

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO**

State of Ohio ex rel.
BRIAN M. AMES
2632 Ranfield Rd, Mogadore, OH 44260

Relator

v.

AKRON PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION
C/O Treasurer Stephen Thompson
4350 Allen Road, Stow, OH 44224

Respondent

CASE NO.:

JUDGE:

**COMPLAINT IN DECLARATORY
JUDGMENT AND INJUNCTION FOR
ENFORCEMENT OF R.C. 121.22**

JURISDICTION

- 1. This Court has original jurisdiction for this action.

STANDING

- 2. Relator has statutory standing under R.C. 121.22(I)(1) to bring an action to enforce R.C. 121.22.

PARTIES

- 3. Relator Brian M. Ames is a citizen and taxpayer residing in Randolph Township, Portage County, Ohio.
- 4. Respondent Akron Public Schools Board of Education (the "Board") is the board of education consisting of seven members established pursuant to R.C. Chapter 3313 for Akron Public Schools, Summit County, Ohio.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

- 5. The Board is currently comprised of seven members: Bruce Alexander, Diana Autry, Summer Hall, Carla Jackson, Rene T Molenaur, Job Perry, and Barbara Sykes.
- 6. The Board is a public body as defined by R.C. 121.22(B)(1)(a).

7. R.C. 121.22, the Open Meetings Act, applies to the conduct of all the official business of the Board.
8. The members of a public body may hold an executive session only after a majority of a quorum of the public body determines, by a roll call vote, to hold an executive session. R.C. 121.22(G).
9. Members of a public body may adjourn into executive session only after a majority of a quorum of the public body approves the motion by a roll call vote.
10. The vote may not be by a show of hands, and the public body should record the vote in its minutes.
11. A public body may hold an executive session only for one or more of the approved matters or purposes listed in R.C. 121.22(G) for which the executive session is to be held.
12. Before a public body may hold an executive session, it must state in a motion one or more of the approved matters or purposes listed in R.C. 121.22(G).
13. A public body may hold an executive session to discuss certain personnel related matters as set forth in R.C. 121.22(G)(1):

To consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official, or the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual, unless the public employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual requests a public hearing. Except as otherwise provided by law, no public body shall hold an executive session for the discipline of an elected official for conduct related to the performance of the elected official's official duties or for the elected official's removal from office. If a public body holds an executive session pursuant to division (G)(1) of this section, the motion and vote to hold that executive session shall state which one or more of the approved purposes listed in division (G)(1) of this section are the purposes for which the executive session is to be held, but need not include the name of any person to be considered at the meeting.

14. A limited liability company cannot be a public employee or official.

COUNT 1

Holding An Executive Session Not Compliant With R.C. 121.22

15. Relator incorporates the above paragraphs as if fully rewritten herein.

16. The Board held a meeting (the “Meeting”) on January 8, 2024 and conducted business and conducted official business therein. A true and accurate copy of the minutes for the Meeting are attached hereto as Exhibit 1.
17. At 7:04pm in the Meeting, the Board recessed into executive session (the “Executive Session”) pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 121.22(G) (1) “for the purpose of considering the employment or compensation of a public employee or official of the School District”. (Exhibit 1 REL_006.)
18. In the Executive Session, the Board discussed the Varsity Tutors for Schools LLC Service Agreement (the “Agreement”). (Exhibit 1 REL_007.)
19. After reconvening from the Executive Session at 7:42pm, the Board approved the Agreement: motion by Job Perry; second by Barbara Sykes; ayes: Bruce Alexander, Diana Autry, Summer Hall, Carla Jackson, Job Perry, Barbara Sykes; nays: Rene T Molenaur. (Exhibit 1 REL_007.)
20. A service agreement is not a matter specifically excepted by law because in is not a natural person and hence cannot be a public employee or official.
21. Varsity Tutors for Schools LLC is not a matter specifically excepted by law because in is not a natural person and hence cannot be a public employee or official.
22. The Board violated R.C. 121.22 by holding the Executive Session.
23. The Agreement is invalid by operation of R.C. 121.22(H).

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Relator prays for judgment against Respondents, and that the Court:

- (1) Find that Respondents have violated the provisions of R.C. 121.22 as set forth in Count 1.
- (2) Issue a mandatory injunction associated with the violation enjoining Respondent Akron Public Schools Board of Education and its members to comply with all the provisions of R.C. 121.22 as mandated by R.C. 121.22(I)(1).

- (3) Order Respondent to pay to Relator a five hundred dollar civil forfeiture as mandated by R.C. 121.22(I)(2)(a) for the violation.
- (4) Declare all actions resulting from the Executive Session to be invalid by operation of R.C. 121.22(H).
- (5) Award Relator all his court costs and reasonable attorney's fees under R.C. 121.22(I)(2)(a).
- (6) Any other relief which this Court deems just and equitable.

Respectfully Submitted,



Brian M. Ames
Relator *pro se*
2632 Ranfield Rd
Mogadore, OH 44260
bmames00@gmail.com
330-354-3701

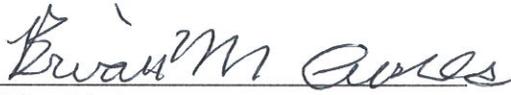
AFFIDAVIT OF VERIFICATION

State of Ohio)
)SS
County of Portage)

Now comes Brian M. Ames, who, having first been duly cautioned and sworn deposes and says as follows:

1. I am, and have been during all time periods relevant to the foregoing Complaint, a citizen and taxpayer residing in Portage County, Ohio.
2. I have read the foregoing Complaint and swear that I have personal knowledge of the facts stated therein and that the facts stated therein are true and accurate to the best of my information, knowledge, and belief.
3. Exhibit 1 attached hereto is a a true and accurate copies of the original minutes for the Organizational and Regularly Scheduled Meeting held on January 8, 2024 at 5:32pm.

Further, Affiant sayeth naught.



Brian M. Ames

Before me, a Notary Public in and for said county and state, personally appeared Brian M. Ames who swore to the truth of the foregoing Verification and subscribed same in my presence at Rootstown, Ohio on this 25th day of January, 2024.





Notary Public

Amended wording in 32.1 from Monday, January 22, 2024 Board Meeting**REGULAR (ORGANIZATIONAL) BOARD MEETING (Monday, January 8, 2024)**

Generated by Ruth Rieman on Tuesday, January 9, 2024

Meeting called to order at 5:32 PM**1. OPENING FORMALITIES****Action, Procedural: 1.1 Roll Call**

Bruce Alexander, Diana Autry, Summer Hall, Carla Jackson, Rene T Molenaar, Job Perry, Barbara Sykes (7)

Procedural: 1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Summer Hall.

Action, Procedural: 1.3 Election of President**Nominations will be requested.**

Bruce Alexander nominated Diana Autry for President.

Motion by Bruce Alexander, second by Rene T Molenaar.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Bruce Alexander, Diana Autry, Summer Hall, Rene T Molenaar, Barbara Sykes (5)

Nay: Carla Jackson, Job Perry (2)

Note: Carla Jackson nominated Job Perry but it did not carry.

Action, Procedural: 1.4 Election of Vice President**Nominations will be requested.**

Bruce Alexander nominated Carla Jackson for Vice President.

Motion by Bruce Alexander, second by Diana Autry.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Bruce Alexander, Diana Autry, Summer Hall, Carla Jackson, Rene T Molenaar, Job Perry, Barbara Sykes (7)

Procedural: 1.5 Oath of Office - President and Vice President

Dr. Stephen Thompson read the Oath of Office to President Diana Autry and Vice President Carla Jackson. Both said "I do" and signed the Oath.

Procedural: 1.6 Passing of the Gavel

Job Perry ceremoniously passed the gavel to new Board President Diana Autry.

Diana Autry made her remarks:

Ms. Autry thanked the creator, her family, loved ones, friends, and colleagues for the opportunity to lead, Vice President Jackson, Dr. Robinson, previous Boards, Board leadership, and specifically past presidents she served under Patrick Bravo, Dr. N.J. Akbar, and Dr. Derrick Hall. The primary role of the Board is to pass policies. Ms. Autry mentioned that this Board will have professional development to ensure all members are equipped to bring forth policies that are inspired by our constituency. The other role of the Board is hiring and evaluating the Superintendent and Treasurer. She is confident that Dr. Robinson will lead and elevate Akron Public Schools (APS) with the support of our Treasurer, Dr. Thompson. The Blueprint for Excellence – The Strategic Plan was a major goal that is already completed and will guide our forthcoming evaluations. The Board of Education is the chief advisor. The chief advisors or community attitudes are the information found in the publication "Boardmanship" by the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA). To the community, parents, and families who sent her here twice, she does not take this seat for granted. To the District, administrators, and staff she is proud of our navigation through COVID-19 and to be part of the team as we embark on our future. A time in which we are poised to make history as we did in 1847 when we, Akron, invented and established the system of public education widely used today. It was a radical idea at the time and childless property owners were outraged and even threatened violence over having to pay for other peoples' children to go to school. She believes they had the right sentiment then and it still holds today. The children belong to us all. Outside of God and family, there is not much that is more important than supporting and investing in our youth. Almost 20,000 are entrusted to us who chose to us so invest today or repair broken adults tomorrow. The children are reflections of the world's community systems and environments that the adults around them created. So, her vision, motivation, and why haven't changed since she has been on this Board. It is the same vision, motivation, and why that inspired her to do thousands of volunteer hours and raise 10s of thousands of dollars for

scholarships, staff grants, and programs before the privilege of even having this seat. Simply put the children are our future. She doesn't have a slogan, theme song, or a magic wand. The magic is in the mirror and it is in the mirror of every adult around the Board table and employed by this District because without the children none of us are necessary. The Superintendent with his team have already set the theme and it is unity. So, let's reset and recommit to our children. The Superintendent and team produced an excellent guide for our work with the Blueprint for Success. Our Strategic Plan was formulated in collaboration with every level of stakeholder but if you were not engaged don't fret as this is a fluid living document that will be regularly reviewed and updated as needed. It includes the four cornerstones-Culture of Safety and Belonging, Academic Achievement, Operational Excellence, and Partnerships, Family and Community Engagement with equity threaded through each cornerstone. She knows that equity makes some people feel uncomfortable but there is no growth in the comfort zone. We can't be comfortable with only a few of our schools flourishing while others are not. Because we are only as strong as our weakest link. She knows there is a concern that equity work is about catering to brown and black students but it is not always about race but a lot of times it is and that is okay. APS is over 50% brown and black students and that's okay too because we are the public in the Akron Public Schools and we have to be proud and nurture and cultivate what's ours--beautiful buildings, programs, and partnerships, day-to-day hard work, gains big and small, and accomplishments. We have to be our own best cheerleaders and constructive critics without vilifying and tearing down our District. We have to face our challenges together while building up what is ours. She isn't naive to these challenges with some of them being redistricting, academic achievement, discipline, levy, relationships, social emotional, and mental health with adults and students. Speaking of health COVID-19 and its effects are still here. Not only the physical illness but the effect that manifests in behaviors such as fear, anger, and anxiety and not having the opportunities to mourn before the next tragedy hits. Students are with us because they are kids who possess the developmental level and maturity of a kid who needs to be taught and modeled what they do not know. They just live in this world, they didn't make it. Our youngest learners' first educational experience was in a remote setting so their lack of social skills shouldn't be punishment or being expelled but met with patience, support, and understanding that can be exhausting but it is equally important for the adults to practice self-care to bring the best version of themselves to the equation for our students to model. Utilize EAP the students told us to be kind and that they want kinder schools and community. She listened to their poems at the Civic. All ages said the same thing. Students have shared with her that they are being taunted by some adults teasing about their phones being locked up. She supports the Yondr bags and heard mostly good things as a result of their implementation. She can't mandate staff not to taunt or be kind but in solidarity, she can put her phone up too. She looks forward to more student voices. We have to not only listen but sometimes consider and implement their ideas. Otherwise, what is the point of them sharing? Superintendent Robinson and Ms. Whitfield not only are student voices welcomed here but moving forward it is welcome at our committee meetings which will allow Board Members to listen and build relationships with our scholars. They are the ones that experience our District on a day-to-day basis. She hears a lot of back blame towards parents and guardians who are indeed responsible for raising and equipping their children but understands that some parents and guardians need support. The era in which some of these parents and guardians were raised in the 90s was negatively affected by the crack epidemic which destroyed many communities and families right here in Akron and around cities of the U.S. They were not met with the empathy or support that you see today in the case of the opioid crisis. They were subjected to prison, death, and dysfunction that has never been formally addressed. At one of the forums, she heard one of the candidates say we need more love, respect, and grace. Let's not lose sight that we are a team along with our parents, families, and guardians. Let's support our schools and activate our parent roots to support our hard-working staff. The staff situation seemed to improve with the upgrade in safety and security, Yondr bags, and well-deserved compensation. Please share with the Board positive stories so we can know our efforts aren't in vain. Communication is a topic that came up a lot at the forums and we will be having select future meetings at our CLCs. Please invite Board Members and come in for the three minutes to address the Board. It doesn't always have to be negative but if it is we are becoming better and better equipped to address concerns with the leadership of our Superintendent and his team. At the unveiling of the Blueprint, the Superintendent asked our media for more balanced coverage. Part of the Strategic Plan is an investment into our communications because we provide so many good things to be labeled as if we don't. Relationships are at the core and the root of all that we need. With the Blueprint to guide us, whatever your role, this is an opportunity to center our scholars to empower their minds and enrich their future. There is no fast track to relationship building so let's get to work.

Discussion, Procedural: 1.7 Board Member Assignments

President Autry is adding an AdHoc Committee to address recommendations from community members who participate in our Peewee Sports. This committee will be chaired by Vice President Jackson and co-chaired by Summer Hall.

BOARD MEMBER ASSIGNMENTS 2024

<u>Board Committees – Co-Chairs</u>	
Legal, Contracts & Board Policy – Dr. Rene Molenaar-Chair, Barbara Sykes-Co-Chair	
Finance & Capital Management – Job Perry-Chair, Barbara Sykes-Co-Chair	
Instructional Policy & Student Achievement – Carla Jackson-Chair, Summer Hall-Co-Chair	
Equity Policy - Bruce Alexander-Chair, Summer Hall-Co-Chair	
<u>OSBA Trustee & Alternate</u>	
Trustee – Bruce Alexander Alternate – Carla Jackson	
<u>Liaison to OSBA’s Urban School District Advisory Network</u> - Dr. Rene Molenaar	
<u>Joint Board of Review – Members and Alternates</u>	
Members: Diana Autry, Carla Jackson(President & Vice President)	
Summer Hall	
Staff members on the JBR are Superintendent Dr. Michael Robinson.	
<u>Cluster/Ward Liaison:</u>	
School - Cluster/Ward – through June, 2024	
Buchtel – Wards 3 & 4	Carla Jackson
East – Ward 10	Barbara Sykes
Ellet – Ward 6	Bruce Alexander
Firestone – Ward 8	Dr. Rene Molenaar
Garfield – Wards 7 & 9	Job Perry
North – Wards 1, 2 & 5	Summer Hall
Specialty Schools (President)	Diana Autry

Action, Procedural: 1.8 Establishment of Board Meeting Dates for 2024

Approval of the proposed board meeting dates for 2024 as listed.

Mrs. Sykes would like the community to know the location and dates of the meetings held at the CLCs as soon as possible.

Motion by Job Perry, second by Bruce Alexander.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Bruce Alexander, Diana Autry, Summer Hall, Carla Jackson, Rene T Molenaar, Job Perry, Barbara Sykes (7)

Information: 1.9 Community/School Reflections

Kaysie Anderson, Scholar Board Member and a senior at Akron Early College High School. She is on track to receive her high school diploma and associate degree in the arts from the University of Akron in May of 2024. This is her second term as a scholar board member. She is proud that she attends Akron Early College, which received a national blue-ribbon designation in 2013 and 2019, and this year they rank as one of the top schools in the nation by US News and World Report. One thing that makes her school unique is the amount of freedom that students receive in terms of choosing their college courses. For example, as a dancer last semester she chose to take the college course Viewing Dance, which is about the different styles of dance around the world. The advisor for the Akron Early College dance team is Mrs. Keaton. Mrs. Keaton is one of her favorite teachers because she has guided her through four years at Akron Early College High School. She allows Kaysie to have a voice as the captain of the dance team by supporting the decisions she makes about the team. Kaysie learned that student agency is students using their voices to have the freedom to make decisions about what they learn. One thing that makes Akron Early College unique is that we have student agencies in choosing our college courses. In her opinion, if high school students across the district have the freedom to select their courses and see how their courses connect to real life, it would motivate students to come to school, improve their grades, improve their behavior, and change the relationships between teachers and students for the better. On behalf of all high school students across Akron Public Schools, she suggested that the Akron Early College model or parts of the model be used across the district to allow students to have more freedom to select their courses.

Barbara Skyes spoke about the community and what they expect from the Board. Their most important word was transparency. It is important to refer Board items to the committees. Also, the Sunshine Laws is an opportunity to be in line with the law when discussing these issues and the community is aware of what we are doing. They are our bosses. We want to hear from and listen to them. When we refer more items to the committees we will find that the community will feel a sense of trust because that is what is missing. The community does not trust the Board. They feel they are not getting the information in a timely fashion or explained well enough. We can work the agenda in such a way that we can transfer and refer items to our committees. There is time to plan meetings and notify the community, media, parents, taxpayers, and our bosses. We want the community to trust us to close schools, move students from one school to another, build a new school and that we are adequately making sure that our children are being educated, academic achievement is being made and we are doing all we possibly can for the students.

Carla Jackson spoke with some current students at Garfield CLC about pathways, one being real estate. Also, Travon Gordon, a graduate of Garfield CLC, is hosting an event at the Akron Art Museum. Ms. Jackson mentioned that the Judge Harold Case Stubbs scholarship is coming up soon.

Rene Molenaur attended on Saturday, January 6, 2024, the E.J. Thomas and House Three Thirty Mayor Malik "Together for Akron" swearing-in ceremony and community celebration and attended the Karen New Year Celebration at the Main Library.

2. RECOGNITIONS - None

3. COMMUNICATIONS

Information: 3.1 Requests to Address the Board

Cazzell Smith spoke about Board Members' new direction and school rebuilding, moves, closing, mergers, and selling decommissioned buildings.

4. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Action, Minutes, Procedural: 4.1 Regular Meeting Minutes - Monday, December 18, 2023 and 4.2 Special Board Meeting - Thursday, January 4, 2024

Motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting of Monday, December 18, 2023.

Motion by Job Perry, second by Bruce Alexander.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Bruce Alexander, Diana Autry, Summer Hall, Carla Jackson, Rene T Molenaur, Job Perry, Barbara Sykes (7)

5. PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS - PROFESSIONAL STAFF AND ADMINISTRATORS

Information: 5.1 Retirement/Resignation - Professional Staff

Information: 5.2 Termination - Teacher Contract

Information: 5.3 Leave of Absence - Professional Staff

Information: 5.4 Employment - Professional Staff (General Fund)

Information: 5.5 Appointment/Reinstatement * - Professional Staff (General Fund)

Information: 5.6 Revision - Professional Staff - Annual Salary Rates and/or Contract Status (General Fund)

Information: 5.7 Employment - Administrative (General Fund)

Information: 5.8 Retirement - Administrator

6. PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS - MISCELLANEOUS PROFESSIONALS

Information: 6.1 Employment - Administrative Specialist (General Fund)

Information: 6.2 Transfers and Reclassifications - Professional Staff (General Fund)

7. PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS - SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACTS

Information: 7.1 Limited Supplemental Contracts (General Fund)

Information: 7.2 Limited Supplemental Contracts - Salary Adjustment (General Fund)

8. PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS - SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

Information: 8.1 Resignation - Substitute Teacher

Information: 8.2 Employment - Substitute Teacher (General Fund)

9. PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS - TUTORS

Information: 9.1 Reinstatement - Tutor - Leave of Absence

Information: 9.2 Employment - ESL Tutor (General Fund)

10. PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS - SUPPORT STAFF

Information: 10.1 Resignation - Office Support

Information: 10.2 Employment - Substitute Secretary (General Fund)

11. PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS - PARAPROFESSIONALS

Information: 11.1 Resignations - Paraprofessional

Information: 11.2 Employment - ESL Interpreter (General Fund)

Information: 11.3 Employment - Paraprofessional (General Fund)

Information: 11.4 Employment - Substitute Paraprofessional (General Fund)

Information: 11.5 Revision - Family Liaison - Funding Change (SSI)

12. PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS - CHILD NUTRITION

13. PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS - MAINTENANCE/OPERATIONS/TRANSPORTATION (MOT)

Information: 13.1 Resignation - Bus Driver

Information: 13.2 Employment - Substitute Bus Driver (General Fund)

Information: 13.3 Employment - Temporary Custodial Workers (General Fund)

14. PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS - SECURITY

Information: 14.1 Retirement - School Safety Team Member

Information: 14.2 Employment - Police Liaison Officer (General Fund)

15. PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS - STUDENTS

Information: 15.1 Employment - Student Worker (General Fund)

16. PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS - STAFF DEATHS

17. APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

Action: 17.1 Approval of Personnel Recommendations

I wish to recommend approval of the Personnel Recommendations presented in Categories 5 through 16.

Motion by Bruce Alexander, second by Carla Jackson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Bruce Alexander, Diana Autry, Summer Hall, Carla Jackson, Rene T Molenaur, Job Perry, Barbara Sykes (7)

18. BOARD LETTER - LEGAL, CONTRACTS & BOARD POLICY

Information: 18.1 2023-2024 School Calendar - Revision

19. BOARD LETTER - FINANCE & CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

Information: 19.1 Acceptance of Donations

Information: 19.2 Akron Community Foundation - Millennium Fund for Children

Information: 19.3 City of Akron for Akron After School Programs

Information: 19.4 November 2023 Financial Report

Discussion: 19.5 Appointment of a Public Records Designee

Information: 19.6 Advance of Local Taxes

Information: 19.7 Travel Related to Official Duties while Serving OSBA

20. BOARD LETTER - INSTRUCTIONAL POLICY & STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

21. RESOLUTIONS & MOTIONS - CONSENT AGENDA

Information: 21.1 Resolution - Approval of 2023-2024 School Calendar Revisions

Information: 21.2 Motion - Acceptance of Donations

Information: 21.3 Resolution - Akron Community Foundation - Millennium Fund for Children

Information: 21.4 Resolution - City of Akron Grant for Akron After School Programs

Information: 21.5 Resolution - November 2023 Financial Report

Discussion, Information: 21.6 Resolution - Appointment of a Public Records Designee

Information: 21.7 Resolution - Authorizing the Advance of Local Taxes

Information: 21.8 Resolution - Travel Related to Official Duties while Serving OSBA

22. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Action: 22.1 Approval of Resolutions & Motions

I wish to recommend approval of the Resolutions and Motions presented in Category 21.

Motion by Bruce Alexander, second by Carla Jackson.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Bruce Alexander, Diana Autry, Summer Hall, Carla Jackson, Rene T Molenaur, Job Perry, Barbara Sykes (7)

23. BUSINESS AFFAIRS RECOMMENDATIONS

Information: 23.1 ACT Finance - Purchase Agreement (Testing Materials)

Information: 23.2 Colorado Time Systems - Purchase - Firestone CLC

Information: 23.3 Hilltastic Coaching LLC - Service Contract

Information: 23.4 Jacob Jones - Service Contract - Firestone CLC

Information: 23.5 Junior Achievement of North Central Ohio, Inc - Service Agreement

Information: 23.6 Mobile Ed Productions, Inc. - Service Agreement - Betty Jane CLC

Information: 23.7 Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) - Service Agreement

Information: 23.8 Students of Wealth, Inc., dba Goalsetter Advisors LLC, dba Goalsetter Gold - Service Agreement

24. APPROVAL OF BUSINESS AFFAIRS RECOMMENDATIONS

REL 005

Tavia Galonski, Summit County Clerk of Courts

Action: 24.1 Approval of Business Affairs Recommendations

I wish to recommend approval of the Business Affairs Recommendations presented in Category 23.

Motion by Bruce Alexander, second by Rene T Molenaur.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Bruce Alexander, Diana Autry, Summer Hall, Carla Jackson, Rene T Molenaur, Job Perry, Barbara Sykes (7)

25. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Robinson reported:

- Reminded families to check the District's website for weather updates
- Thanked scholars for participating in the Superintendent Book of the Month Club
- Congratulated the teachers, scholars, families, and staff for their hard work on the 6% increase on the 3rd Grade Fall ELA Ohio State Test compared to last year's passage during this time by showing growth
- The students will not be attending school on the Solar Eclipse day which is on Monday, April 8, 2024
- Visited East CLC's Project Lead the Way teacher, Tom Eli. He is preparing for competition on Friday, January 12, 2024, at STEM HS
- Be Kind 330 Last month, the North High DECA Chapter purchased Christmas gifts for 11 students from Harris-Jackson CLC in the North Cluster. Faith Family Church of North Canton donated \$500 and the North High DECA Chapter contributed \$500. Eric Matthews, our DECA Advisor, shared these comments: I always enjoy seeing some of the older students in the district "Giving Back" and doing acts of service for the younger kids. Seeing the smiles and hearing the kids make comments like, "This is the best day of my life!" and, "Am I dreaming?" made me truly appreciate this great act of kindness from the North High DECA program. Mr. Mathews and the high school scholars selected the gifts with great care. Our Harris-Jackson kids and their parents and grandparents were thankful for the gifts. Every child deserves Christmas gifts and we were able to give them that this year through this act of kindness
- A student called today to thank him for supporting him at the school when he visited

26. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Autry reported:

- Shared the upcoming professional development "Getting to the Bottom Line" at the Summit Educational Service Center on January 18, 2024, and the School Board Leadership Series at the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio on January 23, 2024. The goal is for the Board Members to participate in professional development every quarter.
- Board Retreat on Saturday, January 27, 2024. Please send President Autry any topics you would like addressed at this meeting.

27. TREASURER'S REPORT

Dr. Stephen Thompson reported:

- Reviewed the November Financial Report which gives insight into how we are trending by using projected information
- In February there will be the addition of tax receipts
- A report will be given each month
- Money is invested receiving about 5.5% with short-term investments

28. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Information: 28.1 Legal, Contracts & Board Policy Committee - None

Information: 28.2 Finance & Capital Management Committee - None

Information: 28.3 Instructional Policy & Student Achievement Committee - None

Information: 28.4 Equity Committee - None

29. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None**30. NEW BUSINESS - None****31. EXECUTIVE SESSION****Action: 31.1 Recess into Executive Session**

Motion to recess into Executive Session Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 121.22(G) (1) for the purpose of considering the employment or compensation of a public employee or official of the School District.

Motion by Job Perry, second by Rene T Molenaur.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Bruce Alexander, Diana Autry, Summer Hall, Carla Jackson, Rene T Molenaar, Job Perry, Barbara Sykes (7)

The Board recessed at 7:04 PM

Procedural: 31.2 Reconvene into Regular Session

The Board reconvened at 7:42 PM

32. ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Action, Information: 32.1 Possible Action - Varsity Tutors for Schools LLC - Service Agreement

Motion to approve of the Varsity Tutors for Schools LLC Service Agreement

Motion by Job Perry, second by Barbara Sykes.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Bruce Alexander, Diana Autry, Summer Hall, Carla Jackson, Job Perry, Barbara Sykes (6)

Nay: Rene T Molenaar (1)

Amended wording from Monday, January 22, 2024 Board Meeting:

Board President Autry asked for comments prior to the vote by the Board for or against approving the Varsity Tutors contract/grant award. Dr. Molenaar started to express her concerns with the passage of this agenda item. As she began to express her concerns, Board Member Sykes objected (called a point of order) with no response and no discussion to the point of order, and moved directly to vote.

33. ADJOURNMENT

Action, Procedural: 33.1 Adjourn Meeting

Motion to adjourn.

Motion by Bruce Alexander, second by Summer Hall.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Aye: Bruce Alexander, Diana Autry, Summer Hall, Carla Jackson, Rene T Molenaar, Job Perry, Barbara Sykes (7)

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 PM

Diana C. Autry, BSN, RN, Board President

Dr. Stephen Thompson, CFO/Treasurer