

The LaBrae Local Board of Education met in Regular Session on March 13, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Complex Band Room. Members present on Roll Call: Mr. Sewell, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Gamlin and Mr. Morton. Mrs. Ancell was absent. Also present were Mr. Anthony Calderone, Superintendent and Mr. Bradley Panak, Treasurer.

Pledge of Allegiance

Superintendent's Report

1. Student Recognition

i. January Students of the Month

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Paul McLaughlin-1 st Grade | 5. Austin Rowe-9 th Grade |
| 2. Emma Middleton-6 th Grade | 6. Kingston Brogdon-10 th Grade |
| 3. Maddison Swearingen-6 th Grade | 7. Courtney Bates-Viking of the Month |
| 4. Megan Young-8 th Grade | 8. Aiden Doll-11 th Grade |

ii. Power of the Pen Competition Winner

1. Daisy Peace-7th Grade

iii. Middle School Prep Bowl Tournament Winners

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Molly Beck-6 th Grade | 5. Eris Heeter-6 th Grade |
| 2. Remy Brundage-6 th Grade | 6. Emma Middleton-6 th Grade |
| 3. Kaiden Hall-6 th Grade | 7. Bryce Hanie-6 th Grade |
| 4. Marshall Babione-6 th Grade | |

Public Participation – None.

Motion by Mr. Gibson seconded by Mr. Morton to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2023 Regular Board Meeting. Roll call: Mr. Gibson, Mr. Morton, Mr. Gamlin and Mr. Sewell voted YES. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Gibson seconded by Mr. Morton to approve the February Financial Report as presented by the Treasurer. Roll call: Mr. Gibson, Mr. Morton, Mr. Gamlin and Mr. Sewell voted YES. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Gibson seconded by Mr. Gamlin to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, This Board of Education, in accordance with the provisions of law has previously adopted the Alternative Tax Budget Information for the next succeeding fiscal year commencing July 1, 2023; and

WHEREAS, The Budget Commission of Trumbull County, Ohio, has certified its action thereon to this Board together with an estimate by the County Auditor of the rate of each tax necessary to be levied by this Board, and what part thereof is without, and what part within the ten mill limitation; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Board of Education of the LaBrae Local School District, Trumbull County, Ohio, that the amounts and rates, as determined by the Budget Commission in its certification, be and the same are hereby accepted; and be it further

RESOLVED, That there be and is hereby levied on the tax duplicate of said School District the rate of each tax necessary to be levied within and without the ten mill limitation as follows:

| Fund | Amount Approved By Budget Commission Inside 10 M. Limitation | Amount to be Derived From Levies Outside 10 M. Limitation | County Auditor's Estimate of Tax Rate to be Levied | |
|---------------------------|--|---|--|--------------------------|
| | | | Inside 10 M. Limitation | Outside 10 M. Limitation |
| General Fund | 598,292 | 2,639,791 | 4.80 | 42.50 |
| Bond Retirement Funds | | 411,325 | | 3.30 |
| Permanent Improvement | | 236,196 | | 3.00 |
| Classroom Facilities Fund | | 52,619 | | 0.50 |
| Total | 598,292 | 3,339,932 | 4.80 | 49.30 |
| Total Millage | 54.10 | | | |
| Estimated Value | 124,644,070 | | | |

Roll call: Mr. Gibson, Mr. Gamlin, Mr. Morton and Mr. Sewell voted YES. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Morton seconded by Mr. Gibson to approve the resignation of Megan Frantz, a certified staff member, effective at the conclusion of the 2022-2023 school year. Roll call: Mr. Morton, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Gamlin and Mr. Sewell voted YES. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Gamlin seconded by Mr. Gibson to approve the one-year unpaid dependent care leave of absence for Kayla Carpenter, a certified staff member, during the 2023-2024 school year, pursuant to Article XII, Section D of the negotiated agreement with the LaBrae Teachers' Association. Roll call: Mr. Gamlin, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Morton and Mr. Sewell voted YES. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Gibson seconded by Mr. Gamlin to approve a Family Medical Leave Absence for Susanne Dhayer, a certified staff member, effective January 26, 2023 through April 19, 2023. Roll call: Mr. Gibson, Mr. Gamlin, Mr. Morton and Mr. Sewell voted YES. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Morton seconded by Mr. Gibson to approve an unpaid an unpaid dependent care leave of absence for Susanne Dhayer, a certified staff member, effective April 20, 2023 through June 2, 2023, pursuant to Article XII, Section D of the negotiated agreement with the LaBrae Teachers' Association. Roll call: Mr. Morton, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Gamlin and Mr. Sewell voted YES. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Gibson seconded by Mr. Gamlin to approve the employment of Deborah Gilbert, as a certified teacher at LaBrae High School for the 2023-2024 school year, effective August 25, 2023 through May 31, 2024. Roll call: Mr. Gibson, Mr. Gamlin, Mr. Morton and Mr. Sewell voted YES. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Morton seconded by Mr. Gamlin to accept the resignation of Melissa Wilthew from the academic supplemental position of 6th grade Camp Counselor, effective March 9, 2023. Roll call: Mr. Morton, Mr. Gamlin, Mr. Gibson and Mr. Sewell voted YES. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Morton seconded by Mr. Gibson to approve Courtney Cowhick, as a non-certified substitute, at the daily sub rate on an as needed basis for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year, effective February 23, 2023. Roll call: Mr. Morton, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Gamlin and Mr. Sewell voted YES. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Gibson seconded by Mr. Gamlin to approve the LaBrae High School College Credit Plus Handbook for the 2023-2024 school year. Roll call: Mr. Gibson, Mr. Gamlin, Mr. Morton and Mr. Sewell voted YES. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Gibson seconded by Mr. Gamlin to approve the revised LaBrae Professional Development Committee's Plan of Operation. Roll call: Mr. Gibson, Mr. Gamlin, Mr. Morton and Mr. Sewell voted YES. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Morton seconded by Mr. Gamlin to approve the following athletic supplemental positions for the 2022-2023 school year, which shall become effective upon satisfactory completion of required criminal checks and fulfillment of the applicable requirements in O.R.C. 3319.303 and O.R.C. 3313.53 to coach, supervise, or direct a pupil activity program.

| <u>Supplemental</u> | <u>Coach</u> |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Baseball - Volunteer | Haught, Chris |
| Softball - Volunteer | Roberts, Michael |

Roll call: Mr. Morton, Mr. Gamlin, Mr. Gibson and Mr. Sewell voted YES. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Morton seconded by Mr. Gamlin to approve the following person who is being recommended for an academic supplemental contract effective for the 2022-2023 school year.

| <u>Supplemental</u> | <u>Advisor</u> |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Camp Nurse | McManus, Renee |

Roll call: Mr. Morton, Mr. Gamlin, Mr. Gibson and Mr. Sewell voted YES. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Gibson seconded by Mr. Sewell to approve the following resolution Expressing Support for Strengthening the Fair School Funding Plan and Opposing Proposed Backpack Scholarship Legislation:

WHEREAS, the 134th Ohio General Assembly passed into law a new school funding formula called the Fair School Funding Plan, and appropriated funding, which amounted to one-third of the cost of full implementation; and

WHEREAS, Governor DeWine has proposed a current biennial budget that continues to phase in the funding of the Fair School Funding Plan but uses FY2018 data inputs to determine base cost funding; and

WHEREAS, Ohio's current fiscal position is one of tremendous strength as verified with a recent contribution to the Budget Stabilization Fund of \$727 million, and Ohio state tax revenues continue to far exceed expenditures for the current fiscal year, positioning the State to have a projected budget surplus at the conclusion of the year in excess of \$5 billion; and

WHEREAS, the 135th Ohio General Assembly has introduced proposed legislation creating a Backpack Scholarship Program via House Bill 11 and Senate Bill 11, which significantly increase the number and availability of vouchers for students to attend private/parochial schools at the expense of the public taxpayer; and

WHEREAS, Ohio's non-partisan Legislative Service Commission has estimated the Backpack Scholarship Program will cost approximately \$1.13 billion in FY2025 of the new biennial budget if all 185,400 newly eligible non-public students take a scholarship under the bill; and

WHEREAS, such vouchers will be available to all families and students who have never attended LaBrae Local School District or any other public schools, and for whom state funding has never been provided to LaBrae Local School District or any other public schools; and

WHEREAS, voucher programs have recently expanded in New Hampshire, Wisconsin, and Arizona, and students who have never attended a public school now comprise more than 75% of the vouchers being used in each of the aforementioned states; and

WHEREAS, under a universal Backpack Scholarship Program, Ohio would be authorizing an excessive, and fiscally irresponsible, rebate/refund program that will subsidize families currently paying tuition at private schools; and

WHEREAS, private/parochial schools accepting students with public tax vouchers would not be required to accept all students but would be permitted to retain their selective admission policies without enforcement of other laws applicable to public schools, and

WHEREAS, legislators espouse the need for greater competition in education, despite a long history of competition through open enrollment among public schools, and yet refuse to apply identical academic and operational standards, compliance standards, and transparency to private/parochial schools that exist for public schools; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Backpack Scholarship Program, without parallel operational and compliance standards, creates a protected class without accountability or transparency typically afforded to taxpayers who fund public goods; and

WHEREAS, parents using the vouchers will exact far more tax dollars out of the system than they typically pay annually in property tax; and

WHEREAS, Ohio taxpayers and local communities will bear the brunt of having to subsidize parent choice for those parents who choose to never enroll their children in Ohio's quality public schools; and

WHEREAS, this Board believes that the school choice voucher program as it currently exists, presents serious constitutional issues regarding the separation of church and state and the funding of religious institutions with public tax dollars; and

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio has the constitutional responsibility to secure a thorough and efficient system of common schools; and

WHEREAS, the Backpack Scholarship Program will have exactly the opposite effect by providing funding to private/parochial schools at the expense, and to the detriment of Ohio public schools, their students, and local taxpayers, as the vast expansion of vouchers prevents the State from fully funding the Fair School Funding Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the LaBrea Board of Education that this Board reaffirms its commitment to free accessible public schools, which are adequately and equitably funded to guarantee a comparable education for ALL children, and therefore opposes and respectfully requests the Ohio General Assembly reject the ill-conceived Backpack Scholarship Program proposed for the State of Ohio.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Board opposes any funding programs, vouchers, educational savings accounts, or otherwise, that have the effect of diverting public tax dollars from public schools to private/parochial schools.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Board request that the Ohio General Assembly and the Governor of Ohio commit to fully funding the Fair School Funding Plan using FY2022 data inputs rather than the outdated FY2018 data currently under consideration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to forward copies of this Resolution to all Ohio state legislators, the Superintendent of Public Instruction and Governor of the State of Ohio.

Roll call: Mr. Gibson (YES), Mr. Sewell (YES), Mr. Morton (NO) and Mr. Gamlin (ABSTAIN). TWO YES, ONE NO and ONE ABSTAIN. Motion denied

Discussion – Mr. Gamlin asked if current state legislation would supersede this motion. Mr. Gibson thanked the superintendent for his leadership in this issue and that TCTC passed the same resolution earlier in the month. Mr. Morton asked that the resolution language be changed to the “majority of the Board.”

Miscellaneous

Concerns of the Board – None.

Motion by Mr. Morton seconded by Mr. Gibson to move to enter into executive session at 6:45 p.m. for the following purposes:

- i. Employment of Personnel

Roll call: Mr. Morton, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Gamlin and Mr. Sewell voted YES. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Morton seconded by Mr. Gamlin to reconvene at 7:07 p.m. Roll call: Mr. Morton, Mr. Gamlin, Mr. Gibson and Mr. Sewell voted YES. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Gibson seconded by Mr. Gamlin to adjourn to the call of the chair at 7:08 p.m. Roll call: Mr. Gibson, Mr. Gamlin, Mr. Morton and Mr. Sewell voted YES. Motion carried.

Next Regular Meeting – Monday, April 10, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Complex Band Room

APPROVED
PRESIDENT _____
ATTESTED

TREASURER _____