

**Cardinal Local School District
Regular Meeting
March 9, 2016**

The **Regular Meeting** of the Cardinal Board of Education held at 6:00 p.m. on March 9, 2016, was attended by Ken Klima, Wendy Anderson, Greg McClain, Linda Smallwood and Katie Thomas.

Meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

What's inside? Huskie Pride!

Dr. Hunt welcomed everyone to the meeting, including those folks who did not make the February meeting due to the weather. We are doing something new with the agenda in regards to student achievement. He stated our number one job here is to recognize our students. We would like to celebrate their achievements, accomplishments and show what's Inside – Huskie Pride. Our board student liaison Mrs. Thomas will share this month's achievements. *Students in attendance received a certificate of achievement.*

Key Leader- Megan Tucker, a senior, was recently selected to attend the two-day Key Leader retreat in Ashley, Ohio. The event focuses on enhancing service leadership skills to help others succeed. They participated in several activities that focused on developing the five Key Leader Principles of personal integrity, personal growth, respect, building community and pursuit of excellence.

Burton-Middlefield Rotary Four Way Speech Contest Winners – Congratulations to Tyson Sinclair for taking first place and Brenden White for taking second place at the Rotary contest held February 24th at Welshfield Inn. Tyson spoke about not texting while driving and Brenden focused on self-improvement and accomplishing goals. Tyson will advance to the Northeastern Ohio District 6630 competition in April. Thank you to the Rotary Club for providing our students with the opportunity to become better public speakers along with offering generous awards and scholarships!

State Wrestling Tournament – Congratulations to Senior Varsity Wrestler Brandon Neikirk who qualified to compete in the State Wrestling Tournament. Brandon competed in Columbus on March 3rd, but did not advance. Brandon tied the school record for most career pins with 103 for his career. *Mr. Zeigler commended Brandon for his achievements this year and throughout his career. This season he had a record of 40 – 8, with 30 pins. He holds the record for the 4th most wins in a season. His career record is 137 – 32, with 103 pins. He holds the record for the 4th most career win and he was 1st for season pins. Mr. Zeigler has been coaching 27 years and has had 83 state qualifiers. He is very proud of his wrestlers.*

Spelling Bee Winners – Mrs. Thomas congratulated the Spelling Bee winners in January. Halle Dalpiaz took first place, 7th graders Ashley Marcum came in 2nd place and Aaron Erasmus came in 3rd place. Congratulations to them for their accomplishments.

Future City – Mrs. Thomas congratulated the 8th grade Future city team for receiving an Honorable Mention for Best Use of Water Resources Engineering at the Future City Competition in Columbus, January 16th! Due to the weather conditions Jonathan Dan Miguel-Zins was unable to attend in January so congratulations to him for his part on the team. Kaitlyn Starr and Avery Volpe were also part of the team.

Presentation -

Audit Report – Dr. Hunt stated David Yost, Auditor of State presents districts with recognitions each year. The auditor's office spends time in our District in July and August examining our financial records. We have received a letter from the Auditor to our Treasurer, Ms. Merry Lou Knuckles, congratulating her for receiving the *Auditor of State Award with Distinction* for accurate record-keeping and a clean audit on the Cardinal Local School District's Fiscal Year 2015 Financial Report where the taxpayers can take pride in her commitment to

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accountability. A plaque honoring the financial reporting with distinction was presented to Ms. Knuckles (The complete letter and plaque are displayed at the Board office). Congratulations Ms. Knuckles on another year of outstanding reporting and accountability.

Mr. Klima requested to move into Executive Session before continuing with the agenda.

Executive Session:

Mrs. Smallwood moved and Mrs. Thomas seconded a motion to retire to executive session for the purpose of Superintendent's Contract.

Roll call vote:

Wendy Anderson, aye Greg McClain, aye Katie Thomas, aye Linda Smallwood, aye Ken Klima, aye

Motion approved: 6:09 P.M.
Time Retire: 6:09 P.M.
Time Return from Executive Session: 6:25 P.M.

Superintendent's Contract -

Mrs. Anderson moved and Mrs. Smallwood seconded a motion to approve the Superintendent Contract for Dr. Scott Hunt for 3 years, effective August 1, 2016 – July 31, 2019.

Roll call vote:

Ken Klima, aye Wendy Anderson, aye Greg McClain, aye Linda Smallwood, aye Katie Thomas, aye

Superintendent's Report -

Action Items:

Human Resources/Personnel

Mrs. Smallwood moved and Mr. Klima seconded a motion to table the Substitute Driver rate item proposing a change to the substitute van and bus driver rate to \$13.50/hour; currently \$11.00/hr. for van drivers and \$12.00/hr. for bus drivers, pending further information.

Roll call vote:

Greg McClain, aye Linda Smallwood, aye Katie Thomas, aye Ken Klima, aye Wendy Anderson, aye

Mrs. Anderson moved and Mr. McClain seconded a motion to approve the following personnel matters:

FMLA:

Jeffrey Fry, effective March 4 – 18, 2016

Newbury Drivers:

Battaglia, Kim (Bus)
Bukovics, Cathy (Bus)
Bushek, Daniel (Bus)

Krukowski, Sindy (Bus)
Meagher, Patricia (Bus)
Oran, Margaret (Bus)

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Fagan, Belinda (Bus)
Fenstermaker, Heather (Van)
Fingerhut, Henry (Bus)
Frenchak, Betty (Bus)
Kirby, Isabel (Bus)

Sass, Kim (Bus)
Sass, Nicholas (Bus)
Temple, Donna (Bus)
Tommasone, David (Bus)
Vacik, Kren (Van)

Cardinal Driver - Baumgartner, Diane (Van)

Supplemental Contracts

Megan Cameron, HS Track Assistant, Step 2, .09
Sharon Casavecchia, MS Track Assistant, Step 0, .04

Roll call vote:

Linda Smallwood, aye Ken Klima, aye Wendy Anderson, aye Greg McClain, aye Katie Thomas, aye

Donations

Mrs. Anderson moved and Mrs. Thomas seconded a motion to approve the following donations:

- Sumdog: 170 premium subscriptions for remainder of school year (\$340.00 value)
- Cardinal PTA:
 - Magnetic white board for Mrs. Farrow, CIS Title I (\$184.99 value)
 - Drawstring backpacks for students (\$71.50 value)
- Tim Frank Septic Tank Cleaning Co.: \$150.00 to Cardinal S.A.F.E. After Prom
- Marten Merryfield: \$100.00 to Cardinal S.A.F.E. After Prom

Roll call vote:

Wendy Anderson, aye Greg McClain, aye Linda Smallwood, aye Katie Thomas, aye Ken Klima, aye

Volunteer Supplementals

Mrs. Anderson moved and Mrs. Thomas seconded a motion to approve the following volunteer supplementals for spring 2016:

- Drew Mast, volunteer musical assistant, art – program.
- Joe Dimattia, volunteer baseball assistant.

Roll call vote:

Wendy Anderson, aye Greg McClain, aye Linda Smallwood, abstain Katie Thomas, aye Ken Klima, aye

Treasurer's Report:

Minutes

Mrs. Anderson moved and Mr. McClain seconded the motion to approve the minutes of February 3, 2016, work session meeting, the February 10, 2016, regular meeting and the February 22, 2016, work session meeting.

Roll call vote:

Ken Klima, aye Wendy Anderson, aye Greg McClain, aye Linda Smallwood, abstained Katie Thomas, aye

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Bills

Mr. McClain moved and Mrs. Smallwood seconded a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$1,124,314.85 (includes payroll) paid during February, 2016, and those necessary for March, 2016.

Roll call vote:

Wendy Anderson, aye Greg McClain, aye Katie Thomas, aye Linda Smallwood, aye Ken Klima, aye

Financial Reports

Mrs. Anderson moved and Mrs. Thomas seconded a motion to approve the SM1, the Monthly Financial Reports and Cash Reconciliation for the month ending February 29, 2016, as submitted. Also approve the amendments to the Certified Revenues and Appropriations for the month of February, and those amendments necessary for March. General Fund Certified Revenues are \$13,607,258. All Other Fund Certified Revenues are \$3,740,655.71. General Fund Appropriations are \$13,757,926. All Other Fund Appropriations are \$3,765,080.49.

Roll call vote:

Greg McClain, aye Linda Smallwood, aye Katie Thomas, aye Ken Klima, aye Wendy Anderson, aye

Interest Income

The School District earned \$118.26 in interest income for the month of February; fiscal year-to-date total is \$3,464.67. Interest rates are: Middlefield Bank – 0.30%.

Resolution - Accepting the Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying Them to the County Auditor.

Mr. McClain moved and Mrs. Smallwood seconded a motion to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, This Board of Education in accordance with the provisions of law has previously adopted a Tax Budget for the next succeeding fiscal year commencing July 1st, 2016; and,

WHEREAS, The Budget Commission of Geauga County , Ohio, has certified its action thereon to this Board together with an estimate by the County Auditor of the rate of each tax necessary to be levied by this Board, and what part thereof is without, and what part within, the ten mill tax limitation; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Board of Education of the Cardinal Local School District, Geauga County, Ohio, that the amounts and rates, as determined by the Budget Commission in its certification, be and the same are hereby accepted; and be it further

RESOLVED, That there be and is hereby levied on the tax duplicate of said School District the rate of each tax necessary to be levied within and without the ten mill limitation as follows:

Schedule A

Summary of Amounts Required from General Property Tax approved by Budget Commission and County Auditor's Estimated Tax Rates:

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Fund	Amount Outside 10 mill limitation	Amount Approved Inside 10 mill limit	County Auditor's Estimate of Tax Rate	
			Inside	Outside
General Fund	6,231,146	1,042,874	3.50	47.60
Bond Retirement	673,399	-0-		2.26
Bond Retirement – Library	217,513	-0-		0.73
Permanent Improvement		297,963	1.00	
TOTAL	\$7,122,058	\$1,340,837	4.50	50.59

Schedule B

Levies Outside 10 Mill Limitation, Exclusive of Debt Levies

	Max Authorized to be Levied	Estimated Yield
General Fund: Current Expenses		
1976 Continuing	20.2	1,643,202
1977 Continuing	5.7	463,675
1981 Continuing	7.5	727,307
1985 Continuing	4.5	581,408
2012 5 yr Limited	9.7	2,815,554
TOTAL GENERAL OUTSIDE	47.6	\$6,231,146
Bond Retirement Fund - Levy authorized by voters on November 2, 1999 not to exceed 25 years November 6, 2001 not to exceed 20 years		
1999	2.26	\$673,399
2001 Library Bond Issue	.73	\$217,513

And,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Fiscal Officer of this Board be and is hereby directed to certify a copy of the Resolution to the County Auditor of said County.

Roll call vote:

Greg McClain, aye Linda Smallwood, aye Katie Thomas, aye Ken Klima, aye Wendy Anderson, aye

Ms. Knuckles asked the Board what they wanted to do in regards to the two different levy choices, a replacement at current value or an additional new tax levy. Mr. Klima asked Ms. Knuckles if there were any questions brought up prior to the meeting. Ms. Knuckles replied none at all. We would need a motion to approve the first resolution and then the Board would be able to have an open discussion to decide which levy to approve. You would vote no on the additional new levy if you decide to go with a replacement at current value levy. Or you would vote for the additional levy and simply skip the replacement levy if you decide to go with a new levy. Mr. Klima called for a motion to approve the new money resolution.

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New Money Resolution

Mrs. Anderson moved and Mr. McClain seconded a motion to approve the resolution to request the County Auditor to provide necessary information as follows.

A RESOLUTION DECLARING IT NECESSARY TO LEVY AN ADDITIONAL TAX FOR THE PURPOSE OF CURRENT EXPENSES AND REQUESTING THE GEAUGA COUNTY AUDITOR TO CERTIFY THE TOTAL CURRENT TAX VALUATION OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE DOLLAR AMOUNT OF REVENUE THAT WOULD BE GENERATED BY THAT ADDITIONAL LEVY, PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 5705.03 AND 5705.21 OF THE REVISED CODE.

WHEREAS, this Board finds that the amount of taxes which may be raised within the ten-mill limitation by levies on the current tax duplicate will be insufficient to provide an adequate amount for the necessary requirements of the School District and that it is necessary to levy a tax in excess of that limitation for the purpose of current expenses; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Division (B) of Section 5705.03 of the Revised Code, in order to submit the question of a tax levy pursuant to Section 5705.21 of the Revised Code, this Board must request that the Geauga County Auditor certify (i) the total current tax valuation of the School District and (ii) the dollar amount of revenue that would be generated by the levy; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Division (B) of Section 5705.03 of the Revised Code, upon receipt of a certified copy of a resolution of this Board declaring the necessity of the tax, stating its purpose, whether it is an additional levy or a renewal or a replacement of an existing tax, and the Section of the Revised Code authorizing its submission to the electors, and requesting such certification, the County Auditor is to certify the total current tax valuation of the District and the dollar amount of revenue that would be generated by the proposed levy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Cardinal Local School District, Geauga and Trumbull Counties, Ohio, that:

Section 1. This Board declares that it is necessary to levy an additional 4.5 -mill ad valorem property tax outside of the ten-mill limitation for the purpose of current expenses, and that it intends to submit the question of that additional levy to the electors at an election on August 2, 2016, as authorized by Section 5705.21 of the Revised Code. If approved, that tax would first be levied in tax year 2016 for first collection in calendar year 2017 and run for a continuing period of time.

Section 2. This Board requests the Geauga County Auditor to certify to it both (i) the total current tax valuation of the District and (ii) the dollar amount of revenue that would be generated by the 4.5 -mill levy specified in Section 1.

Section 3. The Treasurer of this Board is authorized and directed to deliver promptly to the Geauga County Auditor a certified copy of this resolution.

Section 4. This Board finds and determines that all formal actions of this Board and of any of its committees concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were taken, and that all deliberations of this Board and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal actions were held, in meetings open to the public, in compliance with the law.

Section 5. This resolution shall be in full force and effect from and immediately upon its adoption.

Mr. McClain asked if this was open discussion time. When told yes, he continued to say he feels the 5.7 mill replacement levy at current values is the best option to pursue. Mrs. Smallwood asked if we replace the 5.7 mill levy collecting at 1977 values with current values what the increase per \$100,000 would be. Mr. McClain said the increase at current values would be about an additional 4.6 mills, at about \$32 per mill, the increase would be about \$131 from what they are paying now. Dr. Hunt stated the 4.5 mills of new money would cost the taxpayers about \$4 less than the 5.7 mill replacement levy at current values. There is not much difference between the two levy issues. Ms. Knuckles added that 2 mills of either levy issue will be in place of the 2 mill

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permanent improvement that did not pass in November. Instead of putting the money in the PI fund it will be designated and set aside in the general fund for those repair and improvement items previously discussed as part of that PI levy expectation. Mrs. Thomas stated we never did a replacement levy in this district. Ms. Knuckles replied yes we did, we tried to replace the 19-something 4.5 mill levy in the first or second year she was here. She believes it failed by a few hundred votes. Mrs. Thomas asked if they put it back on again. Ms. Knuckles replied no, you can only put a replacement levy on once in a calendar year so they had to move to another choice. After a few attempts with nothing passing, they had to give up and just make cuts in 2007-2008. The homestead and rollback would be lost on either levy choice. Mr. McClain said the cost to the tax payer would be higher if we went for the replacement levy since they would lose the homestead and rollback deduction, but with the new 4.5 mill levy they never paid it so the homestead and rollback is not a true loss. He was originally for the 5.7 mill levy but with the loss of the homestead and rollback and only gaining a nominal amount of money, he feels that is too impactful on the taxpayers. In our particular situation, we have to do the best thing that shows we are in need of operating money and we need the long-term money, but we do not want to impact the taxpayer any more than we have to. The \$160 on \$100,000 of valuation is reasonable so the 4.5 mill new money levy is a better choice. Mr. Klima stated if we went with the 4.5 mill in August, we would be able to put it back on in November if necessary and we would not be bouncing between levies. He asked Ms. Knuckles what the difference of collections would be between the two levies. Ms. Knuckles replied about \$100,000 more with the 4.5 mill levy over the 5.7 mill replacement. Mr. McClain said we need to do our homework so people know we are doing our best to have the least impact on the taxpayers as possible and are still doing what is necessary for the kids. Ms. Knuckles stated we need to make sure there is money in the bank every month to meet our financial obligations and we need to have a positive cash flow to avoid the situation we slightly experienced last year and recently experienced this fiscal year. Mr. Klima questioned if this levy would do that for us. Ms. Knuckles replied yes. Mr. Klima asked if the Board was ready for a vote. Ms. Knuckles summarized that the Board will be voting for a 4.5 mill additional operating levy, with the knowledge that 2 mills will be used in place of the 2 mill PI levy previously put to a vote.

Roll call vote:

Linda Smallwood, aye Katie Thomas, aye Ken Klima, aye Wendy Anderson, aye Greg McClain, aye

Hearing of the Public:

Alan Preston – He thanked the Board for their services as he knows how difficult it is to have to balance the budget and district operations. As a parent who had children come through the excellent Cardinal system, he is however not too happy with the direction of the Board and the Superintendent in regards to the levy situation. The last work session on the levy, which he felt was not well prepared, seemed like the Board was more interested in just putting out a levy then assessing the needs of the district. In the fall of 2015 the Treasurer presented a five year forecast stating we would not need new operating money until 2020 with the passage of the 9.7 mill levy. After spending money on all-day every day kindergarten, hiring and shuffling the deck chairs as Dr. Hunt says, the state report cards are a huge disappointment. He feels we have lost our way. He questions what has been done to safeguard the financial position and the future of the district.

Mr. Klima thanked Mr. Preston for his opinions and asked him to write down his questions. Then he is welcome to schedule an appointment with Dr. Hunt or Ms. Knuckles to review his questions. He does not want to say a financial figure that may not be correct. Mr. Preston stated a lot of figures have bounced around. Mr. Klima stated a lot of things have changed since the fall and we have to adapt to them. Mrs. Thomas reminded him the information and decision for the levy was made during the summer and as a former board member he should know how quickly things can change coming down from Columbus. Mr. McClain also stated it is important to remember that we have a different board than we did a few months ago. That will have an impact on decisions. Ms. Knuckles added the five year forecast is based on the best known information and estimates as of

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September when it is put together. As a former board member he should remember the reviews of the forecast and how the figures change from October to May when the full year's information is available. There have been a lot of changes, such as the insurance increase and others, that have an effect on the budget and therefore the forecast.

Diane Baumgartner – She asked what the cost of the new money would be for the taxpayer. *Ms. Knuckles said we have estimated a figure of \$160 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation based on the values from the November PI levy. This is not a county auditor certified number and she would appreciate that is not be published as such.*

Mrs. Baumgartner asked why the sub driver rate was tabled. *Mr. Klima said due to the need for additional information this will unfortunately be delayed until next month.* Mrs. Baumgartner agreed, very unfortunate.

Information:

- March 15: Winter Sports Awards – CHS, 6:45 p.m.
- March 16: CMS PTSA Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- March 18: Early Dismissal / End 3rd Grade Period
- March 21-25: Spring Break – No School
- March 30: Early Dismissal
- April 6: Early Dismissal
- April 7: CIS Q3 Academic Rally
- April 12: CIS 3rd Grade Concert, 6:30 p.m.
- April 12: CIS 4th Grade Concert, 7:30 p.m.
- April 13: Early Dismissal
- April 13: BOE Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- April 13: JES/CIS PTA Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Discussion Items:

NEOLA Policy – Policy 34-2, First Reading, to be approved in April.

March Work Session – The March 23, 2016 Work Session has been rescheduled to March 29, 2016 due to spring break. It will be at 5 p.m. as previously scheduled.

Meetings:

April 27, 2016 – Work Session Rescheduled – The April 27th meeting has been rescheduled to Monday, April 25, 2016 at 5 p.m. Nita Hendryx from the Local Government Services Division of the Auditor of State's Office will be there to discuss Fiscal Watch/Emergency.

Auburn Career Center:

Mr. Klima reported they are feeling the pinch with CCP and have lost some numbers in enrollment for next year. They are looking for ways to offer more classes at Auburn. They are considering offering the open class positions to schools outside the member schools.

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Executive Session:

It is necessary for this Board to go into this Executive Session for the confidential discussion of information so that the business of the District can be conducted effectively and efficiently.

Mrs. Thomas moved and Mrs. Smallwood seconded a motion to retire to executive session for the purpose of Personnel Contracts.

Roll call vote:

Wendy Anderson, aye Greg McClain, aye Katie Thomas, aye Linda Smallwood, aye Ken Klima, aye

Motion approved: 6:55 P.M.
Time Retire: 7:10 P.M.
Time Return from Executive Session: 8:50 P.M.

Adjournment:

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:51 P.M.

Roll call vote: unanimous yes.

Kenneth Klima, President

Merry Lou Knuckles, Treasurer