

**VILLAGE OF CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS  
COUNCIL WORKSHOP  
MINUTES  
MAY 23, 2018  
6:00 PM**

**ROLL CALL: BIRO BLOAM CENTA CONTIPELLI HARRIS SCHOEFFLER**

Ms. Harris called the meeting to order. Clerk Unger called the roll.

Also present were, Mayor Bacci, Law Director Bill Mason, Assistant Law Director Ben Chojnacki, CFO Angel Meriwether, and Clerk Unger.

Ms. Harris introduced the members of the BEST Committee from the school, Tom Evans, Jim Swissler, and Dr. Celeris, to speak about the success of their committee, and the importance of the community involvement.

Superintendent Tom Evans explained the BEST Committee has been working on a continuous improvement plan for the last seven years, and wanted to thank the Village for their help. In his 37 years of teaching, this committee is the most useful he has ever been associated with. Our relationship with the village and its elected officials is stronger than ever, and the best it has ever been, and he wanted to thank everyone for their help and participation. This relationship is what makes a strong, healthy, and successful school district.

Member Jim Swissler said that the future of our school depends on the support of all three villages, and how well we implement and follow the Strategic Plan. The future of the school itself depends on the support of all the villages, but also the future of the villages depends upon the strength of the school district. We submitted our plan to the School Board, and worked with them to make it stronger and workable. This strategic plan by the BEST Committee will be adopted by the School Board in the next few weeks. Everyone is on board to implement the strategy outlined in the plan.

It involves six pillars, Academics, Safety, Communication and Community Outreach, Student Opportunities, Enrollment, and Finances. Some of the important points Mr. Swissler wanted to highlight were the need to update the integrity of the building to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, more student opportunities, input from the students, and enrollment.

He explained that enrollment is extremely important, and the loss of as little as 15 students could have a devastating effect on the school. Ms. Harris asked how they did at the last Open House in signing up new students. Mr. Evans said that at the last Open House they picked up about 26 new students. Mr. Evans said that currently we have 130 total tuition students. In order to be a viable successful school district, we need to keep every class size in the sixty range.

Mr. Contipelli asked about safety in the schools. Mr. Evans said that they are looking at identifying kids at risk, and looking at new technology such as the camera tie in with the Village.

This is a work in progress, and we are constantly addressing the issue of safety. We are in direct contact with Police Chief Sturgill and Fire Chief Suhy all the time. Our response time in the Village is under two minutes, and we feel good about what we are doing, but we can always do better. We also have random police visits at the high school and elementary, and all deliveries and students must come through the front door. Mayor Bacci said that our quick response time is a deterrent to bad guys, they don't want someone there quickly.

Mr. Evans said that we are now looking more closely at the students as they come in to the school, and if they might need professional attention. Dr. Celeris said that we are in the process of training all of our staff, including bus drivers to recognize emotional distress in students, and we address them in the first five minutes of the day.

Mr. Evans also told Council that he is changing up the way students get hours for community service, and will be assigning each class a different Village to get their hours. He also wanted them to know that after the Mayor's breakfast with local businesses, he set up a Business Advisory Committee made up of six business leaders from Cuyahoga Heights that asked to participate, and he's looking to get six more from each of the other two villages. He's very excited about this, and feels this will help our students get job opportunities in the future.

### **Mayors Report:**

We have a lot of projects going on in the Village, and wondered if anyone had any questions regarding any of them. Ms. Harris said that she is amazed at how fast the two homes on E. 71<sup>st</sup> Street got torn down. Mayor Bacci said that is because of a lot of planning with the Engineer to get this done, and it is finally coming to fruition.

This project will include some participation with Thompson Aluminum at the bottom of E. 71<sup>st</sup> Street. He sent Engineer Sciano there to talk to the owner about what the Village needed, and they were very supportive. They said whatever we need, they will do.

Ms. Meriwether and I are constantly watching the revenue and expenses, and we are very optimistic about our economic future, and that we are in great shape financially.

Mayor Bacci went over a conversation he had recently with the board members of the Sewer District. Everyone wanted to know why we built a parking lot on E. 49<sup>th</sup> Street. He explained that at one time you could park on E. 49<sup>th</sup> Street, but it became a safety issue, and we prohibited parking. Many of the residents needed more parking for parties and family events, so we built the parking lot. They thought this was a great idea to solve a problem. Mr. Schoeffler and Ms. Biro loved that the trucks no longer stop on the street, and it is much quieter. Mayor Bacci said in the

future, we will be looking to add a lot at the other end of E. 49<sup>th</sup> for the residents at the other end of the street.

Mr. Schoeffler asked if we switch to another dispatch, will we still have access to the cameras at the school. Mayor Bacci said we will not lose this ability, we will still have access to all the cameras.

Ms. Harris also said that they still need volunteers for the Centennial Celebration. Mayor Bacci said it is not just volunteers, but we need people to be in charge of some events and run with them, such as a softball game, corn hole, food eating contest etc... we need people that want to run with these ideas, and get them going.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

None at this time.

**MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Contipelli made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Schoeffler. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.