

**Cardinal Local School District  
Work Session/Special Meeting  
February 28, 2018**

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The **Work Session/Special Meeting** of the Cardinal Board of Education held at 6:00 p.m. on February 28, 2018, was attended by Ken Klima, Wendy Anderson, Barb Rayburn, Katie Thomas and Linda Smallwood.

*Prior to the start of the meeting Matt Mesarchik presented Barb Rayburn with a levy sign he had signed by the students to thank her for all of her work on the levy committee. He said he met her two years ago and she has done herculean things on the levy campaign. He wanted to present her with a token of his gratitude. Tearfully, Barb accepted the gift and said “thanks, I am very touched.”*

**Superintendent’s Report**

**Action Items:**

**FMLA**

Mrs. Anderson moved and Mrs. Thomas seconded a motion to approve FMLA leave for Jill DeRamo, effective February 8, 2018 as needed.

Roll call vote:

Wendy Anderson, aye     Barb Rayburn, aye     Linda Smallwood, aye     Katie Thomas, aye     Ken Klima, aye

**Drama Club**

Mr. Klima moved and Mrs. Thomas seconded a motion to approve the Cardinal High School Drama Club with volunteer advisors Vanessa Pintabona and Josh Esenwine.

*Dr. Hunt stated there is a trip to a conference planned in March and it will be approved at the March 14<sup>th</sup> board meeting.*

Roll call vote:

Barb Rayburn, aye     Linda Smallwood, aye     Katie Thomas, aye     Ken Klima, aye     Wendy Anderson, aye

**Discussion Item:**

**School Safety and Security** – Dr. Hunt talked to students at the high school during the lunch periods in regards to safety and security. He was pleased to see some of those students here tonight that asked if they could come. In light of the recent events occurring in the media and surrounding areas, he, Chief Tucholski and Sargent Savage met at lunch time to talk with the students. School safety and security is a top priority and we are doing things for the safety of our students. After the Chardon shooting we put a number of things in place:

- There is a numbering system on all of the doors and windows so the emergency responders can know exactly where a threat is at within the buildings.
- We have cameras in all of the buildings and both the administration and the police department can see them at all times.
- We have cameras on the buses as well.
- There are cameras at the entranceways and you have to buzz to get into the buildings.
- The Village police are at the buildings at arrival and dismissal times.
- We do drills and lockdowns.
- The doors are keyed for lockdowns.

These are some of the things we are already doing to ensure the safety of our students. We have policies and safety plans in place. We are required to share those with the police and the state, but will not do so publically to ensure the safety factors are not known by potential intruders.

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Part of the discussions with the police department has been about how we can engage the police to be more on site. He will be working with Chief Tucholski on a cost structure to have officers in the buildings during the day. We could use them on their down times and we would pay part and the Village would pay part of their salary for that time. The chief will bring back a plan and then Dr. Hunt will bring it to the Board. In these discussions the kids felt more secure when a police officer was visible and onsite. We have cameras strategically placed in the buildings and we will be reviewing the placement with the chief to see where we could put more if needed. So there is the potential need for additional cameras.

Last spring the administration did ALICE training and this spring we will be making adjustments to the early release days to have training for the teaching staff and then the remaining staff members. It is a four hour training with a presentation and discussion period. The dates are April 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> for the first group and April 25<sup>th</sup> and May 2 for the next group. Kristie is setting up a safety website with the link to school safety, school policies and safety measures taken. Dr. Hunt stated we are not sitting by idly. We are doing things and looking into other measures. It was mentioned Chardon had metal detectors but he checked with the superintendent and they do not.

Dr. Hunt wanted to thank all of the students for participating in the safety discussions. In the kids' discussion they felt they needed to know what is going on when it is happening. Some of their suggestions/concern are:

- Put metal detectors in the buildings.
- Make rapid release drills part of the required drills.
- Suicide prevention.
- Lockdown drills during times between classes.
- Arm certain teachers or have a lockbox in the office with a gun or taser in it.
- Make sure all doors are closed during school hours and not propped open.
- Random drug searches.
- Kids need to take the drills seriously.
- Make sure all classrooms get the information about a situation.
- Officers on location.
- DARE in the schools.
- High school students as role models for the younger students.
- Health classes that cover CPR and first aid.

*Mrs. Smallwood stated she talked to Dr. Hunt and others in the community believe we need metal detectors in the buildings. On the high end they cost about \$30,000. With this new bond in the works we could get two of those for the high school and one for the middle school and elementary buildings. It is important to have armed guards in all buildings. Since we are replacing the windows we need bulletproof glass in all lower levels. We have to think like the crazies. The community is all for beefing up the security. Some employees came forward and want to be armed but with the armed officers in the buildings we may not need to have employees armed. Dr. Hunt responded that we need to be careful of our job as a school. We are here to educate and teachers are here to teach. His preference is to have armed officers and not put the burden on the teachers who are not training in these types of situations. Mrs. Anderson asked legally schools are gun free areas, so if we have armed teachers how does that affect these signs and the law of being gun-free zone. Mark Mesarchik stated Ohio law is very clear that is it a board decision. Mrs. Rayburn asked if there was a reason for the signs. Dr. Hunt said he believes it is required by ORC. Brain Kelly stated if you do not have the signs up it invites people to carry while on school premises. It is a safety factor. Anita Marlow suggested to keep the officers times in the building random so people do not know when they are there and can plan an attack around those times. At the hospital they have emergency response teams that are trained to respond to various situations. These might be a good thing for the schools as well. As for metal detectors they cause a problem for people with pacemakers and other metal implements. Mrs. Smallwood stated metal detectors are a very important part of this plan. Mr.*

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Mesarchik said to keep in mind a shooter will start to shoot before they get to the metal detector. With a metal detector you have now slowed down the students getting into the building and made the students a waiting target.

*Mrs. Marlow stated you have to look at all sides. The gun issue is huge. Kids who are struggling in schools are becoming active shooters. You have to address those kids and those issues, especially the kids being expelled. They become angry and they fight back. Ms. Knuckles replied since Dr. Hunt has been here we have rarely expelled a student since he does not feel that is helpful to the student. He will hold an expulsion hearing, give a certain amount of days out of the building, present a plan for assistance and is willing to waive the expulsion if all of the goals are met. Dr. Hunt stated there are many factors to this issue. Mental health issues are a big concern. We have county groups ready to help out. But remember our mission is to educate students in a safe but effective environment. Mrs. Anderson said we have put a lot of measures in place after the Chardon shooting. We have used our casino dollars for safety purposes. A sub teacher who started the day of a drill said the students knew exactly what to do. However, propped doors are a concern. Also no two shootings have been the same. We cannot plan for every situation. Mrs. Thomas appreciated Dr. Hunt mentioning the mental health issue. It is not the gun; it is the student that is the problem. As a state and as a school we need to take the steps to talk to the kids about safety, about mental health issues and the options for them. Counselors are not helping kids with issues; they are planning the courses and schedules. PBIS is a great program but not everyone participates in it. Student in leadership is a good move and it is important that they and the teachers watch for bullying. We need crisis counselors as they are the first and biggest line of defense for kids who are struggling. We need to find and help the hurting child to avoid such situations.*

Abby Geesling, high school student, asked if was possible for leadership to better the relationships with the high school students and the younger students. She feels it is important to be role models for the little kids. When she was little and did cheerleading, the older girls cheered with them and it was great. She still remembers that as it made a lasting impression on her. *Mrs. Anderson said she came from another district where they had peer counseling. It was a first step to discuss concerns and it was effective.* Dr. Hunt said these high school students are a very insightful group. They have a different view than the superintendent and the Board. He suggests talking with Dr. Sabol about your ideas and concerns to see what you all can come up with. *Hayden Cummins, high school student, said that peer to peer counseling sorta exists but it is very muted. We have it but he does not think people know about it. His freshman year he saw many friends get with the wrong groups. There was alcohol, drugs and such. He feels freshman counseling is very important to deal with these types of issues before they get worse.* Mrs. Thomas feels we should look for the kids on the outer edge and interact with them and mentor them. *Mrs. Rayburn found a book on Columbine yesterday and read it. It is very similar to the Florida shooting. She does not feel mentoring would work with the outlanders and we would not want our kids to encounter them outside a safe location. Mental health is a great concern with these students.* Kaylee Klepper, high school student, asked what age would you see the outlyers. If we start with mentoring the elementary or middle school kids we can start making connections that will hopefully carry through the next year or years. *Cameron Klepper, high school student, is a helper at the elementary school where he plays with the younger kids in the gym. He has looked for the kids who are by themselves and tries to involve them. We need to send more kids to the buildings. We can use our enrichment periods so we could go and make relationships with the younger kids. There are not many clubs outside of sports. Not everyone is involved in sports.* Miss Geesling came up with the idea to have a debate club. She likes to argue. She has talked with Kaylee and Mrs. Drebus and thinks it would be a good thing to bring to Cardinal. Mrs. DeRamos' son is on a team at his school so she has information on this. *Mr. Cummins agreed that more groups will give kids more opportunities to get involved and not be isolated.* Miss Geesling stated even if we only affect one person it is worth it and it can grow.

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*Mr. Mesarchik has a few bullet points he would like to share with the Board. He has worked for a company with 40 buildings all over Ohio and he has been thinking about the building safety issue for Cardinal.*

- *Bulletproof glass sounds good but it is really expensive.*
- *Better to get wired reinforced glass windows at the front entrances and doors. This will slow the shooter down and increase the response time for first responders.*
- *The middle school has a double door entry area but the elementary only has one door. Shooters will go for the softest target.*
- *Need latch protectors on all doors so they cannot use a crowbar to gain entry.*
- *Response time is helped with the numbering system we already have in place.*
- *What is the number of keys to get into the buildings and how many people have them.*

Mr. Kelly stated that we have a 2 key entry system. The admin has the master key for the entry door and the teachers have a key for their classroom doors. Police and Fire has keys to the doors so they can enter in case of an emergency. We have the Falcon key system so they cannot duplicate the keys. *Mr. Mesarchik said the double doors and latches are more reasonable than the bulletproof glass.* Mr. Kelly said the middle school was built after Columbine and it is poor construction for a building after a shooting. There are glass windows all over and unfortunately it is too costly to replace all of them. We simply do not have the money to do so. *Dr. Hunt said he and Mr. Kelly are looking at the cost of a system for safety purposes. There is a job entry system that limits the time certain key fobs have access to the buildings.* Mr. Kelly said the cost of one system is over \$100,000.

*Ms. Knuckles added that Dr. Hunt and she attended a meeting on Monday where University Hospitals have a bucket system they offer for free and wonder if we would be looking into that. The safety buckets have items such as tourniquets, bandages, water, toilet paper, duct tape, a sheet, etc., to help out in the classroom if there is a lockdown situation. They also provide the training for emergency situations using the bucket contents.* Dr. Hunt replied yes. He would be checking it out. *Mrs. Marlow thanked the Board for the discussion and appreciated all the work being done and to be done. Seeing the police at the buildings is comforting.* Dr. Hunt stated we have things in place and we will continue to work on these issues, but you will never protect against everything that could happen. He is waiting for chief Tucholski to get back to him in regards to the officers program. There will be a cost involved but it will not be like the cost of resource officers that were over \$70,000 a piece a few years ago. *Mrs. Smallwood said maybe the state or federal agencies will step up and provide some money for school safety.* Dr. Hunt doubted it since they will say it is a local responsibility. *Mrs. Thomas suggested contacting our legislators and the students could become part of that process.*

Dr. Hunt stated there are groups pushing for students to walk out on March 14<sup>th</sup> and April 20<sup>th</sup> to protest the shootings. He asks that you not do something stupid. If you walk out you then make yourself a possible target for someone to pick you off since the whole thing has been publicized. *Mr. Cummins thinks walking out to protest gun safety is senseless. You are definitely putting yourself in a bad safety position.* Mrs. Anderson suggests to getting together and writing letters to the legislators instead. Plan an event to promote togetherness. *Dr. Hunt asked that if they are planning something to please contact Dr. Sabol and make it a positive event.*

In closing Mr. Klima stated there are a lot of things happening around you. Be aware of your surroundings and make smart choices. Thank you to the students for coming tonight, talking to us and being a part of our discussion.

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**Adjournment:**

Mrs. Smallwood moved and Mrs. Rayburn seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:28 P.M.

Roll call vote: unanimous yes.

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Kenneth Klima, President

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Merry Lou Knuckles, Treasurer