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Board Business Meeting

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Agency: [Cleveland Metropolitan School District](#)

Date: Aug. 20, 2024

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Summary

- The 2024 -2025 school year [just kicked off](#).
- CMSD is progressing by continuing to implement and live core values as well as focusing on the five strategic priorities and core measures, officials said.

Follow-Up Questions

- Why has the State of Ohio “backed off” in regards to funding for public schools?
- What is the district’s released time religious instruction (RTRI) policy?
- How do teachers feel about the new curriculum and about having to strictly follow it. And if they are found to be teaching things against the curriculum, can they be punished?

Notes

- The meeting began at 6:30 p.m. All six Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) Board of Education members were present. Following the roll call, the board members and attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Board approved the minutes from the last meeting on June 25, 2024.
- District CEO Warren Morgan shared his favorite quote from Nelson Mandela. “It always seems impossible, until it's done.”
- A single curriculum for all schools is in place for English learners. The focus is helping students develop critical thinking, reading and writing skills and communication skills.
- More information will come in September regarding the Get More Opportunities Fund.
- The next Board of Education meeting is a board work meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 10, at 6:30 p.m.
- Board members went into executive session at 7:39 p.m. and returned at 8:33 p.m.
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

CEO report

Find a link to [the full report](#) here.

Morgan began by highlighting milestones from the 2023-2024 school year. Those included: stakeholder engagement, contract negotiations, financial strides, ballot initiative and academic progress.

Morgan also highlighted the academic progress of CMSD for the year. He said there has been some improvement, but CMSD is not where it needs to be in proficiency. He said progress has been made with a decrease in absenteeism and with more high school students completing Free Applications for Federal Student Aid (FAFSAs) ((up 8%). Proficiency scores in math and English both rose last year. And, 3,300 educators attended the district's professional development day, focusing on English Language Arts curriculum, data-driven instruction, PowerSchool and electronic gradebooks.

Morgan also reviewed CMSD focus areas.

1. Financial sustainability
2. ELA (a uniform English language arts curriculum across the district)
3. Cell phone-free classrooms
4. Electronic gradebook and parent access
5. Get More Opportunities Fund version 2.0)

Parent portal

Via the new [MyPowerHub](#), parents/guardians have access to students' grades and attendance and can communicate with teachers via email or chat. They can also update student information and forms as well as get important messages from the school and the district.

Get More Opportunities Fund

Morgan said this program will continue to celebrate success through student-informed philanthropy. The changes to the program will improve equity and quality. Four million dollars will be allocated to all CMSD schools using enrollment-based formulas.

Public comment

Several attendees asked the board about [HB455](#), which [requires school districts to create policies to allow release time for students to take courses in religious instruction](#). Another spoke on [Lifewise](#), a Christian group that provides off-site religious instruction for public schools. The commenter suggested CMSD should be the institution that

defines the core curriculum, not the statehouse.

Resolutions

There were 15 resolutions on the agenda for board approval, in the following categories: finance, operations, academics, external affairs, equity and culture. All 15 were adopted. Find the full list of resolutions in the [meeting agenda](#).

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