



## Tri-Village Local Schools

The Tri-Village Local School District Board of Education met in regular session on December 18, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. with the following members present: Tim Bevins, Tracy Frech, Tom Schlechty, and Justin Spencer. Mr. Dubbs was absent from the meeting.

The Board of Education approved the minutes of the regular meeting held on November 20, 2023.

Elementary Principal's Report: Mr. Mead began his report on the topic of phonemic awareness. Professional development will take place on January 12, 2024, for the K-2 teaching staff as well as Mrs. Ford from third grade. The cost for each teacher is \$700 which will be paid with Title I funds. Mr. Mead is hoping to close the gap even more in this area. Emily Kappel from Kappel Consulting has also been on campus observing math teachers in grades 3 – 8 and will return on February 7 to provide additional observations and professional development. The Darke County ESC applied for a grant for the Kappel Consulting services which equated to 25 days of professional development for Darke County schools. If there are any unused days in the grant, Tri-Village plans to pick up these days. Mr. Mead has completed twenty OTES 2.0 round one observations. He will start round two in January. The third grade ELA data has been received and scrubbed with 62% of the students already passing this year; passage at this time last year was at 42% so already much improvement this school year. Mr. Mead believes that this is the highest passage rate during his tenure. KRA data has been received with 64% of our kindergarten students hitting the 263 mark which is considered passing. The Tri-Village kindergarten students earned the second highest percentage in the county. Mr. Mead stated that the preschool staff is doing a great job preparing our students for kindergarten. Winter MAP testing will be completed by January 19 in which Kappel Consulting will return on March 6 to breakdown the math scores. Congratulations to Ezra Gutierrez who was the Tri-Village Elementary Spelling Bee winner. Ezra will compete at the county level on January 18. Hayley Kennett was the runner-up. The winter band and choral concerts once again were a success. Grades K - 4 concert was on December 5 and grades 5 – 8 on December 14. Both concerts were very well attended, and Mr. Mead thanked Mr. Bialowas and Mr. Wirrig for all their hard work preparing for the concerts. The following students were recognized as November Patriots of the month: Cole Doolin, Cash Ridout, Ellie Hileman, Mya Denlinger, Sawyer Preston, Devin Sachs, Ezra Gutierrez, and Brinlee Brewer.

High School Principal's Report: Mr. Morris began his report sharing information on the staff "All-In" wellness center challenge. There were two teams, the red team (high school) and blue team (elementary school). The red team won the challenge and earned a catered Mexican dinner on December 8. However, any staff member who completed their four-week challenge exercising at least 30 minutes a day at a minimum of three days per week, will receive a "PAC Army" t-shirt as organized by Nurse Jodi Fritz. Morris also shared that he attends quarterly administrative meetings at the Darke County Educational Service Center as well as two lunch meetings throughout the school year. He stated that the mid-year end of course testing was completed on December 12 and 13. His first round of observations are underway as well as round two of MAP testing. Morris shared that Mrs. Burns organized professional interviews for her English 11 students. Those interviewing included Eric Burns, Amy Hollinger, Brenda Miller, Shaun Sachs, and Dan Stockslager. Emily Kappel from Kappel Consulting met with Taylor Rawlings (7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade math) on December 14 and will return with follow up visits on February 7 and March 7, 2024. Mr. Morris spoke briefly on the activities of the special education units operated by the Darke County ESC as well various traveling experiences for the Tri-Village MD high school unit. Students recently saw "The Grinch" at the newly renovated movie theater in Greenville as well as going to McBo's Bowling Alley in Versailles. The high school aged MD students also participate in shopping visits to Wal-Mart and clean the Tri-Village Rescue in New Madison. Morris gave a "big thanks" to Amanda Dyson for spearheading the Adopt-A-Family efforts. Amanda partnered with companies such as Whirlpool and Fram to provide Christmas gifts. Morris also reviewed the band and choir holiday performances on campus, at the Cedar Grove Church, New Madison Tree Lighting, and the Kiwanis Christmas party. At the High School band and coral concert, retired band and choral director, Eric and Carol Flora, were inducted into the Music Hall of Fame. Mr. and Mrs. Flora currently live in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Morris completed his report with a list of school activities through January 15.

Superintendent's Report: Mr. Sagester began his report with a Press Release from the U.S. News & World Report which recognized Tri-Village Local Schools among the 2024 best elementary and junior high schools. The

press release read as follows: Washington, D.C. – December 13, 2023 – Tri-Village Junior High and Elementary Schools has been ranked among the 2024 Best Elementary and Junior High Schools by U.S. News & World Report. The rankings include more than 79,000 public elementary and junior high schools across the country. “We are extremely proud of our students, staff, and community as both Tri-Village Elementary School and Junior High School earned “badges” of excellence through the U.S News & World Report rankings,” said Josh Sagester, District Superintendent. The methodology focuses on state assessments of students who were proficient or above proficient in mathematics and reading/language arts while accounting for student backgrounds, achievement in core subjects, and how well schools are educating their students. Student-teacher ratios are applied to break ties in the overall score. The 2024 Best Elementary and Best Junior High Schools rankings are based on publicly available data from the U.S. Department of Education. “The 2024 Best Elementary and Junior High rankings offer a way for parents to get a snapshot of their child’s school and how well it is doing compared with other schools,” said LaMont Jones, managing editor for education at U.S. News. Mr. Sagester stated, “this is another proud moment for Tri-Village and another feather in our cap.” Sagester continued his report with a track update. He is recommending that the district enter a contract with Field Turf USA to update the existing track. The proposed timeline begins on May 20 to begin stripping and milling the surface with an expected completion date of August 1. Sagester shared an update on the baseball/softball complex renovations too. The concrete caps on the backstop walls are complete and other concrete work will begin the second week of January. Per Level MB’s construction manager, the roofing materials have been delivered and the roof installation will be completed by December 22. Walls, insulation, HVAC, and canopy installation is expected to be completed the first week of January and metal siding the second week. The inside finishes will begin the third week of January. Regarding governance, current Buckeye Valley Superintendent Paul Craft will become the next State Superintendent effective January 1, 2024. Mr. Sagester shared that second quarter interim reports were distributed on December 8, and he also shared the tentative 2024-2025 school calendar. Both building administrators and the TVEA are all pleased with the draft. Sagester recently met with all new staff members individually to garner any positive and/or negative feedback on their experiences so far in the district. Per Sagester, “all feedback received was positive and all new staff members feel valued and welcomed in our school environment.” The staff’s Christmas breakfast will take place on Thursday, December 21 and each staff member will receive a black ¼ zip sweatshirt or black vest this year. The athletic department will be hosting a “Night of Champions” honoring the 1974 baseball team and 1979 softball team. 49 Degrees contacted Mr. Sagester regarding a gear display case that was originally ordered by and built for Rutgers University, but coaching staff later determined that the case was not needed so it was offered to Tri-Village for “free.” Chris Pearson and Greg Pearson will be installing the case which will display the sale of “Spirit” gear. Sagester concluded his report with the girls’ and boys’ basketball records to this point.

Treasurer’s Report: Mrs. Chowning updated the board members on the progress of the district’s FY 2023 State audit. The auditors are nearing completion of their fieldwork and Angie Wise, Audit Manager, will begin her review of the fieldwork at the beginning of January. Per Mrs. Wise, “everything has gone well, and thank you very much for your prompt attention to all of our questions and requests.” Joanie Hollinger, Preschool Director, was approved for a \$40,000 grant from the Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association. She plans to use these funds to purchase additional playground equipment and pay retention bonuses to her staff.

The Board of Education members voted on the following motions:

### **PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS**

1. Recommendation to approve the monthly employment of substitute teachers for the 2023-2024 school year as submitted and updated monthly by the Darke County Educational Service Center.
2. Recommendation to non-renew all (2023-2024) supplemental contracts at the end of their season.
3. Recommendation to issue a one year (2024-2025) limited supplemental contract to Brad Gray, Athletic Director.

### **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

1. Recommendation to approve financial reports as presented by the Treasurer.
2. Recommendation to recognize the updated Ohio State minimum wage of \$10.45 per hour, effective January 1, 2024.
3. Whereas the Tri-Village Local Schools Board of Education wishes to support the efforts of other boards of education to obtain favorable judicial decisions and,

Whereas, the Ohio School Boards Association Legal Assistance Fund has been established for this purpose, Therefore, the Board hereby resolves to participate in the OSBA LAF for calendar year 2023-2024 and authorizes the treasurer to pay the LAF \$250.

4. Request to approve the renewal of membership to the Ohio School Boards Association and subscription to the OSBA Briefcase for 2024 in the amount of \$3,918.00.
5. The Treasurer recommends a \$610,255.90 subsequent transfer to USAS 070 (the "Capital Projects Fund"), special cost center 9219, from the General Fund (USAS 001) for the purpose of accumulating resources for the acquisition, construction, or improvement of fixed assets.
6. Recommendation to approve an engagement letter between the Tri-Village Local School District and the Auditor of State to audit fiscal year 2022-2023 with expected fees and expenses not to exceed \$16,277.
7. Recommendation to approve the amended purpose and intent statement of the PATS (Parents Assisting Teachers and Students) organization, Fund 022 and Special Cost Center 9400.
8. The Board authorizes and approves change order #1 for the baseball/softball complex update in the amount of \$44,367.90 and change order #2 in the amount of \$35,000.00 due to changes in the Scope of the Work, Contract Sum, and/or Contract Time of the Agreements made during the construction of the project.
9. Recommendation to accept the following donations:

<u>Donor</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
Stockton Studio	Archery Club	\$ 100.00	
Dudley and Sharon Lipps	Athletics	\$ 4,700.00	
Toby L Spencer	Capital Projects	\$ 6,063.00	Flagpole
Bruce A. Hunt	HS Cheer	\$ 50.00	
Equipment Insulation Inc.	HS Cheer	\$ 50.00	
Happy Feet	HS Cheer	\$ 50.00	
Hunt Horseshoeing (Kyle Hunt)	HS Cheer	\$ 50.00	
Mattie Brewer	HS Cheer	\$ 50.00	

10. Recommendation to approve payment of dyslexia training at a rate of \$32.39 per hour for the 2023-2024 school year.
11. Recommendation to contract with FieldTurf, for the Tri Village Local School District Track Project, based upon FieldTurf vendor contract with Ohio Council of Educational Purchasing Consortia (OCEPC), under the authority of ORC Section 167.081.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Recommendation to appoint **Tom Schlechty** President Pro Tem for the annual organizational meeting on January 8, 2024, beginning at **5:45 p.m.** to reside over the meeting until board officers for 2024 have been elected, as recommended by the Superintendent. (Budget Meeting to begin at **6:00 p.m.** Public Hearing (District Calendar) to begin at **6:15 p.m.** and Regular Board Meeting will begin at **6:30 p.m.**)
2. Recommendation to approve an overnight fieldtrip for select FFA members to attend the Ohio FFA Association Leadership Conference in Dublin, Ohio from January 13-14, 2024, under the direction of Mr. Justin Slone.
3. Recommendation to approve the new, revised, and replacement board policies.

Mr. Schlechty adjourned the meeting at 7:16 p.m.