

KETTERING CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
JOINT MEETING
KETTERING SCHOOL BOARD
APRIL 30, 2024

The Council of the City of Kettering, Ohio, met in special session on Tuesday, April 30, 2024 at 6:00 PM at the Kettering City School District Office, 580 Lincoln Park Blvd, Kettering, Ohio, in the Firebird Conference Room (Third Floor).

Council Members Present: Mayor Lehner (via videoconference), Ms. Duvall, Ms. Hall, Mr. Suddith, Mr. Sullivan

Council Members Excused Absence: Mr. Scott, Ms. Fisher

Total Members Present: (Five) 5

School Board Members Present: Mr. Henderson, Ms. Kane, Mr. Martin, Mr. Lautar

City Staff Present: City Manager Matt Greeson; Assistant City Manager Steve Bergstresser

School Staff Present: Superintendent Mindy McCarty-Stewart; Interim Treasurer Rick Taylor; Incoming Treasurer Justin Blevins; Assistant Superintendent of Human Capital Ken Miller; Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning Dan Von Handorf; Director of Business Services Jeff Johnson; Community Relations & Auxiliary Services Coordinator Kari Basson;

Others Present: Sarah Howdeshelt; Jessica Stickel; Jim Berlon

Mr. Henderson called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. After a roll call for the School Board, the agenda for the meeting was adopted by the School Board and Mr. Henderson led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. No residents were in attendance to comment on agenda items.

Mr. Henderson welcomed everyone to the meeting. Self-introductions were made.

Mr. Henderson asked Ms. McCarty-Stewart to provide a few opening comments. Ms. McCarty-Stewart reported that the district administration is currently interviewing candidates for open teaching positions for the upcoming school year. Rick Taylor will be returning next school year as the Assistant Treasurer. Justin Blevins will assume the Treasurer position in the coming months.

Mr. Henderson welcomed Ms. Howdeshelt, Ms. Stickel, and Mr. Berlon to make a joint presentation about the Kettering Education Foundation (KEF) and the Kettering City Schools Forward Foundation (FF). The mission of the KEF is to create opportunities for interested citizens, organizations, and businesses to enhance the educational opportunities for Kettering City Schools (KCS). The mission of the FF is to enhance the positive educational experience for KCS students, staff, and families through grants, training, workforce immersion, and special projects. Both foundations are governed by volunteer boards. The KEF was established in 1990 to provide additional funding for Kettering teachers to enhance students' learning. In 2005, after building relationships and momentum, KEF hired a half-time Executive Director with financial support from KCS. From 2005 to 2010, KEF establishes its scholarship program, houses the Kettering Backpack Program, and increases its endowment funds from \$30,000 to over \$400,000. In 2010, KEF transitioned from a half-time employee model to a partnership with The Dayton Foundation, and the Kettering Backpack Program became its own 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. From 2010 to present, KEF has funded teacher grants and facilitates scholarships for students in the Kettering community. The KEF is

funded through private gifts from alumni, KCS staff, retirees, and a community endowment fund.

In 2018, the FF was established in partnership with KCS to build strategic partnerships for staff externships and major building projects and to create an avenue for charitable giving in support of district initiatives. In 2021, with financial support from KCS, the FF hired a part-time executive director to manage the growth and direction of the foundation. Major responsibilities for this role include overseeing the development of an alumni association, building relationships with strategic funding partners, and establishing processes for charitable donations. In 2022, the FF became an independent 501(c)(3) and began sharing the vision of connecting students, families, alumni, businesses and the community to move KCS forward now and for future generations. Several projects have been piloted since 2023, including: Building and Equipment Grants for outdoor classrooms at elementary schools; Community Outreach through facilitated grants and designated gifts for seven programs; Workforce Immersion through the launching of Firebirds in the Field for advanced manufacturing and healthcare; and Alumni Engagement through the hosting of five alumni events and the launch of Fairmont Alumni & Friends Nation. The FF is funded through corporate sponsors, in-kind gifts, foundation & corporate grants, private gifts from alumni and the community, fundraising events, and planned giving.

Mr. Henderson welcomed Mr. Greeson to provide an update on the City of Kettering. Mr. Greeson presented the City's new Strategic Plan, which is the product of a year-long community engagement process to identify the Vision, Mission, Values, and Goals for the City for the next 5-10 years. Six goal areas were developed, including the provision of high-quality services; economic opportunity; engaged and active lifestyle; livability; sustainability; and the "Kettering Story" communications strategy.

Mr. Greeson also noted that the City's newest park, Gentile Park, will have a grand opening on June 8, 2024. Gentile Park includes 19 acres of naturalized area, with thousands of shrubs, native plants, and 250 trees planted; a half-mile walking path; a regional bike path connection to Wiltshire Drive; historical recognition of Major Don Gentile; a large open green lawn; and a 13-piece playground with a 100' long zip line. The City is also partnering with KOMPAN, the playground equipment manufacturer for Gentile Park, to conduct a first of its kind study in the United States to determine priorities for children and adults regarding the park and play equipment, integrating the PBIS Safe Responsible and Respectful language and overall impact of the park experience for youth & adult mental well-being.

Mr. Greeson invited Mr. Bergstresser to provide an update on two projects. Recently, the City conducted a public involvement process and an engineering feasibility study to examine potential improvements at the intersection of Marshall Road & Lincoln Park Blvd. Marshall Road is scheduled to be resurfaced in 2026, and modifications to this intersection are being developed with the project to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists in this area. The City examined several options, including a traffic signal, a roundabout, and a lane reduction on Marshall at the intersection. The lane reduction is the preferred alternative, and City staff will be working to include this improvement with the upcoming project. Mr. Bergstresser also provided an update on the installation of school zone flashers along Shroyer Road and Glengarry Drive. The flashers along Glengarry have been operational since late March, and the flashers along Shroyer Road should be operational in the coming weeks before the end of the current school year.

There being no further business to come before this special joint meeting of the Kettering City Council and the Kettering School Board, Mr. Henderson adjourned the meeting at 6:50 PM.

ATTEST:

PEGGY LEHNER, MAYOR

JENIFER BAKER
ACTING CLERK OF COUNCIL