

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
CLEVELAND MUNICIPAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
WORK SESSION

Board of Education Administration Building  
Board Room  
June 9, 2009  
6:30 p.m.

The Board of Education of the Cleveland Municipal School District, Cuyahoga County, Ohio met in regular session on June 9, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. pursuant to Board Resolution No. 2009-001(B), and notification of all members.

Robert Heard, Chair presiding.

ROLL CALL

Present: Grady Burrows, Robert Heard, Harvey Hopson, Denise Link (arrived at 8:00pm), Willetta Milam, Natalie Peterson, Iris Rodriguez.

Absent: Rashidah Abdulhaqq, Louise Dempsey.

CERTIFICATION OF NOTICE OF MEETING

To The Board of Education:

I hereby certify that public notice of the Regular Board Meeting-Work Session of June 9, 2009 has been provided pursuant to Resolution No. 2009-001(B), which was adopted by the Board of Education of the Cleveland Municipal School District.

James P. Fortlage  
Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer

Matter of Record

The Chair requested that all stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Milam moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting (Business Meeting) of May 26, 2009. Mr. Burrows seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 6 yeas (Burrows, Heard, Hopson, Milam, Peterson, Rodriguez) to 0 nays.

## SPRING ATHLETIC CHAMPIONSHIP TEAMS RECOGNITION

Leonard Jackson, Commissioner of Athletics, introduced following school championship teams from this spring's athletic season: Luis Munoz Marin K-8 Boys Track Team; Miles Park K-8 Girls Track Team; Hannah Gibbons-Nottingham K-8 Basketball Team; Lincoln-West High School Boys and Girls Weightlifting Team; Lincoln-West High School Baseball Team; James Ford Rhodes High School Softball Team; Max S. Hayes High School Boys Tennis Team; Glenville High School Boys Track Team; and the Collinwood High School Girls Track Team.

## DISCUSSION

### Financial Update

Felton Thomas, Director of the Cleveland Public Library, presented a Resolution Authorizing the Adoption of the Cleveland Public Library Tax Budget for Fiscal Year 2009 and Transmitting to the Cuyahoga County Budget Commission, which the Board will consider at its June 23 Board Business Meeting.

### Academic Update

Chief Executive Officer Dr. Eugene Sanders, Chief of Staff Pamela Smith, Chief Academic Officer Eric Gordon, and Deputy Chief for Secondary Education Lincoln Haughton made a presentation on the School District's graduation rate. Ms. Milam asked how many seniors will need to take the Ohio Graduation Test this summer. Mr. Haughton replied he does not have that data with him, but will provide that information to the Board. Mr. Heard asked if it is a big challenge to track all of our students. Mr. Haughton replied that it is a major challenge keeping up with the mobility of our students, but we are working diligently keeping up with the tracking with the assistance of principals, assistant principals and trained secretaries to make sure students are coded correctly if they transferred out of the school, the District or the State. Ms. Milam asked how we are progressing with our credit recovery program. Mr. Haughton replied the credit recovery program has been moved from Max Hayes High School to all of our high schools this year, and as a result we are seeing a larger participation rate in the credit recovery program throughout the District. Ms. Rodriguez stated that we should start meeting with students and their parents in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade to get them to start thinking of their four-year career and plan for earning the required 22 credits. The Board Chair said that he attended an 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion ceremony today, and he believes that the earlier we can start any intervention the better. He said that he believes that our meetings with 12<sup>th</sup> grade students and parents are showing some fruit.

Ms. Smith presented the Board with a Resolution Approving Waiver Days for Teacher Professional Development for the 2009-2010 School Year, which the Board will consider at its June 23 Board Business Meeting. Ms. Peterson asked if the term waiver days, means that students will not be in school on those days. Ms. Smith replied yes. Ms. Peterson asked is there a way to have professional development without taking the children out of school. Ms. Smith replied that the District has only has a few professional

days in the school year, and all other professional development is voluntary, and that we need extra professional development at the TurnAround Schools. Ms. Peterson asked if we are using teachers to serve as substitutes and tutors, and could those teachers fill in at the schools those four days. Ms. Smith replied that we do not have a sufficient number of substitutes to fill in for the 500 or more teachers and staff at ten TurnAround Schools. Ms. Peterson asked how other districts with TurnAround Schools handle their professional development for the staff. Ms. Smith replied many of those schools use waiver days. The Board Chair asked if the professional development on the waiver days is mandatory. Ms. Smith replied yes.

#### Financial Update (continued)

The CEO, Chief Financial Officer James Fortlage and Ron Ramsey, Director of Budgets presented the Board with a Resolution Adopting the Fiscal Yea 2010 Temporary Appropriation Measure, which the Board will consider at its June 23 Board Business Meeting. The Board Chair inquired as to the cost of a 3% raise to employees versus the cost of having to provide health insurance to employees' working spouses. The CEO replied the 3% raise would cost approximately \$12 million, while the cost of providing health insurance to employees' working spouses can vary as the District is self-insured, but we are developing a range of costs. The Board Chair asked if we have had conversations with the unions regarding the cost of adding insurance to for employees' working spouses. The CEO replied that the District has had preliminary conversations with unions regarding the ongoing expense of healthcare. The Board Chair asked if there is a break even number of participation that we need to achieve to make the Service Separation Program work. Mr. Gordon replied the Service Separation Program is voluntary, and that of the 3,000 eligible teachers, we would need 190 to participate. Ms. Peterson asked for a copy of the memorandum of understanding regarding the Service Separation Program, and asked how we achieve savings in the next few years through the program. Mr. Gordon replied the way the savings are achieved in the general fund by moving the selected senior teachers into the Federal stimulus funding portion of our budget, and replacing that teacher with an entry-level teacher who is less expensive to the general fund. He also said that the senior teacher separates from the District at the end of the service period when the stimulus funding is no longer available. Ms. Peterson asked if other school districts have tried anything similar to this plan. The CEO replied that the Indianapolis School District is using a similar strategy. Ms. Peterson asked if the eligible teachers have to have a certain number of years of service, and experience in teaching certain subjects or grade levels. Mr. Gordon replied the requirement is based on the teachers having met a minimum level of cost to the District. Ms. Peterson asked if there is a deadline for the teachers to volunteer for the program. Mr. Gordon replied that the deadline is July 10. Ms. Peterson asked if the senior teachers under the plan are paid the same salary as they would have been paid had they not participated in the program. The CEO replied yes. Ms. Peterson asked if the cost of the teachers' health insurance is covered by the stimulus funds. The CEO replied yes.

### Operations Update

The CEO presented the Board with a Resolution Authorizing the Opening of Newly-Constructed School Buildings, and the Reopening of a Closed School Building, for the 2009-2010 School Year, which the Board will consider at its June 23 Board Business Meeting. Ms. Link asked if the students and parents have been informed what new school they will be attending, and if the teachers have been giving their school assignments at the new schools. Ms. Smith replied students and parents have been sent information on their school assignment, and teachers have not yet been identified, but will be shortly. Ms. Link inquired about the teacher fairs scheduled in August. Ms. Smith replied the voluntary transfer fair will take place in August. She said that the process will begin next week with school teams interviewing teachers requesting voluntary transfers. On August 4 the District will hold a fair, where all the schools will be represented, for teachers not yet selected to interview. This will be followed by an opportunity for necessary transfers, those teachers who still have not been placed, to interview. Ms. Smith said that prior to the start of school all teachers will know where they are teaching. The Board Chair said that he heard on the news that City Council was considering a Resolution to recommend that the new school built on the Wade Park School site be named for the late Councilwoman Fannie Lewis. He said that he has not received any official communication from City Council, and if we do the Board will take it under advisement at the time.

### OLD BUSINESS

None.

### NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Rodriguez said that she will be proposing a Resolution to establish a plan to improve the graduation rate, by providing a four-year plan for each 9<sup>th</sup> grade students that can be presented to parents at the parent-teacher conferences at the beginning of the school year.

Ms. Peterson said that she agreed with Ms. Rodriguez and that she is willing to assist in drafting such a Resolution.

Ms. Peterson presented the Board with a Resolution Adopting a Student Code of Conduct for the 2009-2010 School Year. She said that this proposed revised Students Code of Conduct comes out of the Board's Policy Review Process. Ms. Peterson said that under the current collective bargaining agreement, changes to the Student Code of Conduct require the agreement of the Cleveland Teachers Union. She also said that recommendations of HumanWare Audit by Dr. David Osher of the American Institutes of Research were considered in identifying these modifications to the Student code of Conduct. Mr. Burrows noted that this Code recommends that use and possession of tobacco be raised to a level 2 offense, and asked what the penalty for a Level 2 offense is. Wayne Belock, Deputy Legal Counsel replied that Lincoln Haughton, Deputy Chief of Secondary Education, indicated that the suspension is up to five days for a Level 2

offense. Mr. Belock said that this change was recommended by Cardell Parker, Director of Student Hearing and Appeals. Mr. Burrows asked what was the reason for the change. Mr. Belock replied that Mr. Parker felt treating tobacco as a Level 1 offense was not strict enough. Mr. Burrows asked if a student who has tobacco in his or her locker might be suspended for up to five days. Mr. Belock replied that is the potential maximum penalty, but it is up to the principal to factor in the particular circumstances. Ms. Peterson stated that the Code of Conduct could be improved, will require further discussion throughout the year, and next year at this time we will have a document that is significantly revised in line with Dr. Osher's recommendations.

The Board Chair announced that the next meeting will be a Board Business Meeting on Tuesday, June 23, 2009 at 6:30pm at the Board of Education Administration Building.

ADJOURMENT

Ms. Milam moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Burrows seconded. There being no objection the meeting was adjourned.

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Chair

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Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer

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Approval Date