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Cuyahoga Falls Board of Education

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Agency: None

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Summary

- Black Tiger Academy was presented to the board as a way to help students returning from suspension (or otherwise severely struggling to meet academic goals) catch up and return to the traditional learning environment, thereby decreasing the number of expulsions in the district. Students would be pulled for half-day intensive cohorts to receive personalized instruction using Edmentum and direct teacher supervision with guided notes. The ultimate goal is mainstream reintegration and on-time graduation.
- The board passed an amended version of the superintendent's Consent Agenda, changing the title of the Director of Student Services to reflect the consolidation of the position with the Director of Special Education. The new title will be Director of Student Services and Special Education. This position does not take away any job responsibilities of the previous Director of Special Education, but rather shifts them to the new role.
- The board approved a quote from Pearson for \$8,379 for an assessment tool for teachers.

Follow-Up Questions

- How will the high school staff respond to the Black Tiger Academy, especially given that it is intended to be implemented without raising costs by utilizing teachers' duty periods?
- How will the community respond to the position of director of special education being cut?
- How can the director of student services and special education perform all their job requirements?
- Does the state have plans to provide financial support to school districts as they enforce mandates that require funding?
- How are other school districts in the area meeting this mandate?

Notes

- Cuyahoga Falls Board Meeting June 30 started at 5:30 p.m.
- [Agenda](#)
- [In attendance:](#) Treasurer/CFO Kristy Stoicoiu, Superintendent Andrea Celico, President Anthony Gomez, Vice President Carrie Schaefer, Patrice White, Courtney Zimmerman and A.J. Harris. Additionally, there were 16 other people in the audience.
- The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Cuyahoga Falls Board of Education is July 8, at 5:30 p.m. in the 6-12 Campus Performing Arts Center Auditorium, 2630 13th St, Cuyahoga Falls.

Presentations

- Tammi Belko, coach for the Power of the Pen, presented Riley Kennedy, who won the [Power of the Pen](#) State Tournament. Kennedy won first place in the district, 12th at regionals, and state champion at the state tournament at Ashland University.
- Black Tiger Academy (BTA) is an intervention framework for student recovery and retention. This was presented by Assistant Principal Caitlin Mazi and Associate Principal and Career Technical Education Supervisor Krista Kolich.

- BTA is a structured half-day intervention program for high school students experiencing ongoing challenges (i.e. severe chronic absenteeism, behavior problems , poor grades and missing credits).
- There were far more expulsions during the 2025-2026 school year than ever before, and this is a way to keep struggling students in the district. The ultimate goal of the program is to help kids catch up and return to the traditional learning environment.
- Celico said this is one of the ways to personalize education.
- Students in the program will use guided notes and teacher support to earn credits and there is no pretesting to opt out of material.
- Testing will be done under direct supervision
- The set up will be half-day intensive supervised cohorts with weekly one-to-one meetings between teacher and student. A graduation tracker will show progress.
- The goal is to mainstream reintegration and facilitate on-time graduation
- Concerns and questions about the program:
 - Celico said, "Still working on staffing. We brainstormed a lot of ideas to make this cost-neutral."
 - Zimmerman asked if there will be a stigma for students in this program. Kalich said students want to stay in school and they can still be involved in school activities while in the program.
 - Gomez asked if this helps high school students, how can we get it to help our middle school students? Mazi said that right now it is more critical for high school students to get credit so that is why they are starting with high school

Treasurer/CFO's business: Kristy Stoicoiu

Motion to approve Treasurer/CFO's Business consent agenda passed.

Approval of minutes from June 10 and 24 regular Board of Education meeting passed

This meeting marked the end of the fiscal year, so these are things the board always does at the end of the year:

- [Final Appropriations - Fiscal Year 2026](#)
- [Temporary Appropriations - Fiscal Year 2027](#)
- [Advances/Transfers - Fiscal Year 2026](#)

May 2026 investment schedule and monthly spending report passed. (There are lots of links to detailed information in the agenda.)

Superintendent/ CEO's business: Andrea Celico

Motion to approve Superintendent's Business consent agenda passed.

Personnel items — There were several personnel items including new hires, extended time approvals, [coaching supplemental](#)s and resignations. The board made special note for the resignations of Christopher Black, assistant principal at Cuyahoga Falls High School, and Allison Bogdan, Director of Human Resources at the central office (she also spent many decades in the high school and middle school) and thanked them both for their contributions.

Job descriptions

Some are very minor changes. The ones affected the most are [Director of Student Services](#) and Coordinator of Special Education. The Director of Special Education job will be eliminated, with duties shifted to Director of Student Services. The Coordinator of Special Education will now report to the Director of Student Services. The Registrar is now titled Enrollment Specialist.

Gomez expressed concern that the community will have a negative reaction to not having a Director of Special Education anymore and made a motion for the board to change the name of Director of Student Services to “Director of Student Services and Special Education.” Celico disagreed with Gomez because it is too much of a mouthful and not something you see. This motion passed.

There were several service agreements and quotes brought before the board. Of note was the [quote](#) from [Pearson, Inc.](#) for \$8,379 for an assessment tool for teachers.

Board's Business all PASSED

[Policy](#) first reads included changes to the following:

- state law for Fiscal Management
- Student absences and excuses, truancy
- Administering medicines to students
- Use of Epinephrine Delivery Systems (EPI pens)

Recommended to approve a [resolution](#) to put a levy before voters in November. The question will ask for additional 5.5-mill tax levy for the purpose of meeting current

expenses. The board stressed the importance of discussing what the district would lose if this fails.

Recommended to approve the [change order](#) from Hammond Inc. ([parking lot undercut summary](#)). The Board received bad news on the soil for the parking lot. There is nothing they can do about it, it needs to be corrected and paid for.

Executive Session started at 6:58 p.m.

The board unanimously voted to move to executive session to consider employment or compensation of public official or employee.

The board adjourned without further action after coming out of executive session.