfield, yes; Mrs. Davis, yes; Mr. Hazelbaker, yes;
Mr. Jewett, yes.
The President declared the motion carried.

21-25 (A-C) BOARD REQUESTS

Mr. Jewett moved and Mr. Bloomfield seconded the motion to act upon the following items A through C:

21-25A Approve Contract with Architect for RFP – Tennis Court

Approve contracting with an Architect to request RFP for construction of tennis courts.

21-25B Approve Contract with Architect for RFP – Turf

Approve contracting with an Architect to request RFP for the installation of turf.

21-25C Approve Contract with Architect for RFP – Track

Approve contracting with an Architect to request RPF for repair/replacement of the track.

Roll Call: Mr. Blevins, yes; Mr. Bloomfield, yes; Mrs. Davis, yes; Mr. Hazelbaker, no on B and yes on A and C; Mr. Jewett, yes.

The President declared the motion carried.

21-26 ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bloomfield moved and Mr. Jewett seconded the motion to adjourn at 10:08 p.m.

Roll Call: Mr. Bloomfield, yes; Mrs. Davis, yes; Mr. Hazelbaker, yes; Mr. Jewett, yes; Mr. Blevins, yes.

The President declared the motion carried.