

Minutes of Special Meeting
November 8, 2017

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Exhibit C

The Rootstown Local Board of Education met in special session at 6:00 p.m. in the High School Cafeteria on November 8, 2017. Present were Tom Siciliano, Jay Kelsey, Norm Reynolds, Stephanie Langguth, and Amanda Waesch. Also present were Andrew Hawkins, Superintendent, and Connie Baldwin, Treasurer. Also in attendance: Terri Hrina-Treharn, Caren Karp, Eric Kline, Scott Krieger, Aaron Kurchev, Ann Kurchev, Ron Coleman, Nick Hammerschmidt, James R. Gerren, DeWayne Knight, John Weaver.

The meeting was called to order by President Jay Kelsey at 6:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call: J. Kelsey, T. Siciliano, N. Reynolds, S. Langguth, and A. Waesch.

RESOLUTION 2017-10-249
ADOPT THE AGENDA

It was moved by T. Siciliano seconded by N. Reynolds to adopt the agenda.

Yeas: T. Siciliano, N. Reynolds, A. Waesch, J. Kelsey, S. Langguth

Nays: None

Motion Carried: 5 to 0

REPORTS:

Andrew Hawkins:

Next Steps:

Recap

1559 Against Levy

1149 For Levy

Review Options:

May Levy

Compete with fire dept

Timeline - January 8th to BOE

August - low turnout and expensive

November - higher turnout with gov race

OFCC

41% ends in August

42% next cycle

Next year will have lower enrollment numbers which means less building space and increased construction costs

Not guaranteed to receive OFCC funding next year

Need to talk with Bill Prenocil in Columbus about special needs exemption

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Community Engagement
Committee meetings
GPD/Rockmill
Survey - find out why levy did not pass and adjust

OLD BUSINESS: A work session was set for November 20 at 5:00 pm before the regular board meeting for discussion regarding sessions at the Capital Conference.

NEW BUSINESS: A community discussion was held regarding the levy:

Aaron Kurchev – 2909 Sanford – The levy lost by just a couple hundred votes. We need to find out who showed up. Feels we need to do a survey of who voted, approach the Cook Rd property owner, and find out if the income tax was popular with senior voters. People are asking for drawings and the JEDD rumors are still around.

Amanda Waesch – Feels we need better communication regarding: collaboration with trustees, more information on financing options, and what the JEDD really means. It was not the school's job to pass the JEDD and the district was not a party in the JEDD contract, which means the district had no legal rights to negotiate the terms. We would still need a school levy to secure the JEDD funds.

Stephanie Langguth – The school hired, as a consultant, the JEDD attorney who wrote the JEDD laws.

Aaron Kurchev – The JEDD is hard to explain. This was fully explored but maybe not communicated enough. John Wray needs to be involved in the message.

Stephanie Langguth – The township trustees pulled the JEDD from the ballot but still wanted our support.

Cindy Sladkey – 3175 Bird Dr – Attended the JEDD meetings and the school committee meetings as did others in the room. Feels there is a lack of communication between the school and the trustees. She understands we would need a levy in order to pass the JEDD. Wants to know why keep the school on this property? NEOMED is beautifully landscaped. If they bought the property, it would look nice as well. So what if NEOMED wants the property even if it is tax exempt. The payroll taxes from the JEDD could be used to purchase the land and put in sewers, etc. NEOMED would bring in higher paying jobs on the property rather than minimum wage retail jobs.

Stephanie Langguth – The school district looked at 12 properties. Two met the requirements of the district (no high tension lines, no railroad tracks, no wetlands). Of these two, one was not for sale and the owner was not interested. The other held a right of first refusal for another buyer and is now sold. NEOMED has said they don't want the land. There is no developer waiting for our land. How long should the school district wait to put this on the ballot?

Aaron Kurchev – NEOMED wants to see shops and restaurants and private development on this site to help their enrollment.

Stephanie Langguth – I am not against growth but there is nowhere for the school to go. Meanwhile, the estimated JEDD funds were never verified. Business owners threatened to sue over it. We cannot bank this amount of money on so many "ifs". The school district spent months on research using consultants. Someone suggested the district use eminent domain but we do not meet the requirements for that.

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Jay Kelsey – We could not go on the ballot without a location for the school.

Cindy Sladkey – The bus garage had a plan but it was not the same as what was built. What happened to all the extra money? We need to see a plan.

Cleopatra Clifford –3362 Sandy Lake Rd.– We know the actual square footage. The committee spent hours visiting other schools to get a vision and ideas. Feels there needed to be equality between sports and the arts. She also wanted to move but if we can't, we can't. Need to pursue the best option available to us.

Cindy Sladkey – There was a lot of negativity on social media.

Aaron Kurchev – There was information available on Facebook.

Caren Karp—4323 Rootstown Rd – Has lived in the district since 1999 and is an employee of the district. Feels disappointed as a parent in the levy failure. The middle school is terrible. At this time, she and her husband are contemplating private schools. Did the survey not ask if we should move?

Aaron Kurchev – Yes

Stephanie Langguth – There is nowhere for the school to go. And there is no JEDD.

Caren Karp – There should be a new survey.

Amanda Waesch – The board looked at 12 properties. There were swamps, train tracks, etc. Only 2 properties qualified. Agrees the survey is old and outdated. During the survey, we were still discussing the JEDD. We do need a new survey. Two committees worked on this for 9 months and did vote on what they wanted to recommend.

Caren Karp – Works in the district and helps get buckets when it rains and the roofs are leaking. All three buildings need new roofs.

Dewayne Knight – ? Camp Rd – The property is not currently listed as sold. Don Smith had the right of first refusal.

Aaron Kurchev – When I sold my house, it took 3 months for the county to update the website.

Nick Hammerschmidt – 5065 Kelly Rd – The property sale needs to be confirmed. He is against the income tax. Would support a school levy with any other financing method. There should be no income tax because of the surrounding districts. Would not be swayed by a JEDD. Feels the locally funded initiatives were too high. Could we split up the ballot and do a separate levy for the LFI's?

Connie Baldwin – I do not believe that is possible.

Stephanie Langguth – What happens if the LFI ballot passed and the school levy failed?

Jay Kelsey – The committee did have input on the LFI's.

Nick Hammerschmidt – 8,9, or 10 mills would be ok.

Amanda Waesch – The finance committee voted on a budget of \$33 million. The committee felt people would not vote for a levy over 5 mills. The committee voted on the combination of income tax and property tax based on the demographics of the community.

Stephanie Langguth – There was a great deal of community input during the meetings. This was thinking outside of the box to help the community. Maybe that should have been communicated better.

Amanda Waesch – The finance committee met for over 9 months.

Aaron Kurchev – We need to find out whether the income tax was supported by the voters or not.

Nick Hammerschmidt – Feels people did not vote yes because of the income tax. Feels the district needed to be very clear on the auditorium. Feels that it was communicated the district

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might build an auditorium or it might use accordion seating. Feels that the community needs to know whether there is going to be a 600 seat auditorium or not.

Norm Reynolds – The income tax was an earned income tax which is to help seniors and large land owners.

Dewayne Knight – Feels the earned income tax shifts the burden to the workers. Feels this is not a shared burden.

Stephanie Langguth – Said she would pay both the property tax and the income tax.

Understands she would pay more because of the earned income tax. However, the earned income tax would really help her mom who is on a fixed income. The district tried to spread the burden fairly based on the demographics of the community.

Dewayne Knight – The Kent income tax supports their schools. The JEDD would tax the payroll of NEOMED and businesses. Businesses don't share the burden. Moving forward, he hopes the district will revisit the JEDD and collaborate with the trustees. Feels there was disconnect in cooperation.

Stephanie Langguth – The JEDD funds were only available if we moved. It was in the contract. The JEDD was the township's plan, not the school district's.

Aaron Kurchev – The trustees need to communicate that.

Scott Krieger – 2845 St. Rt. 44 – The trustees had a different message than the school district and it split the community. If everyone had the same message, the JEDD could get passed.

Stephanie Langguth – The JEDD required land to develop.

Norm Reynolds – The JEDD committee decides who receives the funds.

Dewayne Knight – That was part of the JEDD contract.

Jay Kelsey – The JEDD contract could change in the future, changing who gets the funds.

Stephanie Langguth – This is another one of the "ifs."

Jay Kelsey – Businesses did not want the JEDD to fund the schools. Business owners were irate and wanted something from the JEDD to benefit business.

Dewayne Knight – Only one business threatened to sue. Woody Goodnight was told (for example) that if his profit was \$10,000, his share of the JEDD tax would be \$200. He said he could support that.

Jay Kelsey – Business salaries would also be taxed.

Dewayne Knight – Businesses who rent their space do not pay any tax directly to Rootstown. Need to be more modern in financing. Maybe change to a village or city like other communities. If the school has 36 acres, that doesn't meet the 50 acre requirements.

Jay Kelsey – This property is grandfathered.

Nick Hammerschmidt – There are too many questions. People can't get to the meetings. The school must be very clear in its message. Need a joint message with the trustees. The levy failed due to lack of clarity.

Aaron Kurchev – I will put this on the trustees. We asked them to communicate this. Because of the trustees, you are punishing the schools whose hands are absolutely tied.

Amanda Waesch – The election divided us as a community. She would be open to a meeting with the trustees. But we must move forward and not point fingers. Need to hit the reset button. We need a new survey and to meet with the trustees. Time is not on our side. We all have new people elected and the holidays coming up.

John Weaver – Root Dr – Comments the board needs to fix the issue with the trustees, look at a smaller budget, and wants to see a building plan.

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Tom Siciliano – The committee visited other schools. When we looked at Beaver Local, we felt we could shrink it and put it right on our property. It is a great facility.

Cleopatra Clifford – Feels we should bring back all the experts for a meeting. Have GPD and Rockmill refresh everyone.

Amanda Waesch – Agrees we need a refresh meeting

John Weaver – Aaron Kurchev did a great job. But we need more voter turnout.

Amanda Waesch – Wants to see more people at meetings than on social media.

Stephanie Langguth – Aaron Kurchev has done a wonderful job of sticking to the message and staying calm on social media.

Aaron Kurchev – We had sponsored posts on Facebook, which should have showed up on people's newsfeeds.

Ann Kurchev – The committee needs more volunteers!

Dewayne Knight – Is January 8 the deadline to refile?

Connie Baldwin – Yes, that is the first deadline for the May ballot.

Dewayne Knight – There is a rumor about operating funds. Doesn't want to be another Field or Waterloo.

Connie Baldwin – The five-year forecast is available on the Ohio Dept. of Education website. I am very conservative in my estimates.

Stephanie Langguth – The state only budgets for two years but they require us to budget for five. Connie is very conservative in her predictions.

Connie Baldwin – We will be in union negotiations this spring. That will certainly change the forecast.

Aaron Kurchev – It is very difficult to explain the five year forecast to the community.

Terri Hrina-Treharn – Did you say our percentage from the state would change in August?

Andrew Hawkins – Yes. Would like to thank the group for the good discussion tonight. A recap of the meeting is:

- 1) We need new schools
- 2) The community supports new schools
- 3) The community wants more collaboration with the trustees.
- 4) We need a new survey
- 5) We need to revise the plans based on the survey results.
- 6) We need to be clear in our message.
- 7) The community would like to see a tangible example.
- 8) We need to invite our consultants and experts back for a refresh.

Amanda Waesch – We need to keep the engagement from the community we had tonight.

Tom Siciliano – Would love to see everyone at the board meetings.

Norm Reynolds – We need to figure out our next steps.

RESOLUTION 2017-10-250
ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by S. Langguth and seconded by T. Siciliano to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Yeas: S. Langguth, T. Siciliano, N. Reynolds, A. Waesch, J. Kelsey

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Nays: None
Motion Carried: 5 to 0

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Jay Kelsey, President

Connie Baldwin, Treasurer