

# Minutes of the August 28, 2023 Special Meeting of the Tecumseh Local Board of Education

**August 28, 2023**

The Tecumseh Local Board of Education met in special session on August 28, 2023 with Board President Sue Anne Martin presiding. Ms. Martin called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was held in the Tecumseh High School Arrow Conference Room 9830 W. National Rd., New Carlisle, Ohio 45344.

Roll Call: Present — Members Martin, Mills, Priest, and Stafford  
Absent — Scott.

Ms. Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Martin made the following statement in reaction to recent events:

I would like to acknowledge the tragic loss of life and the numerous physical and emotional challenges ahead as a result of the accident in the Northwestern School District last week. A group of students, their parents, and their school community will need our continued support, prayers, and compassion now and for many years to come. Additionally, I'd like to thank several members of our Arrow community for stepping in to help our neighbors immediately upon hearing of the accident. They jumped into action, went to the scene, and stepped in to help that busload of scared and injured young people, and their bus driver. They knew that we were in good hand at Tecumseh Local, and they were needed by our neighbors. I'm exceptionally proud to call these people fellow Arrows and friends. I'd like to ask right now for a brief moment of silence in memory of Aiden Clark, the young man that died that fateful morning, an in recognition of the challenging road to recovery ahead for so many others. (silence) Thank you.

## **Communications**

Communications – None at this time.

## **Reports –**

**Paula Crew** - Thank you. I'm going to start just by asking everyone if you live in the district, did everyone receive the Connecting Link. Did everyone receive a copy of this? It's a publication that goes out twice a year to every household, hopefully, in our community, but I just wanted to ask if you had that. And then just as a reminder, our work here at Tecumseh Local Schools is done through the strategic plan. And we do have four pillars that we work from, and those pillars are Academic Growth, Wellness, Fiscal Responsibility, and Community Engagement. So, within each pillar we have a group, we have a facilitator. Brian, for example, is the facilitator of the Wellness. I'm the facilitator of the Community Engagement. Denise is the facilitator for the Fiscal Responsibility and Beth Moore and Susan Wile facilitate the Academic Growth. But we'd like outside people to be on those committees as well. So, I have copies of this here if you can't find yours at home, if you'd like to be on one of those committees. We meet about three times a year, no more than an hour each meeting, and we just talk about fiscal responsibility, wellness, to include student behavior, those kind of things. So, I have some of these over here if you're interested in signing up to be on one of those committees. We're always looking for new people. And then, Nick Dillon, our second SRO, I'd like to officially introduce you to him. He started at the onset of school that week before school started. So now we have two school resource officers and we are thrilled about that. I want to echo what Sue Ann said about the tragedy at Northwestern last Tuesday and just acknowledge that it's horrific and our hearts and prayers will

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continue to be with Northwestern families and the community. And I'm proud of our team that rushed over there, our school resource officers, our mental health therapists, some of our school nurses were on that accident scene within minutes and at the reunification scene, as were people from Greenon Local and different schools, they sent their buses. And so it really took a whole team and the community of the school districts that came together and it was needed because of the number of students on that bus. So, I concur we are blessed to have had a really good response to a horrific incident.

**Brian Dixon** - As we have had several discussions over the last year, I think it's been, the project has been postponed a few times because of kids doing other projects and those kind of things. I met with CTC today and they are going to start the project Tuesday after Labor Day. So, they're kind of gearing up for that right now. They needed to take the first two weeks of their school year to kind of get kids trained on safety and those kind of things. But they will be getting ready and that's exciting. I was able to deliver plans today and talk about just a couple of change orders. They ordered, I think, air nails and they want hand driven nails just because the number of kids on the project. So, we had to make a couple of changes with that. But it's exciting times because we're getting something from the district but also at the same time getting students an opportunity to get some real world experience and building and anytime you're working in the trades and those kind of things, it's exciting. That's really about all I can say. I'm sure you'll see those things going up and be nice to see kids working. We work with transportation to get kids sent out here twice a day. They're going to have two separate work crews coming out so that they can do this project as timely as they can. That all comes with a lot of learning along the way, which is important.

### **Old Business**

There was no old business.

### **New Business**

#### ADOPTION OF CONSENT CALENDAR - PERSONNEL

Motion by Mr. Priest and second by Mr. Stafford:

#### Resignation - Certified

*None at this time.*

#### Resignations – Classified

*None at this time.*

#### Employment – Certified

to approve the employment of the following individuals for the 2023-2024 school year, as presented.

William Gruber, Intervention Specialist at Tecumseh Middle School. Effective August 14, 2023. Class VI, Step 5. Salary \$57, 182.



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### Employment – Classified

to approve the employment of the following individuals for the 2022-2023 school year, as presented.

Jean Marie Pierson, Title I Aide at New Carlisle Elementary School. Effective August 15, 2023. Step 1, \$14.07 per hour.

Liz McGowan, Lunch Monitor at Donnelsville Elementary School. Effective August 18, 2023. Step 3, \$15.79 per hour.

### 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.

Kaitlyn Backus	Leah Blanton	Dylan Bledsoe
Christopher Boring	Cynthia Boyd	Elizabeth Boyd
Gwen Chappell	Brianna Clarkston	Catherine DeMange
Brandi Diehl	Luke Ehlinger	Cindy Englebrecht
Steve Finnell	Tag Fox	James Freeland
Linda Freeze	Heidi Garner	Brooklyn Gibson
Mary Jo Green	Amy Hall	Bethany Hall
Terri Hansel	Kenneth Holycross	Diane Jennings
Kate Johnson	Elias Joyce	Alfa Klevin
Ethan Kohn	Barb Kohn	James Layne
Kyle Leathley	David Marshall	Jetta Massie
Mary McKinley	Sarah McMurchy	Kristie Metzger
Asheley Moon	Lehan Peters	Xavier Prenatt
Bridget Pyles	Justin Ronallo	Danielle Schultz
Rachel Scott	Anthony Taylor	Shannon Trainer
Mia Volbert	Jessica Waddle	Ashley Wells
Heather Zaragoza		

### Employment – Certified/Classified -Summer Learning Program

to approve the following individual for the Summer Learning Program during the summer of 2023 on an as-needed basis.

Michelle Finnell, Substitute

### Employment – Home Instruction 2023-2024

to employ the following individuals for the purpose of home instruction, as needed, for specific students at the rate of \$29.77 per hour. Home instruction services will not exceed 5 hours per week for any one student unless required by law.

Kerry Cassell	Cindy Cremeans	Kari Dillman
Melissa Fogt	Brooklyn Gibson	Brian Haley
Jennifer Hulbert	Sara Nelson	Melissa Willardson
Laura Wright		

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### Non-Violent Crisis Intervention Training

to approve payment at the summer rate for certified employees or the hourly rate for classified employees for attending initial or refresher training in Non-Violet Crisis Intervention Training prior to the start of the school year.

Beth Bennett  
Melissa Fogt  
Valerie Johnson  
Lillie Mitchell  
Melinda Scaggs  
Sarah Vikan

Stacy Blackburn  
Tag Fox  
Kyle Leathley  
Molly Parker  
Lisa Stump

Kari Dillman  
Jordan Hitt  
Jennifer Lewis  
Norma Ridge  
Andrew Tincher

### Approve Retire/Rehire Public Meeting and Notice

to approve a public meeting on the issue of rehiring retirees on October 17, 2023 and to approve notice for publication in the newspaper, as follows.

“The Tecumseh Local School District Board of Education hereby gives public notice in accordance with Section 3309.345 of the Ohio Revised Code that John Kame, who is currently employed by the Board of Education as an Industrial Technology teacher, is seeking re-employment with the Tecumseh Local School District in the same position. The Board of Education will hold a public meeting on the issue of re-employing the above-named person at a meeting to be held on October 17, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at Tecumseh High School in the Arrow Conference Room, 9830 W National Rd., New Carlisle, OH 45344.”

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

### **Reports:**

**Chief Snyder, Bethel Fire Department** - next month is Opioid Awareness Day on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. I'll get the flyers mailed out to the central office for some of the schools, and Clark County Department of Health is joining us with that. That will be at Station 51.

**Peggy Eggleston, City of New Carlisle** - We do have a housing development going in behind Howard's and behind New Carlisle Elementary. I have not seen them breaking ground yet, so I'm not sure when. Haven't heard anything new on Twin Creeks since they said they wanted to put something in back there. We just passed legislation on the TIF, two meetings ago, and I'm not sure if there's another one or not.

### **Comments and Questions from Board Members**

- **Mr. Stafford**—nothing at this time.
- **Mr. Priest**—Everybody's off into a great start in the school year. I told Deputy Dillon before, he's a godsend, directing traffic at Park Layne. That makes life so much easier on folks, again, thank you so much for that. But no, everybody's off to a great start.



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- **Mr. Mills**-Kids started school just like everybody else in the district. Really enjoying it so far. I'd like to mirror what was said earlier about the district's involvement with the horrific accident that happened last week. And then I don't mean to single anybody out. I don't know everybody else's records, but congratulations to the football team, 2-0 so far. Pretty awesome, and to all the other athletics that are doing well, that's happening right now.
- **Ms. Martin**-Yes, first home game on Friday night. I have heard good things about going back to school. It's going well. Thank you. Teachers that are hanging out there. All of our team. Way to go. So that's exciting. And it's fun to hear the buses in the morning and see everybody at the bus stop. I have a bus stop that's kind of like two houses down and like these five little guys all congregate in the morning and it's so fantastic. So that's a lot of fun. Otherwise, all is good. Yep, all is good. This is the quickest meeting we've ever had.
- **Deputy Loney**-I'll put on my sheriff's office hat here for just a minute. The sheriff's office next week is hiring three new deputies and three corrections officers. It doesn't sound like a lot, but given the way law enforcement is, not everybody wanting to do our jobs, that's going to help us a lot with staffing, with the backfills and stuff like that. Luckily we haven't had any retirements or anything right now, but those three deputies and three C.O.s will definitely help out. The drug take back that Deputy Dillon and I will be doing here, late fall, is October 28<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. and it'll be out here in front of the high school. So it'll be the same as before, bring all your unwanted pills and everything. Going back to, I know we've all said it with the tragic events from last week, but from the moment that call came in, I just got off the phone with Mr. Dixon and actually Nick called and said what was that over the radio. And once we found out what was going on and we went down there anyway, I know Chief Snyder was there, Nick was there and I was there. It was like a war zone. It's something that they don't prepare you for to see. It's something I never want to see again. But I have to give tremendous respect and props to Paula Crew and Brian Dixon. From the time that we called them, there were nurses, Paula was there. Paula had two little boys taking care of them on the side of the road. Brian had his medical bag. Everybody just came together to help with that. And we had to go to a debriefing before we left. And two of the nurses there at Northwestern, one was her first day on the job, and she told us in there, she said everything was piled on us, but knowing the Tecumseh nurses were there took a burden off us. So that just speaks, I know I have complete ties to this district now, but even it needs to make everyone proud. What you guys did, and obviously being there today in support of everybody, but it makes me proud to work under these two and they deserve a lot of credit for what they did. They helped a lot of people. **Paula Crew** - I think it was a team. It was a huge team out there. It was a team. **Brian Dixon** - What Deputy Loney is not telling you is that he was with that young man the entire time and held his hand, said prayers with him, and that's a comfort as a father, so thank you. **Sue Anne Martin** - There's no crying at board meetings, people. I do want to say, though, how cool it is to be an Arrow, right, and to see that all happen. But at the same time, if you step back a little bit, there's a lot of crap going on in the world. But look how a community just goes and turns into action and does what needs to happen to support those young people and their families. I have a coworker who lives right on Ballentine Pike and heard the crash. And we were on a meeting on a video call and I could see her face change. And then I got a text from Paula and I knew, right, her

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little guy was supposed to start school the next day in kindergarten. So, you just go. You never know who you're helping, who you're impacting. You just go and thank you. What a wonderful thing for such a tragic moment, right? So, thank you. **Deputy Loney** -The last thing, I can't thank Deputy Dillon enough. He's a huge asset. We kind of had to laugh Friday. We had obviously, the accident on Tuesday and the power outages. I said, this is not a typical school year, but I said, you're getting hit at once. But, he's able to do the things. Help me out, help a lot of the teachers are saying, hey, I just saw Dillon, now you're here. That's what we want. We don't want to be together, but we want the teachers knowing we're constantly in those buildings. And obviously safety is our number one. That's the reason why I'm out there on 40 for high school and middle school. Nick is down there at Park Layne to get those people to slow down and get our buses out because the most precious cargo is on those buses. And we don't want to go through what Northwestern is going through. So, that's our goal, and that's what we'll continue to do.

- **Deputy Dillon** We've had our challenges like we've been talking about last week. But, what I saw this past week was a huge caring and loving family here. I've never felt so welcome anywhere. I'm glad I'm here. John's a good partner to be with. I'm learning from him. I'm learning from Mr. Dixon and Ms. Paula.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Mr. Priest at 6:53 p.m. to recess into Executive Session to consider the discipline of a public employee or official, and to consider the compensation of a public employee or official.  
Second by Mr. Mills.

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

The meeting reconvened at 7:10 p.m.

### Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Priest to adjourn the meeting.

Second by Mr. Stafford.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

  
President

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Treasurer