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Board of Education Work Session

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Agency: [Cleveland Metropolitan School District](#)

Date: Feb. 13, 2024

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Summary

- The board spotlighted School of One for its academic achievements.
- CEO Warren Morgan II and CFO Kevin Stockdale presented a draft plan for deficit reduction.
- The board passed resolutions for a five-day and two one-day suspensions for three employees.

Follow-Up Questions

- What is the plan to address the needs of families regarding the reduction of Summer Learning Experience seats for students?
- How is the city partnering with CMSD to guarantee internet access for families?

Notes

Meeting started: 6:30 p.m.

Board members present at roll call:

Sara Elaquad, chair

Leah D. Hudnall, vice chair

Robert Briggs

Robert M. Heard

Midori Lebrón

Diana Welch Howell

Nigamanth Sridhar

Morgan was also present.

Presentations:

School Spotlight - School of One

Principal Maryum Sims shared a [slide presentation](#).

- CEO Morgan extended kudos for the schools' diversity and academic growth.

Approving and submitting a [Deficit Reduction Plan](#) to the Ohio Department Of Education and Workforce

- Feb. 29 deadline to submit a plan to the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce. The board must vote to approve a plan at the Feb. 27 meeting in order to meet the deadline, Morgan said.
- The board must submit a report if any deficits are projected during the first three years of a five-year focus plan to avoid current and future deficits.
- Elaqad: The district is in a state of "fiscal precaution" and is required by state law to provide a deficit reduction plan.
- Stockdale and Morgan worked together to prepare [the plan](#).
- Stockdale: The \$465 million in COVID-19 funding the district received was time limited and had to be spent in a quick manner. The district's General Fund Unencumbered Fund Cash Balance (which Stockdale likened to a bank account minus any outstanding checks) showed projected significant on-going deficits starting fiscal year 24-25 and through the next three years.
- Morgan pointed out that starting next year, the deficit number starts at a projected \$143.3. They are proposing cuts in the district's central office while aiming to preserve schools. The pool of dollars for schools will remain flat from this school year to next year.
- Stockdale: Plan to temporarily reduce employer contributions to a fund that covers health insurance claims while maintaining a reserve of at least 75 days of claims. Open to exploring additional revenue sources with private partners.
- Morgan: The deficit reduction plan presented is a draft. In November 2022, it was assumed that 70% of COVID-19 relief funds would go away.
- The state advised that the district should not include anything in the plan that it cannot do and focus on what is under its local control. No school closures or additional funds that may/may not come in are in the plan because it is not known at this time.
- Possible adjustments to Summer Learning Experience: capacity of 3,500 students daily (reduced from 4,225 daily average in 2023), double instructional time to 180 minutes per day (increased from 90 minutes). Gathering data of impact.
- Morgan: With loss of pandemic relief, district eyes returning to the process of supplemental providers secure funding for out-of-school-time programs. Not reducing athletic or other teacher- or school-led programs. This is for programming led by outside providers.
- They plan to align all school calendars

- Are reviewing student technology strategy.
- Concerns raised in discussion:
 - Make sure the plan (draft and final) is available for parents to review.
 - Howell: How will parents be supported during the suggested changes, such as to the Summer Learning Experience?
 - Morgan: They are contacting partners, like Cleveland Public Library, to find other programs for the summer, serving as a quarterback to share information about other programs with families.
 - Howell: Any updates on plans for students/families to have internet access in light of the [City of Cleveland's plans](#).
 - Morgan: Can think about city plan with district's information technology officer and get back to it.
 - Morgan: Some staff recommended CMSD consider moving out of its 1111 Superior Ave. headquarters. But doing so would put the district in a \$10 million hole because it recently signed a five-year lease agreement that's about \$2 million a year plus parking.

Resolutions introduced for discussion only. The board is set to consider their approval at its Feb. 27 meeting.

Motion To Approve Resolution Authorizing The Acceptance Of Gifts And Grants From Cleveland Guardians Charities (\$200,000), Mac Installations & Consulting LLC (\$5,000), Martha Holden Jennings Foundation (\$20,000), and Meijer (\$5,000), and Authorizing The Chief Executive Officer To Spend The Funds In Accordance With The Terms And Conditions Of The Gifts And Grants

Motion To Approve Resolution Authorizing The Purchase Of Two Used Vehicles, From A Cleveland Metropolitan School District Authorized Vendor, For Use In The Career Technical Education Programs For Max S. Hayes High School Students' Use As Classroom Teaching Tools In An Amount Not To Exceed \$50,000 (\$25,000 Per Vehicle)

Authorizing The Employment Of Teaching, Non-Teaching And School-Based Administrative Staff

Authorizing The Reclassification Of Employees

Accepting The Retirements, Resignation And Other Separations Of Employees

Authorizing The Issuance Of Limited Contracts For Differential Positions And The Payment Of Additional Earned Compensation To Employees

- No discussion on any of the motions.

New business:

Elaqad: Vacant seats are open on the CMSD Board and the Cleveland Public Library Board of Trustees. People can submit applications for the CMSD board on the [City of Cleveland's website](#), and for the library board on the [CMSD website](#).

[Executive Session \(closed\)](#)

Returned to Public Session

The board voted on a motion to adopt a resolution for the suspension of a teaching employee (five-day for violation of district policies, procedures and rules).

Motion passed.

The board voted on motion to adopt a resolution for the suspension of a school-based administrator (one-day for violation of district policies, procedures and rules)

Motion passed.

The board vote on another motion to adopt a resolution for the suspension of a school-based administrator (one-day for violation of district policies, procedures and rules)

Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Meeting agenda - Feb 13, 2024

<https://go.boarddocs.com/oh/cmsd/Board.nsf/Public>

A message from Morgan and Elaqad

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4uSfNt4GN_U

Public comment form

https://cmsd.iad1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_emPpfG5q3WM7RSC

School of One

<https://www.clevelandmetroschools.org/so1>

ARP/ESSA funds

<https://oese.ed.gov/offices/education-stabilization-fund/elementary-secondary-school-emergency-relief-fund/>

Signal CMSD \$168 million budget hole article

<https://signalcleveland.org/cmsds-168-million-budget-hole-cleveland-schools-propose-cuts-to-out-of-school-programs-layoffs-in-central-office/>

Cleveland Guardians Charities

<https://www.mlb.com/guardians/community/charities>

Mac Installations & Consulting LLC

<https://www.macinstallations.com/>

Martha Holden Jennings Foundation

<https://www.mhjf.org/>

Meijer

<https://www.meijer.com/>

CMSD Board

<https://www.clevelandmetroschools.org/board>

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