

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The Board of Education of the Canfield Local School District, Mahoning County, Ohio met in regular session this date at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present:

Mr. Phil Bova, President  
Mr. Dave Wilkeson, Vice President  
Mrs. Nancy Lacich  
Mr. Craig Olson  
Mr. Barry Tancer

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### **SPECIAL PRESENTATION BY CANFIELD JUNIOR WOMEN'S LEAGUE**

Peggy Rowe presented \$1,000 to each principal for specific projects.

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### **RECOGNITION OF CANFIELD BAND PARENTS**

Mr. Olson presented Resolution 50-2017 to Dr. Pamela Barkett, President of Canfield Band Parents, recognizing the organization for their dedication, service, and outstanding merit in supporting music in our schools.

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### **CHS BASSOON TRIO PERFORMANCE**

The Canfield High School Bassoon Trio, Jack Cross (senior), Beverly Sipp (junior), and Greg Halley (sophomore), gave a special performance. The Trio received a Superior rating at the recent OMEA District 5 Adjudicated Event.

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### **MINUTES**

Mr. Wilkeson made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Lacich, to waive the reading of the minutes of the January 9, 2017, regular meeting and the February 1, 2017, special meeting and approve the minutes as presented.

On roll call members voted as follows:

Mrs. Lacich-yes   Mr. Olson-yes   Mr. Tancer-yes   Mr. Wilkeson-yes   Mr. Bova-yes

The President declared the motion carried.

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### **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

The Treasurer's financial reports for the month ending January 31, 2017, were reviewed and placed on file for audit.

## **TREASURER'S REPORTS**

Mr. Tancer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Olson, to approve the check payment register for the month ending January 31, 2017, to approve purchases as approved by the Superintendent, certified by the Treasurer, and detailed in the Purchase Order Register, and to approve investments as detailed in the investment report.

On roll call members voted as follows:

Mrs. Lacich-yes    Mr. Olson-yes    Mr. Tancer-yes    Mr. Wilkeson-yes    Mr. Bova-yes

The President declared the motion carried.

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## **OPEN LETTER TO CANFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Frank Micchia presented an open letter to Canfield Board of Education attached as Exhibit A.

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## **CLASSIFIED STAFF TRANSFER/REASSIGNMENT**

Mr. Geordan informed the board of the following classified staff transfer/reassignment:

Juanita Coggins	from CVMS Cafeteria Worker to CHS Cafeteria Worker effective February 9, 2017
Scott Stack	from CHS Custodian to CHS Head Custodian at \$17.46 per hour effective February 9, 2017

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## **EXTRACURRICULAR HIRING**

Mr. Geordan recommended the board grant the following one-year supplemental extracurricular contracts for the 2016-17 school year:

### **In-District Licensed Extracurricular**

JV Baseball Coach (.40 time)	Jared Turocy	\$ 1,699
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### **Out-of-District Licensed Extracurricular (Resolution #47-2017)**

JV Baseball Coach (.08 time)	Gary Knittle	\$ 340
Freshman Baseball Coach (.28 time)	Gary Knittle	1,090

### **Non-Licensed Extracurricular (Resolution #48-2017)**

JV Baseball Coach (.52 time)	Brian Finnigan	\$ 2,208
Freshman Baseball Coach (.29 time)	Ryan Halicki	924
Freshman Baseball Coach (.43 time)	Brett Cooper	1,674
Assistant Spring Play Advisor	Marlene Strollo	2,831
Baseball Volunteer	Ken Tirpack	

Mrs. Lacich made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wilkeson, to grant the above one-year supplemental extracurricular contracts for the 2016-17 school year as recommended by the Superintendent.

On roll call members voted as follows:

Mrs. Lacich-yes Mr. Olson-yes Mr. Tancer-yes Mr. Wilkeson-yes Mr. Bova-yes

The President declared the motion carried.

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### **APPROVE SUBSTITUTES**

Mr. Geordan recommended the board approve the following individuals as classified substitutes pending background checks:

Katie Clones  
Lisa Evangelista  
Kyle Brownlee

Mr. Olson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wilkeson, to approve the above classified substitutes pending background checks as recommended by the Superintendent.

On roll call members voted as follows:

Mrs. Lacich-yes Mr. Olson-yes Mr. Tancer-yes Mr. Wilkeson-yes Mr. Bova-yes

The President declared the motion carried.

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### **RESIGNATION - LICENSED**

Mr. Wilkeson made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Lacich, to adopt Resolution 49-2017 accepting the resignation of Kristen Gabriel, CHS English Teacher, effective January 31, 2017.

On roll call members voted as follows:

Mrs. Lacich-yes Mr. Olson-yes Mr. Tancer-yes Mr. Wilkeson-yes Mr. Bova-yes

The President declared the motion carried.

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### **SUMMER SCHOOL REQUESTS**

Mr. Geordan presented the following requests for summer school:

CHS	July 10 – July 26, 2017
CVMS	June 12 – July 7, 2017
C. H. Campbell and Hilltop	June 20 – July 14, 2017

Mrs. Lacich made a motion, seconded by Mr. Olson, to approve the above requests for summer school as recommended by the Superintendent.

On roll call members voted as follows:

Mrs. Lacich-yes Mr. Olson-yes Mr. Tancer-yes Mr. Wilkeson-yes Mr. Bova-yes

The President declared the motion carried.

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### **SUCCESS BY 6**

Mr. Wilkeson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tancer, to approve the Success by 6 Program funded by the United Way, July 10 – 28, 2017, at Hilltop Elementary.

On roll call members voted as follows:

Mrs. Lacich-yes Mr. Olson-yes Mr. Tancer-yes Mr. Wilkeson-yes Mr. Bova-yes

The President declared the motion carried.

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### **2017 – 2018 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

Mr. Geordan announced the 2017 – 2018 School Calendar would be presented at the next board meeting.

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### **OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP REQUEST**

Mr. Geordan presented the following request for an overnight field trip and recommended it be approved:

Canfield Speech and Debate Team	OHSSL State Tournament
	Cleveland, Ohio
	March 3 - 4, 2017

Mr. Olson made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Lacich, to approve the above request for an overnight field trip as recommended by the Superintendent.

On roll call members voted as follows:

Mrs. Lacich-yes Mr. Olson-yes Mr. Tancer-yes Mr. Wilkeson-yes Mr. Bova-yes

The President declared the motion carried.

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### **DONATIONS**

Mr. Geordan presented the following donations and recommended they be accepted:

Donna Metzger-Burnett	\$	50.00	CVMS Library/Language Arts Program in Memory of Vera Burns Hankey
Connie & John Sheridan		50.00	CVMS Library/Language Arts Program in Memory of Vera Burns Hankey

Edward Lynch & Janice Zordich	50.00	CVMS Library/Language Arts Program in Memory of Vera Burns Hankey
Robert & Diane Burns	50.00	CVMS Library/Language Arts Program in Memory of Vera Burns Hankey
Pamela & Arthur Viets	100.00	CVMS Library/Language Arts Program in Memory of Vera Burns Hankey
Kathi Gulu	400.00	CVMS Washington DC Trip
Box Tops for Education	236.80	CVMS Principal's Fund
Box Tops for Education	1,847.60	C. H. Campbell Principal's Fund
Box Tops for Education	1,089.20	Hilltop Principal's Fund
Regina Reynolds	25.00	CHS Canfield Players in Memory of Becky Heikkinen's Mother
Canfield Speech and Debate Boosters	5,000.00	CHS Speech & Debate Fund
Canfield PTO	102.00	Canfield Educational Endowment Fund
Canfield Junior Women's League	1,000.00	CHS Speech and Debate
Canfield Junior Women's League	1,000.00	CVMS – Kindness Play for Grade 5 Students and Math Counts State Expenses
Canfield Junior Women's League	1,000.00	CHC – Kids Balance Ball Chairs, SoftZone Carry Me Cushions, Air Stability Wobble Cushions, and Runtz Ball Chairs
Canfield Junior Women's League	1,000.00	Hilltop – Big Books for Kindergarten, Balance Balls for Grade 3, and Breakout Kits for Grade 4
Total Cash Donations	\$13,000.60	

Mr. Olson made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Lacich, to accept the above donations as recommended by the Superintendent.

On roll call members voted as follows:

Mrs. Lacich-yes Mr. Olson-yes Mr. Tancer-yes Mr. Wilkeson-yes Mr. Bova-yes

The President declared the motion carried.

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### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Geordan announced a meeting at City Hall with the City and Township on Friday, February 10, 2017, at 9:30 a.m.

Mr. Geordan informed the board Strategic Planning Preparation is on going.

Mr. Geordan announced surveys for parents to be sent out this month.

Mr. Geordan announced Representative Bocchieri is to attend a meeting with his district's Superintendents on Monday, February 13, 2017, at 12:30 p.m. in the Canfield Schools' Board Meeting Room.

Policy 9211 revision draft was submitted to the board for review.

Mr. Geordan announced plans to seek appraisals of the Shields Road property as there is outside interest in purchasing.

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### **DIVISION I STATE TENNIS DOUBLES**

Mr. Cooper recognized Hannah and Sydney Cianciola for winning Division I State Doubles in tennis. He applauded the girls for their accomplishments both on and off the court.

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### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Tancer made a motion at 6:55 p.m., seconded by Mr. Wilkeson, to adjourn to a confidential executive session to consider the discipline/dismissal of a public employee.

On roll call members voted as follows:

Mrs. Lacich-yes Mr. Olson-yes Mr. Tancer-yes Mr. Wilkeson-yes Mr. Bova-yes

The President declared the motion carried.

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### **RECONVENE**

At 7:05 p.m. the meeting reconvened.

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### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, at 7:07 p.m., Mr. Tancer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wilkeson, to adjourn.

On roll call members voted as follows:

Mrs. Lacich-yes Mr. Olson-yes Mr. Tancer-yes Mr. Wilkeson-yes Mr. Bova-yes

The President declared the motion carried.

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Mr. Philip W. Bova, President

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Miss Patricia L. Prince, Treasurer

## **OPEN LETTER TO CANFIELD SCHOOL BOARD**

There are a few issues on which I would like to express an opinion and offer suggestions. I will confine my comments to two issues: Academic Achievement and Athletics. This is not intended to be criticism but to stimulate some discussion as to what we can do to further improve the school system.

### **1. ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT:**

As a nation, the United States ranks low among industrialized nations in the PISA Test, (Program for International Student Appraisal). This test is administered to high school students worldwide. The USA struggles to make it in the top 20 out of over 80 industrialized nations. In math, we ranked number 41 out of 84 countries in 2015. In spite of the fact that as a country, we spend almost the most money for education per student. But, lets come a little closer to home and take a look at Canfield. Within the State of Ohio, we are well within the top 5% of the schools. That is a plus. On the other hand, our students will not be competing with other Ohio students, they will be competing with the world. We do not know how we measure up against them. Let me recommend that we administer the PISA or an equivalent evaluation. Let's find out where we stand and set a course for the future based on real-world data.

I see that Latin is not being offered. For persons going in the medical, life science and law fields, this is important. Many of our English words are derived from Latin as well as the romance languages. Why not offer it? Another educating skill is the game of chess. A quote from the Johns Hopkins School of Education :

"It's not about Kings, Queens, and Rooks, but rather, quadrants and coordinates, thinking strategically and foreseeing consequences. It's about lines and angles, weighing options and making decisions. Chess might just be the perfect teaching and learning tool."

The bottom line: Are we really preparing our students to successfully further their education or go into the real world? How do we measure ourselves? Are they taught how to think, analyze and challenge issues? Are they prepared to work in a digital world? International students make up more than half of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) advanced degrees earned in American Universities (PEW Research Center, June 18, 2015). High tech companies rely on foreigners for technical help. What is wrong with American students? Do we give them the incentive, at school and home, and opportunity to learn these skills? Where are our American students? Do we encourage and promote interest in STEM? Do they get experience in interacting in groups to work on problems? Are they taught interpersonal skills such as communication skills, listening skills and logical problem solving skills? They will need these in competing in today's world. Doing well in Ohio is commendable, but our students need to compete with the world. A critical look of our curriculum is in order.

### **2. ATHLETICS:**

The public school system is an academic institution, not a sports training facility. Would all the time effort and money used for athletics be better spent on academic excellence? How many of our



students use athletic skills in their further education and finding a career? As an example, there is a dedicated "Weight Room Building" at the school. Can you imagine a student saying "I can bench press 200 lbs" when applying for college admission or for a job? What a waste of resources and time! Yes, athletics may promote a school spirit and camaraderie. But that can also happen in the academic arena with greater long term benefits. How many examples are there of Canfield students who make a living, as a result of participating in high school athletics, in professional sports? (Are the athletic programs for the parents or the students?). We need to change our priorities.

Between 1990 and 2010 there were 243 high school football deaths. (American Journal of Sports Medicine). In the US, youth sports injuries account for an estimated 2 million injuries and 500,000 doctor visits and 30,000 hospitalizations each year (US CDC). How do we justify that? As parents, is that what we want? That is what we are condoning. Football, cheerleading, soccer and basketball are all injury prone activities. What are the long term health implications of contact sports injuries? In the interest of full disclosure, my son played football. In knowing what I know now, I would never have permitted it. His time could have been better spend in other areas. I urge parents to consider the risks and lost opportunities.

Given that a student elects to participate in a sport, he/she may not get to participate. Does every football player get an equal amount of playing time? Their parents are paying taxes into the system. High school education, meant for all, has turned out to be an exclusionary sports activity publicly funded. Sports are embedded in our education system as nowhere else. This is seldom discussed when we see how mediocre our country's school system is performing. This is a school, a learning institution, not an selective sports club. If a student signs up for a German class, he/she is admitted. They get to participate in the class. If you want to play baseball, too bad. The recognition of sports achievements and emphasis on such far exceeds that of the more important academic achievements. In the US, more dollars are spent per high school athlete than math student. We have the cart before the horse. We are not a training ground or feeder system for the business of college sports. I am not anti-sports. I would rather see my tax money used for the best teachers and facilities so that our students can compete in their world. Yes, I agree that Physical training should be a part of the curriculum for all students.

The bottom line: Do we have the right priorities? Is our time and tax money better spend on athletics vs academics? Which is going to be the most benefit in their future? Let's get back to what the school is intended to do, prepare out students for their future. Keep and promote what enhances that, eliminate what does not.

I urge the school board and administration to critically look at the school system with the view of preparing our students for the world in which they will live and work. With some innovation, we have an opportunity for Canfield to be a leader and example in preparing our students to be successful.

Frank A. Micchia  
Feb 8, 2017