

**THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF
YOUNGSTOWN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO**

20 West Wood Street

June 27, 2017

The Youngstown Board of Education met in regular session at the I.L. Ward Building on June 27, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 4:33 p.m. by President Brenda Kimble. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

Roll call was taken with the following board members in attendance:

Members present: Hunter, Kimble, Murphy, Sanderson, Shadd, Williams, Adair

Members absent: None

APPROVE AGENDA

It was motioned by Murphy, seconded by Shadd to approve the agenda for June 27, 2017.

Discussion: Ms. Sanderson said she would like to move to amend the agenda in order to have the executive session before new business; it was seconded by Ms. Adair. Mr. Shadd then called point of order to ask could you add a motion when a motion was already on the floor. It was determined that Mr. Murphy should restate his motion.

Mr. Murphy amended his motion to change the agenda and move the executive session in front of new business and Ms. Adair seconded the motion. There was no further discussion.

Vote results were as follows:

Ayes: Hunter, Kimble, Murphy, Sanderson, Williams, Adair

Nays:

Abstain: Shadd

Motion passed.

CITIZEN'S PARTICIPATION

The CEO could not attend the meeting but asked Superintendent Stohla to come and read his initial thoughts to the board about their proposed resolutions, the statement follows:

Krish Mohip

“As you may or may not be aware the CEO is unavailable today. Otherwise, he would have liked to address this issue himself. He asked that I make a brief statement as to his initial thoughts on these proposed resolutions. First, as has been discussed before, the actions of the Board are advisory unless the CEO has delegated specific powers to the Board. As to “operational issues” of the District, as you are aware he has not done so yet. Mr. Mohip also has not delegated to the Board the ability to make any budgetary or financial decisions.

Mr. Mohip understands these resolutions address a payment to the School Board Association for a legal defense fund and a receipt of money or services to prosecute a lawsuit against the District's turnaround plan under the ADC and its CEO structure. If this is not the case, please let him know. Otherwise, if this is correct, then Mr. Mohip is not yet certain that he will allow the school district or its employees to support the Board's request to either fund or accept funding from this organization if the goal is to fight the CEO turnaround plan that is gaining so much momentum and success.

He is willing to discuss these issues at a later date."

Mr. Stohla then said on his behalf he would like to thank the board for the past two years. Although they have had their differences he said he appreciated all of them.

Ms. Kimble then said first of all the resolutions do not request a dime of Youngstown City Schools budget to fight anything, so he is misinformed, maybe he did not read the resolutions. The resolutions are OSBA resolutions and they allow funding for certain legal services for boards and that is what these are for; this has nothing to do with the operations of the district.

Mr. Hunter spoke saying there is an old saying that goes it is better to be thought of as a fool than to open your mouth and remove all doubt. He said he found it very strange that the CEO was giving his verdict on these resolutions without fully understanding. He went on to say that his response to this statement is that the CEO should be better at communicating with the board and be a little more attentive to understanding what the board does and what it is doing. He ended by saying that he thought this statement is most unfortunate.

Mr. Shadd spoke and said he was at agenda review yesterday and the executive management where these resolutions could have been addressed but no one was there. I believe there was a conflict for one person not being able to be there but just like Mr. Stohla is here today, he could have been there or someone else could have been there, but there was no person who represented him when they had the opportunity to be at that meeting. He felt the statement was not even close to what the intent of the Board was regarding the resolutions. Mr. Shadd said the CEO has set forth rules that they are to use to engage him and time tables and he has yet to meet those rules that he put in place. He said he has sent two sets of questions to the CEO and he has yet to get a response; he has failed to communicate on the terms he created. He said he does not understand why he continuously setting up these road blocks.

Ms. Sanderson added that the reason the superintendent was making a speech from the podium instead of being seated with the Board as superintendent was because the CEO told him he was no longer allowed to come to board meetings. Just as you can look on the side and see that none of our administrators attend the meetings. Now he is trying to dictate board business and he has no rights. She said they were OSBA members and they have a right to support other boards and they have a right to support Youngstown board. Ms. Sanderson said constitutionally he does not dictate what the board says or does and she does not acknowledge his position. If a payment needs to be made she said she will make it.

Mr. Murphy then said he agreed with Ms. Sanderson, a \$250 payment after \$1 million he spent, he said \$250 wash chump change and we could afford that every day of the week.

Ms. Adair said she has just about had enough of the CEO dictating those things that he thinks he has authority to do. She said she would remind everybody there that he thought he had control over tax abatements and tax levies, he thought he could tell the board that he could make our agendas and provided minutes to the board. None of which he had legal authority to do. Ms. Adair said she would strongly recommend that the board look into whatever other legal action that they can take about this dictatorial attitude and position that CEO Mohip has taken with the board. Ms. Adair said she will not be dictated to by anybody who thinks he has the authority to tell us when we can eat, sleep and jump. She said the CEO has not served the district well and he has not bothered to engage with the board although they have asked numerous times and numerous ways. She said she has presented questions to him that have yet to be answered. She said whatever is going on between the CEO and the Board, it needs to be stopped. She said they were wasting a lot of time and energy on these fights and we need to stop this dumb stuff and get back to the business of educating our young people and not spending ourselves, or he not spending ourselves into bankruptcy.

Mr. Williams said the struggle he has with the CEO is accountability. As board members we are elected to represent the citizens of Youngstown. This seven member board represents accountability for the tax dollars. Tax dollars pay for everything in our system but for some reason the CEO feels he can spend the Youngstown tax dollars as he may and keep in mind he has no vested interest in the City of Youngstown. He can say our kids but he has not grown up in Youngstown, he has not paid taxes in Youngstown. This board is asking the CEO to sit down and talk to us and have accountability on how he is spending tax payer's money because again Mr. Williams said the board was elected by the citizens of Youngstown as stewards of their kids and their finances.

Ms. Kimble said she has been desperately been trying to arrange a meeting for the board and the Academic Distress Committee. She said Mr. Benyo called her because he did not remember the dates that Ms. Kimble had requested these meetings. Ms. Kimble said she requested the first meeting as soon as the distress committee was put in place. She stated that Mr. Benyo said the meeting should be with the president and the vice president of the board but she wanted the full elected board. Ms. Kimble stated that they know they do not control the district but they have concerns and would like the distress commission to hear them even if they do not act on them. Ms. Kimble said that Mr. Benyo did not feel like every board member needed to send questions that they should come from the board president and that he did not feel there was a need for a meeting and the board should not have any questions unless they are about finances. Ms. Kimble said she was at a meeting that the NAACP requested and she was upset because these people asked for requests and they were given the information. The board has not been able to get this information even though they have requested this information and they do not have to wait 10 days like the board members have been told. She said that Mr. Mohip told the board he would not do a professional development session with them unless everyone attended and so she announced that every board member is willing to attend professional development and the board needs him to give them some dates for those sessions.

BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

It was motioned by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Ms. Adair to accept Resolution 06-27-2017-01 – RESOLUTION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OSBA LEGAL ASSISTANCE FUND. (attached)

On discussion Ms. Sanderson talked a little bit about how the legal assistance fund worked and that is why she brought the resolution forward. Ms. Adair said she was in favor of this resolution and thought that the board should go even further by contacting the ACLU and even if it meant mounting a legal fight to get control of the finances.

Vote results were as follows:

Ayes: Hunter, Kimble, Murphy, Sanderson, Shadd, Williams, Adair

Nays:

Motion passed.

It was motioned by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Mr. Williams to accept Resolution 06-27-2017-02 – RESOLUTION TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE FROM THE OSBA LEGAL ASSISTANCE FUND. (attached)

Vote results were as follows:

Ayes: Hunter, Kimble, Murphy, Sanderson, Shadd, Williams, Adair

Nays:

Motion passed.

TREASURERS REPORT

The treasurer reported and presented the board with the following items:

1. Attorney Roberts billing.
2. Financial Detail Report as of 5/31/17.
3. Financial Detail Report by Object – General Fund as of 5/31/17
4. Investment Report as of 5/31/17
5. Checks written in the month of May.
6. Outstanding purchase orders in the General Fund as of 6/2/17.

Ms. Adair had several questions about the amount of money being paid to the CEO's attorneys.

BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS

Mr. Hunter said when it comes to the issue of improving the state of academics in our district one of the primary areas has to be how we connect with parents. Mr. Hunter said he believes in proactive outreach and because of that he is dismayed by the numerous times parents have contacted him telling him they had tried to get in touch with the CEO and have been sent to someone else in the administration. He said that the PR gloss portrays the district differently. Mr. Hunter said he has been dismayed by the terrible decision making of our local NAACP in their efforts to insert themselves in the ongoing reshaping of the district. He discussed the report card put forth by the NAACP which he felt does not say how well the CEO is doing in the community but how well the CEO connects with the local organization. He said the media laps that up but what is loss is that parents do not have that connection with the CEO. He said

ultimately it does not matter what organizations say but what parents say about their satisfaction with the progress of the CEO. Mr. Hunter said there are still unresolved issues of violence, and there needs to be some issue of thought for emergency planning, special education still needs attention and there is not enough financial transparency. He said there is too much money going out the door without any reasons why. Mr. Hunter said he hopes the board will continue to focus on these issues. Mr. Hunter then announced his next finance committee meeting for Thursday.

Mr. Shadd said he wanted to bring the boards attention to the hiring the district is doing. He said he has never seen this many people being hired for athletics at this level and said some colleges do not have this many employees for sports. He would like to see more money being spent on students. He said he does not understand why you need a team that big. His main focus is there are nine hires for a football team that will not play this year and may not play next year and eight other hires and he cannot see where the rubber meets the road. Mr. Shadd said he believes the board is trying to play by his rules when attempting to get information, he said there seems like there is always a space that Mr. Mohip is trying to put between them with the latest being he would not respond to question unless they have a Youngstown CSD email address. Mr. Shadd said it is hard for him to say how well of a job the CEO is doing because he does not have the strategic plan to show what benchmarks he is trying to achieve. Mr. Shadd said he has requested this information in the format asked by the CEO but has not received any thing at this time.

Ms. Sanderson talked about how not only were the board members to use the district email but they were to send questions through the board president and she felt that this was causing a wedge between board members and the board president because all board members are equal. Ms. Sanderson said she does not think Mr. Mohip is the man for the job and after a year he has not accomplished anything. She said he spends a lot of time on television and spending money and she would think that the commission and the state really need to assess who they hired for this position. She said he came from Chicago with credentials that really could not be substantiated. She ended by saying she would be sending a public records request for all contracts.

Mr. Murphy said he did not understand why if they all had to have a district email then why did all request need to the CEO need to be sent by the board president. He said he would like to bring the long time athletic director who is retiring from the district before the board to give him a resolution of appreciation.

Ms. Kimble said she would like to talk to the board about several people who she felt had been pushed out of the district without any type of thank you. Ms. Kimble said she thought there were about 5 employees they would like to honor.

Mr. Williams had no comments.

Ms. Adair said she talked with her contact from Lorain Schools and all parties are working together to make their state takeover run smoothly unlike what has happened here. She said she would keep the board informed. Ms. Adair said she would bring to the board's attention the lack of restraints that Mr. Mohip has over the NAACP and the media because they have received information without waiting 10 days. Ms. Adair said she believes the board's request are just as necessary if not more relevant and important than any other unelected entities requests because the board holds the responsibility of fiduciary. Especially if the CEO cannot turn this district around some if not all of the members will be eliminated and be replaced by the mayor and not

voted on by residents of the city. Ms. Adair said this last school year under state control has not resulted in any substantial changes that could be identified that should have placed our children on the road to academic success. Ms. Adair said they are still placing people in positions without posting the jobs. Ms. Adair said positions are not being posted on the local website and she is worried about pre-selection of positions, raises, qualifications, and nepotism. She is also concerned around issues that could cause an EEO complaint and ruin the districts reputation and cost us lots of money.

Ms. Kimble said the commission came because the district was in academic distress and now we find ourselves in financial distress as well. Ms. Adair said there are two groups that have taken on support of Mr. Mohip and that is the NAACP and the City Council. She said you cannot pass a resolution that says you do not support HB70 but you support Mr. Mohip since he is following HB70. She said Mr. Mohip took a meeting to the City Council and they did not have to attend his meeting. Ms. Adair said Mr. Murphy is a city employee and education person but the council did not contact him to find out what was happening with Mr. Mohip and the board which she felt was a lack of respect for the elected officials of the board. Ms. Kimble said when the report comes out it will tell the truth and when these two groups see that hopefully they will come together to help create some funds since they support what is going on but they do not have a clue.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was motioned by Ms. Sanderson and seconded by Ms. Adair to enter into executive session for appointments of an employee, preparing for negotiation of contract and complaint of an official.

Discussion Mr. Hunter asked what type of contract which prompted Ms. Sanderson to restate her motion.

Ms. Sanderson amended her motion to enter into executive session for an appointment of an employee and for a complaint of an employee and an officiant; it was seconded by Ms. Adair.

Vote results were as follows:

Ayes: Hunter, Kimble, Murphy, Sanderson, Shadd, Williams, Adair

Nays:

Motion passed.

Ms. Kimble announced there may be action taken after executive session.

Time In: 5:54 pm

Time Out: 7:02 pm

Meeting resumed at 7:03 pm

Ms. Adair commented that it has come to her attention that the media is not giving equal time to board issues and she was concerned that the reporting was not balanced. It was one sided reporting about Mr. Mohip. She said she was putting it out there and if Channel 21 or the Vindicator wanted to respond they could.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

It was motioned by Mr. Shadd and seconded by Mr. Murphy to adjourn the meeting.

All in favor ayes: all members

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

President

Treasurer

YOUNGSTOWN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Youngstown, Ohio

Resolution No. 06-27-2017-01

RESOLUTION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OSBA LEGAL ASSISTANCE FUND

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Youngstown City School District (the "Board") wishes to support the efforts of other boards of education to obtain favorable judicial decisions and,

WHEREAS, the Ohio School Boards Association Legal Assistance Fund has been established for this purpose,

THEREFORE, the Board hereby resolves to participate in the OSBA LAF for calendar year 2017 and authorizes the treasurer to pay the LAF \$250.

WHEREFORE, the foregoing Resolution was moved by _____, seconded by _____ and duly adopted on June 27, 2017, upon roll call further resulting in _____ and _____ nays.

YOUNGSTOWN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Youngstown, Ohio

Resolution No. 06-27-2017-02

RESOLUTION TO REQUESTING ASSISTANCE FROM THE OSBA LEGAL ASSISTANCE FUND

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Youngstown City School District (the "Board") is involved in litigation of statewide significance and,

WHEREAS, the Ohio School Boards Association Legal Assistance Fund has been established for the purpose of providing financial assistance to member boards of education,

THEREFORE, the Board hereby resolves to request assistance from the OSBA LAF for calendar year 2017 and authorizes the superintendent to complete the necessary application for assistance.

WHEREFORE, the foregoing Resolution was moved by _____,
seconded by _____, and duly adopted on June 27, 2017 upon roll
call further resulting in _____ yeas _____ nays.