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## Board Work Session

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Agency: [Cleveland Metropolitan School District](#)

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## Summary

- Chief Financial Officer Kevin Stockdale presented the board with the 2025/2026 spending budget, which totals around \$1.2 billion.
- Chief Academic Officer Selena Florence spoke about how CMSD is approaching the College, Career, Workforce and Military Readiness metric, a new part of Ohio's school and district report card system.
- CMSD added the Intergenerational School as a charter school. It also consolidated two other contracts and did not renew another.

## Follow-Up Questions

- How will actions at the federal and state level affect CMSD?
- How can CMSD better connect students with post-college pathways?

## Notes

[The Board of Education](#) functions as the governing body of the [Cleveland Metropolitan School District \(CMSD\)](#). Board responsibilities include: Hiring the school district's chief executive officer (with the mayor's agreement); setting school district policy; approving the school district budget; establishing goals and accountability standards; and promoting parent, family and community involvement in the schools.

The board has two types of meetings: A work session and a business meeting. Work sessions focus on information gathering and debate on issues and proposed resolutions. Business meetings focus on official votes on resolutions. Sometimes the board does vote on resolutions in the work sessions. The board can have up to nine voting members, all of whom are appointed by the mayor.

[Current board members](#) are listed, with an asterisk indicating those who were not in attendance at this meeting:

Sara Elaquad, chair  
Jerry Billups  
Robert Briggs  
Pastor Ivory Jones III  
Charlene Jones  
Midori Lebrón  
Caroline Peak  
Nigamanth Sridhar  
\*Diana Welch Howell

[CEO Warren Morgan](#) presented information at various points during the meeting.

The full agenda, which contains more than 40 items, can be found [here](#). The board's next meeting will be a business meeting on June 24 at 6:30 p.m. at Joseph M. Gallagher School at 6601 Franklin Blvd., Cleveland.

### **Chief Executive Officer's Report**

Morgan noted that Fitch, a bond-rating agency, had upgraded its rating of CMSD [bonds](#) from an "A-" to an "A." S&P, another agency, upgraded CMSD from a BBB+ to an A-. Moody's, a third agency, kept CMSD at an A3. *[Editor's note: Selling bonds is a way that school districts and other public entities can raise money, usually for construction.]*

Chief Academic Officer Selena Florence presented CMSD's College, Career, Workforce and Military Readiness (CCWMR) data, a new measure on the State of Ohio's report card.

CCWMR calculates how many students embark on one or more of 11 pathways. The idea is to demonstrate they are ready for life after graduation. Some of these pathways include taking college admissions tests, completing an apprenticeship or enlisting in the military.

CCWMR now accounts for 12.5% of a district's score. [According to CMSD's most recent report card](#), the district received one star out of five in the CCWMR measure because fewer than 700 of the district's 2,423 graduates (about 27%) engaged in one of the 11 pathways. This is a lagging measure, meaning this data is from the graduating class of 2023.

### **Resolutions for Discussion**

## Finance

CMSD Chief Financial Officer Kevin Stockdale presented the district's 2025-2026 budget. The full spending budget is around \$1.2 billion, [according to documents included in the meeting notes](#). This is about 1% less than last year, Stockdale said.

Stockdale explained that the budget process is complicated by the state still finalizing its budget, [which impacts the district](#). There is also uncertainty about the federal government, which CMSD relies on for Title I, which helps with low-income students, and for Special Education. This will be the first year since 2018-19 that the budget does not include any money from COVID-19-related grants. CMSD received and spent \$465 million in those kinds of grants.

Stockdale said that planning for the 2026/2027 budget would start early and would likely include reductions at CMSD's central office.

Because this was a work session, there was no vote on the budget.

In addition to a handful of other financial matters, Morgan presented resolutions to purchase insurance. The district has coverage for all of these: Student athletics, cyber risk, casualty and auto liability, terrorism liability and deadly weapons coverage, medical professional liability and insurance on property, boilers, machinery and crime.

## Operations

Morgan presented various resolutions, including a contract to transport special needs students, a contract to improve security badging technology, leases with the Great Lakes Science Center and Stonebrook-White Montessori Campus, and naming the Joseph M. Gallagher School and Clark School, and [consolidating the closing Walton School into the Clark School](#).

## Academics

One of CMSD's authorities is the ability to approve new charter schools. Charter schools are independent of the district but still receive public funding and must be authorized through the district itself.

The board heard a resolution to approve the [Intergenerational School](#) as a new partner. Seven schools applied to be partners, but only the Intergenerational School met the

metrics the district requires.

Additionally, the Breakthrough Schools charter network is merging its Citizens Leadership Academy East into the Citizens Academy Southeast contract and Village Preparatory School Willard with the Village Prep Cliffs contract. This means CMSD will rescind the Willard and East contracts.

Finally, the district will end its contract with Stepstone Academy pending final board approval.

## **IT**

The board heard resolutions renewing contracts with various IT providers, such as \$6.7 million to Computer Aid, Inc, \$1.5 million to Microsoft and \$11.5 million to Workday.

## **Excellence & Culture**

The board heard resolutions relating to routine hirings, retirements and salary adjustments across the district.

*[Editor's note: All these resolutions are set for consideration of final approval at a future board business meeting.]*

## **Executive Session**

The board entered [Executive Session](#) (closed to the public) for about 30 minutes to discuss, according to the agenda, 1) considering the employment of public employees, 2) preparing for negotiations with public employees concerning their compensation or other terms and conditions of their employment, and 3) conferring with attorneys concerning disputes involving the Board that are the subject of pending or imminent court action.

After returning to regular session, the board adopted the following resolutions:

- A two-day suspension of a non-teaching employee
- A one-day suspension of a school administrator
- To not re-employ a limited-contract teacher
- To not re-employ a limited-contract coach
- Granted [CEO Morgan a salary increase of 5%](#). This is the first salary increase Morgan has received since joining CMSD in 2023, according to Board Member Sridhar.

## **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

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