

Minutes of Regular Meeting  
September 18, 2023

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The Rootstown Local Board of Education in regular session at 6:00 p.m. in the High School Cafeteria on October 16, 2023. Present were Tom Siciliano, Jen Curall, Craig Mullaly, Amanda Waesch, Paul McEwuen, Andrew Hawkins, Superintendent, Connie Baldwin, Treasurer. Also present: Brittany Rodman, Jason Rodman, Wilma Rodman, Stephanie Arbugast, Peggy Shewell, Dakota Berg, Robert Campbell. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call: J. Curall, C. Mullaly, T. Siciliano, A. Waesch, P. McEwuen

**RESOLUTION 2023-09-210**  
**ADOPT THE AGENDA**

Motion: P. McEwuen  
Second: J. Curall  
To approve the agenda

Yeas: P. McEwuen, J. Curall, A. Waesch, C. Mullaly, T. Siciliano  
Motion Carried: 5 to 0

**Community Comments:**

Brenda Giebel (3176 Bird Dr.) – Concerns about transportation forms for Biomed students. Wants Final Forms for those students. Feels her concerns have not been addressed. Has noted 15 violations over 5 years with ODE documentation to back up. A. Hawkins will follow up.

Deanna Shaffer (3213 Cook Rd) – Concerns about music boosters sponsorship banners. Feels the banners should be hung during events as long as they are taken down afterward. T. Siciliano opposed to advertising as he feels the revenue should go to the school. Believes there is a board policy. A. Waesch feels ads on buildings are ok but not on the fence. School must approve ads in advance. C. Mullaly and A. Hawkins will follow up on the policy.

Beth Miller (304 Ohio) – Followed up on the music banners. Why only advertising on the scoreboard? All funds benefit the students. C. Mullaly feels policy must be researched in order to respond to concerns.

Kathy Galloway (4225 Sabin) – Asked about tshirt sales. P. McEwuen feels there is a difference with advertising not on school property. K. Galloway feels should be consistent for all organizations.

**Treasurer's Reports/Recommendations:**

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**RESOLUTION 2023-09-211**  
**APPROVE FINANCIALS**

Motion: P. McEwuen

Second: T. Siciliano

Resolution to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the following meetings:

August 21, 2023                      Board Meeting

Approve the monthly financial reports as submitted, with the authorization for the payment of bills and appropriation modifications as necessary.

Yeas: P. McEwuen, T. Siciliano, J. Curall, P. McEwuen, A. Waesch

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5 to 0

**RESOLUTION 2023-09-212**  
**POLICY & PURPOSE STATEMENTS**

Motion: A. Waesch

Second: T. Siciliano

To approve the following Policy & Purpose Statements:

Class of 2026	Art Club
Yearbook	Student Council
Class of 2027	CBIP
Quiz Bowl	Class of 2024
Class of 2025	Ski Club
Youth Safety Council	Athletics

Yeas: A. Waesch, T. Siciliano, C. Mullaly, P. McEwuen, J. Curall

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5 to 0

**RESOLUTION 2023-09-213**  
**GARDINER AGREEMENT**

Motion: T. Siciliano

Second: P. McEwuen

To approve the renewal of a maintenance agreement with Gardiner for the water treatment program at an annual rate of \$2,557.00 from September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024.

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Yeas: T. Siciliano, P. McEwuen, A. Waesch, J. Curall, C. Mullaly  
Nays: None  
Motion Carried: 5 to 0

**RESOLUTION 2023-09-214**  
**APPROVE 403(b) PROVIDER**

Motion: P. McEwuen  
Second: T. Siciliano

To approve the Recordkeeping and Administrative Services Agreement with Fidelity Workplace Services, LLC to add them as a 403(b) provider through Generations Investment Management.

Yeas: P. McEwuen, T. Siciliano, C. Mullaly, A. Waesch, J. Curall  
Nays: None  
Motion Carried: 5 to 0

**RESOLUTION 2023-09-215**  
**PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS**

Motion: A. Waesch  
Second: T. Siciliano

To approve approve the Permanent Appropriations for the 2023-2024 school year:

001	General Fund	\$11,870,015.00
016	Emergency Levy	\$2,042,115.80
019	Local Grants	\$23516.90
300	District Managed Activities	\$100,038.95
451	OneNet	\$5538.31
507	ESSER	\$225,208.72
516	IDEA Part B	\$286,438.84
572	Title I	\$145,493.38
584	Title IV	\$10,000.00
590	Title IIA	\$28,715.69
003	Permanent Improvement	\$568,103.00
006	Food Service	\$303,663.83
009	School Supplies	\$22,365.27
026	Employee FSA Benefit	\$20,000.00
200	Student Managed Activities	\$24,191.23

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Yeas: A. Waesch, T. Siciliano, J. Curall, C. Mullaly, P. McEwuen

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5 to 0

**RESOLUTION 2023-09-216**  
**NELSON SALARY CORRECTION**

Motion: P. McEwuen

Second: T. Siciliano

To approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Adam Nelson to be paid at a Masters instead of Masters+8.

Yeas: P. McEwuen, T. Siciliano, J. Curall, C. Mullaly, A. Waesch

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5 to 0

**RESOLUTION 2023-09-217**  
**APPROVE SPYGLASS AGREEMENT**

Motion: T. Siciliano

Second: A. Waesch

To approve an agreement with SpyGlass Group, LLC, to perform an audit of the school district's telecommunications invoices. The fee is implemented only in the event savings are captured. The fee is 50% of any cost recovery, 12 times any service eliminations savings or cost reduction savings for the first year only.

Yeas: T. Siciliano, A. Waesch, C. Mullaly, P. McEwuen, J. Curall

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5 to 0

**Superintendent's Reports/Recommendations:**

**RESOLUTION 2023-09-218**  
**RESIGNATION – BANAS**

Motion: P. McEwuen

Second: J. Curall

To accept the resignation of Jessica Banas, HS Math Teacher, effective August 23, 2023.

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Yeas: P. McEwuen, J. Curall, A. Waesch, C. Mullaly, T. Siciliano  
Nays: None  
Motion Carried: 5 to 0

**RESOLUTION 2023-09-219**  
**RETIREMENT - KIMPTON**

Motion: A. Waesch  
Second: T. Siciliano  
To accept the retirement resignation of Anita Kimpton, HS Custodian, effective December 31, 2023. The Board thanks her for her years of service.

Yeas: A. Waesch, T. Siciliano, P. McEwuen, J. Curall, C. Mullaly  
Nays: None  
Motion Carried: 5 to 0

**RESOLUTION 2023-09-220**  
**RETIREMENT – VARGA**

Motion: T. Siciliano  
Second: A. Waesch  
To accept the retirement resignation of Kelly Varga, effective 8/30/2023. The Board thanks her for her years of service.

Yeas: T. Siciliano, A. Waesch, C. Mullaly, J. Curall, P. McEwuen  
Nays: None  
Motion Carried: 5 to 0

**RESOLUTION 2023-09-221**  
**TRANSFER - STAUDT**

Motion: J. Curall  
Second: T. Siciliano  
To transfer Rober Staudt from High School Physical Education/Health Teacher to HS Math Teacher.

Yeas: J. Curall, T. Siciliano, P. McEwuen, C. Mullaly, A. Waesch  
Nays: None  
Motion Carried: 5 to 0

**RESOLUTION 2023-09-222**  
**HIRE – SPICER**

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Motion: T. Siciliano

Second: A. Waesch

To hire Nicholas Spicer as High School Physical Education/Health Teacher with a Bachelor's degree, Step 1 and a 1 year contract, effective the 2023-2024 school year.

Yeas: T. Siciliano, A. Waesch, C. Mullaly, J. Curall, P. McEwuen

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5 to 0

**RESOLUTION 2023-09-223**

**HIRE – SINGLETON**

Motion: P. McEwuen

Second: J. Curall

To hire Dawn Singleton as Educational Aide, Step 1, 7 hours per day, and a 1 year contract, effective September 18, 2023.

Yeas: P. McEwuen, J. Curall, C. Mullaly, A. Waesch, T. Siciliano

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5 to 0

**RESOLUTION 2023-09-224**

**HIRE – WHITELY**

Motion: T. Siciliano

Second: A. Waesch

To hire Lisa Whitely as an Educational Aide, Step 1, 7 hours per day, and a 1 year contract, effective September 18, 2023.

Yeas: T. Siciliano, A. Waesch, P. McEwuen, C. Mullaly, J. Curall

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5 to 0

**RESOLUTION 2023-09-225**

**HIRE – BATES**

Motion: P. McEwuen

Second: T. Siciliano

To hire Dixie Bates, as a Van Driver, on a Pilot Program, \$15.00 per hour, effective September 19, 2023.

Yeas: P. McEwuen, T. Siciliano, C. Mullaly, J. Curall, A. Waesch

Nays: None

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Motion Carried: 5 to 0

**RESOLUTION 2023-09-226**  
**SALARY SCHEDULE MOVEMENT**

Motion: T. Siciliano

Second: J. Curall

To approve the following teachers to move on the salary schedule due to additional college credits:

Alexis Gearhart

Master's to a M+8

Aubrey Burrell

Master's to a M+8

Yeas: T. Siciliano, J. Curall, A. Waesch, C. Mullaly, P. McEwuen

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5 to 0

**RESOLUTION 2023-09-227**  
**APPROVE SUPPLEMENTALS**

Motion: A. Waesch

Second: P. McEwuen

To approve following supplementals for the 2023-2024 school year:

Stephanie Adkins

Sophomore Class Advisor

Stephanie Adkins

Art Club

Kristen Williams

Asst. Cheerleading Coach

Avarey Scott

MS Cheerleading Coach

Yeas: A. Waesch, P. McEwuen, J. Curall, C. Mullaly, T. Siciliano

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5 to 0

**RESOLUTION 2023-09-228**  
**APPROVE SUBSTITUTES**

Motion: T. Siciliano

Second: J. Curall

To approve following substitutes for the 2023-2024 school year:

Kelly Wilson

Substitute Cafeteria Worker, effective  
9/11/2023.

Michelle Massaro

Substitute Bus Aide, Educational Aide,  
and Cafeteria

Angel Osborne

Substitute Educational Aide & Secretary

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Kathryn Byers  
Kristin Whitted  
Caitlin Stephenson

Substitute Teacher  
Substitute Custodian  
Substitute Teacher, effective 9/12/2023

Yeas: T. Siciliano, J. Curall, P. McEwuen, A. Waesch, C. Mullaly

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5 to 0

**RESOLUTION 2023-09-229**  
**APPROVE CBIP STUDENTS**

Motion: A. Waesch

Second: J. Curall

To approve the following students to be paid through the CBIP program in the High School:

Christian Adkins  
Tristan McKibben  
Lillyann Rhoads  
Kendra Stout

Donicka Hoover  
Leah Nicholson  
Branden Wolf  
Hannah Skinner

Josslynn Johnson  
David Rebman  
Nicholas Malek  
Connor Moore

Yeas: A. Waesch, J. Curall, C. Mullaly, P. McEwuen, T. Siciliano

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5 to 0

**RESOLUTION 2023-09-230**  
**APPROVE ATHLETIC WORKERS**

Motion: T. Siciliano

Second: J. Curall

To hire the following as Athletic Workers for the 2023-2024 school year, at a rate of \$10.00 per hour:

Brandan Nicholas  
Nathan Waesch

Kasidy Smith  
Jackson Kurtz

Yeas: T. Siciliano, J. Curall, P. McEwuen, C. Mullaly

Nays: None

Abstains: A. Waesch

Motion Carried: 4 to 0

**RESOLUTION 2023-09-231**



**APPROVE CONSULTANT**

Motion: T. Siciliano

Second: P. McEwuen

To approve a contract with Debbie Grueninger as a special needs consultant, effective the 2023-2024 school year.

Yeas: T. Siciliano, P. McEwuen, J. Curall, C. Mullaly, A. Waesch

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5 to 0

**REPORTS:**

A. Hawkins: Reported on opening activities. Enrollment is at 1,018 students. The principals and curriculum director reported on building and curriculum activities.

Local Report Card: A. Hawkins and R. Campbell updated the board on the new report card. The state has moved to a new star-based system instead of letter grades. Rootstown achieved 3.5 out of 5 stars. The district will use CRS data to guide instruction and assessments. Professional development days will be devoted to it to streamline data for each individual student for each teacher. ESC of Cuyahoga County will be utilized for standards by student and to compare trends. Teachers will be given time to look at data each week. The goal is to put data in their hands and to look at it each week to achieve 4 stars next year.

**Old Business:**

C. Baldwin discussed the Capital Conference update. A. Waesch will be the delegate for this year's conference with T. Siciliano as the alternate.

**New Business:**

**Facilities Work Session:** A. Hawkins presented some slides on the history of the district's projects. Every generation has provided building improvements up until 50 years ago. There has not been a major building project since. He reviewed the bond issue attempts in 2017, 2018 and 2019. The 2019 bond issue lost by 194 votes.

C. Mullaly: To summarize, the board did not feel comfortable moving forward this November because the project felt rushed. Over the last few years the board has worked to consolidate levies to reduce the number of renewals. The district is on the ballot in November for a Permanent Improvement levy renewal for a continual time period. This will eliminate renewals every five years as we have done since the 1980's. This opens a window of about six years before the next renewal. This will allow the district to explore building options. A survey was conducted which indicated the community would support 5 mills or less, which is about \$24,000,000. The district

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needs closer to \$48,000,000 to do the entire project. This is why the community is here tonight. To help the Board look at this and decide what is best.

P. McEwuen: Stated his opinion was to close the middle school and move those students to the high school and elementary. Enrollment is shrinking and if it continues we will need less space. Would need to know the cost and if the community supported this idea.

J. Curall: Indicated construction costs have continued to rise. Wants to make sure the district gets the best bang for their buck. Something needs to be done.

Chad White: Asked about the JEDD

C. Mullaly: The district was not invited to participate and the Board was not invited to the discussion.

Chad White: Would teachers vote on joining the JEDD?

A. Hawkins: Only the Board would vote if they were asked to participate.

Brenda Giebel: Can we have that conversation?

C. Mullaly: Has not talked to the trustees but would like to in the future.

A. Waesch: Served on that committee. There was no guarantee of funds for the district. The JEDD required that the district move to a new location, pass a bond issue, and build new schools. It was simply not feasible at that time.

T. Siciliano: District employees would be taxed but no guarantee the money would be used to help the school district.

A. Waesch: The Board looked at properties but none were available. The Board did our due diligence.

Jason Burrell: If the JEDD passed and the school got money, are we interested?

C. Mullaly: If it were that simple, yes.

T. Siciliano: The JEDD board decides on the distribution and the largest employer is guaranteed a seat on the board. That would be NEOMED.

Ralph Iarussi: All three trustees agreed so it did not need to go to the ballot. The board should invite the trustees to a meeting.

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C. Mullaly: Is open to discussion.

J. Curall: Are willing to look at all options but the school was not part of the JEDD vote. Today is about creating a committee to look at options.

A. Hawkins: Next meeting 10/9 at 6:00 p.m. Need to get a few more folks involved.

C. Mullaly: The superintendent and treasurer cannot work on a levy. But this is about facilities so contact Mr. Hawkins for more information.

A. Waesch: Thanked everyone for coming

P. McEwuen: Has watched Garrettsville and Crestwood closely as they have worked on building improvements. Feels we can come up with a solution too.

J. Curall: Has 2 options: Tear down the MS and add on to the HS for 7/12 or renovate the ES and build a new HS/MS. Were priced out of both options.

A. Waesch: Renovation costs as much as new construction

Kathy Galloway: Will you call back the architects and the financial consultant?

C. Mullaly: Costs change every few months. Is building a fire station and the renovation is as much as the new part. \$48,000,000 may become \$54,000,000 as costs escalate. Once we pass the renewal, the board has a 6 year gap before the next renewal to come up with a plan. Meanwhile, costs escalate.

P. McEwuen: What would the community support? Would like to do another survey. Be sure to get parents and older students to register to vote online.

Amanda Kortright: Asked about a PR firm. Feels we need a united message as Facebook has torn the community apart.

A. Hawkins: The district uses FSM. Hasenstab will be at the next meeting to discuss options. Please spread the word to the community and I will contact our staff.

**RESOLUTION 2023-09-232**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: P. McEwuen

Second: T. Siciliano

To adjourn the meeting at 7:37.

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Yeas: P. McEwuen, T. Siciliano, A. Waesch, J. Curall, C. Mullaly  
Nays: None  
Motion Carried: 5 to 0

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Craig Mullaly, President

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Connie Baldwin-Guinto, Treasurer