

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS  
MARTINS FERRY CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

SPECIAL MEETING  
HELD: THURSDAY

6:00 PM

FEBRUARY 20, 2025

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The Martins Ferry City School District Board of Education met in the high school cafeteria for a Special Meeting on Thursday, February 20, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Agnew with the following members present: Mr. Bruney, Mr. Nagel, Mr. Agnew, Mr. Probst and Dr. Marangoni. Also present were Mr. Fogle, Mr. King and Mrs. Skulich.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

A public hearing was held on a proposal of the Board to convert 4.0 mills of property tax within the ten-mill limitation from a current operating expenses allocation to a permanent improvements allocation to be used to acquire, construct, renovate, improve and/or satisfy the debts of assets, school property, buildings, and other facilities in the school district with an estimated life or usefulness of five (5) years or more, which amount of inside millage was levied for current operating expenses.

Mr. Fogle addressed the public with the following statement:

In December 2024, the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce notified the Martins Ferry City School District that the District would be required to prepare and implement a financial recovery plan to correct its low fund balance and eliminate a projected deficit of over \$2,400,000 by fiscal year 2027.

Much of the deficit spending negatively impacting the District's financial position is attributable to the \$11,000,000 the District had to spend on unforeseen capital improvements which were necessary to ensure the safety of students and staff within the District's school buildings.

The District's ability to pay its debt obligations has been adversely impacted by a reduction in available revenue sources, such as proceeds from oil and gas royalties and ad valorem taxes, expired federal funding for COVID, and delinquent or unpaid taxes from large commercial properties.

In accordance with the DEW financial recovery plan, the District has identified approximately \$2,100,000 in cost savings for fiscal year 2026, the majority of which will come from reductions in force at all levels of the District's staff, resulting in the suspension of 14% of its current workforce.

However, reducing expenses via staffing reductions alone will not solve the District's financial problems. Generating additional revenues will be necessary. To do this, the Board has announced its intent to transfer 4 mills of inside millage from its general fund to its permanent improvement fund, resulting in a property tax increase for District residents. Shifting 4 inside mills would generate an additional \$1,086,000 per year in revenue for the District.

If the Board does not transfer the 4 inside mills, staff reductions would likely have to increase to 21% of the District's current workforce, negatively impacting the quality of educational experience provided to the community's children.

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The proposed shift in inside millage is a necessary step to ensure the District's long-term financial stability while preserving the quality of education that the people of Martins Ferry deserve.

For these reasons, we ask for the community's support in implementing the financial recovery plan.

Mr. Fogle opened the discussion up to the public for comments and questions. Various community members addressed their questions and concerns regarding the inside millage shift along with matters regarding debt, property taxes, effect on education, and property improvements and repairs at Martins Ferry City School District.

**RESOLUTION #1-19-25 ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Agnew and seconded by Dr. Marangoni to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 PM.

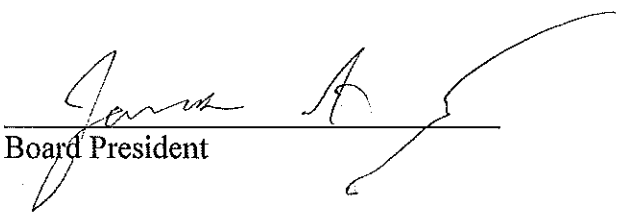
Ayes: Nagel, Agnew, Bruney, Marangoni, Probst

(5)

Noes: None

(0)

Motion carried.

  
Board President

  
Treasurer