

**Tuesday, February 27, 2024  
Board Policy Committee Meeting  
Mayfield City School District  
Baker Administration Building  
Irene P. Kay Board Room  
1101 S.O.M. Center Road  
Mayfield Heights, OH 44124-2006  
6:00 P.M.**

## **1. OPENING ITEMS**

### **A. ROLL CALL - Mr. Ron Fornaro, Ms. Sue Groszek**

Community Members in attendance were as follows:

- 1.) Tracy Previte, 925 Eastlawn Dr., Highland Heights, OH 44143
- 2.) Katie Havel, 1738 Mayfair Blvd., Mayfield Heights, OH 44124
- 3.) Chris & Ashley Blanco, 6087 Williamsburg Dr., Highland Heights, OH 44143
- 4.) Dennis & Lisa Hammond, 5835 Lynford Circle, Highland Heights, OH 44143
- 5.) Catherine Connell, P.O. Box 241395, Mayfield Heights, OH 44124
- 6.) Angela Wright, 1718 Byron Dr., Mayfield Heights, OH 44124
- 7.) Nadia Kobal, 375 Timberidge Trail, Gates Mills, OH 44040

## **2. BOARD POLICY REVIEW**

### **A. BOARD POLICY REVIEW:**

**BOARD POLICY REVIEW AND DISCUSSION** by the Board Committee Members, District Administrators, Policy Consultant, and Board Attorney.

The committee chair, Ms. Sue Groszek, identified that the policy focus was on public participation at board meetings -see polices 0169.1 & 0169.2 below. She reminded the community attendees that the committee was not charged with making final changes to any polices but to review and make recommendations to the entire 5-member elected board for consideration at one of its regular meetings.

Ms. Groszek introduced the invited guests, Mr. Pat Corbett, NEOLA Policy Consultant, and Mr. John Podgurski, Board Legal Counsel to assist with the history, origin, & legal theory associated with the policies and to participate in the conversation. Dr. Michael Barnes, Superintendent, and Scott Snyder, Treasurer, were also invited to participate to provide a practitioner's point of view.

The conversation concluded with suggested changes to the policy and a follow-up meeting for review and further conversation on Thursday, March 7, 2024, in the Irene P. Kay Board Meeting Room, at 4:00pm. Mr. Corbett was charged with drafting the changes.

Comments offered by those in attendance.

1.) Chris Blanco, 6087 Williamsburg Dr., Highland Heights, OH 44143 - Asked about the basis for the 5-working days to add an agenda item when the agenda is issued within 4 working days prior to the meeting - Mentioned that the mere public participation statement could be construed to generally accept any educational related topic since it is an agenda item. - Why a surrogate could not submit the public participation form.

2.) Katie Havel, 1738 Mayfair Blvd., Mayfield Heights, OH 44124 - Why a public participation topic is limited to an agenda item. In her opinion, appeared to be in conflict with the 1st & 14th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution. - If the final policy imposes a prohibition against speaking out against a school employee or board member, then where is the forum to do so.

3.) Angela Wright, 1718 Byron Dr., Mayfield Heights, OH 44124 - It would be nice to permit someone to fill out the public participation form on your behalf because it can be a logistical problem for some people.

4.) Lisa Hammond, 5835 Lynford Circle, Highland Heights, OH 44143 - Would like to see more community members, especially city staff, be involved in the school district. Asked if we are utilizing the right methods to provide notice of meetings.

5.) Dennis Hammond, 5835 Lynford Circle, Highland Heights, OH 44143 - Is public participation limited to Mayfield City School residents? - Also reiterated the need for more city official involvement.

6.) Nadia Kobal, 375 Timberidge Trail, Gates Mills, OH 44040 - Asked about the various electronic mediums that the District uses to publicize its meetings and information.

7.) Lisa Hammond, 5835 Lynford Circle, Highland Heights, OH 44143 - Asked if the board meeting start time could be moved back to accommodate people that work.

8.) Catherine Connell, P.O. Box 241395, Mayfield Heights, OH 44124 - Made a comment about hectic life schedules.

## **0169.2 - OPEN MEETINGS/SUNSHINE LAWS**

The Sunshine Law applies to the Board, and to any committee or subcommittee created by the Board or required by law or rule.

A "meeting" to which the Sunshine Law applies is any prearranged discussion of the public business of the Board, committee or subcommittee by a majority of its members, including, but not limited to, regular and special meetings, work sessions, retreats, planning meetings, and study groups. A series of prearranged meetings attended by a minority of the Board to discuss the public business, without giving proper notice, is a violation of the Sunshine Law. A majority of members may gather at social or other events, but may not discuss public business.

### **0169.1 - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS**

The Board of Education recognizes the value to school governance of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on school matters of community interest.

All meetings of the Board and Board-appointed committees are open to the public.

In order for the Board to fulfill its obligation to complete the planned agenda in an effective and efficient fashion, a maximum of thirty (30) minutes of total public participation may be permitted at each meeting.

Each person addressing the Board shall give his/her name and address. If several people wish to speak, each person is allotted five (5) minutes until the total time of thirty (30) minutes is used. The period of public participation may be extended by a vote of the majority of the Board, present and voting.

Agendas are available to all those who attend Board meetings. The section of the agenda for public participation shall be indicated.

Any person or group wishing to place an item on the agenda shall register their intent with the Superintendent no later than five (5) school/working days prior to the meeting and include:

name and address of the participant;

group affiliation, if and when appropriate;

topic to be addressed.

Such requests shall be subject to the approval of the Superintendent and the Board President.

The presiding officer of each Board meeting at which public participation is permitted shall administer the rules of the Board for its conduct.

The presiding officer shall be guided by the following rules:

Public participation shall be permitted as indicated on the order of business.

Residents, groups of residents, or staff members having a legitimate interest in the actions of the Board may participate during the public portion of a meeting.

Participants must be recognized by the presiding officer and will be requested to preface their comments by an announcement of their name, address, and group affiliation, if and when appropriate.

Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to five (5) minutes duration.

All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no person may address or question Board members individually.

Tape or video recordings are permitted, providing the person operating the recorder has received approval from the Superintendent prior to the Board meeting and agrees to the placement of the equipment and to abide by the following conditions:

No obstructions are created between the Board and the audience.

No interviews are conducted in the meeting room while the Board is in session.

No commentary, adjustment of equipment, or positioning of operators is made that would distract either the Board or members of the audience while the Board is in session and not disrupt the meeting.

The presiding officer may:

interrupt, warn, or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant;

request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum;

request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of a disorderly person when that person's conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting;

call for a recess or an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum so interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting as to warrant such action; or

waive these rules.

The portion of the meeting during which the participation of the public is invited shall be limited to thirty (30) minutes, unless extended by a vote of the Board.

#### **Broadcasting and Taping of Board Meetings**

Photographic and electronic audio and video broadcasting and recording devices may be used at regular and special Board meetings legally open to the public according to the following guidelines:

Photographing, broadcasting, and recording meetings are permitted only when all parties involved have been informed that cameras, broadcasting, and/or recording devices are being used.

Persons operating cameras, broadcasting, and/or recording devices must do so with a minimum of disruption to those present at the meeting. Specifically, the view between Board members and the audience must not be obstructed, interviews must not be conducted during the meeting and no commentary is to be given in a manner that distracts Board members or the audience.

The Board has the right to halt any recording that interrupts or disturbs the meeting.

The Board may make the necessary arrangements to make audio recordings of all regular meetings and any special meeting that it deems appropriate.

### 3. ADJOURNMENT;

*Board Committee Action: 2024-040*

#### A. ADJOURNMENT:

Recommended Action

Request approval to adjourn meeting at 7:15pm.

Motion & Voting

Motion by Ron Fornaro, second by Sue Groszek.

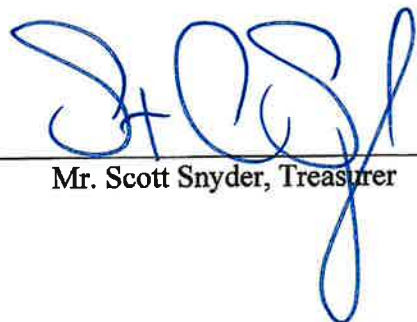
Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Ron Fornaro, Sue Groszek

Date Approved: 3/20/24

Signed:   
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Ms. Sue Groszek, President

Attest:   
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Mr. Scott Snyder, Treasurer