

# Documenters

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## Board Work Session

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Agency: [Cleveland Metropolitan School District](#)

Date: March 12, 2024

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## Summary

- Principal Alyssa Roye from Robert H. Jamison Leadership Academy gave the School Spotlight presentation outlining academic progress, student activities, and extracurricular programs at the school.
- April 8 will be a calamity day for the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD), [meaning schools will be closed](#). The district plans to provide solar eclipse glasses to students.
- Resolutions were presented for discussion regarding Finance, Information Technology, Operations, and Equity and Culture.

## Follow-Up Questions

- How will a landscape architect be selected for the stormwater management portion of the new John F. Kennedy High School stadium? And what is the additional cost?
- How frequently does CSMD utilize [teacher “looping”](#) to benefit student learning? Will it be increased?
- Why is there such a myriad of transportation services offered to CSMD students, and how are they vetted? *[Editor’s note: Most CMSD students attend a school [outside of their ZIP code](#). Hear from CMSD families about transportation barriers in a [Cleveland Documenters and Signal Cleveland podcast](#).]*

## Notes

Meeting started at 6:40 p.m.

Current board members present at roll call:

Sara Elaquad, chair

Robert M. Heard

Midori Lebrón

Diana Welch Howell

Denise W. Link  
Nigamanth Sridhar

District CEO Warren Morgan II also attended.

The board approved minutes from the Feb. 27 meeting.

**CEO report** was given by Morgan.

### **School spotlight**

Presentation by Principal Roye from Robert H. Jamison Leadership Academy

Key points:

- 367 students enrolled.
- 62.5% of teachers have at least a Master's degree.
- Jamison is a Leader in Me School.
- Roye gave an example of a monthly student roundtable series where students discussed why some felt unsafe in school. She emphasized the importance of asking questions of the students, not only about the problems they see but also about how they think those problems should be resolved.

Some bright spots:

- No longer a CSI school ([comprehensive support and improvement](#)).
- Pre-K [Step Up to Quality](#) 5-star rating.
- Full-time music teacher and band program.
- 21-member Student Lighthouse Team (lead initiatives and propose school events).
- 5 CMSD "Granny" volunteers supporting K-2 classrooms.
- Monthly student roundtables.
- Winter and spring athletics.

Link: Asked about the teacher "looping" from third grade to fourth grade. Is that a model for the school?

Roye: Would love for it to be a model but would need teacher support. (She said earlier in the meeting that the fourth grade class with the looped teacher did very well.)

Morgan: Congratulated Roye on not being a CSI school anymore and slide seven specifically (related to proficiency levels in English language arts and math; link to presentation below). What are the largest gaps students are facing that make it a struggle

to move them to the next level? And are there any early predictions on where they will be this year?

Roye: Plan to continue small group instruction to help students in need, but there are so many students in need (limited proficiency). The struggle is focusing on both literacy and math, as literacy has been the focus.

After the presentation, Morgan said people have been asking about April 8 - what is the district going to do? Last week officials decided that it will be a calamity day. The district plans to hand out solar eclipse glasses to students, he said, but they will not be in school that day.

### **Resolutions for discussion**

Elaqad: Forty-one resolutions will be presented for discussion only. Find the agenda [here](#).

32 resolutions authorizing complaints about the valuation of commercial property [parcels](#) located in the school district.

Morgan said CMSD occasionally wishes to file complaints with Cuyahoga County with the aim of increasing the value of a property so as to increase property tax revenue for the district. He referred to spring of 2022, when the Ohio Legislature passed and Gov. Mike DeWine signed the amended [House Bill 126](#). It required school boards to first authorize such complaints.

### **Finance**

Authorizing The Acceptance Of Gifts And Grants From Audubon Society Of Greater Cleveland, Effective Leadership Academy, Jason S. Lucarelli, The Cleveland Foundation, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, And Martha Holden Jennings Foundation, And Authorizing The Chief Executive Officer To Spend The Funds In Accordance With The Terms And Conditions Of The Gifts And Grants

- Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland = \$3,000 (Buster's Bird Club field trip Magee Marsh)
- Effective Leadership Academy = \$4,500 value (eight program sessions for social emotional learning)

- Jason S. Lucarelli = \$42,000 (support purchase of championship rings for Glenville High School football)
- Cleveland Foundation: \$100,000 (up to 100 scholarships for two-day RCA Experience Teacher program in Atlanta for middle school teachers, leaders and administrators)
- Cuyahoga County: \$351,297 school-based and community-based program Closing the Achievement Gap services
- Martha Holden Jennings: \$3,000 for A-Z fitness student video production at [Mound School](#).

Authorizing The Acceptance Of A Grant From The State Of Ohio, And Authorizing The Chief Executive Officer To Spend The Funds In Accordance With The Terms And Conditions Of The Grant

- \$15,000 program for high-quality early learning for pre-school children

### **Information technology**

Authorizing The Chief Executive Officer Or Designee To Implement New Wireless Internet Services For School Buses And Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) And Renew Internet Services, Managed Internal Broadband Services And Wide Area Network (WAN) Contracts, For The District's Eligible E-Rate Sites For The Fiscal Year 2024-2025, In An Amount Not To Exceed \$3.5 million

Morgan:

- It is an annual E-Rate program (a federal program)
- Discount up to 90% for some internet services depending on the level of poverty in the community
- CMSD has historically received 90% for [category one services](#) and 85% for [category two](#) services.
- CMSD has been awarded \$9.5 million in the past five years.
- School bus wifi is eligible for the E-Rate program.

Link thanked Morgan and CMSD Chief Information Officer Curtis Timmons for their hard work.

### **Operations**

Authorizing The Chief Executive Officer, The Chief Financial Officer, And Board Chair To Enter Into A Property Exchange And Lease/Shared Use Agreement For An Athletic

Stadium At The New John F. Kennedy High School And Authorizing Contracts For The Design And Construction Of An Athletic Stadium In An Amount Not To Exceed \$4.1 million

Morgan:

- Includes a plan for required stormwater management of the field. In the past, turf fields were somewhat unregulated regarding stormwater.
- The city has allocated \$2.1 million for stadium costs.
- The district would initially commit \$2 million.

Amending Resolutions 2023-8703 (B) Which Authorized The Issuance Of Term Agreements And Supplier Contracts For Transportation Services For Students Attending Accel And Breakthrough Schools And Additional Non-Public Schools And 2023-8701 (B) Which Authorized The Issuance Of Term Agreements And Supplier Contracts To Multiple Cab And Van Suppliers To Transport Special Education Students, Foster And McKinney-Vento Students For The 2023-2024 School Year By Authorizing An Additional Amount Not To Exceed \$3,504,079

Morgan:

- An additional \$1.7 million is needed for [Community Bus](#) and [Rightway Transportation](#). The driver shortage caused CMSD to repurpose more than a dozen school routes to Rightway and Community Bus.
- An additional \$1.8 million is needed to address the growing need for students to be transported by cabs and vans.
- In total, the CMSD transportation department needs an additional \$3.5 million to provide necessary transportation through the current school year.

Elaqad received clarification from CMSD staff that the 39% increase in the average cost for cabs and vans services was due to increases in fuel costs, repair costs and payment to contractor drivers.

### **Equity and Culture**

Morgan also read these and provided details:

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

- Fifty-five new hires this month.

Authorizing The Reclassification Of Employees.

- Routine monthly resolution: 18 employees this month.

Accepting The Retirements, Resignations And Other Separations Of Employees

- Routine monthly resolution: 57 separations of employees this month.

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

- Routine monthly resolution: Affecting 35 employees this month.

Old business: None

New business: March 14 is Morgan's birthday. Happy birthday greetings and applause followed.

No executive session.

Meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Warren Morgan II

<https://www.clevelandmetroschools.org/About-the-CEO>

Presentation by Principal Roye

<https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/24480736-robert-h-jamison-school-spotlight-presentation-3122024>

Robert H. Jamison Leadership Academy

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

Leader in Me

<https://www.clevelandmetroschools.org/domain/5616>

Teacher Looping

<https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/looping-heres-what-happens-when-students-have-the-same-teacher-more-than-once/2022/06>

Calamity Day

<https://www.clevelandmetroschools.org/Page/21342>

E-Rate program (a federal program)

<https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/universal-service-program-schools-and-libraries-e-rate>

RCA Experience

<https://ronclarkacademy.com/rcaexp/>

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