

Board of Education Special Meeting (Monday, March 17, 2025)*Generated by Kimberly Grilli on Tuesday, March 25, 2025***Members present**

LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Kathleen Walsh, Seth Bower, John Kershner

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM**A. Opening Items**

Procedural: 1. Pledge of Allegiance at 7 pm

Procedural: 2. Roll Call - All present and accounted for.

Discussion: 3. Review of Belief Statement and Board Norms

B. Agenda Approval

Action 2025-83: 1. Adoption of Meeting Agenda

Move that the Board of Education approve the agenda.

Motion by Libby Gray, second by LaToya Dowdell-Burger.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Kathleen Walsh, Seth Bower

No: John Kershner

C. Call to Order**D. Board Items**

Discussion: 1. Discuss Groveport-Madison HS Athletic Field Naming Rights

Mr. Bower opened with a statement that said Mr. Bell's naming rights was conditional and Section 11 provides the District termination rights for lack of payment or crime of moral turpitude. The Franklin Co. courts, the civil decision that holds Mr. Bell liable for money enables us to terminate the agreement. This breach is immediate removal of naming rights and does not require Board action. No 30 day notice is required for this breach. In the contract it states Mr. Bell can not appeal and payments received will stay with the District.

Mr. Kershner asked where that statement came from. Mr. Bower said it was his own. Mr. Kershner asked about the 30 day remedy period and was notification sent. He also asked how was everything taken down on last Thursday without Board action. Kathy then questions to collect the money that the Treasurer's Office sent out letters asking for the money. Then she asked do we have to give a 30 day remedy period. John asked how the decision was made and Mr. Grube said when the news broke about the lawsuit, he reviewed the contract and called the attorney and the attorney said you can take immediate action with the moral turpitude clause. John said that he does not agree with the Superintendent and attorney being able to make that decision and it should have been brought to the Board. Mr. Grube stated that we are here to talk about naming rights. Mr. Grube asked could he remove the name and the attorney stated YES, without a Board meeting. Mr. Grube says that in Board policy and statute it spells out the roles and responsibilities of the Board. This decision was a day-to-day activity of the District which the Supt. has full rights. The Board does not have power over the day-to-day rights and responsibilities, that is in statute. Latoya added it was in the District's best interest to move quickly since the civil suit decision came down and we just need to confirm as a Board we all agree it was the right thing to do to remove Mr. Bell's name. Mr. Grube also sated the same day an email was sent to all Board members letting them know what was going on and the situation and decision. John stated that the attorney Mr. Grube talked to was not worth more than 2 cents and ask for a 2nd opinion because our current attorney does not give us great opinions. Kathy stated that this should have been a Board decision. John added we should have met with Mr. Bell and give him the chance to pay us the rest of the money, but now we will not get a penny. Mr. Grube asked that if he did pay are we going to keep his name on the Field? John said no.

Action 2025-84: 2. Motion to stay Cruiser Stadium

Motion by Libby Gray, second by LaToya Dowdell-Burger.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Seth Bower, John Kershner

No: Kathleen Walsh

Discussion: 3. Discuss a Regulated Individual - Mr. Bower started with a statement that said, last week the Board authorized the Supt. to get an external investigation going about this situation. Federal student privacy laws do not allow us to talk about students in public and neither does our Board policies. Our legal team is writing an update that will give us insight and examples of situations where a school official has a right to review student records. John questioned why people being investigated get to pick the investigator. That does not seem right and the Board should have picked the investigator and firm that was independent. Mr. Grube asked is he under investigation? Mr. Grube we have been through this and some of the Board got the answers but just not the one's they wanted to hear. John stated that Seth, the Asst. Supt. and the Supt will all be part of the investigation because that is how the process went through. Mr. Grube stated that 6 days again the Board told him to hire an independent investigator and that is what he did. I was trying to expeditiously get this moving for all involved. It was approved by the Board with no direction on who to hire because that is day to day activity and that is my role. I went to an investigator that many, many Ohio schools use and her reputation is fantastic. Mr. Grube feels like this is not about the situation but about

being critical of what and how the decisions have been made. It feels like a way to publicly criticize me and be critical of my decisions. John stated he was an independent person.

Action 2025-85: 4. Motion to contact Bricker Graydon to get an independent investigator

Motion by John Kershner, second by Kathleen Walsh

Final Resolution: Motion Fails

Yes: John Kershner, Kathleen Walsh

No: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Seth Bower

E. Comments, Announcements, and Other Business

F. Adjournment

Action 2025-86: 1. Motion to Adjourn

Adjourn at 7:46 pm

Motion by LaToya Dowdell-Burger, second by Kathleen Walsh.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: LaToya Dowdell-Burger, Libby Gray, Kathleen Walsh, Seth Bower, John Kershner