

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Rittman Board of Education

Pg. # 1168

Meeting

Held on: November 19, 2019

The Rittman Board of Education met for a Regular Meeting, November 19, 2019, in the Professional Development Room #117 of Heritage Hall. Mr. Stuart called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Stuart, Mrs. Avery, Mr. Plahuta, and Mr. Beltz were in attendance. Mr. Baillis was absent.

Mr. Plahuta made the motion, seconded by Mr. Beltz to approve the Minutes from the October 15, 2019 Regular Board Meeting.

**#51-2019**  
Minutes

**VOTE:** Ayes: Mr. Plahuta, Mr. Stuart, Mrs. Avery, and Mr. Beltz.  
The motion was carried with a 4-0 vote.

Hearing regarding the 2020-2021 school calendar.

Hearing of public committee, delegations and individuals - Mike Aloisi of 38 Adams Avenue addressed his concerns with Rittman Elementary.

Good evening board members:

My name is Mike Aloisi. I live at 38 Adams Avenue in Rittman. I recently retired from the US Army after 25 years. We have changed schools over a dozen times with six kids and decided to come back to Rittman. Our friends have helped us greatly in getting our family settled back in our hometown after many years away.

Unfortunately we had a bad experience coming to Rittman elementary school. In bringing this up, it was not met with improvement or community involvement, but very unexpectedly with character assassination. The principal gathered rumors and exaggerated claims to intimidate me. The superintendent responded that I'm the only one complaining, and Rittman's test scores are good, so he would do nothing. This was extremely disturbing, along with the response coming as I was at a physical therapy appointment. The limitations I face seem to be treated as a joke. When I asked the principal for the basis of the rumors, I was directed to go ask an organization of 3.3 million members and that she would provide no specifics or support to the rumor she heard and passed on. I was told by a teacher that if the stuff with the school happens again I would not be able to participate in the band boosters, seemingly disregarding any care or concern for right or wrong or helping out, simply to arbitrarily influence a parent to shut up.

This gossip has alienated our family from participating in school and community groups. It has also driven me to change my military transition plan. Our family now wishes we had not come to Rittman and next week will be checking out a possible move location.

The elementary school is a puzzle to me. They seem to have chosen to ostracize me and deter participation in the school. Last week after the high school's ceremony I went to lunch with my son on Veterans Day. We were put in an

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isolated room. There was not a sign, word, song, or picture visible anywhere at the school to teach these kids about veterans and service or note a special day.

I would hope the professional educators could deal with gossip appropriately, but that has not been the case. Whatever has been shared in the school has only come to me in snippets, and is very disturbing, but there is no means for me to address it.

Rittman is a small town where everyone knows everything about everyone. It seems after coming back from serving 25 years, including six overseas tours, earning advanced degrees, years of volunteering in countless roles, many in Rittman will focus on the negative and isolate this returning veteran. We have had much help bringing our family to Rittman from the community and the schools. Unfortunately once the first day of school passed, we found a few school leaders used their influence to let us know we were no longer welcome. I hope this could change. Thank you for your time and attention.

Presentation of Principal Reports

Mr. Plahuta made the motion seconded by Mr. Beltz to approve the Treasurer’s Consent Agenda as follows:

- A. Approved the October Financial Report. (See attachments.)
- B. Approved scheduling the Organization Meeting and Budget Hearing for January 14, 2020 (before the 15<sup>th</sup>).
- C. Approved appointing Mr. Stuart as President pro-tem.

**#52-2019**  
Consent of  
Treasurer

**VOTE:** Ayes: Mr. Plahuta, Mr. Stuart, Mrs. Avery, and Mr. Beltz.

The motion was carried with a 4-0 vote.

Mr. Beltz made the motion seconded by Mr. Plahuta to approve the Superintendent’s Consent Agenda as follows:

- A. Approved the first reading to approve the 2020-2021 school calendar.
- B. Approved a resolution authorizing James Ritchie, Superintendent and Amy Wilson, Special Services Director to sign and enter into a contractual agreement with the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) for the Youth Resiliency Project.

**#53-2019**  
Consent of  
Superintendent

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C. Approved the following letters of resignation from:

Lindsay Angel effective November 8, 2019  
Thea Thompson effective November 15, 2019

- D. Approved the employment of, Heather Tooley, Classified Substitute for the 2019-2020 school year, pending proper certification.
- E. Approved the employment of Thea Thompson, Certified as BA, Step 0 for the 2019-2020 school year, pending proper certification effective November 18, 2019.
- F. Approved the employment of Linda Smith, Classified Aide for the 2019-2020 school year, pending proper certification effective November 18, 2019.
- G. Approved granting supplemental contracts to the following pending proper certification.

Justin Prentiss	JV Girls Basketball
Mikaela Faus	Freshman Girls Basketball
Jordan Tasker	Middle School Girls Basketball 7 <sup>th</sup> gr
April Smith	Middle School Girls Basketball 8 <sup>th</sup> gr
Amy Wilson	High School Cheer Advisor - Winter (1 of 2)
Chad Milosevich	Faculty Manager

- H. Approved the Memorandum of Understanding between Goodwill Industries of Wayne and Holmes Counties, Inc. a Not-for-Profit Corporation for the implementation of services for the 2019-2020 school year.
- I. Approved the employment of Jenese Fraley, Classified, Step 15 for the 2019-2020 school year, pending obtaining the proper requirements, effective January 1, 2020 with up to eight transition days prior to January.
- J. Approved the letter of resignation from Elaine Tomassetti.
- K. Approved the employment of Deborah Stephenson, Classified Substitute for the 2019-2020 school year, pending obtaining the proper requirements.

**VOTE:** Ayes: Mr. Plahuta, Mr. Stuart, Mrs. Avery, and Mr. Beltz.  
The motion was carried with a 4-0 vote.

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Rittman Rec Center – Mr. Stuart informed the Board of the Rec Center’s membership sales.

Career Center – Mr. Stuart stated there was an upcoming meeting.

Mr. Stuart made the motion, seconded by Mr. Plahuta to adjourn until the next regularly scheduled meeting on November 19, 2019 at 7:00 p.m., Professional Development Room #117 in Heritage Hall.

#54-2019  
Adjourn

**VOTE:** Ayes: Mr. Plahuta, Mr. Stuart, Mrs. Avery, and Mr. Beltz.  
The motion was carried with a 4-0 vote.

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Board President

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Treasurer