

To be approved at the Board of Education meeting October 13, 2020

## MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 22, 2020 SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING.

Boards of Education must weigh the risks associated with the available options for balancing their governance obligations and remaining in compliance with Ohio's Open Meetings Act (OMA) in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and emergency orders put in place for the public's health and welfare. Additionally, with the passage of Ohio House Bill (HB) 197, public bodies have been granted the authority through uncodified language, during the period of the emergency declared by Executive Order 2020-01D, issued March 9, 2020, but not beyond December 1, 2020, to hold and attend meetings and conduct and attend hearings by teleconference, video conference, or any other similar electronic technology ("electronic means"). Members attending meetings or hearings by electronic means are considered present as if they were attending in person, are permitted to vote, and are counted for the purpose of determining quorum. Additionally, any public action taken by electronic means under these provisions has the same effect as if it were taken in an open meeting or hearing of the public body.

The Shaker Heights City School District Board of Education is availing itself of such provisions and has adopted a resolution to that effect in Section 1.4 of the April 7, 2020, Board meeting agenda, which will apply to the Board of Education and any Committees of the Board.

The Shaker Heights Board of Education met in special session on Tuesday, September 22, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. The meeting was held electronically via Zoom webinar at the following link: <https://zoom.us/j/99120749510>

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

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

At 5:04 p.m., Board President Heather Weingart, who presided over the meeting, called the meeting to order.

#### **1.2 ROLL CALL**

President Heather Weingart directed Treasurer Bryan C. Christman to call the roll.

**Members present:** Lisa Cremer, Ayesha Bell Hardaway, Jeffrey Isaacs, Emmitt Jolly, and Heather Weingart.

At this time, President Heather Weingart read the following statement:

*Good Evening Shaker Heights Parents, Teachers, Students, Staff and Community:*

*Thank you for joining us tonight for our work session. During our meeting tonight, Dr. Glasner and his team will present updated plans for school reopening. We are grateful for your participation in this virtual meeting and for all the thoughts and input you have provided prior to tonight.*

*This pandemic has been challenging, ever changing, and painfully disruptive to our normal lives. However, throughout the challenge of the last 6 months, there have been members of the Shaker Schools staff who have ensured that the buildings remained clean and functioning and have reorganized classrooms to ensure*

*appropriate social distancing in case of a return to classes, among other responsibilities. These workers perform a variety of critical duties necessary for essential infrastructure operations. We would like to recognize these essential staff and personnel who have willingly continued to perform their vital duties.*

*Like the many essential healthcare workers who serve as the foundation for clinical care, teachers are the backbone of our country's education system. And Shaker teachers are certainly the backbone of Shaker schools. So it is no surprise that teachers are designated as "essential employees" whose duties are eminently necessary for our children's success.*

*Since the closure of school buildings in March, the District has continually conducted virtual meetings with members of the community, parents, teachers, union leaders and administrators to establish a process to engage our students effectively in virtual learning. At the end of the school year and in accordance with a recommendation by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the District focused on returning our children safely to in-person learning, not only for academic enrichment but also for needed socialization. During this time, there was active engagement and collaboration with Dr. Glasner and the Shaker Heights Teachers Association (SHTA) to ensure that Shaker teachers were abreast of continuing dynamic changes in the process.*

*In all cases, the Administration has been consistent in using the latest scientific and clinically relevant data to guide all decision making with regards to Covid-19. Dr Glasner's team proposed a Hybrid model for reopening based on Cuyahoga County Covid-19 infection numbers and a transitioning from Red to Orange color ratings, the second lowest rating. The County's rating stayed at red, however, as we moved toward the beginning of the school year, so opening was delayed until after the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. Cuyahoga County moved from red to orange on Aug 21, 2020, and currently is trending towards yellow, the lowest color rating. Since the beginning of the pandemic, the Administration has worked diligently to remain transparent, to publicly share ideations and strategies based on evidence, and to follow the guidelines of the CCBH, the CDC and the legislature (see links below). These strategies have consistently been shared with input from the President of the SHTA, and other union presidents, to ensure engagement with negotiating units.*

*Some faculty and students may not be able to participate in in-person teaching for health reasons, while some students' needs necessitate having strong in-person support. In each case, it is our responsibility to support the entire district. From continuous, seven-days-a-week meal delivery early in the pandemic, quick provision of laptops and hotspots to students, provision of appropriate personal protective equipment, the development of a dashboard to establishing relationships with the CCBH for potential contract tracing, the Administration is working with your support to enhance your child's education.*

*During this time of heightened anxiety and uncertainty, legitimate questions regarding efforts to make our schools as safe as possible for in-person return have sometimes been couched in an inaccurate and divisive context. This is unfortunate. However, this Board has every confidence our collective bargaining units and*

*administration will work through any concerns in time to return to our buildings according to the time table set by Dr. Glasner last week.*

*Sincerely,*

*Shaker Heights Board of Education*

Superintendent Dr. David Glasner then read the following statement:

*Good evening. This evening, we will be sharing an instructional plan with the Board of Education and our community that has been in the works since last spring. It is the product of hours of collaboration and discussion with faculty and staff, parents and students, and health care experts. It is informed by local, state and federal health agency guidance and research.*

*Under this plan, we will begin a safe, phased-in return to onsite learning in late October. For our students who cannot return to onsite instruction, online instruction will continue to be an option. Many students will be learning in a hybrid model, splitting time onsite and online and allowing for our classrooms and buses to practice safe physical distancing protocols.*

*In addition to our instructional plan, we have developed health and safety protocols for students and staff. These protocols, which include policies on face coverings, physical distancing and sanitizing our buildings, are based on the best expertise available. Later in this meeting you will hear about our air-quality study and other efforts to ensure that our buildings are safe, secure and ready for students and staff.*

*None of these decisions are easy and no situation will be perfect for every family, student or staff member. However, I can assure you that every decision we make prioritizes staff and student health and safety and student learning needs.*

*Right now, the data in Cuyahoga County compels us to plan for this transition: we have been in Level Orange for more than five weeks now, and the COVID-19 numbers in Cuyahoga County continue to trend in a positive trajectory. Nearly every district in Northeast Ohio is currently developing plans that are remarkably similar to ours. Several of our neighboring districts are already offering onsite instruction.*

*As always, we will continue to be fluid and flexible in our decision making and should trend data change for the worse, we are prepared to return to an online learning environment. Until then, we owe it to our children and their families to make every effort to provide the robust onsite learning experience they need, expect and deserve.*

*We look forward to discussing details of our return to onsite learning plan with the Board this evening.*

## **2. BOARD OF EDUCATION**

### **2.1 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR UPDATE**

At this time Dr. Marla J. Robinson, Chief Academic Officer, Jeffrey Grosse, Chief Operating Officer, John Rizzo, Executive Director of Technology & Media Services and additional District administrators provided an update about the 2020-2021 school year as outlined in the attached presentation.

The update lasted through 6:23 p.m. after which questions, answers and discussion with the Board continued through 8:08 p.m.

## **3. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

### **3.1 EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At the recommendation of the Board President, and upon receiving a motion and a second, the Board of Education voted on recessing the meeting and entering into executive session to discuss employee personnel matters under Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Section 121.22(G)(1) for the purpose of considering the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee; and in accordance with Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Section 121.22(G)(4) to discuss matters relative to collective bargaining.

Motion by Ayesha Bell Hardaway, second by Jeffrey Isaacs.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Lisa Cremer, Ayesha Bell Hardaway, Jeffrey Isaacs, Emmitt Jolly, Heather Weingart

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At 8:09 p.m., the Board of Education recessed the public session.

After a brief break, the Board convened the executive session via a separate non-public Zoom meeting at 8:20 p.m. Also in attendance were Superintendent Glasner and Director of Human Resources Ms. Barbara Maceyak.

At 8:42 p.m., President Weingart declared the end of executive session, at which time the Board members, Dr. Glasner and Ms. Maceyak exited the executive session non-public Zoom meeting and rejoined the public Zoom webinar. The public session reconvened at 8:44 p.m.

## **4. ADJOURNMENT**

### **4.1 NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting of the Shaker Heights Board of Education will take place on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. and will be held virtually via a Zoom webinar, for which a link for joining the meeting will be provided at a later date via a revised/updated Sunshine Report and various District communication outlets.

### **4.2 ADJOURN THE MEETING**

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

Motion by Emmitt Jolly, second by Ayesha Bell Hardaway.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Lisa Cremer, Ayesha Bell Hardaway, Jeffrey Isaacs, Emmitt Jolly, Heather Weingart

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The special meeting of the Shaker Heights Board of Education adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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Heather Weingart, President

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Bryan C. Christman, Treasurer