

# Minutes of the September 30, 2024 Special Joint Meeting of the Tecumseh Local Board of Education

**September 30, 2024**

The Tecumseh Local Board of Education met in a special joint session on September 30, 2024, with Board President Sue Anne Martin presiding. Ms. Martin called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was held in the Arrow Conference Room at Tecumseh High School, 9830 W National Rd, New Carlisle, OH 45344.

Roll Call: Present — Members Martin, Stafford, Clark, Diller, and Mills.  
Absent — Stafford.

Ms. Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **Planning and Discussion**

Tecumseh Local Schools:

### **Brian Dixon** -

- spoke about the recent threat made to Tecumseh Local Schools via an Instagram post. It looked like a copycat from other posts that have been made. Brian and Deputy Loney reached out to the Ohio School Safety Center and worked with State Highway Patrol, FBI field offices in Cincinnati and Cleveland, the STACC (Statewide Terror Analyst and Criminal Center,) National Threat Operations Center, the Exigent Threat Research and Analysis Crisis Team. It ultimately led to the arrest of one of our students who was charged with terroristic threats. As a result of the See Something - Say Something initiative we have at Tecumseh, many individuals reached out to share this information about the post. Very appreciative of the relationship that we have developed with the Ohio School Safety Center.
- working with the EPA on several initiatives. We've been asked to share information with area officials and the general public, reminding them about potential contaminants to our wells. Shared the locations of our wells, in the event of a chemical spill, the district would need to be notified. Wells are located at Medway, Donnelsville, and the main campus.

### **Deputy Loney** -

- Things have been busy at the Sheriff's office with events going on in the city of Springfield. Deputies have been posted at Wittenburg and Clark State. There was a large presence in the city over the weekend in anticipation of a protest. Fortunately, there was no protest. Deputies are very committed to keeping the city and county safe. Three new deputies were hired recently. Staffing levels are good.
- Deputy Dillon working with Deputy Loney after being approached by some students about bringing SADD back to Tecumseh High School. SADD previously was Students Against Drunk Drivers, but it is now Students Against Destructive Decisions. The group meets every other Thursday during Pride Period. Membership is growing. Started with 15-20 students and are now up to over 35. They held an event with pedal cars and drunk goggles on a course outside to demonstrate how difficult it is to drive drunk or distracted. A mock crash is scheduled for the springtime before prom. The kids are very motivated.

### **Paula Crew** -

- Mental Health Committee began 12-14 years ago with a few staff members and guidance counselors and has grown into a large group that consists of our mental health counselors,

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guidance counselors, principals, school nurses, school resource officers, as well as five to six outside agencies like Clark County Mental Health, the Clark County Health Department and, Wellspring. It is a great resource in helping our students with their social and emotional health.

- The State Report Card was issued recently. We stayed about the same with our academics, with some improvements. Overall, we earned 3.5 stars out of five. Schools across the nation are experiencing chronic absenteeism. Last year we had zero out of five stars for attendance. After putting systems in place in all buildings, we received five out of five stars. The state had required that absence rates be reduced by 3%, we reduced ours by 10%.
- Paula serves as one of the advisors for the Optimist Service Club. If there is a need for assistance with projects in the city of New Carlisle or Bethel Township, please reach out to her. There are about forty-five students in the club.
- Veterans Day programs will be held throughout the district on November 11th, and are open to the public. Start times will be published on our website for each location. Each program is different.
- Our Senior Citizen Luncheon will be held on Friday, December 6th at 1:00. It is open to all district residents who are age 60 and above.
- The annual Tecumseh Craft Show will be held on Saturday, December 7th at Tecumseh Middle School, from 10 am - 4 pm.
- We have two levies on the ballot in November. One is the renewal of the Permanent Improvement Levy. This pays for the big-ticket items like our roofs, asphalt, and our buses. The other levy is a transition from our current renewal levies to a substitute levy. This substitute levy results in no new taxes for existing residents who already pay for that renewal. The people who build new homes in the district or open new businesses would also pay the same amount that current residents are already paying. It will yield a small increase to our budget, however we will need to ask for new money in the future. We have not passed new operating costs since 1995. Many cuts have been made along the way since that time.

Clark County Commissioners:

### **Sasha Rittenhouse** -

- Clark County has funded a second youth educator at the 4H Youth Extension Program, Jeremy Eleman. His focus will be on at-risk youth. He will be working with JFS and the juvenile courts within the city, but will also be available to the county as well if anybody has any 4H needs. Feel free to reach out to him.
- Kudos to Tecumseh for your safety aspects and for getting to the bottom of the threat so quickly.
- Our dispatch center is overwhelmed right now. Everyone is hanging in, but it will be nice when things settle down.
- Thanked Tecumseh for holding this type of meeting. It is the only one of its kind that she is aware of.

### **Ethan Harris** -

- Water line extension is finishing up along 235. This will potentially provide water to Donnelssville down the line, which will be helpful to the community.
- Working with Habitat for Humanity to do a few more builds at the former Madison Street school location. They are ramping up their internal capacity to make sure that inspections go smoothly as new construction happens in the new subdivisions in New Carlisle.

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- The Land Bank owns the former Twin Creeks, the original phase two, on the other side of the bridge. Always looking to develop that land if the opportunity arises.
- There are grant opportunities. We've provided millions of dollars over the past five to ten years to the city of New Carlisle. We would love to do work in Bethel Township.
- There is new construction happening throughout Clark County.
- As more houses are added to New Carlisle, there is more potential for national retailers to be interested in the area. One of the biggest barriers to this is that New Carlisle does not permit alcohol sales. If there is an interest in adding sit-down chair restaurants to the 235 area, alcohol sales would need to be approved.

### Clark County Auditor

#### **Hilary Hamilton** -

- Thanked Tecumseh for holding a meeting like this. It's a great opportunity to share information.
- It's abstract time in the auditor's office. Should be completed in the next month.
- The 2025 reappraisal is underway. Approximately 54% of the data review is complete. Once the review is complete, and appraiser will visit each property. Every parcel in the county will be appraised.
- Beginning a streamlined process for dog licenses. DocuPet will be rolled out this year. It is more cost effective and efficient. December through February is the busiest time for that staff.

### Bethel Township

#### **Alec Ashbaugh** -

- Clean-up work is underway in Crystal Lakes, removing fallen trees.
- Updated road repair information.
- Thanked the Optimist Club from Tecumseh for their work along with the AFJROTC and VoAg for the work they did removing the fencing at the Funderburg Cemetery. They worked hard and did a great job.
- Senior Citizens' lunch every Tuesday and Thursday at the Community Center on Gerlaugh Road, for ages 55 and up, by donation.
- Levy on the ballot for General Fund. It's the first levy they have had for the general fund. Inside millage goes for the roads.

#### **Chris Crowley(?)** -

- Planning a Trunk or Treat. Date has not been set yet, trying to hold it in conjunction with Beggar's Night.

### City of New Carlisle

#### **Chief Trusty** -

- The city is growing. Looking forward to more houses being built. The new McDonald's opened recently. Taco Bell will be opening in mid-November.
- The department is growing, always looking to hire.
- Heritage of Flight Festival is this weekend. Lots of things to do. Friday is the car show, Saturday is the bike show, and Sunday is the Jeep Rally.
- October 12th is the Open House and the Fire Department, from 12-3 for Fire Prevention Week. Games for the kids. Farmer's Market will be held that night beginning at 4 PM.

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## Mayor Cook -

- Two new housing developments have broken ground. Anticipating 500-600 new homes over the next ten years.
- McDonald's has opened, Taco Bell will be opening shortly.
- City Council has a busy schedule coming up with budget, CIP program, union negotiations, City Manager review, and Citizen Review for Citizen of the Year.
- Meeting on Thursday with the Vice Mayor and the administration. Will propose that we come up with a few semi trailer loads of goods to send to Ashville, NC.

## Cathy Wright -

- We have a few things on the ballot too in November. A small amendment to our charter, just some wording, and also an ordinance on chickens which would permit up to six chickens in an enclosed space, no roosters. Good guidelines on this issue.

## CarrieAnn (?) -

- Appreciates the excellent job Matt Mills is doing with the levy presentations.

## **Adjournment**

Motion by Mr. Mills to adjourn the meeting.

Second by Mrs. Clark

Roll Call: Ayes, Members Mills, Clark, Mills, Stafford and Martin.

Nays, none. Motion carried 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.



President



Treasurer