

March 13 2025, East Knox Elementary, 6 pm

**A. Call to Order**

The President, Ms. Bush, called the meeting to order.

**B. Roll Call**

President called the roll:

Ms. Lindsay Bush, here  
Mr. Larry Campbell, here  
Mr. Alan Huffman, here  
Mr. Randy Reese, here  
Mrs. Kathy Tate, here

**C. Approval of the Agenda**

Recommendation to approve the agenda as presented.

**25-023 MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED**

Mr. Reese moved and Mr. Huffman seconded the motion to approve the agenda.

Roll call: All Present-Yes. Motion carried.

**D. Student Presentations and Awards**

- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Students – Presenting their winning essays:
  - Maria Scarazza
  - Makenzie Flowers
  - Ava Hoobler
  
- 2024-2025 Winter Athletic Awards
  - Wrestling  
Blake Elliott-1st Team All-KMAC; State Qualifier
  - Bowling-Boys  
Blake Calhoon-1st Team All-KMAC; KMAC Bowler of the Year; KMAC Tournament Champion; District Qualifier  
Aiden Stapleton-1st Team All-KMAC; Top 8 in KMAC Tourney; District Qualifier  
Shaymus Lashley-2nd Team All-KMAC; District Qualifier  
Braxton Lahmon-Honorable Mention All-KMAC; District Qualifier  
Ryan Peck- Honorable Mention All-KMAC; District Qualifier  
Hayden Priest-District Qualifier
  - Bowling-Girls  
Madison Huffman—2nd Team All-KMAC  
Olivia Huffman—2nd Team All-KMAC  
Imogen Winkler--Honorable Mention All-KMAC

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- Basketball - Girls

Sydney Opfer—1st Team All-KMAC; KMAC All-Academic; 1st Team District 11

Ella Divan-- Honorable Mention All-KMAC; Honorable Mention District 11

- Basketball - Boys

Landon Dawson--Honorable Mention All-KMAC; 2<sup>nd</sup> Team District 11

Hayden Merritt—Honorable Mention District 11

Logan Whitney—KMAC All-Academic

Ron Fannin—District 11 Assistant Coach of the Year

#### E. Public Participation

Please see Board Policy #0169.1

- none

#### F. Treasurer Report

- Financial Update
  - Revenues are up \$397,000 compared to last year through the month of February
    - Tax receipts are up \$27,000 from last year due to timing of tax receipts. All receipts are typically finalized by the end of March.
    - Interest income is up \$111,000 compared to last year.
  - Expenses were \$736,000 higher for the entire year.
    - Salaries and benefits are up \$668,000 and services \$108,000
  - PI Funds
    - Over \$1 million balance at the end of February
  - Food Service Fund
    - Expenses are even with last year and revenues down about \$19,000 from last year
    - Cash balance \$430,000 (only about \$12,000 lower than last year at this time)
- Prodigy contract amendment- to cover the required bond \$6,455.98
- Financial Audit Update- should be released in the next couple weeks, couple recommendations regarding cyber security that we will work to implement by next school year
- Capital Improvement Plan Discussion
  - Highlights
    - Chromebooks purchases for first and second grades to replace Ipads
    - Elementary gym floor
    - Replace JR/SR High cafeteria tables
    - New or used SUV or van due to success of the Expedition
    - Vo Ag Storage building
    - Elementary Chiller Replacement next summer (\$400-500K)

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- Partial cost paid from PI fund and partial from general fund depending on cash balances

**G. Treasurer Recommendations**

Recommendation to approve the minutes from the February 13, 2025 board meeting.

Recommendation to approve the February 2025 Financial Report as presented.

Recommendation to accept, with appreciation and gratitude, the following donation(s) as listed:

Duane Grassbaugh	\$250	East Knox FFA
Winnie Skinner	\$500	East Knox FFA
Hayden Baker, Blake Elliott And Dylan Springer	\$640	East Knox FFA
Anonymous	\$100	EK Athletics
TSO Inc.-Darcie Amyx	\$300	HS Yearbook

Recommendation to approve the budgetary amendments as follows:

019	Local Grants	\$5,000
004	Building Funds	\$1,000

**25-024 MOTION TO APPROVE THE ABOVE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Mr. Campbell moved and Mrs. Tate seconded the motion to approve the above recommendations.

Roll call: All Present-Yes. Motion carried.

**H. Building Reports**

- Elementary
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classroom projects on habitats presented by each class.
- Jr./Sr. High School – Mr. Reese
  - FFA Banquet was well attended, FFA students attend Columbus Blue Jackets game, scheduling fair, vision clinic re-scheduled.
- Athletic Updates – Scott Brickner
  - Spring sports starting up next week with baseball, softball (varsity only), and track.
  - Blake Elliott received 100th career win as East Knox Wrestler.

**I. Superintendent Report and Board Discussion**

- Updates/Discussion Items
  - Strategic Plan Update
    - Next meeting March 18, 2025
  - Staffing for 2025-2026
    - Fifth grade (new)

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- Intervention Specialist
- Gifted Specialist
- Jr./Sr. High Principal
- Academic Coaches
- County Superintendents meeting with Senator Beth Lear and Representative Mark Heiner on March 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Cody Reese – reading of resignation letter and thank you to the board and staff.
- Review of process for Jr./Sr. HS principal
- Ariel Atkinson – Student Board Representative – (absent)
- Strawberry Sales were beyond projects for FFA
- Upcoming events – Spring Play and Prom

#### J. Superintendent Recommendations

Recommendation to approve the following Neola Board Policies as recommended by the Policy Committee members on March 4, 2025:

- Update: Vol.43, No.2 – January 2025 OH
  - po0131.1 Technical Corrections (as recommended)
  - po0171 Review of Policy – Rescind
  - po1422.01 Drug-Free Workplace – New (as recommended-option 2)
  - po2271 College Credit Plus Program (as recommended)
  - po2340 Field and Other District-Sponsored Trips (as recommended)
  - po2430.02 Participation of Community/Stem School Students in Extra-Curricular Activities (as recommended)
  - po2431 Interscholastic Athletics (as recommended-but discuss at board meeting GPA to participate)
  - po2460 Special Education (as recommended)
  - po2460ODE ODE – Special Education – Rescind
  - po5113 Inter-District Open Enrollment (as recommended)
  - po5131 Student Transfers – Technical Correction (as recommended)
  - po5223 Released Time for Religious Instruction During the School Day (as recommended-w/option selected)
  - po5330 Use of Medications (as recommended)
  - po5350 Student Health, Well-Being, and Suicide Prevention (as recommended)
  - po5460 Graduation Requirements (as recommended)
  - po5610 Removal, Suspension, Expulsion, and Permanent Exclusion of Students (as recommended)
  - po5751 Parental Status of Students (as recommended)
  - po5780.01 Parents' Bill of Rights – New (as recommended)
  - po7421 Restrooms, Locker Rooms, Shower Rooms and Changing Rooms – New (as recommended w/options)

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- po7440.01 Video Surveillance an Electronic Monitoring (as recommended)
- po8142 Criminal History Record Check for Contracted School Services (as recommended)
- po8452 Automated External Defibrillators (“AED”) and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (as recommended)
- po8500 Food Services (as recommended)
- Special Update – S.B. 29 Corrections & Special Education Model – January 2025
  - po5136.01 Electronic Equipment (as recommended)
  - po6460 Vendor Relations (as recommended)
- Special Release – August 2024
  - Code 02 Employment of Substitute Teachers (see recommendation below)
- New adopted policy
  - po2265 Protections of Individual Beliefs, affiliations, Ideals, or Principals of Political Movements and Ideology

Recommendation to approve the 2025 preliminary student graduates as follows:

*Elizabeth Janett Appli  
 Brock Valley Bailey  
 Hayden John Baker  
 Koltin James Beckett  
 Hazel Rae Beshcars  
 Deacon Scott Binegar  
 Agris Nevada Blankenship  
 Aubrey Ann Breckler  
 Arielle Pearl Burney  
 Zandria Rose Carson  
 Brody Lee Casebolt  
 Payson James Chavis  
 Noah James Coontz  
 Hailey Jade Cornette  
 Bryanna Marie Dean  
 Wayde Shelby Denuit  
 Wyatt Mustang Denuit  
 Ella Grace Divan  
 Blake Alan Elliott  
 Peyton Eugene Finch  
 Shane Christopher Gardner  
 Ethan Daniel Garrett  
 Maria Nicole Goodman  
 Ayden Carter Grandstaff  
 Isabella Lea Grennell  
 April Ann Hartman  
 Alexander Jed Higgins  
 Brittany Nicole Hill  
 Aidan Michael Holobaugh  
 Luke Josiah Holsinger  
 Aiden Nathaniel Andrew Kapper  
 Parker William David Kimball  
 Bryer Daniel Korosec  
 Sarah Beth Landis  
 Alexa Marie Allan Mack  
 Aubrey Jean McCoy*

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*Hayden Thomas Merritt  
 Kadence Lynn Mielke  
 Brody Michael Mills  
 Lavada Anne Moran  
 McKenzie Elizabeth Marie Negron  
 Sydney Ellann Opfer  
 Jada Chyanne Paek  
 Sawyer Lee Louis Plank  
 Corbin Franklin Poff-Wengerd  
 Adrianna Lee Price  
 Ashton Thomas Priest  
 Jaglen Elizabeth Pruitt  
 Farrah Laurel Ann Redman  
 Andrew Carl Rettig Jr.  
 Alex William Rhinebolt  
 Gabriel Carl Rine  
 Jostynn Grace Rine  
 Sarah Nichole Rosenberg  
 Gianna Rose Ruhe  
 Amari Ann Schmidt  
 Keira Ireland-Starr Sivits  
 Karson Dean Lewis Smith  
 Dylan James Springer  
 Chloe Rae Stevens  
 Ariana Joy Talbott  
 Chance William Temple  
 Chase Arlan Temple  
 Reese Michelle Todd  
 Reagan Carol Tokasz  
 Molly Jo Totten  
 Mason Sandy Tynes  
 Quentin Ernest White  
 Logan Adin Whitney*

Recommendation to authorize the treasurer to advertise and accept bids for the purchase of one school bus (up to 83 passengers with an option to purchase a handicap accessible bus).

Recommendation to approve the quote as presented from Farnham Equipment Company for Cabinetry installation at the Jr./Sr. High and Board Office for \$28,170, to be paid from P.I. Funds.

**25-025 MOTION TO APPROVE THE ABOVE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Mr. Campbell moved and Ms. Bush seconded the motion to approve the above recommendations.  
Roll call: All present – Yes. Motion carried.

Recommendation to approve the following resolution:

**EMPLOYMENT OF SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS**

**WHEREAS**, the East Knox School District Board of Education (“Board of Education”) anticipates that the District may experience difficulty obtaining substitute teachers; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to authority granted in Section 4 of Senate Bill 1, which was enacted by the 134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and became effective as an emergency measure on October 28, 2021, the Board of Education was authorized to establish its own education requirements for individuals to serve as

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substitute teachers in the District during the 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024 school years; and

**WHEREAS**, the General Assembly has permanently extended this authority through the enactment of House Bill 33 which is codified in R.C. §3319.102; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education desires to adopt education requirements for substitute teachers in accordance with the law as a measure to help ensure the availability of a sufficient number of substitute teachers.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved by the East Knox School District Board of Education as follows:

#### **SECTION I**

Beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, the Board of Education authorizes the employment of substitute teachers who do not hold post-secondary degrees, as is otherwise required pursuant to Ohio law and regulations, including Ohio Revised Code 3301.071, 3319.102, 3319.226, 3319.30, 3319.36, and Chapters 3314 and 3326 Ohio Administrative Code Section 3301-23-44, and/or Board Policy 3120.04 - Employment of Substitutes. To be eligible to serve as a substitute in the District, the Board requires that the employee have a high school diploma or equivalent diploma, and are at minimum 21 years of age and who do not hold post-secondary degrees to fulfill the educational requirement.

In addition to fulfilling the educational requirements adopted by the Board of Education, an individual must be of good moral character and must have completed all required criminal background checks, as well as obtained a valid, temporary, non-bachelor's degree substitute teaching license or pre-service teacher permit issued by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce to serve as a substitute teacher in the District.

#### **SECTION II**

It is found and determined that all formal action of this Board concerning or related to the adoption of this Resolution was adopted in an open meeting of this Board, and all deliberations of this Board and any of its committees that resulted in such formal actions were adopted in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all applicable requirements of the Ohio Revised Code.

#### **25-026 MOTION TO APPROVE THE ABOVE RECOMMENDATION**

Mrs. Tate moved and Mr. Reese seconded the motion to approve the above recommendation.

Roll call: All present – Yes. Motion carried.

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Recommendation to approve the contract with Prodigy as an amendment to the Board Resolution #25-019 dated February 13, 2025 as follows:

**AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH PRODIGY  
BUILDING SOLUTIONS, LLC FOR THE ROOF AND  
FLOOR UPGRADES PROJECT PURSUANT TO O.R.C.  
167.081 FOR CONTRACTS PROCURED THROUGH A  
REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

The Superintendent and Treasurer recommend that the Board authorize a contract with Prodigy Building Solutions, LLC ("Prodigy") for the Roof and Floor Upgrades Project (the "Project") pursuant to R.C. 167.081 for contracts procured through a regional council of governments.

Rationale:

1. The District has identified a need to recover portions of the Elementary School Building roof and to replace portions of the flooring in the Elementary School and Junior/Senior High School Buildings.
2. R.C. 167.081 allows a school district to participate in a construction contract of a regional council of governments (a "COG") without the need to engage in competitive bidding or other competitive selection methods. Specifically, R.C. 167.081 states that a COG may enter into a contract that establishes a unit price for, and provides upon a per unit basis, materials, labor, services, overhead, profit, and associated expenses for the repair, enlargement, improvement, or demolition of a building or structure if the contract is awarded pursuant to a competitive bidding procedure of a public entity that is a member of the COG or a competitive bidding procedure of a statewide or multistate consortium of which the COG is a member.
3. The Board is a member of the Ohio Purchasing Council ("TOP-C"). TOP-C is a COG established under Chapter 167 of the Ohio Revised Code. As a result, the Board may participate in contracts procured by TOP-C pursuant to R.C. 167.081, by virtue of the Board's membership in TOP-C. TOP-C has procured and entered into an agreement with Prodigy to perform the types of work needed for the Project in which agreement the Board may participate.
4. Prodigy is an experienced contractor and has provided a proposal for the Project in the amount of \$652,053.98, which is based on unit pricing set forth under its agreement with TOP-C.
5. The Superintendent and Treasurer recommend procuring Prodigy for the Project.
6. The Superintendent and Treasurer also request authority to enter change orders on behalf of the Board in a total amount not to exceed 15% of the Contract Sum. Change orders in excess of that amount, individually or in the aggregate, will be brought to the Board for its approval.

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The Board of Education resolves as follows:

1. Based upon the information provided and exercising the authority given in R.C. 167.081, the Board authorizes the procurement of Prodigy.
2. The Board authorizes the Superintendent and Treasurer, working with other administrators and legal counsel, to negotiate and enter into an agreement at the conclusion of satisfactory negotiations with Prodigy for the Project in an amount not to exceed \$652,053.98 on behalf of the Board, and to sign any related documentation consistent with the intent of this resolution.
3. The Board further authorizes the Superintendent and Treasurer to sign change orders related to the Project in a total amount not to exceed 15% of the Contract Sum; should a change order exceed this amount individually or in the aggregate of change orders for the work, the change order will be brought to the Board for consideration prior to the work associated with the change order being performed.

**25-027 MOTION TO APPROVE THE ABOVE RECOMMENDATION**

Mr. Campbell moved and Mrs. Tate seconded the motion to approve the above recommendation.

Roll call: All present – Yes. Motion carried.

**K. Personnel—(Subject to proper placement on the salary scale, contingent upon favorable report from the BCII/FBI, and receipt of proper certification.)**

Recommendation to approve non-teaching contract renewals beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

**Two-Year – 2025-2026 and 2026-2027**

<u>Staff Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Step</u>
Roxanna Burch	Bus Driver	5
Jessica Claggett	Food Service Worker	5
Henry Cottrill	Bus Driver	1
Skii Fortune	Custodian	6
Elizabeth Gallogly	Food Service Worker	1
Jacob Gray	Maintenance	6
Tessa Hedrick	Nurse/RN	6
Katlyn Kilgore	Social Worker	1
Jennifer O'Hara	Nurse/RN	6
Dawn Priest	Social Worker	6
Mary Tidd	Custodian	5
Marjorie Williams	Building Secretary (Attendance/Athletics)	3

**Continuing**

Charles Dudgeon	Bus Driver	7
Deanna Smith	Food Service worker	7

Recommendation to approve Annette Wozniak, EMIS Coordinator, for a three-year contract beginning August 1, 2025-July 31, 2028, Step 10.

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Recommendation to approve the following volunteer coaches for the 2024-2025 school year.

John Tucker	Baseball
Darrick Faucett	Track

Recommendation to non-renew the following non-teaching employee contracts effective March 13, 2025, in accordance with ORC 3319.083.

Dan Magers	Assist. Girls Basketball
Ron Looney	Assist. Girls Basketball
Dustin Springer	Assist. Boys Basketball
Andrew Salyers	JH Girls Basketball
Shanda Melick	JH Girls Basketball
Lindsey Jensen	Assist. Bowling

Recommendation to pay the following teacher stipends for proof of completion of the Science of Reading Training (full cost of stipend reimbursed by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce):

Abigail Ellsworth	Pathway C	\$1,200
Keara Latham	Pathway C	\$1,200
Zachary Jenney	Pathway E	\$400
Gage Steinmetz	Pathway C	\$1,200
Lisa Downes	Pathway C	\$1,200

Recommendation to approve an additional one-hour of pay per day for one Knox ESC aide at his or her hourly rate for after school Spring sports supervision from February 24, 2025 through approximately May 16, 2025.

Recommendation to approve the following KCESC board approved aide(s) for 2024-2025 school year:

Shannon Fair  
Shelbie Wells  
Jeannette Rine

Recommendation to approve the following as substitute bus drivers:

Phil Blubaugh  
Paul Pozderac

Recommendation to accept the resignation of Morgan Basinger, teacher, effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

Recommendation to approve Amber Carpenter as a certified van driver for transporting students.

Recommendation to approve the following KCESC board approved sub teachers for 2024-2025 school year:

James R. Long

**25-028 MOTION TO APPROVE THE ABOVE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Mr. Huffman moved and Mrs. Tate seconded the motion to approve the above recommendations.

Roll call: All present – Yes. Motion carried.

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Recommendation to accept the resignation of Cody Reese, Jr./Sr. High Principal, effective at the end of the current contract, July 31, 2025.

**25-029 MOTION TO APPROVE THE ABOVE RECOMMENDATION**

Mrs. Tate moved and Mr. Huffman seconded the motion to approve the above recommendation.  
Roll call: Mr. Reese – Abstained; All others present – Yes.  
Motion carried.

**L. Adjournment**

Recommendation to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

**25-030 MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**

Ms. Bush moved and Mr. Reese seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 p.m.  
Roll call: All Present-Yes. Motion carried.

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President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Treasurer