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Cuyahoga Falls Board of Education

Documenter name: Mike Klein

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Summary

- [The auction site](#) to sell old equipment and other items from the old Cuyahoga Falls High School is up and running and accepting bids. JF Marketing was awarded the contract several months ago and is handling all of the transactions.
- The board and school administrators are reviewing rental rates and strategies for the facilities at the new school. These facilities include the athletic fields, auditorium and meeting rooms, among other spaces.
- The school is developing a campaign that defines the qualities of a Cuyahoga Falls School District (student called the "Portrait of a Black Tiger." This type of campaign is currently popular among other high schools across the nation and is a type of mission statement for the school's teaching goals.
- With the decision to move forward with putting a 5.5-mil levy on the November ballot, the board and administrators are now tasked with creating a statement of facts to release to the public, which will outline the negative impacts to the school system's ability to provide educational programs should the levy be rejected. It will also outline the positive services the school could provide should the levy pass.

Follow-Up Questions

- How much money will the auction generate for the CFSD?
- What facilities will be available to rent in the CFSD, and what will the costs be?
- What will the final design of the Black Tiger logo look like?
- What items will the statement of facts include and how will the public react to the possible cuts to programs, class size and pay-to-play options among other money-saving options for the proposed levy?

Notes

The meeting was held in the new Black Box Theater at the 6 through 12th grade Campus Performing Arts Center. The meeting was recorded with only audio available and livestreamed on the [CFSD Youtube page](#). There were five board members, the district superintendent and the district treasurer seated at a table in front of the audience. They were:

- Treasurer/Board Secretary Kristy Stoicoiu
- Superintendent Andrea Celico
- Board President Anthony Gomez
- Board Vice President Carrie Schaefer
- Board Member Patrice White
- Board Member Courtney Zimmerman
- Board Member A. J. Harris

There were four people in the audience including Ryan Huch, director of Technology and Security for CFSD. The meeting started promptly at 5:30 p.m. and ended at 7:43 p.m.

Gomez began the meeting with the roll call and a unanimous approval of the [June 24 agenda](#). Gomez began the opening ceremony by reading aloud the standard informational items listed on Item C-1 on the agenda. Everyone stood for and recited the Pledge of Allegiance, then the work session began.

America's 250th Anniversary

Gomez then asked Board Member Patrice White to explain the proposed item concerning the board's acknowledgement of the upcoming 250th Anniversary of the United States. White proposed that each board member read a passage or two from the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. The proposal was accepted unanimously, and the readings will take place at a future board meeting.

Contract for Services - JF Marketing

[The JF Marketing site](#), which is auctioning off items from the old Cuyahoga Falls High School and Roberts Middle School, is up and running and currently taking bids. Gomez said he had visited the site and was encouraged by the bidding process on many of the items but disappointed that a few items, such as a van, weren't receiving enough bids and that the winning bid would be less than the scrap value of the item. A board member asked if there was a minimum bid set on items. Gomez said there was not.

The board was asked to approve an [update to the current contract](#) with JF Marketing that would cover the items in the auction that had been recently found during the clearing out of the old school and had been left off the original contract. The board approved unanimously.

Portrait of a Black Tiger

The ["Portrait of a Black Tiger"](#) project is a Portrait of a Graduate (PoG) initiative. These PoG initiatives are being taken up by school districts across the country in order to align academic programs and standards with the life skills needed as suggested by the community and school administrators. CFSD's PoG initiative is ongoing and has progressed through brainstorming sessions with teachers, administrators, community participants and other school districts.

Currently, CFSD has nearly completed defining the qualities of a Black Tiger and is in the process of creating a graphic that conveys those qualities in an iconic way. The board members received a presentation of six designs created by the heads of the art department of a Black Tiger "logo." The board members are tasked with commenting on the designs and narrowing down the choices of which designs should undergo refinement.

The board also discussed the choice of words used to define those qualities. The qualities presented were:

- Emotional Intelligence
- Learning Mindset
- Communication
- Adaptability
- Creativity
- Critical Thinking

All of the designs were discussed with the board asking Superintendent Dr. Andrea

Celico to take the first and third design back to the designer and re-think the flowing black stripes.

Another concernpoint of contention brought up by the board members expressed was the use of “emotional intelligence” as an attribute. A few of the board members questioned the use of the phrase based on sounding too trendy and being too wordy.

“Empathy” was suggested as a replacement, but all agreed that word didn’t cover the full definition of emotional intelligence. The board agreed to go ahead with the design changes and to continue thinking about using emotional intelligence or some other word to define that concept.

Rental Rates

Huch, the director of Technology and Security for CFSD, presented to the board a draft of a proposed rental rates for the facilities and spaces in the CFSD. Huch said the agreement would need further work and brought up questions about how it should treat various groups. Huch said a tier type of system could be a part of the rate sheet, with nonprofit groups being charged less than for-profit groups.

Other discussion points were the timing of events – night vs. day; weekday vs. weekend –and their inherent costs to the school district.

Huch said the largest factor determining the athletic field rates is the predicted lifespan of the turf, which is dictated by two factors: hours of usage and climate conditions. Huch said 2,500 to 3,000 hours of annual usage would be considered heavy and that their field should only get about 1,000 hours of usage annually, which is on the high end of light usage. Hutch said the biggest thing that will affect the field is the repeated freeze and thaw cycles we experience in Northeast Ohio.

The CFSD has a contract with the field vendor that states the vendor will [G-Shock test](#) the field on a periodic basis to ensure it is meeting the required safety standards and give the CFSD information about how long it will last. He added that the field has a 10-year warranty.

The board agreed to review Huch’s proposed rental agreement and to place its discussion and possible approval back on the agenda for their July 8 meeting.

Six District Compact Board Education Committee

Gomez asked Board Vice President Carrie Schaefer to report on their meeting with the Hudson contingency of the Sixth District Compact. Schaefer said that she and Gomez

met with two board members from Hudon and discussed Career Technical Education programs across the 6th district compact. The items discussed were:

- Expanding offerings and certifications
- CTE impact on post-secondary education
- Communicating paths showing CTE is a viable path to both a career and secondary education.

Gomez said that it was a good discussion and that he learned that, for the Cuyahoga Falls district, CTE was a path to get a good job, while Hudson stressed that their parents wanted a CTE program and that CTE should be a path of career exploration that ultimately leads to college. Both parties agreed that the Kent State University career day should be held much earlier in the school year as the “go-getter” students have already made career path plans before the holidays.

Gomez then talked about the compact in general and said that career compacts save the taxpayer money through the pooling of resources.

Statement of Facts

The next topic on the agenda was the Statement of Facts concerning the 5.5-mil levy, which the board had previously voted for placing on the ballot in November. With that plan now moving forward, the board and administrators are now tasked with creating a “Statement of Facts” to outline how a rejection of the levy would hurt the district. It will also outline the positive services the school could provide should the levy pass.

By law, the board must present a budget that does not show a shortfall. If they do not achieve that result by cutting expenses or raising income, the school district would then be required to submit to the state’s oversight committee, which presents problems outfits own for the community.

The topic was passed to Treasurer/Board Secretary Kristy Stoicoiu to review and to explain the calculations her team made regarding the current financial situation of the CFSD and how the outcomes of the vote – pass or fail – would impact future finances. Those documents were not handed out to the audience nor shown on the screen.

After a discussion, Gomez said the next steps would be to:

- Show the facts of the financial situation of the CFSD
- Explain the financial impact on the CFSD should the levy fail
- Explain the future considerations if the levy should fail.

Stoicoiu was instructed to get the numbers for each option's expense reduction and to come up with three lists for the board:

1. A list of expense reduction options that shows which options save the most money from greatest to smallest.
2. A list that shows which options are the most palatable to least palatable.
3. A list that shows pay-to-play options that could be implemented.

Executive Session

The board voted to move into executive session.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.