

Minutes of the January 30, 2023 Special Meeting of the  
Tecumseh Local Board of Education

**January 30, 2023**

The Tecumseh Local Board of Education met in special session on January 30, 2023 with Board President Sue Anne Martin presiding. Ms. Martin Scott called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was held in the Shelter House at Smith Park, 801 W. Jefferson St., New Carlisle, Ohio 45344.

Roll Call: Present — Members Martin, Scott, Mills, Priest, and Stafford.  
Absent — None.

Ms. Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Old Business**

None at this time.

**New Business**

*ADOPTION OF CONSENT CALENDAR - PERSONNEL*

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

Employment – Substitute – Certified

to approve the following individuals listed below to be employed as a substitute on an as-needed basis for the 2022-2023 school year, as presented.

Marcus Rixon -Clark County ESC  
Anthony Bishop -Clark County ESC, SB1  
Lukas Lindberg -Clark County ESC, SB1  
Teresa Hoecker -Clark County ESC  
Hailey Potts -Clark County ESC, SB1  
Sheila Johnson -Clark County ESC, SB1  
Abigail Berry -Clark County ESC, SB1  
Garrett Beam -Clark County ESC, SB1  
Emily Mitchell -Clark County ESC  
Brandie Welbaum -Clark County ESC  
Christina Bashore -Clark County ESC  
Debbie Goddard -Clark County ESC  
Sandy Mosier -Clark County ESC, SB1  
Robert Baker -Clark County ESC  
Megan Frey-Wiseman -Clark County ESC  
Cynthia DeCarlo -Clark County ESC  
Logan Pollock -Clark County ESC, SB1  
Trent Coffman -Clark County ESC

Employment – Substitute – Classified

to approve the following individuals listed below to be employed as a substitute on an as-needed basis for the 2022-2023 school year, as presented.

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Melissa McNabb - Bus Driver  
Mark McNabb - Bus Driver  
Emily Mitchell - Cafeteria, Aide, Secretary

Roll Call: Ayes, Members Stafford, Priest, Mills, Scott, and Martin.  
Nays, none. Motion carried 5-0.

## PERSONNEL

### Employment - Classified

Motion by Mr. Priest to employ the following individual for the 2022-2023 school year, as presented.

Patrick Loudin, Evening Custodian at Tecumseh Middle School and Tecumseh High School.  
Effective February 9, 2023. Step 2. \$17.40 per hour.

Second by Mrs. Scott.

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

## ADOPTION OF CONSENT CALENDAR - FINANCIAL

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

### Fixed Asset Disposal

to approve the sale of a 2014 Tri-Axle Flatbed Friesen Trailer, 21 feet in length, via sealed bid to district employees. Starting bid will be equivalent to market value price, to be determined. Further details will be provided by email to district employees.

### Payment for Additional Time Worked

to approve payment to Melinda Lombard in the amount of \$578.25 for 1,189 additional minutes worked during the first quarter of the 2022-2023 school year.

Roll Call: Ayes, Members Scott, Mills, Stafford, Priest, and Martin.  
Nays, none. Motion carried 5-0.

## **Reports**

Tecumseh Local Schools - Paula Crew

- Spring Musical will be Cinderella. March 24 at 7:00 pm, March 25 at 7:00 pm, and March 26 at 2:00 pm. You can visit our website at [tecumseh.k12.oh.us](http://tecumseh.k12.oh.us) to access the link to purchase tickets. I don't know if you've been to a musical at Tecumseh before, but they are stellar, they are wonderful.
- I wanted to have a conversation regarding the potential of TIF, being offered with the new housing development. I know our board was interested in gleaning information about that. Are you able to share about the potential of that? *Mr. Bridge - Yes, it's still real early in*

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*the discussions, but I have, and I think I shared this back when the three of us met, I have no interest in bringing a TIF back to council that would impact the schools. Mrs. Crew - No interest? Mr. Bridge - No, we are not doing a TIF package that would take away from property taxes. So, we will do more of a, I think it's a seven year. We at the city, as an administrator, I can't speak on behalf of Council, I haven't talked to Council before, but the intent from day one has been never to put a TIF in front of council that would hurt the schools. So, if you've heard otherwise, sorry, but to reiterate, we are not going to put a TIF in front of Council that would impact the schools. Mr. Grimm - I don't think enough Council members agree that it would never get passed. Ms. Martin - Mr. Bridge, what was that you said, something about a seven-year minimum? What was that? Mr. Bridge - There's a maximum that you can go to without having the schools impacted. If Council would approve a TIF package, you guys would have had a say in that as well. But since it's not coming your way, I don't think there's any kind of voice that you guys would have to say impacts counts or not. Now, if it was going to impact property taxes, but we graciously have never wanted to impact the schools. If we don't have a good school district, we can have a thousand houses, So, we have to find this perfect balance where we complement each other. Us growing as a city, I think it will give the school tools and resources to grow. Maybe not that first or second year, but once you have these houses put in there, you can put on a ballot for a renewal and for additional funding. Your levies failed by very little, when you get your additional we went over that in your office. But us getting those new houses in, is going to put a whole new breed of voters in our district. Mrs. Crew - And so, our quest will be, which it has been as a district, is to continue to look for additional money. Just to make sure everybody is aware that the first year of a new housing development, we realize funding from that. The next year and those years after that, we stay flat. So, what that means is they will divide the money that we should receive as a district and they will add those houses. So, Sue Anne living in the district will pay less. We're not allowed to get any more than what we originally passed for that millage. Mr. Bridge - but you can put on the ballot for additional. Mrs. Crew - we can put on for additional. Mr. Bridge - before we voted on it, I asked to see the stats when you failed your additional levy. You go back there and look. So, I think what we are doing is giving you voters that will probably look at that additional operating a little different. We can assume that if you are spending that much for a house, you're going to want to support the local school district. We're hoping that we have a lot of kids in those houses that go to the school. But again, we are growing, not only the city but also to give you guys an opportunity to put it back on the ballot for additional money. I'd be more than happy to share with you all, the map of how it's going to be built in stages. It's not going to happen ever in one night. Like for the one coming off of Scarff, it may be four or five sections, maybe there's going to be a phase one, phase two. I'm sorry, I mean the one off 235, but they are all going to be phased in, no matter which one it is. We're happy to share that with you, because what you could do is look at that phase schedule and know we're going to have additional houses at this point in time, and additional houses at this point in time. You guys can use that as a strategic tool, to know when to put your renewal levies or replacement levies on the ballot. (unknown speaker) - I was talking with a trustee from Bellbrook township earlier in the day, and we just happened to talk about how they passed a new school levy in their district. He said, they sold it by telling people they would reduce their taxes, reduce the millage because as you said, the first year, you get so much money, then every year you get the same amount. But, if you put that on a replacement, and it*

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*comes in at today's value, you can reduce the millage, but you get more money, plus bring in all those houses. He said people said my taxes didn't go down. He said no, they went up, but when you go to sell your house, instead of having say a 3 mil levy, you have a 2.5 or 2 mil levy and so to a buyer it looks like you have lowered taxes because you have lower millage. I just wanted to pass that a long.* Mrs. Crew - thank you, I know the board is looking, last month, we talked about all the potential levy types, income taxes, earned and regular, so I know they are taking all that information, trying to see what would be most advantageous and more likely to pass for our district based upon our data that we've had historically. *(Unknown speaker) - Another school district that is close by, did, I believe it was a PI levy but it was up for renewal, and in the renewal, you could add language that it included any new houses so that your rates didn't drop down, just everybody paid the same amount. Verses what we see with that 20 mil floor it spreads it across more houses typically the levies cost per household, but with that type of levy, the emergency PI, that they don't have to continue to grow based on each new house in the school district.* Mrs. Crew - that's one of the ones we've looked at as well. Thank you.

- I'm passing around the Connecting Link. This goes out twice a year from TLS. It used to go out four times a year, but it's rather expensive to mail to every household and to create the publication. So, if you live in the district, which most all of you do, you'll get this in your mailbox. I wanted to pass it out and let you see it tonight a little early. I know there are a couple of things we've done on the second page. We were very excited to have Veterans Day again this year, we haven't been able to do that since before Covid. We were very happy to be able to honor our local veterans. On page three, is the Facts, Figure and Finances for the district - we have major purchases that we've made during the fiscal year. *Mr. Dixon - we had multiple roof projects in the district. At Tecumseh High School, we replaced roofs that were in the mid 1980's that were originally put on there. We've had hot water HVAC boiler replacements that are in progress right now. I say in progress, because everything is on back-order. These are fifteen to seventeen weeks out. So, we had to start the process somewhere with that. By the way, those HVAC boilers were original to the building, they were about seventeen years old now. We were starting to see failures on ones at the high school. So, we tried to be proactive at Donnelsville Elementary and Tecumseh Middle School, where we also operate on well water in the district. The custodial maintenance equipment, we replaced some equipment for custodians that was originally purchased when the new schools were built. If you think about a buffer or any kind of floor scrubbing machine, that's lasted seventeen years, the average lifespan of something like that is around eight to ten years. We've done a good job of maintaining our equipment, being proactive on that kind of stuff and trying to stay up on our equipment. Because we had Covid funds, this was an area we could use those fund in. Those Covid funds are called ESSER.* Mrs. Crew - and with student devices, the district, prior to or right during Covid in 2020, utilized that first wave of Covid relief money to purchase a device for each of our students. We now have a device to student ratio of 1:1, and we want to maintain that. So, we used the ESSER funding to purchase more grade levels. We have to do this on an ongoing basis in order to keep those fresh and up to date. The asterisk down there, I think it's important for everyone in the community to realize that the ESSER fund, the Covid relief funding that you hear it called, our school districts all over the nation received that. And to the right, if you'll take a look at the graph, we've utilized that very strategically, the ESSER funding. the board has authorized the use of that. If you take a look at the annual revenue and surplus. What we look at is how much money are we

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spending as a district versus how much are we bringing in. Right now, we're bringing in more than we are spending. If you look at 2023, we are at 1.5 million over, and then unfortunately the shortfall happens in 2024, that is when we are done using our ESSER, it has to be spent by Sept of 2024. So, as you can see in 2024, we are at 1.8 million that we are overspending and then 3.4 million and all the way down to 2027 we're projected to overspending by 6 million dollars annually. That's just the cost with everything going up again, we haven't passed new operating, continuing funds since 1976 and the last time we passed actual operating funds was with the emergency levy in 1995. So, things have elevated in cost since 1995. So, I wanted to bring that up in the community as we...

*(Unknown speaker) - When you, these projected shortfalls in '25, '26, and '27, when we budget out that many years in advance, we kind of just use our best guess. We underestimate our resources and overestimate our expenses. When you guys do your budget forecasting, how do you budget, do you look at these areas and this is like exactly what we are doing thing? Or do you leave room for wiggle. The reason I'm asking, like, when we present our budget to council, it may look like we are spending \$600,000 of our reserves, but by the time we close the year out, we're actually \$300,000 in the black, because we underestimate our revenues and overestimate our expenses.* Mrs. Crew - I don't want to... that's Denise Robinson, our Treasurer, does the five-year forecast. But I can tell you, when a five-year forecast is created, the further out you go, the less accurate it is. You want to look at first year one, two, and three are more accurate. And those are based on certain assumptions, for example the current cost of electricity, the current cost of fuel, what our insurance is - insurance and wages those are major costs, that's most of it actually. About 85-86% of our entire budget is that. But there are some pretty solid assumptions that can be made. And I know Denise Robinson, she's within 2% year one, two, three. I mean, her five-year, she's right on. *(Unknown speaker) - and when you say 86% is wages, are these things that you can anticipate? You know what your wages are going to be in five years?* Mrs. Crew - Here's an example of an assumption, if you would have said in 2019 that our gas prices, and that's what we put in here our fuel for our buses, in 2019 cost us \$95,000 last year it cost us \$151,000. That's a huge increase. And so, the same can be said you know with the elevation in our electric, the elevation in our gas, the elevation in our other costs. Just like for you all, everything that's raised in prices. We're trying to make it work with no increase in close to thirty years. *(Unknown speaker) - Sure, so, these numbers right here, you're projecting, you are comfortable in saying that they are relatively accurate?* Mrs. Crew - I'm comfortable, yes. With the data that we utilized in the assumptions that were utilized when these were created. And again, if there's anything else that fluctuates. One example is insurance. So, one year, insurance for some districts right here in Clark County, went up twenty-five percent. And we are with the EPC, we do use the EPC, but that year ours only went up twelve percent. No one projects your insurance is going to go up twenty-five percent, because that never happens, but it did happen. *Mrs. Scott - I think she puts in the five-year plan, like a ten percent increase, and that's what other treasurers did.* *(Unknown Speaker) - What is EPC? Is that like educational...?* Mrs. Crew - Educational Purchasing Center. *(Unknown speaker) - So, have you had anyone look at, we use a broker. And maybe you can't do that because you are an educational organization, but they have saved us a lot of money on insurance over the past three or four years.* *Ms. Martin - My understanding from Denise, because I've asked that question, is yes, we can look at them, but if we leave the EPC we can never get back in.* *Mrs. Scott - I represent Tecumseh at CTC, we've had the same discussion there with the*

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*treasurer, once you opt out of the EPC they don't let you back in. (Unknown speaker) - Is it a pool with other treasurers? Mrs. Crew - that's exactly what it is, it's a co-op. There are other rules for education entities than there are for you. But that's all I wanted to point out is just those financial stats, where we are and what we are purchasing. Lastly, on page three. (Unknown speaker) - Mrs. Crew, before you go on, I just want to make sure, can you clarify, I know that we've talked about how students may be added to the district by the new housing developments, the capacity, and the potential that we would reopen Medway school, and the cost of that? Mrs. Crew - Sure, last month we did a presentation, I shared information with our board about Medway school which is one of our four elementaries that was built when the new buildings were built. But then as a cost saving measure we saved 1.2 million dollars when we closed that school and made the other three buildings grade level schools. Didn't want to do that, they didn't want to do that, the people who did that at the time. But, again a 1.2-million-dollar savings is quite..., it was what we needed at the time. If we have to open up Medway with today's prices, and I don't have those notes in front of me, but I believe it was 2.8 million dollars, with all the new staffing and everything you would need to open that up to fully service students again. Not collecting the rent from preschool and Head Start as we do now, we'd have to have them go elsewhere and not recoup those dollars. So, is that what you were asking, Matt? Matt - So, that's not captured in this forecast? Ms. Martin - It's not captured in here because we don't know it, it's not a line item. Mrs. Crew - Right, because we just don't know. We can guess how many students that would potentially be here, but we're trying to give... the board wanted a heads up on what it would cost. If we did open up Medway today, it would be approximately 2.8 million dollars annually. Matt - Are your elementary schools to capacity now? PC: they are close. I just had a conversation with a principal today, if we needed an extra special ed teacher, where we would put them. He indicated he had no idea, there were no rooms left. So, we are close. ??: On you guys' levies, the years that you guys have tried, have you guys collected any data that gives you like, what the consensus was, why they failed? Mrs. Crew - that's a good question. Ms. Martin - I'm laughing because of the new rule that was passed that said don't go do a survey. Mrs. Crew - So, there is new legislation out and we had a presentation on it. I don't know if you are familiar with John Stafford, but not this one (Jon Stafford) in Bellbrook. The superintendent and three board members were indicted for levy, for using district funds such as surveying the public with their taxpayers money to find out what they would vote for. It's a really bizarre rule, So, we have done surveys in the past. If they are done in the future, that would have to be completely something that's ran through the levy committee. The board, myself and the treasurer can't have anything to do with that. Ms. Martin - Factual, verifiable, neutral information is what we can pass along. Mrs. Crew - The last thing I wanted to talk about is our strategic plan. In 2018-2019 prior to the pandemic, we did have, and some of you were a part of that. You came in, we had community members, external stake holders, internal stakeholders, teachers, classified staff and we developed a strategic plan. We wanted it to be a living document, not something you make, and it just sits on a shelf and you say we have a strategic plan. It really is a living document, it has four goals and those include Academic Growth - that's why we are here, for our students, for them to gain academic skills, Wellness, including safety and student and staff wellness, Fiscal Responsibility, and Community Engagement. We have someone facilitating each one of those goals and we have a committee that meets three times a year. Because again, it's a live document. We talk about the goals for each of those areas, are we attaining them*

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and if we're not attaining them, we talk about how we need to tweak them, so they can be attained. So, Academic Growth is Beth Moore, who is our curriculum specialist. Mr. Dixon is in charge of our Wellness goal. Denise Robinson, our treasurer, is in charge of Fiscal Responsibility, and I'm in charge of the Community Engagement. I'm just inviting anyone if you want to be a part of any of those committees, they meet three times a year, no more than an hour, we promise it won't go over an hour. You literally part of coming up with the plans for those areas. So, you can reach out to me, you can email me at paula.crew@tecumsehlocal.org or come see me after the meeting. We really want people on this, we want it to be a living document. We want people to say, hey I want to be on that Wellness Committee, there's a lot of bullying going on, I want to be part of stopping that. Great, we need your help, join the committee. Or, Fiscal Responsibility, we have a lot of questions, my taxes went up enormously, and I know you are saying you don't get those as a district, or you got more money. We didn't get more money. When it was passed, it was a certain millage, we're not allowed to get any more money. All your taxes that were raised went to other entities. Come be on the Fiscal Responsibility committee and learn about that and help us disseminate that information appropriately because we are all here for our kids, we're all here for the kids and we need to make sure we have the resources for them. If you feel like, gosh, I never know what's going on at the school, we don't hear anything, we don't hear enough. Come join my Community Engagement, let us figure out what else we can do to make sure we have accurate information. So, that's my plea that we are all here, and if you want to be part of the Strategic Plan, we would absolutely love to have your input. (Unknown speaker) - *Do you have to be a resident of the district?* Mrs. Crew - you do not.

### New Carlisle -

- Council approved the second residential development, the one off of 235. The one by the elementary school has already been approved. Still quite a ways out. Meetings are posted on YouTube. The council side of things is almost done, a lot will be going back to the planning board. Council meetings are the first and third Monday of each month. Planning Board meetings are as needed.
- Main Street will be re-paved from end to end through the city. No date set yet. It will be during the summer. The state pays for the majority of the cost. Council has approved \$20,000 for community engagement, community involvement, and community improvements.

### Bethel Township -

- Discussed snow removal during the storms around Christmas time. There are some new trucks in service now, so we can get a few of the smaller trucks out into the plats.
- No big issues facing the township in regard to the school district or the city.
- Moving forward with our plan to have a second deputy out on the roads at the beginning of April. That will mean two full-time deputies for the township.
- Raised a question regarding the effectiveness of the vape detectors that were installed in the schools. Deputy Loney and Mr. Dixon responded that they are working out very well. Deputy Loney and the building principal receive a notification whenever something is detected. They are acting as a deterrent to many students.
- Offered to come out to the schools on an in-service day to do stop the bleed classes and hands only CPR and talk about what you can expect from us if we are called there.

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- The Marathon station is potentially opening this summer. Permits are in place to resolve the turn lane issues.
- There is potential for a large commercial development on the land opposite of Park Layne on Dille Road. There may be a new traffic study done which could lead to a traffic light at Dille Road and 235.

### New Carlisle Fire Department -

- Working on some grants to come through.
- Manpower is at a good place right now.

### Clark County Sheriffs -

- Staffing issues are improving greatly. Correction officers have been added to the jail freeing up deputies who had been working there.
- New Carlisle are losing Deputy McDuffy and Deputy Harris, they are taking positions elsewhere within the sheriff's office. Their replacements are being trained now and will be in place shortly.
- The new 911 center will be opening at the end of February or the beginning of March. It will be a great improvement. The new system is the same that is used by the LAPD and Columbus PD.

### Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Priest to adjourn the meeting.

Second by Mr. Stafford.

Roll Call: Ayes, Members Priest, Stafford, Mills, Scott, and Martin  
Nays, none. Motion carried 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.



President



Treasurer