

KETTERING CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
JOINT MEETING  
KETTERING SCHOOL BOARD  
November 1, 2023

The Council of the City of Kettering, Ohio, met in special session on Wednesday, November 1, 2023, at 6:00 PM at the Rosewood Arts Center, 2655 Olson Drive, Kettering, Ohio, in the Glass Room (Room 12).

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

Council Members Excused Absence: Mr. Scott

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

School Board Members Present: Ms. Kane, Ms. Richards, Mr. Lautar

City Staff Present: City Manager Matt Greeson; Assistant City Manager Steve Bergstresser; Parks, Recreation, & Cultural Arts Director Mary Beth O'Dell.

School Staff Present: Superintendent Mindy McCarty-Stewart; Interim Treasurer Rick Taylor; 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: Andrea White, State Representative District 36; Ms. Charlene Bayless; Mr. Bryan Suddith; Ms. Janice Duke; Ms. Natalie Snell; Ms. Angi Furr; and Mr. Archie Jones.

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

Mayor Lehner and Mr. Greeson welcomed everyone to the meeting in the newly renovated Rosewood Arts Center. Self-introductions were made.

Mr. Greeson welcomed Ms. O'Dell to give an overview of the renovation and reinvention of Rosewood Arts Center. Ms. O'Dell provided a history of how the Rosewood project began, first with a study for a joint arts center & library with the Dayton Metro Library. The study showed that a combined center was not cost effective, and the City made the decision to move forward with renovations to the existing building, after performing a space analysis study for programming. The decision was made in 2017 to seek private donations for the renovations, and a State Capital Budget allocation was obtained in 2018. After delays due to the Covid-19 pandemic, construction began in 2021 and will be finished by the end of 2023. Rosewood has been transformed from a 1965 school into an ADA compliant, accessible, and comfortable learning space for all ages and abilities. The Kettering Parks Foundation was instrumental in raising \$1.92 million dollars to date for the purchase of furniture, fixtures, equipment for the arts center, and funds to renovate the theater. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held on Saturday December 2, 2023 at 10:00 A.M.

Mr. Greeson welcomed Ms. McCarty-Stewart, who explained the Kettering City Schools' (KCS) key focus areas of Safety and Wellness, Climate and Culture, and Quality Learning. A new graphic was developed to merge these focus areas with the Portrait of a Graduate outcomes from the current KCS strategic plan. Ms. McCarty-Stewart then welcomed Mr. Von Handorf to provide a presentation on the current Ohio Department of Education Report Card for KCS. The report card is just one piece of evidence of the great work that KCS does on a daily basis. Examples include the music program, alternative school, and partnerships with local businesses, the focus on mental health and wellness through the work of the Hope Squad, District Steam Night, DECA team,

and others, which are all important activities and programs that are not reflected in the state report card. KCS received a 4.5 overall rating out of 5 stars, which means that the district is exceeding state standards. The district received a 5 star rating in gap closing, which is perhaps the most important rating category within the entire report card. The district's rating exceeds the ratings of all 20 of the most similar districts in Ohio, according to Ohio Department of Education statistics. Overall, the district's ratings are higher than the ratings from 2018-2019, prior to the Covid-19 pandemic. What is working for the District includes really good teachers, administrators, and staff; staff collaboration to continue to improve; rigorous curriculum along with highly trained staff, and implementing a district wide Response to Intervention framework.

Mr. Duke pointed out that a majority of the meeting attendees tonight are Kettering Leadership Academy graduates, and he is proud that its graduates are leading the 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 6:45 PM. Ms. O'Dell led a tour of the Rosewood Arts Center after the meeting.

ATTEST:

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PEGGY LEHNER, MAYOR

LASHAUNAH D. KACZYNSKI  
CLERK OF COUNCIL