

**Cardinal Local School District  
Work Session Meeting  
March 29, 2016**

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The **Work Session Meeting** of the Cardinal Board of Education held at 5:00 p.m. on March 29, 2016, was attended by Ken Klima, Wendy Anderson, Greg McClain, Linda Smallwood and Katie Thomas.

**Discussion Items:**

Levy Discussion – Dr. Hunt stated we cannot have an all-out levy discussion that has to be handled by the levy committee. He has talked with Jerry Ramfelt from SOS about our upcoming levy and our past levy history. He would like to come to the District to review levy campaigns with the Board and employee groups. Dr. Hunt would like to suggest that he come in and give us some new direction on how to run a successful levy campaign. The cost is about \$560 and is based on the number of students. Ten of eleven levies passed this last time for his group. *Mrs. Thomas asked if they were new or renewal levies?* Dr. Hunt replied in the presentation that he saw, it was some of both. *Mrs. Thomas stated there was about 70% passage of renewals and 50% passage for new levies.* Mrs. Smallwood asked if the levy committee would pay for this. *Dr. Hunt said he would have to verify that, but he believes so. He will discuss this with Mr. Ramfelt.*

State Report Card – Dr. Hunt handed out a power point presentation to the Board covering the walk through of the second release of the state report card. There has been a call to action to address some of the issues with the report card and its contents. There are three parts to this release – achievement, gap closing and progress. Achievement measures how many students passed the state tests (Indicators Met) and how well the students did on the state tests (Performance Index). Based on the FY 2015 data we received a D. 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade missed meeting most of the necessary indicators for math, reading and science, if appropriate. There were changes in the state assessments for those grades. The high school tests were the same and all indicators were met. At the district level we received a C. This measures every student. Those students listed as untested are the ones who “opted out” of testing and this hurts the school by counting against us on the report card. Advance plus is new for gifted students. We have been consistent until this year with the testing changes. At the building level Jordak got an F but they do not have any testing in these areas so we do not understand this grade. Dr. Hunt will be questioning this at the state level. Each building has a separate IRN number and therefore received a separate grade. The Intermediate School received a D for indicators met but a C on the achievement level. These grades have been fairly consistent until the changes in FY 2015. *Mrs. Thomas stated the reason the scores are dropping is due to the targets changing. Mrs. Anderson agreed, we are not comparing apples to apples.* The Middle School received an F for indicators met but a D on the achievement level. In FY 2015 they did PARCC testing and in FY 2016 they will be taking the AIR tests. The High School received an A for all indicators met but a B on the achievement level. They will be moving from the OGT tests to the end of course exams. We are in safe harbor so these report card grades will not affect the teachers’ evaluations, but since this is out there it is hurting us in the community who do not necessarily understand all the parts of these grades. There is no such thing as an opt-out policy at the state. It is a refusal to take the test and it counts negatively against us. Overall the district received a performance achievement score of 88.4% on the index and a 73.3% overall. We met 3 of 4 indicators for the gifted students. We have ramped up identification in the last year. Debra Iammarino and Melody Barber have made sure we are offering the course work required to meet the needs of our gifted students.

Gap closing measures how well all students are doing in the district in reading, math and graduation. It looks at the sub-groups on the report cards such as students with disabilities. We received an F in this area districtwide. An example of sub-group results would be 30 students on IEPs with 10 in the CIS building. 71.3% of these students must be proficient or better to meet the target for that building. *Mrs. Thomas asked if the students with disabilities are expected to read at the same level as the other students.* Dr. Hunt stated there are only two specific disabilities – reading and math. Extended time is given to those students or a reader is provided if needed. *Mrs. Thomas asked if all kids take the same test.* Dr. Hunt replied yes and they are part of the mix for these test scores. The Intermediate School and Middle School both received an F however the Intermediate

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School did meet the reading indicators. The High School received an A. *Mrs. Anderson stated they look good because their tests stayed the same.*

Progress measures the average progress of the students in math and reading, grades 4 – 8. It measures if the students received a year's worth of growth. Overall we received an F. According to this data our kids are not making the growth, but we have not held back a single child due to the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade guarantee. These report cards are intended to provide the district with a way to make predictions to know where kids will be and how to adjust curriculum for the upcoming years. These grades are based on only one year's worth of data instead of an average as in the previous report cards and on invalid and unreliable tests.

EVAAS – allows the district to look at actual student data. There was an accountability report and value added in FY 2014. It includes up to three years of data and shows different information than the report card. We have B's and C's on that report. The statewide response to the report card is similar to ours. The Worthington News reported about how Worthington Schools went from all A's to F's. The changes in the calculations resulted in lower scores. They are using a larger pool of data and comparing schools to each other as part of the grade. It is definitely a broken system. There is more to this than just a reported grade.

Superintendents have been talking about the State data showing the students taking a paper test are receiving better grades than those taking the online tests. The state says we are moving to an online testing system. We did all of our testing online. 277 districts took the online tests and of them 62.1% received an F on the state report card, 5.4% received a D, 10.8% received a C, 3.6% received a B and 17.7% received an A. 93 districts took the paper tests and of them 6.5% received an F on the state report card, 0% received a D, 5.4% received a C, 3.2% received a B and 84.9% received an A. Something is truly wrong here. *Mrs. Thomas stated the Maple Leaf article reported districts taking the tests online are more likely to receive a better test score.* Dr. Hunt shared the scoring matrix with the Board and showed a couple of examples of the test questions and how they differ from the paper test to the online test. *Mrs. Anderson stated those are two different questions; no wonder the scores are lower.* Dr. Hunt stated we tried to switch to the paper tests but we were not able to make the switch this year. *Mrs. Anderson asked if all other Geauga schools are taking online tests and if he did not know she asked if he would find out.* Dr. Hunt did not know but will find out. *Mr. McClain asked if the test is timed.* Dr. Hunt replied yes. He shared a press release from Amherst Schools. We are not all making up excuses; these changes are affecting everyone across the board. In conclusion we need to align our curriculum, instruction and assessments to the state test blueprint and prepare our kids accordingly. We need to continue to provide high quality professional development to teachers related to instructional practice, formative assessment and progress monitoring of the students. This ties into the OIP process, TBTs and early release Wednesdays. We need to utilize TBTs and BLTs to analyze student data so that best practice is used to serve all students. We still need to do things here at the district regardless of testing and grades on the report card. We need to continue to look at internal measures, teacher assessments, graduation of all kids, and review data to show kids are achieving as expected in spite of the report card.

Questions for Investigation –

Does our internal assessment data reflect what we see on the report card? No it is better!

Does the state report card take into consideration the work of our teaching staff outside of test data? No!

Does the state report card measure the opportunities we provide for our students? No!

Does the state report card measure the accomplishments of our students outside of testing? No!

Dr. Hunt stated there is a lot of information to this and it requires a response from us. *Mr. McClain was wondering how many teachers are utilizing multiple choice questions and how many are using other methods. If testing is one model then we need to move towards that model. We need to prepare our students for test here and once they leave the district.* Dr. Hunt replied we are in discussion about how to grade and measure learning

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and growth of the students. *Ms. Knuckles added her daughter is currently in college and her tests are a mixture of both multiple choice and written answers with her online tests. All tests are online.*

**Information:**

Local Government Services - Ms. Knuckles wanted to remind the Board that Nita Hendryx from the Local Government Services division of the Auditor of State's Office will be here on April 25<sup>th</sup> to review the forecast, where we are and our potential for fiscal watch or emergency.

Treasurer's Contract – Ms. Knuckles informed the Board her contract is up in August 2016 and a new contract needs to be approved before then. She is reviewing the current contract for any updates and will provide the contract to the Board at the next board meeting so they can review it.

**Adjournment:**

Mrs. Thomas moved and Mr. McClain seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 P.M.

Roll call vote: unanimous yes.

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Kenneth Klima, President

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Merry Lou Knuckles, Treasurer