

KETTERING CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
JOINT MEETING  
KETTERNG SCHOOL BOARD  
November 29, 2022

The Council of the City of Kettering, Ohio, met in special session on Tuesday, November 29, 2022, at 6:00 PM at the Kettering Fire Department Headquarters, 4745 Hempstead Station Drive, Kettering, Ohio 45429.

Council Members Present: Mayor Lehner, Vice Mayor Fisher, Mr. Duke, Mr. Klepacz, Ms. Duvall, and Ms. Hall.

Council Members Absent: Mr. Scott

**Total Members Present: (Six) 6**

School Board Members Present: Mr. Henderson, Ms. Parks, Mr. Martin, Mr. Ambrose, and Ms. Kane.

City Staff Present: City Manager Mark Schwieterman; Assistant City Manager Steve Bergstresser; Fire Chief Mitch Robbins; Police Chief Chip Protsman; Parks, Recreation, & Cultural Arts Director Mary Beth O'Dell.

School Staff Present: Superintendent Mindy McCarty-Stewart; Treasurer Cary Furniss; Assistant Superintendent of Human Capital Ken Miller; Director of Business Services Jeff Johnson; Community Relations & Auxiliary Services Coordinator Kari Basson, and Career Tech Center Principal Liz Jensen.

Mayor Lehner called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Mayor Lehner led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Mayor Lehner asked attendees to introduce themselves.

Mr. Schwieterman introduced Chief Robbins and Chief Protsman to provide an update on Public Safety and Schools

Chief Robbins gave an overview of Fire Department efforts in Kettering City Schools (KCS), including annual fire inspections for every school; fire protection plan review for school improvements; National Fire Prevention Week video; participation in schools' annual safety drill (tabletop this year); sign-off on school safety plans; work with schools on door numbering systems in every school; EMS standby for football games, large cross country events, and other sporting events; and a regular participant in school safety meetings.

Chief Protsman outlined the Police Department's ongoing partnership with KCS, including KCS staff active participation with the Dancing with the Kettering Stars event to support the Kettering Police Foundation; the tremendous success of the School Resource Officer (SRO) program. SROs are present in Fairmont High School, KMS, Van Buren, and the elementary schools; School safety training, social media & internet training, active shooter training; HOPE squad; table top simulations; drug & alcohol awareness, and other relationship building programs.

Mr. Schwieterman gave updates on several priority projects that resulted from the City Council retreat in March 2022. Upon Mr. Schwieterman's retirement on December 31, Matt Greeson, current City Manager of Worthington, Ohio, will become the new Kettering City Manager on January 1. Mr. Greeson's first day with the City will be December 12. The City will be starting a new community-based Strategic Plan process in 2023 and has hired Planning Next as a consultant. The City recently formed a new

Sustainability Committee of residents to research and recommend policies and practices to City Council and City staff to make the City more focused on environmental sustainability. Phase 2 of renovations to the Rosewood Arts Center is underway, with Phase 3 scheduled to begin in spring 2023. The entire renovation project is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2023. The City's 2023 Budget will be approved by City Council in December. The annual Mayor's Christmas Tree Lighting will be held at Lincoln Park Civic Commons this Friday, December 2 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

Mayor Lehner asked Ms. McCarty-Stewart to provide an update on Kettering City Schools. Ms. McCarty-Stewart introduced Mr. Johnson, Director of Business Services, who announced the receipt of a new school safety grant from the State of Ohio. KCS received \$900,000 for safety improvements to all the elementary schools and the preschool building, \$100,000 per school. Ms. McCarty-Stewart thanked the City's Public Safety forces for their efforts, and particularly the SROs.

Ms. McCarty-Stewart introduced Liz Jensen, Career Technology Center (CTC) Principal at Fairmont High School. Ms. Jensen gave an overview of the CTC. The CTC has 14 programs in 13 career fields that come from business and industry requests. There are 570 students in CTC programs, 46% of Fairmont's juniors and seniors are in a 2-year tech program. 98% of CTC students score proficient or advanced on ODE career tech assessment tests; 99% of Class of 2021 graduates were employed, enlisted in military, or enrolled in college. The CTC offers Firefighter I/II and ProBoard credentials, and the program allows students to pursue a job as a firefighter/EMT and seek paramedic certification. The CTC has several student-run businesses, including an off the shelf bookstore (marketing), Early Bird coffee bar (marketing), and The Bird's Nest spirit store (business academy). The CTC also has active chapters of Student Organizations, including Business Professionals of America; DECA; Family Career and Community Leaders of America; HOSA future health professionals; and SkillsUSA. CTC students also participate in Work-Based Learning, which include paid internships and apprenticeships for students. 69% of Class of 2021 CTC students participated in a work-based learning experience. Several current CTC students were present at the meeting and gave testimonials to their CTC educational experiences.

Dan Von Handorf, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, appeared in a pre-recorded video to provide an update on the recently released State Report Card. The State Report Card is just one of many measures KCS uses to evaluate itself. It is now a star-based rating instead of letter grades. KCS rated 4 stars or better on all measurement areas, with a 5 star rating for Gap Closing and Student Progress. KCS was the highest rated district in the Miami Valley for "Progress" value-added student growth and the third highest rated in Ohio, out of 611 school districts. KCS credits its success to really good teachers, administrators, and staff; staff collaboration for continuous improvement; rigorous curriculum along with highly trained staff; and implementing a district-wide Response to Intervention framework.

Ms. O'Dell and Ms. Basson gave an update on the We Are Kettering project led by Partners for Healthy Youth. This project aims to promote the Safe, Responsible, and Respectful language and teaching concepts that KCS uses with their students out in the larger Kettering community. In the first year of this project, a dedicated page on the PlayKettering.org website has been developed; 16 community stakeholder presentations have been made to over 100 participants; four in-person stakeholder trainings have been held with over 40 participants; three service club presentations have been made; three "We Are Kettering" hot dog roasts were held with over 2,500 participants; and 12 community stakeholder commitments to the project have been secured. Community stakeholders will support the project with marketing signage supporting the project in the public spaces of their businesses and organizations. The project won a first place award from the Ohio Parks & Recreation Association in the Management Innovation category, and was featured on a "Good News" segment with Channel 2 News.

Mayor Lehner thanked everyone for their attendance and encouraged both City Council and the School Board to continue conversations to address issues and grow the Kettering community.

There being no further business to come before this special joint meeting of the Kettering City Council and the Kettering School Board, Mayor Lehner adjourned the meeting at 7:17 PM.

ATTEST:

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PEGGY LEHNER, MAYOR

LASHAUNAH D. KACZYNSKI  
CLERK OF COUNCIL