

February 2024 Regular Board of Education Meeting

Pioneer Career and Technology Center Board of Education Meeting

Pioneer CTC Board of Education Conference Room

Monday, February 19, 2024

6:00pm

Present: Sandy Grau, EAP President; Gavyn Bazley, Treasurer; Mr. Ben Blubaugh, Board Member; Mrs. Robyn Almanson, Board Member; Mr. Mike Grady, Board Member; Mr. Bill Hope, Board Member; Mrs. Morgan Jones, Board Member; Mr. Dennis Long, Board Member; Mr. Bill McFarland, Board Member; Mr. Royden Smith, Board Member; Mrs. Erin Stine, Board Member; Mr. Douglas Theaker, Board President; Mrs. Mary Jean Theaker, Board Member; Gregory Nickoli, Superintendent; Kowalski Kris, Director of Business Affairs; Clay Frye, Director of Operations; Jolene Young, Asst. Director, High School

1 PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Mr. Douglas Theaker, Board President

2 MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mr. Douglas Theaker, Board President

3 ROLL CALL

Mr. Douglas Theaker, Board President

Motioned: Mr. Douglas Theaker

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
Mr. Ben Blubaugh, Board Member	X		
Mr. Mike Grady, Board Member	X		
Mr. Bill Hope, Board Member	X		
Mrs. Morgan Jones, Board Member	X		
Mr. Dennis Long, Board Member	X		
Mr. Bill McFarland, Board Member	X		
Mr. Douglas Theaker, Board President	X		
Mrs. Mary Jean Theaker, Board Member	X		

4 CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Douglas Theaker, Board President

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Bill McFarland

Seconded: Mr. Bill Hope

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
Mr. Ben Blubaugh, Board Member	X		
Mr. Mike Grady, Board Member	X		
Mr. Bill Hope, Board Member	X		
Mrs. Morgan Jones, Board Member	X		
Mr. Dennis Long, Board Member	X		
Mr. Bill McFarland, Board Member	X		
Mr. Douglas Theaker, Board President	X		
Mrs. Mary Jean Theaker, Board Member	X		

4.1 Approve January 22, 2024 Board of Education Meeting Minutes

Mr. Douglas Theaker, Board President

Minutes:

No discussion - Moved to vote.

Result: Approved

Attachments:

[JAN REG MTG 2024 MINUTES.pdf](#)

[JAN ORG MTG 2024 MINUTES.pdf](#)

4.2 Approve Appointments to Richland County and Huron County Tax Incentive Review Councils

Mr. Douglas Theaker, Board President

Recommendation of Superintendent Gregory D. Nickoli that Gavyn Bazley be appointed to the Richland County and Huron Tax Incentive Review Committees.

Result: Approved

4.3 Approve Annual All Board Member / Administrator Dinner

Mr. Douglas Theaker, Board President

Recommendation of Superintendent Gregory D. Nickoli that expenses for Pioneer Board members, Administrators and representatives to attend the Pioneer Career and Technology Center's Annual All Board Member/Administrators Dinner Meeting to be held on March 21, 2024; in accordance with Section 3315.15 ORC, be approved.

Result: Approved

4.4 Approve revisions to Job Description

Mr. Douglas Theaker, Board President

Recommendation of Superintendent Gregory D. Nickoli that the revisions to the Library/Media, Career Development Aide job description be approved.

Result: Approved

Attachments:

[Library Aide Job Descr - PDF.pdf](#)

4.5 Approve Contracted Services for 2023-2024 School Year

Mr. Douglas Theaker, Board President

Recommendation of Superintendent Gregory D. Nickoli that the following contracted services be approved for the 2023-2024 school year:

- **Ethan Kershner - Performing Arts Adjunct Instructor**

Result: Approved

4.6 Accept Donations

Mr. Douglas Theaker, Board President

Recommendation of Superintendent Gregory D. Nickoli that the following donations be accepted:

- **Civista Bank, Shelby;** generous monetary donation of \$500 to be used for the Annual Civista Bank Scholarship.
- **Kim Compton, Willard;** generous monetary donation of \$33.95 to the Pioneer Sharing Closet.
- **Janet Kehres, Shelby;** generous clothing donation for the Pioneer Sharing closet.
- **Ann & Larry Kleilein, Jack & Jane Butler, Mel & Kay Coleman, Delaware;** generous monetary donation of \$250 in memory of Lourita Hannafus Yore, to be deposited into the Art Barr Scholarship fund and used for annual student scholarships.
- **Kenneth Owen, Shelby;** generous monetary donation of \$200 to be deposited into the Art Barr Scholarship fund and used for annual student scholarships.
- **Dawn Wright-Smith, Blackbaud Giving Fund, Charleston, SC;** generous monetary donation of \$30 to be deposited into the Alumni Endowment fund and used for annual student scholarships.

Result: Approved

4.7 Approve Student Participation in Competitive Events

Mr. Douglas Theaker, Board President

Recommendation of Superintendent Gregory D. Nickoli that the following students be approved to participate in competitive events:

State BPA Competition, Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, OH; March 6-8, 2024

STUDENTS: Gavin Bishop, Plymouth HS, Cybersecurity; Jason Lambert, Goal Digital, Cybersecurity; Bradon Stidom, Shelby HS, Cybersecurity; Brice Browning, Celeryville Christian School, Cybersecurity; Wesley Cleveland, Homeschool, Cybersecurity; Joshua Manuel, Shelby HS, Cybersecurity; Gabriel Melvin, Homeschool, IT Support; Gaige Dishong, Northmor HS, IT Support; Em Maddox McCarthy, Lexington HS, IT Support; Carson Bricker, Ontario HS, IT Support, Devin Marsh, Shelby HS, IT Support. **CHAPERONES:** Fritz Fagan, IT Support Instructor and Dan Foss, Cybersecurity Instructor.

State DECA Competition, Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, OH; March 8-9, 2024

BUCYRUS HS STUDENTS: Jenna Ashley, Malachi Bayless, Mack Booth, Noah Burke, Kimberly Burling, Daniel Campbell, Sawyer Cooper, Ethan Guerrero, Natalie Hankins, Brody Higginbotham, Grace Jackson, Addison Kemery, Tyson McDaniel, Christopher Neale, Rylee Powers, Seth Price, Eli Sprague, Emma Tyrrell, Aysiz Wade. **CHAPERONES:** Jeff Funigiello, Media Communications Instructor/DECA Advisor and Jody Tackett, Marketing Instructor/DECA Advisor.

FCCLA State Leadership Conference, Ohio Expo Center, Columbus, OH; April 25-26, 2024

CRESTLINE HS STUDENTS: Bridget Belcik, Addi Giesige, Jalyn Tesso, Alyssa Cottrell, Jocelyn Noblit, Rachel Grunkemeyer, and Alyssa Pittenger. **CHAPERONE:** Kris Bruce, Crestline FCS Instructor/FCCLA Advisor.

LUCAS HS STUDENTS: Alyssa Shay, Isabell Iceman, Emma Hamm, Myah Midkiff, Ady Hauger, Hadley Williams, Olyvia Culler, Morgan Trumpower. **CHAPERONE:** Maleesa Warner, Lucas FCS Instructor/FCCLA Advisor.

Result: Approved

5 FINANCIAL REPORT

Gavyn Bazley, Treasurer

Minutes:

Treasurer Bazley reported as follows:

The Audit was finally approved by the Auditor of State and released for certification, I was able to certify it last week. When the Auditor releases the names of those who receive the Auditor of State Award I would expect Pioneer to receive one as we should qualify. Our only Management Letter comment had to do with not certifying the 034 transfer with the Auditor of State.

I attended my first Legislative Conference earlier this month. It was nice to be able to get in front of our state legislators and advocate for some policies that will positively affect our Career Center as well as our students in being able to get a little more flexibility in licensing career tech teachers. The visits went well and were easy, probably because it isn't a budget year and we weren't asking for more money.

We had a slight issue with the Shelby City tax. They called us after our January payrolls and let us know their income tax increased from 1.5% to 1.75%. With our first pay in February we updated the tax rate, but then had to do an adjustment for the additional amount that should've been withheld in the first two January pays. I explained it at our staff meeting and am thankful our staff was understanding and made the uncomfortable situation easier.

We plan to do the maintenance transfer (\$425,360) from the general fund to the maintenance fund this month and will ask you to approve that as part of next month's financial report.

Interest continues to pay well. From what I have read, the odds favor a quarter point rate cut at their May meeting. Then another quarter point rate cut at their July and November (right after the election) meetings as well. I could see them holding off on a rate cut again at their May meeting depending on what transpires the next couple of months. The Fed is wanting to see wage growth slowing before acting. They also are weary of doing too much as they don't want to influence the election.

Joint Committee on Property Tax Review and Reform met last week and heard testimony. It seems that they want to take some kind of action to give Ohio Residents relief, but what kind of action that would be remains to be seen. Biggest concern is messing with the millage floor. The state is also considering eliminating the income tax, the concern with that is where do they make up for that revenue in the budget? State currently sits on a record \$3.1 Billion Rainy Day Fund.

Nexus Pipeline heard oral arguments in Supreme Court in October 2023, and the case is still open in Supreme Court. Rover Pipeline case is ongoing and likely to be resolved when Nexus is resolved, whenever that would be. Our Forecast is projecting PUPP revenue based on what Rover is actually paying on rather than their total certified valuation.

As far as a report on our monthly activities. Nothing truly out of the ordinary for January. January and February are fairly slow months revenue wise until we start to receive our property tax settlement payments. Our revenue and expenses are trending on track for the year as we are now 7 months through the year. The only Journal Entry we have for your approval this month is recoding some Adult Ed Salary Charges to the Adult Ed Perkins Grant.

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mrs. Mary Jean Theaker

Seconded: Mr. Mike Grady

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
Mr. Ben Blubaugh, Board Member	X		
Mr. Mike Grady, Board Member	X		
Mr. Bill Hope, Board Member	X		
Mrs. Morgan Jones, Board Member	X		
Mr. Dennis Long, Board Member	X		
Mr. Bill McFarland, Board Member	X		
Mr. Douglas Theaker, Board President	X		
Mrs. Mary Jean Theaker, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

[January 24 Financial Report.pdf](#)

6 RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Gregory Nickoli, Superintendent

7 EAP REPRESENTATIVE

Sandy Grau, EAP President

8 PUBLIC INPUT

Gregory Nickoli, Superintendent

Board Policy Section 0164

9 CORRESPONDENCE

Gregory Nickoli, Superintendent

10 REPORT ON 2023-2024 BOARD GOALS

Clay Frye, Director of Operations

Minutes:

Sophomore Visitation is complete and applications for the 2024 – 2025 school year are being accepted. Inclement weather impacted visitation, and all Pioneer staff stepped up in a huge way to host 4 schools for a make-up day of visits. Student Services Coordinator, Dan Burtscher, was invaluable in the planning, scheduling and communication with Pioneer's associate schools.

Pioneer hosted Sophomore Open House and Second Look Open House for prospective students and their parents/guardians. Both events were very well attended and the number of applications being submitted is evidence of the hard work put in by an amazing staff.

Pioneer students have competed at the regional contests for SkillsUSA, HOSA and BPA. A number of students have moved on to the State Contests in their student organizations. Congratulations to these students!

Pioneer staff have recently attended professional development opportunities, conferences and training seminars.

- Ohio ACTE Legislative Seminar and legislator visits
- Special Education Legal Seminar
- Ohio Educational Technology Conference
- Stop-the-Bleed, AED, CPR training

11 STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

Mrs. Robyn Almanson, Board Member

Attachments:

[Student Achievement FEB 2024.pdf](#)

12 LEGISLATIVE LIAISON REPORT

Mr. Mike Grady, Board Member

Minutes:

Board Member Mike Grady reported as follows:

HB 344 which would eliminate replacement tax levies was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee on December 6 and has had no further action since then.

At the beginning of this month, the House passed HB 2 which among other capital budget items contains \$600 million for the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission to use for school building improvement efforts. The Senate is not expected to act on the bill until late April or May. Senate President Matt Huffman has indicated that the Senate will likely try to remove at least some of the House's spending proposals.

The Joint Committee on Property Tax Review and Reform heard invitation-only testimony from the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, the National Federation of Independent Business, the Ohio Business Roundtable and the Ohio Farm Bureau. The committee is tasked with reviewing Ohio's current property tax structure and making recommendations on how to proceed with bills related to property tax reform that are pending in the General Assembly. The committee must issue a report and recommendation by the end of the year.

After several high profile school bus accidents early in the school year a School Bus Safety Working Group was formed to make recommendations. The group came up with 17 recommendations none of which supported seat belts in school buses.

HB 411 was introduced which would increase the base teacher salary in the state to \$50,000.

13 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Gregory Nickoli, Superintendent

Minutes:

Superintendent Nickoli reported as follows:

The Ohio Association for Career-Technical and Adult Education (ACTE) hosted the annual legislative seminar this year. Royden Smith, Gavyn Bazley, Clay Frye, Don Paullin and I met with Richland County Representative Marilyn John, Crawford County Representative Riordan McClain and Senator Mark Romanchuk. Our initial point of conversation was to express our gratitude for the Career-Tech Expansion Funds but we also asked them to consider some legislative changes that would address some Career-Tech teacher licensure issues as well as make it easier for businesses to take advantage of incentives available for hiring Career-Tech students under the age of 18. They are all very supportive of Career Technical Education and our district and are very understanding of the impact that Career and Technical Education has on the economy.

I am providing you with a draft copy of the proposed 2024-2025 calendar for the high school. This proposal is in compliance with both the Ohio Department of Education requirements and our current Negotiated Agreement. We have met the requirement to provide public input into the calendar and I will bring it back to you at the March Board Meeting for your approval.

In order to fully comply with our Negotiated Agreement as well as the contractual obligations of our administrative and classified staff I will be recommending that you approve April 8, 2024 as a paid day off for those job classifications. It is the recommendation of the Richland County EMA that we not have staff on-site on that date because of anticipated concerns related to the upcoming solar eclipse. We scheduled that day off for students and teachers as a part of this year's calendar but we need to take additional action for the other job classifications. Mr. Bazley and I are working to compile a statement to that effect and will bring it to you at the March regular meeting.

The current members of the Fair School Funding Plan (FSFP) Work Group, of which I am a member, have established a not-for-profit Corporation to continue the effort that led to our current funding mechanism as well work to ensure that the plan is fully implemented during the FY26 and FY27 biennial budget. You might remember that we are currently funded at 50% of the plan's total full implementation amount.

CALENDAR ITEMS

- OSBA Central Region Spring Conference – March 6
- Pioneer All-Board Dinner – March 21
- Spring Break – March 25 - 29

I am requesting that you grant Wynford Ag Instructor Tessa Martin 1 day of Leave Without Pay on March 27, 2024 for a family vacation. She has consulted with the Wynford Administration and they are agreeable to this request.

All other personnel items are common for this time of year.

Attachments:

[SUPT RPT FEB MTG.pdf](#)

14 PERSONNEL REPORT

Mr. Douglas Theaker, Board President

Recommendation of Superintendent Gregory D. Nickoli that the following personnel recommendations be approved:

- Approve Leave Without Pay for Certificated Personnel
- Approve Stipend Contracts for Certificated Personnel
- Approve Employment of Substitute Instructors
- Approve Employment of Adult Education Personnel

Minutes:

No discussion - moved to vote

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Bill McFarland

Seconded: Mr. Bill Hope

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
Mr. Ben Blubaugh, Board Member	X		
Mr. Mike Grady, Board Member	X		
Mr. Bill Hope, Board Member	X		
Mrs. Morgan Jones, Board Member	X		
Mr. Dennis Long, Board Member	X		
Mr. Bill McFarland, Board Member	X		
Mr. Douglas Theaker, Board President	X		
Mrs. Mary Jean Theaker, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

[02-2024 Personnel Report - FINAL.pdf](#)

15 APPROVE CONTRIBUTION TO FAIR SCHOOL FUNDING PLAN

Mr. Douglas Theaker, Board President

Recommendation of Superintendent Gregory D. Nickoli that the contribution to the Fair School Funding Plan, Inc. be approved.

Minutes:

No discussion - Moved to vote

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Dennis Long

Seconded: Mr. Mike Grady

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
Mr. Ben Blubaugh, Board Member	X		
Mr. Mike Grady, Board Member	X		
Mr. Bill Hope, Board Member	X		

Mrs. Morgan Jones, Board Member	X		
Mr. Dennis Long, Board Member	X		
Mr. Bill McFarland, Board Member	X		
Mr. Douglas Theaker, Board President	X		
Mrs. Mary Jean Theaker, Board Member	X		

Attachments:

[Fair School Funding Plan Inc..pdf](#)

16 ADJOURN MEETING

Mr. Douglas Theaker, Board President

Minutes:

No discussion - moved to vote

Result: Approved

Motioned: Mr. Mike Grady

Seconded: Mr. Bill Hope

Voter	Yes	No	Abstaining
Mr. Ben Blubaugh, Board Member	X		
Mr. Mike Grady, Board Member	X		
Mr. Bill Hope, Board Member	X		
Mrs. Morgan Jones, Board Member	X		
Mr. Dennis Long, Board Member	X		
Mr. Bill McFarland, Board Member	X		
Mr. Douglas Theaker, Board President	X		
Mrs. Mary Jean Theaker, Board Member	X		