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Ward 9 meeting

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Summary

- In July 2023, Akron Public Schools voted to rebuild Miller South School for the Performing Arts and Pfeiffer Elementary School, both in Kenmore, at the site of the former Kenmore High School. In May 2025, news broke that [the cost had increased by \\$13 million](#) from the original estimate due to inflation, higher labor costs and tariffs. There are now three options on how to proceed. [Ward 9 Council Member Tina Boyes](#) and James Hardy, former Akron Public Schools (APS) board president and former Ward 8 City Council member, shared these updates, the three options and their thoughts on the matter.
- The [Joint Board of Review](#), a review board with representatives from the city of Akron and APS, needs to meet in order to determine how to allocate the \$18 million in the Local Fund Initiative (LFI).
- Keep Akron Beautiful and Better Kenmore are looking for volunteers to drive predetermined routes to find homes and businesses that should be nominated for beautification awards.

Follow-Up Questions

- When will the Joint Board of Review (JBOR) meet next to discuss what to do with the \$18 million in the Local Fund Initiatives (LFI) fund?
- Why has the JBOR not been regularly meeting?

Notes

- Food was provided for attendees before Ward 9 Council Member Tina Boyes started the meeting at 6:33 p.m.
- Approximately 50 people were in attendance. An Akron police officer was present. [Ward 10 Council Member Sharon Connor](#) came to the meeting about halfway through.

City/police union contract negotiations

- Boyes shared an update on the [ongoing contract negotiations between the city and the police union](#).
 - She was disappointed in the process and said she didn't feel that the city was represented well in the fact-finder report.
 - Boyes mentioned a grant-funded part of the Akron Police Department. The grant was for helping restore staffing to an "acceptable" level during COVID, but the city has now met the "acceptable" level and did not receive the grant this year.

Kenmore Schools

- Boyes gave an update on the recent news about the plan to build a combined Miller South School and Pfeiffer Elementary at the site of the former Kenmore High School.
- Boyes thanked those who showed up at [a rally at Pfeiffer earlier in the day](#) to protest the potential closure of the school, which would require students to attend a school outside of the neighborhood.
- The school board is now considering [three options](#):
 - Continue the project as planned and be \$13 million over budget
 - Rebuild only Miller South at the former Kenmore High School site
 - Put Miller South students in Litchfield Community Learning Center (CLC)
- The second and third options would close Pfeiffer Elementary and redistrict the students to other schools.

- Boyes said she thinks APS has been reaching out to both Miller South and Pfeiffer to try to modify the initial plans to build both schools at the Kenmore High School site to potentially lower costs.
- James Hardy, former APS board president and former Ward 8 council member, spoke. He said every APS CLC that opens has seen increased enrollment, due the facilities being new.
- APS and the city are trying to come to an agreement on how to use the [Local Fund Initiative \(LFI\) funds](#), which are currently at \$18 million. Boyes has been urging the Joint Board of Review (JBOR) to use these funds for the Miller South/Pfeiffer project. Hardy said there are some who think the funds should be used elsewhere, but he doesn't think that will happen.
- JBOR is supposed to be meeting soon to discuss how to use this funding, but a public meeting notice has not been published yet.
- Hardy said that community influence matters when APS is considering closing a school.
- Boyes encouraged attendees to continue to speak out about this issue. She said the conversation is changing, and messaging should be encouraging and positive to see how they can make the Miller South/Pfeiffer site work.

Keep Akron Beautiful

- Keep Akron Beautiful (KAB) CEO Jacqui Ricchiuti and Director of Development & Community Outreach Emma Segedy gave a brief presentation on KAB and its services, including providing supplies for community litter cleanups, beautification and checking residential recycling bins for proper recycling.
- KAB is looking for volunteers to drive routes in Ward 9 to find homes and businesses that should be nominated for [beautification awards](#).
- Boyes and [Better Kenmore CDC](#) have also created a "Keep Kenmore Beautiful" award (see image). They are also looking for volunteers to drive routes to find nominees.
- An attendee asked about community gardens in Kenmore. Another attendee said that [Immaculate Conception Church](#) has a community garden and is looking for people to grow plants there.
- The meeting ended at 7:39 p.m.