

To be approved at the Board of Education meeting November 9, 2016.

## MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 24, 2016 SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING.

The Shaker Heights Board of Education met in joint session with Shaker Heights City Council on Monday, October 24, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. at Shaker Heights City Hall, 3400 Lee Road, Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120.

### **1. OPENING OF MEETING**

#### **1.1 CALL TO ORDER**

At 6:31 p.m. President William L. Clawson II, called the meeting to order.

#### **1.2 ROLL CALL**

After the following opening statement from Mayor Earl Leiken, President Clawson directed Treasurer Bryan Christman to call the roll.

#### **Statement from Mayor Earl Leiken, City of Shaker Heights**

*Thanks to the school board members and superintendent and treasurer for asking to meet regarding the proposed bond issue. More importantly – thank all of you for operating a first-class school district with virtually unlimited educational and extracurricular opportunities for kids to reach their full potential as students and young adults.*

*We have in Shaker a national model of how to run a highly successful public school district that is diverse in every way including socio-economically. Your efforts and accomplishments are critical to our success as a city and community.*

*We also want to express appreciation for your support of our city initiatives including the Van Aken project and we want very much to partner with you in helping you to succeed.*

*The purpose of tonight's meeting is to give you the opportunity to present your bond levy proposal and to respond to questions concerning it. We fully understand and support your periodic need for an infusion of capital dollars to maintain our school buildings and the associated tax increase. The last such request was in 2004 so this one is clearly due. Time limits this evening require a focus in the presentation and questions on the specific components of the proposed capital plan. However, this particular proposed capital plan being discussed is unique in our history in several respects.*

- 1. It seeks to raze an existing school building and construct a new one in its place*
- 2. It is a \$55 M bond issue – almost double the highest previous ask of \$23.5M in 2004.*
- 3. It requires a 30-year repayment schedule rather than 20*

*All of this raises important questions when put in a broader community context that will need to be discussed and considered between now and the time that you vote.*

*We want to put these on the table but defer them for later discussion:*

1. *Given the current level of taxation in our community, recent tax increases such as the Shaker city income tax in 2012, the Shaker school operating levy in 2014 and the proposed Cleveland income tax increase for our Shaker residents working there, the proposed 1.6 mills for our Shaker library system in 2017 and the need for a further school operating levy in 2019-2021, what is a reasonable ask of our residents for the next years' school capital levy?*
2. *The City is focused like a laser beam on efforts to improve our tax base for the City and the Schools by bringing in new businesses and residents. How will these efforts be affected by a tax increase of the dimension being proposed?*
3. *Is the District able to generate widespread and enthusiastic community support for building a new middle school? Do people care deeply enough about it that they're willing to pay for it?*
4. *What effect might the passage of a tax increase for capital that is larger than normal for Shaker have on the District's ability to pass the next critical operating levy?*
5. *The plan is for construction of a new two-year middle school. We reconfigured the grades of the District in 1987. Is there any reason to think a reconfiguration might be possible in the future and, if so, would the two-year middle school fit well within it?*
6. *We've had a 20-year period for payback of debt for capital in the past. We know a 30-year period reduces the payments in the short term but what are the long term consequences for the District and the community of prolonging the debt payments for an extra ten years?*

**Members present:**

Alex Liston Dykema, Jeffrey Isaacs, Annette Tucker Sutherland and Board President William L. Clawson II. Board member Todd C. Davidson was unable to attend due to a previous commitment.

Also in attendance for the School District were Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Superintendent ; Bryan C. Christman, Treasurer; and Stephen Wilkins, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations.

City Council members present: Anne Williams, Rob Zimmerman, Nancy Moore, Earl Williams Jr., Julianna Johnston Senturia, Sean Malone, and Tres Roeder. Also in attendance for the City were Earl Leiken-Mayor, Jeri Chaikin-Chief Administrative Officer, and William Gruber-Law Director.

**2. BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**2.1 FACILITIES UPDATE AND COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITY SESSION**

At this time, the Shaker Heights Board of Education participated with the Shaker Heights City Council in a joint work session to provide an update on the District's Facilities Assessment process and to review, discuss and explore collaboration opportunities. President Clawson led the session with a facilities presentation (see attachment) that was followed by a question, answer and discussion session with the Board, Council members and the Mayor.

**3. ADJOURNMENT**

**3.1 ADJOURN THE MEETING**

There being no further business to come before the Board and upon receiving a motion and a second, the Board voted on adjourning the meeting.

Motion by Jeffrey Isaacs, second by Alex Liston Dykema

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Alex Liston Dykema, Jeffrey Isaacs, Annette Tucker Sutherland, William Clawson

16-10-128

The Special Meeting of the Shaker Heights Board of Education adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

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William L. Clawson II, President

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Bryan C. Christman, Treasurer