

Minutes of the January 29, 2024 Special Joint Meeting of the Tecumseh Local Board of Education

January 29, 2024

The Tecumseh Local Board of Education met in a special joint session on January 29, 2024, with Board President Sue Anne Martin presiding. Ms. Martin called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was held at the Bethel Township Fire Station, 3333 Lake Rd, Medway, OH 45341.

Roll Call: Present — Members Martin, Clark, Diller, and Mills.
Absent — Stafford.

Ms. Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.
Ms. Martin recognized guests in the audience.

Planning and Discussion

Paula Crew - I just passed out our Connecting Link. Did everyone get a copy of that? I know not all of you reside in Tecumseh Local School District. Twice a year, this publication is sent out to every home in the district. This is just a paper copy, it's going to print tomorrow. So if you see any major mistakes, please let me know so we can fix those. So I'm just going to be referring to that document. So, at Tecumseh Local Schools during the 2018-19 school year, and some of you were involved in that, we had a strategic planning committee and it consisted of internal and external stakeholders. And we developed our mission statement, our vision statement, and our four goal areas that our district works on. That's the backbone of the district. Anything we do, we say 'How does that tie back to our vision statement, our mission statement, and our four goals?' Our four goals are our Academic Growth, Fiscal Responsibility, Wellness, and Community Engagement. And you'll notice that the publication that goes out has something to do with one of those four pillars of our strategic plan. So, I just wanted to go over a few of those things that we're working on in each area because you are our community and we want to let you know about what's going on at Tecumseh Local Schools. So first of all, under Academic Growth, there are a lot of things going on. And in this publication, you can turn back and see where we are with our local report card. We do currently have 3.5 out of four stars, which is a new rating system, a star system that the state has. It's the second year of having stars. I think that was better in their mind than having ABCD, but everyone kind of equates the four stars to the A, the three to the B, and so forth. So right now, again, we have about a B+ with our current report card. The areas that we're working on in this publication, I'm not going to go over all of them with you, but I've written in there on a message from the superintendent. I talk about what each school is working on academic-wise. They're working on way more than this, but we call it the one focus area that each school has selected based upon their academic data, their discipline data and so forth. So I know at Park Layne Elementary and New Carlisle Elementary, they're working on comprehensive Literacy Plans to help elevate that K-3 literacy score on our report card. That's where we, I don't want to say did the worst, but didn't do the best. That was our one star, where everything else is more than one star, all the way up to four stars. And then at the middle school, they're working on writing. And Donnellsville Elementary School is working in the area of writing. So a lot of good things going on there. We have a fabulous director of curriculum. Actually, she's the Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment. We call her our director of the CIA because she does a lot of good work in that area. And a lot of other people contribute to that as well. Our second goal is Wellness. I just wanted to talk about that a little bit. We have something called Positive Behavior Intervention and Support system that we use throughout our district. We've actually

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used it for over a decade, but ironically, two years ago, it became part of something called the SAFE Act that was passed through legislation. And now it says that every school has to have a comprehensive Positive Behavior Intervention and Support system, which just is a system that supports students behaviorally. And everyone's on the same page with terminology and so forth. So again, we've been doing it at Tecumseh Local for over a decade, but it became a requirement two years ago with that. Chronic absenteeism is something that we've been working on, and that's working, every building is working on chronic absenteeism. It's a district focal point as well, since COVID not only Tecumseh Local, but so many districts have been having a lot of issues with chronic absenteeism. And last year it started being reported on our district report card. So that's one of our scores on our report card. How well are your students attending schools? So we have a plethora of ways we are working at each building to try to encourage more attendance. One of those ways is partnering with the Clark County Educational Service Center right now, and Judge Lancaster has agreed to partner with the Clark County Educational Service Center with a mediation program so that if we have a student who has chronic absenteeism, we can actually refer them to the mediation. We're piloting that the rest of this year to see how effective that is, to determine if we're going to look at that next year. The Drug Task Force meeting. We've had a lot of issues, as many districts have with drugs, and specifically, it's the drugs that are dab pens, so they're liquid marijuana or THC that's in a dab. I can't express the amount of issues that we've had with those over the last three or four years. We've done a lot with that. Deputy Loney, Brian, and I did a video, maybe you saw that like a year and a half ago where we talked about the elevation of the use of that in the school setting. Deputy Loney dumped out all of the ones that we've collected. I need to say that Tecumseh Local is not the only one. All of my superintendent colleagues in Clark County have reported that this is an issue with them. And you hear it throughout Ohio. So we've done things like put vape detecting machines that make noise if they detect vape in the bathrooms instead of just giving them warnings and different things like that. This is a drug, but they're not being charged at the juvenile court at all, correct Deputy Loney? So our hands are tied. So we've become the enforcers for all of this at the school level. So our expulsion level has risen dramatically over the last three years. Because if you come to me twice and you're caught twice, not once, but I do expel you the duration of the school year. And we tried to do that to be serious, and you can't do that in the school setting. I wanted to bring that up tonight. It's awkward, I'm very transparent. I talk about the good and I talk about the bad, but that's something that the struggles and the barriers that we have at Tecumseh Local, and we've had that for quite a while. So we decided to form a Drug Task Force. We've had two meetings. If anyone's interested in being on that, let me know. We have personnel from external stakeholders from the Clark County Sheriff's Department, from the Clark County Combined Health District, and from Mercy Outreach Prevention. Where's Carrie from? Clark County Prevention Center. It was a full room. More people than this in the room to try to come up with ways to reduce that. I don't know if you saw Governor Dewine's article, and then I'm going to turn it over to Brian and Deputy Loney to talk in a moment about it, too. But Governor DeWine had an article in the Dayton Daily News on the lookalike candy that's out there. It's a lookalike candy, and they're injecting THC in a lot of the lookalike candies, which is obviously targeting who? Our youth. So instead of a sour patch, it says Stoney patch, silly patch. I mean, one says dope head or whatever instead of so these are being sold in our area, and it's frustrating because, and I include that in our publication. And to the community that's right here in our community, our new stores are opening up with all kinds of really pretty vapes that have all kinds of wonderful flavors. **Nancy Brown** or **Rhonda Ledford**- Is that mostly in the high school? **Paula Crew** - No, it's in the middle school. It's in the high school. We've had a fourth grader. We've had a third grader caught with a vape.

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Brian Dixon - If I can jump in. What we're seeing is that kids at ages four and five are trying this stuff for the first time. So when they get into middle school, they're trying it even more. By the time they get to high school, they're addicted. So there's been some surveys, that kids, this is all they're thinking about is, when am I going to go out? It's this addiction. So, it's just so easy to obtain. It's so marketable towards kids. And I think our biggest issue we have, I mean, Cheif Trusty has been out with his squad before. The kids don't know what is in these dab pens, so they're getting it from a friend, thinking, oh, maybe it's just nicotine. It turns out to be something more than that. Kids don't know what kind of reaction that has. Some of them are taking their prescribed medication, and that messes with that. So we've tried to be proactive with this. Like Paula said, we wrote a grant for the halo device that we have in all of our middle school and high school bathrooms that basically when that picks up different scents or fumes or things coming off of that, it alerts the building. Principal Deputy Loney gets information on that, too. So we're able to try to get that. So then that becomes the next problem. So it goes off. You got the kid in front of you. We say, hand it over, what do you have? Oh, I don't have anything on it. So as a school system, if we have reasonable suspicion, we can more or less search a kid. There's limitations to that, obviously. We're not going to make a student strip search or those kind of things. There's limitations with the sheriff's department, too. We're able to search on suspicion alone. It takes a little bit more from them. But recently we've added another tool to our toolbox, and that has become the wand. So each one of these devices have metal? Yes, we are able to search that because, to be honest with you, the kids are taking these and putting them in places that they know we won't search, underwear, that we can't search, those kind of things. So it kind of goes back to when I was the middle school principal. Brenda, you'll remember this student in the front office. Cell phones were a big deal, and we were trying to regulate that. We had a student sitting in there, and you could see the cell phone in his pants pocket, he put it down, his underwear, and he said, I don't have anything on me. And I said, yes, you do, and we're going to call your mom. And I called his mom, and he must have had his mom's phone because it started ringing. He still said he didn't have it. But this kind of takes and helps that a little bit. You still have to have parental support on all this, but we're able to find things. We've had success with that here just recently. John, anything you want to add to that? John's going to search me. I have two hidden on me. **Deputy Loney** - These are just like we use in the courthouses. You get people that come through that have metal on their legs or whatever, and the deputies will use these to check them. So we bought three of these, three of these, one at the high school, one at the middle school, and we can use them for other things when it comes to dances and stuff like that, extracurricular activities. But so far, the school has used it twice and has found something twice. So it's just because the kids are...they know when they're getting called down or when they might be searched. They're putting them in places they know we can't search...the pull your tails out of your pants, take your shoes off, do your sweatshirt. They know that if it's down in an area they know we can't search, they can walk right out and they go back on and do their thing. **Brian Dixon** - And when you say we search, you mean the principal? **Deputy Loney** - Yeah, the principal. **Brian Dixon** - That way it takes the sheriff's department out of the mix with that. There's not a conflict. **Deputy Loney** - We're not allowed to search them. Now, if it was, somebody says, hey, we think they have a weapon of some sort, and we have students say, we did see it. Yes, we can. But for a vape that we cannot charge for, we're not doing a criminal charge for, we can't search them. So we get that a lot. A lot of times we will ask kids, hey, if you got something, just hand it over to us, and they'll give it to us a lot of the times. But we've had one the other day that she was not giving anything up. She ended up having something. **Nancy Brown** - I have another question. Paula, you were talking about the absenteeism. What is the

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biggest cause for that? Is it not having transportation to school? Is it just kids that just... **Paula Crew** - Actually, I just read an article about that and one of the things they're saying the greatest cause is just an elevation in mental health issues for some students. And then following the pandemic as well, twofold, people just became used to staying home. Do we stay home or go to school? And some are choosing just to stay home when virtual learning is no longer an option and hasn't been for a couple of years, actually. And thirdly, again, there's not any repercussions. There's minimal repercussions from the juvenile court when we refer a parent. If it's an elementary student, that child really can't be blamed. It's the parent of that kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 3rd grader. And we're getting minimal support. And I have said that I would say that in any setting, but minimal support that we're trying. Would you agree, Deputy Loney, that we're trying to get that. We need help! We're not the judicial system at the school. We're there to teach students. And it's just become such a big thing now. We need to be jury, judge, disciplinarian. And it's difficult. **Nancy Brown or Rhonda Ledford** - And is that again in all three of the school levels you don't see that more in one level than another? **Paula Crew** - We see more absenteeism at the high school level, but there's definitely enough absenteeism, more than you'd want and more than before COVID at the elementary and middle school. And I believe that's what the other districts are looking at as well. **Rhonda Ledford** - (inaudible)...go to Fairborn, and they battle this. **Paula Crew** - Absolutely. **Rhonda Ledford** - It's terrible. They've started giving awards for when they have a whole classroom come in. So they're taking pictures and putting it on Facebook, just trying to get kids to try to be active enough to come to school. **Paula Crew** - And it's sad that we have to give...and we are doing some things like that, too. And it's sad that we have to give positive awards for students just to do what they're supposed to do, come to school. But we're stretching. **Paula Fugate** - Excuse me a minute. Can I make one comment on that? And this is from my FYI mentoring, and it goes with your question. One thing that you have going today, which is not making the situation any better, you have parents that parent, you have parents that just want to be a friend and you have parents that aren't even there I mean, they may physically be there, but they're not. And I mentor with FYI and have found this out with some people, and that doesn't help our school system. **Sue Anne Martin** - Thank you for that. **Brian Dixon** - John was going to demonstrate the wand. **Deputy Loney** - So just normally, when our principals or our administrators search, they have them. But what we've done now is (inaudible, multiple people talking at once.) and we brought that into our arsenal here. So we tested this, like, in lunch boxes, putting the vapes in lunchboxes, all kinds of things, and it does pick it up. So we just, you know, it'll pick up, you know, the metal here. So, you know, just going down the front, it's picking that up right there. So it is picking that up right there. Again, he has no metal on his feet, but there is. And I don't know if you guys have seen these, but this is, the long stem one is the marijuana one right there that Paula has. This is the nicotine vape. So the small one, I believe that's a Mr. Fog or an elf bar or whatever, but that is just the vape with the nicotine in it. That's a common one that you get a lot. You know, we're seeing those more and more of the dab pens. **Brian Dixon** - But, John, correct me if I'm wrong, some of those are able to be fabricated to contain, they buy them with nicotine. **Deputy Loney** - In the bottom of them, you can actually turn up how much you're getting. Yeah, it has a...on the vaporizer thing. **Sue Anne Martin** - That could look like a pen. That could look like a pen. **Roger Diller** - John, even the throwaway vapes that aren't rechargeable, do they have some sort of metal in them? **Deputy Loney** - They all have metal in them. **Roger Diller** - That one is a rechargeable, and it's got the metal in it. But the ones that don't aren't rechargeable. Do they have the metal in them? **Deputy Loney** - Yes, they still do. They make all kinds of little chargers that they have in their computers and all that stuff. And it's a problem that we're facing. If you get on the websites to order those, all you have to do

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is click your 21 and have them delivered to somebody's house, pay on a prepaid debit card, a visa card, or whatever, and that's how the kids are getting them. **Brian Dixon** - And the content of THC that you're seeing in the marijuana. So, like, the 1960s generation of marijuana that was out there was about 4% THC. Right now they're seeing somewhere between 40 and 95%. So when you think about how these kids handle that, that's why they're overdosing. Absolutely. **Deputy Loney** - The number one thing you hear with kids and just the smoke stuff is they will tell you it's safer than cigarettes, and it's the furthest from the truth. **Chief Trusty** - Are you still having the issue? I know last year we discussed a lot of this with the vaping and stuff, are the parents not wanting to back it? **Paula Crew** - Oh, yes. And during expulsion hearings, not all of them, but during expulsion hearings, I mean, they're mad that we've disciplined the child because it's theirs and they just borrowed it and took it to school. **Deputy Loney** - I've had parents tell me that they'll give them the marijuana because I can't afford their meds. So that keeps them calm and everything. **Paula Crew** - Which is the total opposite, if you know anything about the science behind that. **Deputy Loney** - Up till last year when I would take those, because I would put them in a sharps container, and then I would take them home and pour them in a Lowe's bucket, and you would just see, I mean, they. It lit up like it was neon lights and everything. I mean, what's in that stuff is pretty bad. **Paula Crew** - And then another thing just to talk about that's coming around the room, that's our drug task force agenda. And if you wanted to see it, on the bottom of the second page are all the things that we've added to our arsenal, if you will, of things to work on. The last page is a picture from a local store that just opened up. And not. I don't want to be derogatory to a business at all, but I noticed it was online that it had opened up. It's beside Mel-O-Dee, and it has all kinds, you can see the picture of the vapes. There's strawberry and grape and fruity pebbles and different ones that. Again, who are those catering to? Those are catering to our youth that live in Park Layne and can walk there. So it's really a community epidemic. It's not a Tecumseh Local epidemic, and that is a gateway drug, studies have shown. We have, but we have Narcan on site. We've used it, unfortunately, with students. So it's a tragedy. And it's just sad to see businesses just popping up and making a profit from this. And that's with my superintendent's hat on. I mean, we're supposed to protect our kids, and it doesn't seem like that's happening in any community, as far as with these things being allowed. And I understand free market and business, and that's where we live in the United States, and I support that, too. But there has to be some kind of happy medium so that our students can't get a hold of this stuff. Because once you've given a student narcan, you don't forget that. Right, Chief? I mean you hope they come to. So anyway, anything else on drugs, if anybody wants to be on our Drug Task Force, in all seriousness, we would love to have you. And then safety, we want to talk about some safety measures in the district. **Brian Dixon** - So safety falls under the Wellness umbrella of our strategic plan. And safety has always been a component of Tecumseh Local Schools. We've kind of adopted that mindset of, if the kid doesn't feel safe in schools, teaching them how to add and subtract fractions or learn is going to be not far from their mind. I will say this, Tecumseh Local Schools worked with Clark County Commissioners a few years ago to kind of develop that SRO program. We wanted to pilot that, and we were able to get Deputy Loney being that first SRO officer here in the district. I think it was CTC was the other half of that, but we were definitely on board with that, and that's been a great process. We kind of are the first in the county, and we're proud of that. But we also, again, came back to the commissioners a couple of years later and said, we need somebody else. We need a second one. We have six school buildings, which is unlike any other district in the county because most are housed at one campus. They can have a resource officer there for high school, middle school, and elementary buildings, but because the way ours are spaced, it's difficult. And time is always of the essence

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when you're thinking of bad situations. So we were able to get the second one. Deputy Dillon came on with us this fall and has been a great addition to our team. They kind of coordinate that to where they're both not at the same buildings and they don't try to keep a routine that way somebody can't know where they're at or plan where they're going to be with that. So that's been a great thing. So we appreciate all the support we receive from that. Kind of talking about physical safety, wellness of students. We have nurses at each one of our buildings, and I don't think that's something that every single one of Clark County schools have. So we're very thankful for that. That's been something that's been supported. In addition to guidance counselors at the high school, I think most of us that went to high school, you remember your counselors in high school, maybe middle school. We've got them as far down now as the elementary buildings. And what goes along with them hand in hand is each one of our buildings have mental health therapists. So these are people that are just more than a counselor. They can talk treatment, they can talk those kind of things with kids. And those are huge in our wellness program, not only for physical but for mental health and safety of students. We do some other things with safety in the know. Everybody's required across the state of Ohio to do certain drills, and we've done those, we've done those for years, whether that be a fire drill or tornado drill or unfortunately active shooter drills and those kind of things. But we continue to do those on a monthly basis with that. We also are pretty proud of the point that we are very proactive with what you call reunification. I think you maybe heard about that for the first time when Northwestern had the tragedy with their bus accident over there and they started using that word reunification. So this August we will do our third reunification practice in the last ten years. Most people are just talking about reunification. We're not experts at it by any means, but we role-play. We go through this. The goal is always that we do this in hopes that we never have to use it. But it's super important for our staff to understand what it is, what it's going to look like. And it's not just us. We include local law enforcement, we include EMT and local fire departments and those kind of things because this is going to take on, it's a large response in a situation like that. So again, something we're pretty proud of with that. Do you want to talk about the quick-click challenges, John? **Deputy Loney** - Yeah, we will do the drug takeback that we do. We do it once in the fall, once in the spring, the sheriff's office will be at the east office, and then we also do it on the west end. It was always at the east office for your drug takeback. But we decided that we would have something out here because a lot of people, when you say the east office in Springfield, they get kind of confused. They don't know where they're going or how to get to it. We're like coming to Tecumseh High School. Come here and dump your drugs, dump your pills, dump anything. We're averaging about 20 to 25 pounds of pills in the spring and fall, which is good. You hear a lot of sad stories when people are giving you that medicine. They think a lot of the older people, they want to give you. They say, we'll give that to somebody, and my husband died of cancer, and these pills are worth a lot of money. We can't do that. But a lot of people come out to Tecumseh and bring their pills, and it's good for the community and all that. So April 27, it's from 10:00 - 2:00 at Tecumseh, we'll be doing it again. So deputy Dillon and I are out there. The Director of Public Safety, Andy Wilson, a couple weeks ago, reached out to me and he said, I need you, Mr. Dixon, and two of your high school students to do this quick click challenge. So what it involves is you're in a car and you start, and it's got to be timed, and you're putting your seatbelt on, and then you get out. Once everybody has their hands up and the whistle blows, you run around again. I am proud to say that so far in the state of Ohio, we have the record right now. **Brian Dixon** - We have the world record **Deputy Loney** - The State Patrol, the post up in somewhere up north did it, and they were at 47 seconds. The senior staff of the highway patrol did it in 39, and we were 36 seconds, 36. So it was definitely, we had a lot of fun doing that. **Sue Anne Martin** - Tell us about your team.

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Deputy Loney - Yeah, well, I can show you the video if you'd like to see the video. **Brian Dixon** - We'll show you the video while John pulls that up. I'll keep going so we don't hold you here all night. Another recent, as Paula talked, has been the addition of Narcan in our school. So we have 20. I think we are the only school in Clark County. We have 20 doses in each one of our clinics, at each building. We also recently got some at the board office, because when there's an accident, we usually respond to that as well. We also have the naloxin boxes at two places at the high school. Now, I will say there's a little bit of politics around having those out or not having them out. We have them in locations that are closed. That way, somebody has to come to those. But when we talk about all this stuff, we are not just talking about looking out for our kids, but we're looking out for our staff. There's been videos out there that when I was a principal in middle school for 13 years. I searched a lot of kids for just stuff. And you start thinking back to how many times I put my hands in a book bag without gloves on. And you see those videos out there. So it's important for us to have that stuff on hand in the event that we would come in contact with something, not planning on it. Some of these, what they call delta eight, you could easily have a kid, and I think as close as Fairborn, they've had individuals that have come in with gummy bears that have been laced with something. And you think about a first or second-grade kid, how they share things like that. You can't have enough Narcan in those situations. So it is a priority and something that we've really thought about. Our board has been very supportive of that, and we appreciate that as well. **Deputy Loney** - Some schools, they want nothing to do with it. They're complete hands off of it. The Narcan will not, I could give Mr. Dixon a dose right now, and it's not going to hurt him. But we live in that age. You could just touch something nowadays and it could send him into ... you look at, I showed him videos of police officers and deputies, just firemen just touching something on a scene, and next thing you know, they're overdosing. **Chief Trusty** - Last year was Fairborn, and so with OD, the driver, the medic that was driving the unit back to the hospital had touched part of the fentanyl on scene and ODd on the way, driving, and they ended up medic in the back, had to climb through and grab the wheel and get the medic off the side of the road. That's where most of, like most of the fire departments have gone to wearing what they call fentanyl gloves. **Deputy Loney** - I got this real quick, and I'll show you here and thanks too Andee Circle. She did all the editing for us from our IT department at Tecumseh. [*played video of quick-click challenge*] As of right now, we are 35.62 is what it was. And then the last thing I want to add real quick too is our nurses. I know we were all there on August 22nd for Northwestern. Two of the nurses from Northwestern, one was her first day, and one, I think was just, she had been there a little bit. But when we had a debrief afterwards, those nurses said if it wasn't for Tecumseh school nurses, they don't know what they would have done. And they said they, you know, because when we got there, I mean, anybody that was there, it was a war zone. I know our nurses don't get a lot of credit for a lot of stuff they do, but they were amazing. So kudos to them for that. **Brian Dixon** - One more thing. We recently received a grant from the state of Ohio for \$497,000 worth of video cameras in our schools. So we're pretty proud of that. We can access these remotely. Sheriff's department, local law enforcement can pull those up any place. So if they would have to respond to a building, they could kind of figure out what's going on before they get there. So this is the first time we've pulled this up in this location. So it's neat to see that they would work all over the place. **Paula Crew** - And that's real time. **Brian Dixon** - This is real time. We can see every school, that's actually a middle school basketball game right now. **Paula Crew** - So a lot going on the area of wellness, and we have a lot of major things that we're working on in the district. Our third area is fiscal responsibility, and I'll be really brief with this. The Springfield Clark CTC carpentry program has been working on a maintenance building. And Brian, you spearheaded keeping in touch with them and CTC. So if you want to talk about

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that. **Brian Dixon** - We had a great partnership this fall with CTC. They were able to come out and the students, the juniors and seniors in the carpentry program were able to build the building for us. And they did that, there wasn't a labor cost to us. So we realized a building in the district, which was something that was greatly needed. It was a win-win for all people involved in that, and we were super thankful for them. There were mistakes along the way, but that's a part of kids learning, because this is a learning process and we worked hand in hand with them. Worch Lumber was the one that supplied the materials and things, and it was great to see kids in the trades just out doing things and learning and supporting our mission at Tecumseh Local Schools. **Alec Ashbaugh** - It looks real nice. **Paula Crew** - Yes. Have you seen it? They did a nice job. Thanks, Brian. And then Tecumseh Local Schools does have two renewals that will be on the levee coming up. And then we are going to seek, we're not sure what, so I don't want to speak for the board, but we are seeking new operating funding, additional operating funding. We have not received operating funding at Tecumseh Local Schools since 1995. So that's a long time to go. We had ESSER money for a couple of years, that Covid money, and we really strategically used that to offset... We were allowed to supplant that. So we used that to pay for current salaries for a lot of employees. And that really elongated our bottom line and stretched our carryover. And our carryover is not going very far anymore. So we're deficit spending this year, and so our carryover is going to diminish. So you'll hear more about that in the next year. The board is still working on exactly what we're going to put on the ballot. **Sue Anne Martin** - The renewals will be on in November, and then probably the additional funds next year, November, the following. **Paula Crew** - Okay. Mr. Mills, I'm going to hop, since we're talking about levees, do you want to share since you're representing our board on Springfield Clark CTC? **Matt Mills** - Absolutely. So I am, as Mrs. Crew just said, I'm the representative for the Tecumseh Local School District for Clark County Springfield CTC. So the CTC is going to be putting a levy on the ballot in March. They did have a levy on the ballot back in November. What the levy is, it's a 1.4 mil property tax on all county residents. And its purpose is to build brand-new facilities for CTC. I don't know the last time anyone's been out to CTC recently, but they've got really old buildings. They're from the sixties and seventies. There's not a single one of them that doesn't have a problem with them, whether exterior or just mechanical issues, HVAC, electrical. They are past life, past usable life, and they're very costly to maintain. So again, they're going to be putting that ballot, that levy on the ballot again. One of the unique things about this is that because of the state of the schools as well as the multiple buildings, the state of Ohio is going to fund 40% of that total initiative. And it will be the first school career technical school in the state of Ohio to receive brand-new schools. All other ones have been renovation. So there's a really big opportunity for the county to invest in this program. Another thing that happens with it, if they were to build the new schools, is that it can increase the number of labs, the number of courses given, and it can increase the number of students. Right now, CTC turns away more students yearly than they are able to accept. So it's a hot commodity. I believe the number is well over 100 additional students that they could add, and that's more than 10% than what they currently have now. So just to give you an example, and it's really awesome because I get to talk to pretty much this side of the county. CTC has close to 800 students and they are from all public schools in the county, plus a couple of private, 800 total students. Tecumseh has over 140 students that attend. That makes up 17.5% of the student body. All other school districts in the county don't have half of that. The only exception would be Springfield, which is a much bigger municipality and Clark Shawnee, which also gets a big dose. So this part of the county gets a lot of use from CTC. There's a lot of benefit to this county from CTC. And there's going to be a minimal cost impact. If the levy were to get passed, since it's a 1.4 mil levy on \$100,000 worth of valuation, mean property values right now

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in this part of the county is roughly. That would be about \$4-\$5 a month per household would be the cost of the taxpayers. So minimal cost for brand new facilities that will allow those trades to happen. I don't know the last time you guys had the opportunity to look at CTC's website. There's a lot going on there, and it's an investment that I think that this part of the county really needs to help in. Unfortunately, when the levee was put on the ballot back in November, not a single precinct in the county passed it. Every single one voted it down. There were some marketing issues that they think that may have had that, because a lot of people didn't know what CTC was. So they've added JVS to it now. They've also kind of explained that they're really trying to say, hey, this is a coffee a month. It's a McDonald's hamburger a month. So I just want to share that. It impacts everybody here. And this part of the community of Clark County is heavily impacted and gets the most benefit out of that school. So I just want to share that. Thank you. **Paula Crew** - Thank you, Mr. Mills. And finally, community engagement. That's the fourth pillar. That's the one I facilitate. We do have a community engagement committee that we meet with periodically at Tecumseh Local Schools. Our next meeting coming up is February 27th, 2024. And that's in this publication as well on the back page. If you're interested, and basically what we do, we won't go over an hour. That's our commitment, and we touch on the four areas and the major areas or things that are going on under each of those four components. You'll see each of those particular areas, community engagement, fiscal responsibility, wellness, and academic growth. Each has a facilitator that will communicate with the people who are on that team and invite them to those meetings. We do that several times a year. So it's on that page. If you'd like to be part of any of those committees, please email. Or if you'd like to just come to our community engagement meeting, we'd love to have you. **Matt Mills** - Could I have one more thing? I forgot an important detail. So with the CTC levy, there's a time limit to it. The state only allows a certain amount of time, and then if the community, the county doesn't pass the levy, they will give the money to somebody else, the State of Ohio will. This March is most likely the last opportunity to pass that. **Paula Crew** - That's huge to mention, too. Mr. Mills, thank you for including that. That's what Tecumseh Local Schools, if you'll recall, the Ohio Commission's grant that we received in 2002-2003, the state paid 80% of our new buildings, and the public had to, I don't want to say only because it's millions of dollars, but had to support the 20%. And we would have never had new buildings if our public would have had to support, because that would have been a very high amount for our public to have to pay. So I agree with you, as a JVS graduate myself, when it was called JVS, offers a lot of good, a lot of hands-on opportunities that not enough of our students are going into. And those of you who work with your hands and are in the trades know that, too. So it's important. Thanks for sharing that. And that's all that I have.

New Business

ADOPTION OF CONSENT CALENDAR - PERSONNEL

Motion by Mr. Mills and second by Mrs. Clark:

Employment – Substitute – Certified/Classified 2023-2024

to approve the individuals listed below to be employed as a substitute on an as-needed basis for the 2023-2024 school year, as presented

Ashley Aguilar

Katelyn Bender

Gayle Borton

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Megan Brown
Alyxandra Kearney
Josh Lundgren
Callissa Steel

Marley Collins
Addison Keener
Veronica Rathburn

Daniel Hearlihy
Cassidy Lemon
Crystal Sprowl

Contract/Class Change

to approve the following contract/class change, retro to the beginning of the second semester of the current school year, per the certified negotiated agreement:

Cindy Hillard, from Class IV, Step 16 to Class V, Step 16.

Roll Call: Ayes, Members Mills, Clark, Diller, and Martin
Nays, none. Motion carried 4-0.

FINANCIAL

Employment - Supplemental - Travel

Motion by Mr. Mills and second by Mr. Diller to approve the following employee and travel amount for the 2023-2024 school year. The rate shall be in accordance with the established Federal IRS prescribed rates.

Mark Holbrook \$1,100

Roll Call: Ayes, Members Mills, Diller, Clark, and Martin
Nays, none. Motion carried 4-0.

Reports:

- **State Representative** - none at this time
- **Melanie Wilt, Clark County Commissioner** - Okay, well, I guess a quick update. We are getting ready to move folks out of the courthouse so that we can do a complete and total renovation of the beautiful courthouse downtown. It is a gigantic project. We are actually moving everyone who is doing business in there now over to the Bushnell Building, so much like we did with the A.B. Graham Building, we'll move those offices over temporarily. That's going to last about two years, eighteen months to two years. You know how those construction projects go. They take a little extra time. Right. So anticipate that if you have a court date or a reason to be interacting with the common pleas court or the clerk's office, that you'll probably need to go to the Bushnell Building for a while. They'll be moving over in the next three weeks or so. The moving trucks were there today, and we were very fortunate. We went through our bonding process to get updated, and so we were able to borrow what we needed to do that project completely. We'll be able to service the debt on that project without raising any taxes or anything like that. So that will be a really nice asset for Clark County. We're in the process of adopting our budget for next year. We have seen sales taxes start to dip a bit, which doesn't completely surprise me. But of course, the county is (inaudible) We want to have a base that allows us to continue that. So we are excited to see housing projects and new

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development happening. We want that to be in places where that is wanted and needed within the communities so that it can support the different infrastructure facilities that we have. It's an election year. I am fortunate that I don't have a contested race this year. Sasha is in her spot and she's good to go. So you've probably heard that Commissioner McGlothlin is not going to seek re-election at the end of this term. So there are several that are vying for his seat. So we're just going to kind of sit here, make sure the work gets done, and hope that we get somebody else in who wants to work hard and work with us to keep the county moving in the right direction.

- **Sasha Rittenhouse, Clark County Commissioner** - So I'll kind of do a different approach than Melanie. She handles the kind of visuals of what we do. But I want to thank you guys for not sweeping some of those hard topics under the rug. The drugs, absenteeism. I mean, we all know that's at every school district, and you guys are willing to kind of take charge and take it head-on. And I do appreciate that. And anything that we can do, whether personally or professionally, reach out. I've got kids in school, and I understand school and education is very important. And so we want to see all of these kids in Clark County get well educated. And sometimes there's hurdles in their way. So if there's ways we can bust down those hurdles, certainly reach out. Not to bring up the bus crash again. I live in the Northwestern School District. I put my ten-year-old on the bus that morning and then hear that there's a bus and there's a bad accident. All of us in this room know for a minute what those parents felt like and that you guys grabbed your nurses. I know the resource officers, you were there. You guys all went and helped a neighboring school in that time of need. I want to say thank you as a parent. Fortunately, my child was safe. But just to know that you guys would drop everything and run and do that is huge. Thank you to you guys for doing that. I don't really have anything else. Thank you for the invite. Enjoying being here.
- **Alec Ashbaugh** - Just a quick overview, some reasons why you may see me. I am the county enterprise zone manager. So if there's a big economic development project that's coming through and we have to talk about property tax abatements or talk about incentives to attract new companies, that would be going through specifically my office. Additionally, I oversee our planning and zoning division of our office as well, so have worked really closely with Brian. Pleased to say that myself and my boss, Ethan, we're both members of the New Carlisle Rotary, so we spend a good deal of time with a lot of your staff members. It's good to be in the western part of the county. We're obviously focused on the entire county, but there's so much going on in Bethel Township that it's good to be out here and be present on a frequent basis. I'm a Pike township resident. I went to Northwestern High School, don't hold that against me. But I love Bethel Township. Lots of good stuff going on. Always happy to be out here. So, thank you guys for having us.
- **Clark County Sheriff's Department** - I don't think we have really. I was not given anything to provide tonight. Just, we're cruising along.
- **Bethel Township** - No news is good news, I think. Rhonda has been working for about four months now on our cemetery records, trying to get that cleaned up. We have an idea that we'd like to propose to the school district. Something that we saw in a magazine

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somewhere else in the state, that over the summer, they had art students from their high school paint the snow plow blades. They would submit their plans for what they would like to be. Some of them were cartoons, and some of them were scenery. They were all sorts of different things, sayings on them, whatever. And the township would provide the paints. And then come next winter, when we pull the snow plows out, everybody can smile. **Paula Crew** - I love it. Yes, let's chat. **Nancy Brown** - Well, we have a new trustee. I don't know whether anybody knows him or not. We're really glad to have Alec with us. We've got a really good team now. We have a new road department supervisor, which we have never really had, technically, a road supervisor before. So his name is Brian Stasne. I say his name wrong all the time, but he lives in the township. So everything's looking up for Bethel Township right now. We have a new walking path going in over here at the Medlake ball diamond. It is going to actually connect with Park Layne now so that the citizens from Crystal Lake can enter right into it from Crystal Lake, and they can go out and walk a sidewalk down Gerlaugh Road and be able to get to the necessities that they need, the grocery stores and stuff. And that was brought about after we noticed several of the Crystal Lake residents that are in wheelchairs or handicapped coming down through here in the evening time when the traffic was less so that they could go to the grocery stores and to the banks and stuff like that. So when we talked with a few of them, we brought them in and found out that they cannot cut through the strips there into Crystal Lake or into Park Layne from Crystal Lake. So we wrote a grant and got a grant for that. **Alec Ashbaugh** - That building, though, I went over there when they were building it. That was awesome. And I'm glad the CTC had people over there because lord knows, I know, her husband knows, we need people at CTC. That has to get done. But anyway, other than that, I'm still cutting my teeth and trying to figure things out. It's going pretty good. I'm excited about it.

- **New Carlisle Fire - Chief Trusty** - Starting a new year, we're already hitting 188 calls already for the month. Call volume for all the departments in the areas have increased drastically over the past year, year and a half. We were really lucky last year we got over \$200,000 worth of grant money for equipment, new equipment. Talking about CTC, we're always looking to hire new people and hire the kids. There's the other CTC, Montgomery County. I hired two kids out of their CTC program, firefighters three years ago, and now they're working at both of them work at Huber Heights, fire department firefighters, full time firefighter, paramedics. And they work for us also. They don't leave us, but we're always looking for new people. **Sue Anne Martin** - Is there any reason that we're seeing such an increase in calls over the last twelve to eighteen months? **Chief Trusty** - Auto accidents have increased drastically over the year and a half, two years and also too an aging population. **Paula Crew** - What about overdoses, Chief? **Chief Trusty** - Those are roller coasters, they go up and down. And also too, every area, their call volumes are increasing because of the lack of, should say lack of the need for more manpower, of having to go (inaudible) relay to another district. That increases your volume for them. Also us in Bethel Clark, we're almost one department. So close together we cover each other quite a bit.
- **City of New Carlisle** - The city of New Carlisle and their council has basically undergone a little bit of a change here. We have a new council person named Kathy Wright. We have Chris Shamy, who has been on council before. And there are a few of us that have been

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around a while. We had some people that decided not to run. One of those was the previous mayor. And I'll tell you what, he has left an awful big gap in the back of shoes to fill. But thankfully, with the city manager, Chief Trusty, and a few of our other folks, we're going to get by. We've got a lot of plans. We've got 500 homes that supposedly are coming into the city. Don't think it's going to happen overnight, but we'll take it as it comes. The only thing I can say, it's going to take all seven members of the city council in order to make things work. And I think we've got commitments from those seven. **Sue Anne Martin** - I'm going to lobby as a community member. I live in New Carlisle. I love the snow plow idea. Just tossing that out there. I love the snow plow idea. **Nancy Brown** - If I could add something. We are in need of an alternate clerk of council to take care of duties. If the clerk of council is unable to attend, it is a paid position. So if you know anyone, I don't think you need to live in the city. So if you know someone that needs some extra money every now and then, newcarlisleohio.gov, fill out a form and submit it.

Adjournment

Motion by Mrs. Clark to adjourn the meeting.

Second by Mr. Diller

Roll Call: Ayes, Members Clark, Diller, Mills, and Martin.

Nays, none. Motion carried 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.



President



Treasurer

