



# Talawanda School District

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**TALAWANDA EMPOWERS!**

TALAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR SESSION

Talawanda High School

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7:00 p.m. Public Session

BOE Meetings will be videotaped.

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Mr. Chris Otto, President, Dr. Mary Jane Roberts, Vice President, Dr. Rebecca Howard, Dr. Kathleen Knight-Abowitz, Mr. Patrick Meade

## 1. Opening of Meeting

### A. Roll Call

### B. Appointment of Shaunna Tafelski as Interim Treasurer- Approved 5-0

### C. Moment of Silence in Honor of Mike Davis

Comments from Board Members:

- Dr. Roberts shared Mike was an outstanding financial professional, and a good friend. Dr. Roberts shared a poem by Maya Angelou.
- Mr. Meade shared that the loss of Mike is such a tremendous loss to the district and community. He mentioned that Mike has led us through multiple construction projects. He has put the district in great financial shape. He loved to hear Mike talk about his family and the wonderful

things he shared about them. He admired the “family man” that he was. He was so proud to be a new grandpa. His thoughts go out to the family.

- Dr. Knight-Abowitz shared that she liked the Maya Angelou poem shared by Dr. Roberts. She shared that Mike helped her and Becky learn the ropes in their new board roles. He left behind a great legacy. She appreciates his service and thinks of his family.
- Dr. Howard echoes the thoughts of the others, and she wishes she had gotten to know Mike better. He helped her before the first meeting and made her feel welcome. He was a real professional and so kind. He will be missed.
- Dr. Theroux shared he was a good family man and a community man. He was a true leader. He built up staff members to help them be better. His 12 years were so positive. He echoes the others sentiments. His thoughts and prayers are with the family and loved ones. Mike will be in our hearts. He made a positive difference! He will be missed.
- Mrs. Tafelski echoes what others have said. She’s known Mike for 13 years, a colleague, friend, and neighbor. There are no words. Thoughts and prayers to the family.
- Mr. Otto was a family man who loved his wife, was proud of his sons, and thrilled about his grandson. He was a man of faith. He will be missed, but with us in spirit. At a later date we will have a recognition for Mike Davis.

#### D. Approval of Agenda- Approved 5-0

#### E. Pledge of Allegiance

#### 2. Resolutions/Presentations

##### A. First Reading of World Language, THS & TMS Social Studies, and Preschool Adoptions - Lindsey Gregg & Stephanie Jones

- Board members have been provided information to study in preparation for the final reading. Technology and apps for students will be utilized for the program with world language (\$100K). Online and physical materials will be included for HS social studies (\$120K), MS social studies are also interested in helpful technology and furniture that allows for more student collaboration (\$133K). Social Studies total have over \$300K, and as far as the elementary they are staying with much of their standards/alignment, but are looking for support materials. Preschool is also looking at materials (\$8800) for social/emotional and science curriculum.
- Dr. Roberts thanked Mrs. Gregg and may have some follow up questions for email.
- Dr. Knight-Abowitz also thanked Mrs. Gregg and she is also thankful for Mrs. Gregg’s explanations. She confirmed that this happens every 6 years. This is her first time, and she is wondering if these requests are typical with the inclusion of furniture. The answer is...yes.
- Dr. Theroux gave kudos to the directors on being flexible and creative in including the furniture to encourage better alignment with standards.
- Dr. Knight-Abowitz asked some questions about what happens when the curriculum has an update. Mrs. Gregg explained the reason behind NOT ordering something new for elementary, because they like the curriculum they are working with.
- Dr. Roberts asked a question about students that may be accessing curriculum from a special education perspective (particularly if some of the teaching happens outside of the general ed classroom). Mrs. Gregg explained how accommodations are made.

B. First Reading of New and/or Revised Policies - Dennis Malone

po1520	Revision	EMPLOYMENT OF ADMINISTRATORS
po2464	Revision	GIFTED EDUCATION AND IDENTIFICATION
po3120	Revision	EMPLOYMENT OF PROFESSIONAL STAFF
po3120. 04	Revision	EMPLOYMENT OF SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS
po3120. 05	Revision	EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONNEL IN SUMMER SCHOOL AND ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS
po3120. 08	Revision	EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONNEL FOR CO-CURRICULAR/EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
po4120	Revision	EMPLOYMENT OF CLASSIFIED STAFF
po4120. 08	Revision	EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONNEL FOR CO-CURRICULAR/EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
po4124	Revision	EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT
po5460	Revision	GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
po5460. 02	New	STUDENTS AT-RISK OF NOT QUALIFYING FOR A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA
po6107	Revision	AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT AND DISTRIBUTE ELECTRONIC RECORDS AND TO USE ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES

C. Welcome to Visitors and Public Participation

Comments submitted will be read out loud by a moderator

- Amy Macechko, Oxford resident, TSD Wellness Coordinator. On behalf of her and Mrs. Jones would like to thank everyone associated with the TSD Food Program. 23, 160 meals have been provided. A breakfast and lunch every day of the week has been provided. We are so grateful for St. Mary’s backpack program has provided 1369 weekend snack packs. See list of community volunteers below. Anyone who needs assistance is eligible, and we encourage anyone who needs support to please reach out.
  - A huge shout out to Jim, the Custodian at Kramer, who has gone above and beyond to assist us with food preparation!
  - Over 70 staff members who have helped in the cold, rain, and sunshine at our 12 sites across the district!
  - Cafeteria Staff from all TSD schools who have prepared nutritious and delicious meals!
  - Crossroads who have provided coffee for all sites and help pack the meals
  - Envision Partnerships for help with preparing meals.
  - Chamber of Commerce for collecting boxes
  - Residents who have: dropped off plastic bags, donated books, school supplies, and other miscellaneous items to help our students and families
  - Miami University Athletics for the donation of books

- BikeWise for the donation of bikes
  - Oxford Parks and Recreation for organizing a collection of items to encourage physical activity
  - City of Oxford and Reily, Hanover, Oxford and Milford Townships for supporting our distributions sites
  - Sigma Lambda Gamma Sorority for personal hygiene items
  - Butler County Sheriff's Department and Oxford Police Department for helping with deliveries
- Matt Lykins, President of TEA, THS teacher, Oxford resident. Perhaps it goes without saying, but TEA wanted to make known how proud and encouraged we are by the energy, professionalism, creativity and flexibility our teachers and administrators have demonstrated the past five weeks. Whether it's lesson planning, student and parent communication, handing out food to those in need, or coordinating and organizing administrative and district leadership meetings online, we are so proud to work in a district that prioritizes the health and safety of our families, all the while striving to construct a lasting educational experience in an unprecedented time. A week ago, David and I attended a Zoom meeting with other association presidents in Southwest Ohio. It was clear from the beginning that the planning, effort, and priorities of the Talawanda School District was not only enviable, but rare. Thanks to everyone--administrative, certified, and classified--for all your hard work! Thank you so much! Matt

### 3. Reports

#### A. Butler Technology & Career Development School Report - Mr. Meade

- Butler Tech Board met in March (remotely), and they too are working through online learning and trying to help 2020 graduates. They are doing an excellent job! Next month he will share a powerpoint about the work. There are some activities coming up that may not be able to take place due to COVID-19 restrictions.

#### B. Legislative Liaison Report - Dr. Knight-Abowitz

- HB197 passed in March to eliminate state/fed testing. It prohibits the use of report cards for this year/next. It freezes Ed-Choice for one year. It waived the third grade reading evaluation for retention. It allows school boards to do virtual meetings. She can send more details for anyone interested.

#### C. Arts & Athletics Liaison Report - Dr. Howard

- People are disappointed about the cancellation of many performances and athletics. Talawanda will be participating in the "stadium lights on" to recognize seniors of 2020.
- She thanked the staff of the district for all they've done.
- She complimented the Twitter feed for football and all of the positive support provided. Thank you to the football staff!

D. Student Achievement/Academic Liaison - Mr. Otto/Dr. Roberts

- She is thankful for all of the professionals in TSD! She is so proud of our people! She will report on a state meeting next time.

4. Report of the Treasurer

A. Approval of Minutes- Approved 5-0

B. Approval of Gifts- None at this time- B, D, E- Approved 5-0 as NONE at this time

C. Approval of Appropriation Modifications- Approved 5-0

D. Approval of Appropriation Increases/Decreases- None at this time

E. Approval of Then & Now Over \$3,000- None at this time

F. Approval of Financial Report for March 2020- Approved 5-0

G. Approval of Resolution Accepting the Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying to the County Auditor- Approved 5-0

H. Marshall Project Update

- Construction is occurring, however the soils are not meeting the original scope of the project. There is a solution to address this, and it will be a bit more money upfront, but is a cost savings over all for the project, and is the best solution. The construction manager and architect agreed as well.

I. Auditor of State Performance Audit Update

- The audit has been released. They recommended 10 areas that could create a cost savings, and a work session will be scheduled when COVID-19 related issues allow for that.

J. Coronavirus Update

- There are changes to member prescription plans to allow more flexibility.
- COVID-19 will likely have financial issues to the district as well as to the citizens of the community.
- There could be more delinquencies in the next property tax cycle.
- TSD will be monitoring the situation.

K. Amtrak Platform Update

- Amtrak would like to do another analysis, and are not committing to the project. It has been put on hold indefinitely. The city will need an easement from the district should this move forward.
- Amtrak is also looking at the Butler County Regional Transport facilities as well. This could impact TSD. This could increase the value of the Nelson Morrow Building, and the district will need to monitor the situation. The potential upgraded facility could have offices for TSD Facilities Department/etc. Grants will be reviewed.

L. Other Matters- None at this time

5. Report of the Superintendent- BLOCK 5A-1,2,3, 5B, 5C Approved 5-0- *\*Revoted on later in the meeting because one of the numbers was left off of the verbal list provided.*

A. Approval of Certificated/Licensed Personnel

B. Approval of Classified Personnel

C. Approval of Supplemental Personnel

- Question from Dr. Howard regarding supplemental Spring Athletics- The list is for TMS.
- Dr. Roberts agrees that this is the time to manage this.

D. Approval of Amended 2019-2020 Graduation Requirements- Approved 5-0

E. Preschool Update - Stephanie Jones & Dr. Theroux

- TSD has applied for the license. We are optimistic that the approval is coming soon. We have site managers scheduled for this week. We now know how many slots we have open, and will be reaching out to fill them. We are working with the team to begin tracking.

F. Approval of Agreement with the Butler County Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Services Board- Approved 5-0

- Dr. Roberts asked the amount of the grant, Dr. Theroux shared that it will be in excess of \$100K. We will need to enter into an MOU with them. We will be able to help set the goals.

G. Approval of Overnight Trip Proposal for TMS Students Going to Camp Glen Helen- Approved 5-0

- October 2020 will be the NEW time slot...YAY! We hope for better weather.

H. Approval of Donation of Needed Supplies to Tri-Health/McCullough-Hyde or Other Local Agencies Due to COVID-19 Health Crisis- Approved 5-0 (If the supplies do not get used, they may be returned)

- Dr. Howard asked what we donated. The answer is masks and gloves from science labs and nurse stations. Dr. Theroux shared he feels this is being a good community partner, that we can gain reimbursement, and that we may need to order new supplies.

I. Informational Items

- Governor DeWine closed schools for the rest of the year. We don't know what will happen for next year. The admins will meet this week to discuss/problem solve/make decisions about end-of-year activities. We will announce plans to students/parents as soon as we know more.
- We will do appointments for new registrations by appointment only using social distancing techniques.
- Intra-district and open enrollment forms online and must be mailed in to the Board of Education.
- TSD will continue the food distribution through June 2020. We are working with other organizations to see what can be done over the remainder of the summer. Thank you to all the volunteers and community organizations.
- Dr. Theroux wants everyone to be safe and healthy!

6. Items From the Board Members

A. Items From the Board Members

- Comments from BOE members
  - Dr. Roberts thanked Kari Roberts -THS FFA for the donations to emergency services.

- Dr. Howard wanted to remind us about TOPPS (local pantry) that will also serve families. She mentioned 2020 seniors, and teachers that are retiring and she wants to recognize them. She also has a question about community members accessing wifi from their cars in the parking lot?
  - Dr. Theroux indicated he had talked to community members too, but the district cannot “invite” people to the parking areas in our schools and violate the “stay home order” from Governor DeWine. He indicated he offered some other ideas to help resolve this.
  - Mr. Meade indicated that the meetings are now videotaped and can watch the meetings later, and that even when board meetings have been in person...folks who work at night have been left out. He encouraged folks to email BOE members. He is thankful about the food program. He also welcomed Mrs. Tafelski.
- Dr. Knight-Abowitz is thankful to teachers and the superintendent who has provided great leadership in this series of crises that we have faced. She also welcomed Mrs. Tafelski.
- Mr. Otto is thankful for the leadership of Dr. Theroux during this time, and also thankful to Mrs. Tafelski.

7. Close of Meeting-

A. Future Board Events- May 11th

B. Adjournment- 8:52pm