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Board Business Meeting

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Agency: [Cleveland Metropolitan School District](#)

Date: March 19, 2024

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Summary

- I feel that to align the overall school calendar seems quite challenging, but the plan was presented with data.
- I feel the plan was a little overwhelming as a layperson.

Follow-Up Questions

- Is a pilot program or trial run of aligning calendars feasible?
- What will the outcome be for Cudell Park in regards to [the new Marion Seltzer School](#)?
- Will residents' concerns be addressed and a compromise found for both parties without further negative litigation? *[Editor's note: In March, a judge ruled CMSD [could continue with construction.](#)]*

Notes

The meeting was called to order by Sara Elaquad, chair of the board of education.

All board members except Diana Welch Howell were present.

Agenda: <https://go.boarddocs.com/oh/cmsd/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=D3C2FZ82DA94>

This meeting included a public hearing for the Cleveland school district's 2024-2025 school year calendar, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code section 3313-48(B), which requires a hearing no fewer than 30 days before the board approves a calendar.

The CEO report was given by Superintendent Warren Morgan. Minutes were approved for the March 12 [meeting](#).

Morgan said he is committed to hearing from parents and staff about district and school

issues and is looking for solutions.

Announcement: Morgan acknowledged March being Women's History Month and celebrated women in CMSD just as he and the board celebrated Black educators for Black History Month.

The district then showed [part of a video](#) celebrating Women's History Month.

Morgan and the board then moved on to discussion about the 2024-2025 school calendar. Morgan said the district wants to hear from parents, students, teachers and other stakeholders on all decisions. And ultimately, he said, decisions will center on student instruction and data.

Calendar proposal overview given by Selena Florence, chief academic officer: [slide presentation](#)

Florence said it is unclear if additional calendar days and daily minutes at some schools have a demonstrated academic benefit. CMSD currently has five different school calendars with varying time spent in school. One benefit to having a uniform calendar is cost savings, Florence said.

CMSD plans to keep the current five calendars for the 2024-2025 calendar, though it would like to move to one calendar eventually, Florence said. The public can give feedback on the calendar on the district's website (select the "District Calendar" button on [this webpage](#) to find the online form). The board is set to vote on the calendar on April 23.

Board Member Nigamanth Sridhar said the board and community should know what the district will do for data collection.

Elaqad said information about what impact aligning calendars would have on students and teachers is important.

Morgan mentioned some priorities to come back and look at:

- High-quality assessment framework
- Streamlining professional development

Elaqad then gave instructions for public comments.

Stacey Steggert, CMSD parent

Said [Morgan gave misinformation](#) about how [Get More Opportunity funds](#) have been distributed

Said mass red tape hurts program

Wants more instructional time for students

Principal Quenton Davis of Garrett Morgan School said:

It is crucial to exercise equity in our schools and be inclusive for all students, teachers and staff

Cultural sensitivity is important, as is avoiding conflicts with religion

District needs family engagement/input and to consider needs of caregivers and parents

Balanced breaks throughout school year help avoid burnout

Susie Meaker, teacher at Campus International

Teacher and substitute teacher shortage leads to overcrowded classrooms and increased violence in schools

Suggested staff at administration building get on rotating schedule for teaching

Samaria. Rice, mother of Tamir Rice

Consider community input on plans to remove trees and park space at Cudell Park

Wants new school to complement memorial for Tamir, whom police shot and killed at the park when he was 12 years old

Hiawatha Powell, concerned parent

Expressed coming together with school district

Increase customer friendliness

Give CEO opportunity to work with the community

Becky Gaylord, parent

Spoke about issues at Campus International

Jamie Brazier, resident of Cudell

Concern over percentage of Cudell Park to potentially be lost to new school

Land swap done during COVID was wrong

Was told school would be refurbished, not newly built

Brent Eysenback, Edgewater/Cudell resident

Wants to slow down “destruction of Cudell Park”

Wants new school but to preserve park

Resident of 45 years in Cudell

There was a discussion to renovate old school in 2014

Andrea Dockery-Murray, art teacher and travel advisor at John Adams College and Career Academy

Thank you to anonymous donor for \$34,186 for [trip to Greece](#) for students of John Adams and John F. Kennedy high schools

Community fundraiser raised more than \$15,000

The board moved on to the adoption of 41 resolutions with yes votes from the seven board members in attendance.

This included:

Accepting gifts and grants from a variety of organizations

E-Rate discount for wireless services

Property exchange for the construction of a new stadium at John F. Kennedy

Amendments to contracts with transportation providers

The board entered [executive session](#) and returned to public view later, approving:

Suspension for non-teaching employee for violations and misconduct of policies, procedures and rules

60 days without pay

Suspension for non-teacher employee for violations and misconduct of policies, procedures and rules

Five days without pay

Suspension for teacher for violations and misconduct of policies, procedures and rules

Three days without pay

Suspension for non-teaching employee for violations and misconduct of policies,

procedures and rules

One day without pay

Meeting called for adjournment by Elaqaad.

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