

# Bethel-Tate Local Schools

# BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

January 2020

## Organizational Meeting

The Bethel-Tate Board of Education held its organizational meeting on January 13, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. at Bethel-Tate High School.

District Treasurer Karen Royer swore in newly-elected members Gary Shepherd and Brandy Pryor.



Mr. David Brannock was named President of the Board for 2020 and Dr. Bill Shula as Vice President.

The Board also established its regular meeting days for 2020 on the 4th Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. in the Bethel-Tate High School media center.

Board committee assignments for 2020:  
Finance/Audit/Budget-Tiffany Riddle and Bill Shula  
Safety-Gary Shepherd and Dave Brannock  
Athletic -Brandy Pryor and Dave Brannock  
Academic-Brandy Pryor and Tiffany Riddle

Two Board members will represent the district as Ohio School Board Association (OSBA) liaisons:  
OSBA Legislative Liaison-Bill Shula  
OSBA Student Achievement Liaison-Tiffany Riddle

The Board has collaborated on a new mission, vision, beliefs, and goals and will meet with administration in February/March to come up with a 3-5 year plan to achieve these goals.

## Regular Board Meeting

### Presentations

#### Learning Communities

George Sturgeon, BTHS Principal, spoke about staff learning communities for professional development and growth. Staff set their goals and work with administrators to meet their professional development growth plan with more specific, personalized training opportunities and professional learning communities with their colleagues.

#### Special Education

Mary Beth Tucker, Middle School Assistant Principal/Special Education Director, shared an update on Special Education. The district is a pilot district for updated electronic reporting for IEPs and related documents. HCC will be training staff on this new system that will be used statewide next school year.

Mrs. Tucker reported that across the district several teachers are co-teaching which has been beneficial for students. She also spoke about the MD units at the middle and high school which are building transitional and functional life skills. She added that the district's new preschool program is at capacity. The afternoon preschool class integrates typically-developing students and students with disabilities.

#### New IT program

Mr. Doug Ginn spoke about Bethel-Tate High School's new partnership with the University of Cincinnati School of Information Technology to offer a pathway for high school students to work towards completing college a degree in Information Technology. This program will be available in the 2020-2021 school year and will be taught by Mr.

Ginn. Six information technology classes and three College Credit Plus classes will be offered at the high school. If students complete these classes with C or better, they will be admitted to the UC's Information Technology program as a sophomore and eligible for a co-op placement.

### **NHS Plan for Community Celebration**

Sam Frondorf, president of the Bethel-Tate National Honor Society, shared the club's mission for student-led community service that helps to uplift and support the community. With this in mind, the honor society is proposing a communitywide fireworks display and celebration on Saturday, May 16. Sam has met with several organizations including the Bethel Business Association who offered to fund the event. Sam will be meeting with other area service and community groups to secure funding and support for this special event.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The Board approved the Treasurer's consent agenda. Mrs. Royer also reported that there is \$125,109.16 in uncollected fees from this year and previous years. A total of \$22,998.41 in fees have been waived this school year for families on free and reduced lunch. The district will be calling families and sending out reminders to collect these outstanding fees.

### **Superintendent's Report**

The Board approved a resolution opposing the State of Ohio EdChoice Scholarship Voucher Program because of its detrimental impact on the district and public education in Ohio. Legislators will be discussing changes to this program in the upcoming weeks.

The Board also approved a continued membership in the Ohio High School Athletic Association.

### **Informational Items/Board Discussion**

- Bethel Historical Society & Museum-the Board discussed what a valuable resource this museum is to the community. BTMS is planning field trips here for students this school year.
- Institution Notice for Liquor Permit for Bethel Sunoco-with ownership change and location near school, notice is required that Sunoco will continue to sell alcohol.
- NSBA Advisory Institute - Dr. Shula was selected to attend this national institute in Washington, D.C. where he will be meeting with legislators to discuss critical issues impacting education in Ohio.
- Southwest OSBA employee recognition program will be held on March 10.
- Bethel Business and Village update - Dr. Shula reported on the positive collaboration and energy he's seen in the business and village and the importance of working together to foster pride and support in the community.

### **Board Recognition**

January is School Board Recognition Month in Ohio. Melissa Kircher, Superintendent, thanked the Board for their exemplary service to our schools and presented each member with certificates of appreciation.

### **Executive Session**

The Board met in executive session to discuss purchase or sale of property and matters required to be kept confidential. No action was taken.

### **Next Meeting**

February 25

6 p.m.

Bethel-Tate High School