
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

**MINUTES OF JANUARY 26, 2015 7:00 P.M.
BERKSHIRE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
BERKSHIRE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

* The Board of Education recognizes the value to school governance of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on school matters of community interest.

In order to permit the fair and orderly expression of such comment, the Board shall provide a period for public participation at every public meeting of the Board and publish rules to govern such participation. These rules are available at each Board meeting. Anyone desiring to speak is asked to make this request in advance. Participants must be recognized by the presiding officer. Comments shall be directed to the presiding officer; not to Board members individually. Board Bylaw 0169.1



PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Roll Call: Mr. Koster, Mr. Manfredi, Mrs. Brown, Mr. Honkala – present

Motion made by Mr. Honkala, seconded by Mr. Manfredi to approve the current agenda.

Roll Call: All Ayes

Motion Carried.

Executive Session:

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(1), we hereby move that the Board adjourn to executive session for the purpose of personnel matters.

Motioned by Mr. Honkala, seconded by Mr. Manfredi to enter into executive session to discuss personnel matters

Roll Call: All Ayes

Motion Carried.

The Board entered into executive session at 7:02 p.m.

The Board exited executive session at 7:23 p.m.

Business:

Motion made by Mr. Manfredi, seconded by Mrs. Brown to name Lee Imhof as board member to serve out the unexpired term of Roger Miller ending December 31, 2015.

Roll Call: All Ayes

Motion Carried.

Mr. Imhof was sworn into office by Mrs. McCaffrey.

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Open Public Participation

Mr. Miller asked if the Board Members were all in agreement with the current proposal to have a territory transfer with Ledgemont. Mr. Koster responded that he has not heard of any negatives from board members.

Shelly McDermott asked for details on open enrollment. Mrs. McCaffrey went over the current policy and explained that you can never determine actual enrollment until the first day of school.

Ruth Spanos expressed concern that Berkshire would be taking on a lot of No voters with Ledgemont.

Shelly McDermott asked if IEP's would transfer to our school. It was explained that an IEP always follows the student.

Eric Higgs asked if Berkshire teachers will lose their job. Mr. Koster explained that there is no intention to cut Berkshire Teachers however due to the union agreements this will be dictated by law.

Barb Lillibridge asked how we can handle this influx of students to the high school. It was explained that the high school can more that handle the new students.

Brian Watsworth asked if the community will vote on this matter. Mr. Koster explained that only the Ledgemont voters would have the opportunity to file a referendum.

Don Hornak expressed that he thinks this is a great opportunity for Berkshires. Pay to participate fees will be eliminated, and this will continue the process of partnering with Kent Geauga. He stated that we have been living in the past and we need to move forward.

Mr. Koster asked the audience how they felt about the potential merger. Eric Higgs expressed his concern with the no voters in Ledgemont. He gave a levy history of Ledgemont and said he was concerned.

Marilynn Hornak said would not have voted for those levies if she lived in Ledgemont, they are too high.

Shelly McDermott expressed her support. She stated that the elimination of the pay to participate was huge, we would not be losing anything and the levy delay make this all positive for Berkshire.

Roger Miller stated that he thought this merger was a step in the right directions.

Carrie Maske, Meghan Hull and Hannah Bomback, all teachers at Berkshire, asked that the Board remember the young teachers that have been so vital to the successes at Berkshire.

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Mr. Honkala expressed that the kids will be resilient throughout all of these changes, the parents are the ones you will have a difficult time.

Executive Session:

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(1), we hereby move that the Board adjourn to executive session for the purpose of personnel matters.

Motioned by Mr. Manfredi, seconded by Mrs. Brown to enter into executive session to discuss personnel matters

Roll Call: Four Ayes
Motion Carried.

The Board entered into executive session at 8:24 p.m.

The Board exited executive session at 8:32 p.m.

Resolution to Initiate Territory with Ledgemont Local Schools

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE INITIATION OF THE PROPOSED
TERRITORY TRANSFER OF LEDGEMONT LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT TO
BERKSHIRE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BY THE GEAUGA COUNTY
EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER**

The Board of Education of the Ledgemont Local School District, Geauga County, State of Ohio, met in special session on January 26, 2015, with the following members present:

Mrs. Brown
Mr. Honkala
Mr. Manfredi
Mr. Imhof
Mr. Koster

Mr. Honkala moved for the adoption of the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, Section 3311.22 of the Ohio Revised Code permits the governing board of an educational service center to initiate a territory transfer of a local school district within the educational service center's territory to an adjoining district within that same territory; and

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WHEREAS, House Bill 487 provides for the forgiveness of a district's Solvency Assistance Fund debt when such a territory transfer is effectuated on or before June 30, 2015.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Ledgemont Local School District, that:

Section 1. The Board supports the passing of a resolution by the governing board of the Geauga County Educational Service Center initiating a territory transfer of the entire Ledgemont Local School District to Berkshire Local School District pursuant to Section 3311.22 of the Ohio Revised Code and contingent upon the forgiveness of Ledgemont Local School District's Solvency Assistance Fund debt.

Section 2. The Superintendent is hereby authorized and directed to take any and all actions necessary to support and/or effectuate the territory transfer approved for initiation in Section 1, above.

Section 3. It is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Board, and that all deliberations of this Board and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public or in executive session as permitted by Ohio law.

Section 4. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and immediately upon its adoption.

Mr. Manfredi seconded adoption of the foregoing Resolution with the vote resulting as follows:

Mrs. Brown - Aye
Mr. Honkala - Aye
Mr. Manfredi - Aye
Mr. Imhof - Aye
Mr. Koster - Aye

Motion carried.

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Adjournment

Motion made by Mr. Honkala, seconded by Mr. Manfredi, to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

Roll Call: All Ayes

Motion Carried.

Mr. James Koster President

Mrs. Beth McCaffrey Recorder of Proceedings